

**READING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 16, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Reading Township Board of Supervisors was held at the Township Building and called to order at 6:00 pm by Paul Bart, Chairman. Bob Zangueneh, Vice Chairman, and Donald Kauffman, Supervisor, were present with Chairman Bart presiding over the meeting.

Others in attendance included Victor Neubaum, Solicitor; Eric Mains, Engineer; Gerald Shank, Planning Commission; Nancy Stimer, Auditor; Gary Bullock, Emergency Management Coordinator; P.J. Trimmer, Hampton Fire Company; Troy Reeve, Lake Meade Fire & Rescue; Officers Bill Ceravola and Greg Morehead, Police Department; Tim Turek, Business Agent, Teamsters Local 776; Rodney Heagey, Sharyn Berger, Pauline Brodbeck, Pat Hartzell, George Wolf, Chuck & Julie Williams, Ross & Susan Crist, Kevin Holtzinger and Marcia Weaver, Administrator/Treasurer.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Trimmer requested clarification when he expressed concern at the last meeting regarding the disparity in funding between the police department and the fire companies. For the record, he said he was not implying that the township get rid of the police department for more money to go to the fire companies and that his previous statement was meant as a budget comparison. Having received no additions or corrections from the Board, the Minutes of the October 19th regular meeting were approved on a motion by Chairman Bart and seconded by Mr. Zangueneh; motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Bart announced that the Board met on November 9th with Al Timco, York Adams Tax Bureau, to discuss the collection of delinquent per capita taxes.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Mains has reviewed the revised "as-built" plans submitted by the engineering firm on behalf of the Emergency Communication Tower. Various modifications have been implemented and Mr. Mains will continue to monitor the storm water control measures. He has also been working with the staff on permit processing to make the process as easy as possible utilizing a simplified flow chart. A request for final application for payment has been made regarding the Plum Run Road project.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Zangueneh congratulated Mrs. Weaver on receiving 70% of the votes for Supervisor.

Mrs. Stimer stated she found the subdivision process to be very difficult and thanked Mr. Mains for working on a simplified flow chart to make the process easier. She also expressed concern that it took the Municipal Authority one month and three days to cash a check paid by her daughter. The next Municipal Authority meeting date and time was provided to Mrs. Stimer.

Mr. Williams inquired if the Board was getting rid of the police department based on information that was posted on a Lake Meade blog. Mr. Bart stated that feelings are not facts and the Board consists of three people to make decisions. Up until last year, the township had three consecutive years where there was not enough revenue to support the spending in the General Fund and the township does not want to lose its authority to operate its own budget. Raising taxes is complicated and the Pennsylvania Tax Manual

limits the collection of Earned Income Tax. He stated that our only alternative is to raise property taxes but people don't like their homes being held hostage. Mr. Zangueneh stated that any decision is made by majority. It is the Board's responsibility to look at the bottom line. The Board spoke to the state police to do their homework. He said the per-capita tax can be increased to support the township. Although the Board has legislative power without public input, he thinks the public needs to provide input. Mr. Williams asked if the township can pass a fire tax. Mr. Bart said the township could assess up to 3 mills. Mr. Zangueneh said he has not heard any resistance to raising property taxes and he has doubts that people wouldn't pay an increase in their real estate tax. Mr. Bart said regionalization is an option to consider as they would provide professional management because in our police department, one union employee can't discipline another. Officer Ceravola reported a recent incident where a male was trying to get into the door of a home and the state police wouldn't come out because the male had left the scene. Mr. Crist told the board about an incident involving his son at a party in Shippensburg where the state police were called but did not show up until after his son had been stabbed multiple times. Mr. Crist said he is willing to pay a tax increase to know that the police will be there. Mrs. Crist talked about what was posted on the blog and discussions involved in a meeting in the Lake that Mr. Bart attended. Mrs. Brodbeck said she is willing to pay more taxes also to be protected by the police.

Mr. Trimmer suggested the township consider a finance committee because Hamilton Township put together a finance committee ten years ago and have not raised taxes in nine years. Chairman Bart said the township holds an advertised public budget workshop meeting every year for the departments and public to contribute with the budgeting process. Mr. Holtzinger said he was glad he had a chance to attend the budget workshop meeting and provide input.

Mr. Williams inquired about the legal costs associated with the dispute involving the Wolf Road emergency entrance to Lake Meade and Ms. Weaver informed him that approximately \$3,000 was spent so far. Mr. Heagey said that the road was abandoned for twenty-two years. He expressed concern that an electronic key card system will not reduce the abuse that went on before with the amount of non emergency related traffic. The property owners want to keep the Lake Meade residents from abusing the roadway. A chain and a key are sufficient. Attorney Neubaum said that 1200 feet of the roadway has to be maintained and a cul-de-sac would have to be put in place for a turn-around. He also said he has no knowledge of the road being abandoned. Mr. Zangueneh said the issue involved parties and garbage. Mr. Heagey stated that Mr. Snyder has spent over \$15,000 to fight this matter. He also inquired why an emergency access road could not be placed on the north side of the lake. Chairman Bart said that the three fire chiefs and paramedics said that five minutes save lives. Attorney Neubaum stated that an agreement is being prepared for the Township, Snyders, Shanks and Heageys and that Mr. Heagey is the only one who is not on board with it.

Mrs. Berger commented on the quick responsiveness of the police department to an incident involving someone who was in her garage and how critical quick response is to someone who lives alone. She admires and respects the police and is willing to pay more in taxes to keep a local police department. She thinks the police department does a wonderful job and does not want to wait for the state police to arrive.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The October's Treasurer's Report was approved as presented on a motion by Chairman Bart and seconded by Mr. Kauffman; motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

Reports submitted by the Police Department, Public Works Department and Building, Zoning & Code Enforcement were approved as submitted on a motion by Chairman Bart and seconded by Mr. Zangueneh, motion carried unanimously.

Officer Ceravola requested a letter be sent to PennDot regarding accidents occurring at Stoney Point and Bakers Watering Trough Roads. There were two vehicles in the pond last week and there was no evidence of speeding. The road is extremely slippery when it rains.

MISCELLANEOUS

Met-Ed Direct Install Program

Ms. Weaver presented a contract with information for the Board's review regarding the Met-Ed Direct Install Program that would upgrade 56 existing lighting fixtures to LED lighting. The program will pay up to 80% of the cost and substantially reduce the township buildings monthly electric bill. The contract was approved for Ms. Weaver to sign on behalf of the township on a motion by Chairman Bart and seconded by Mr. Zangueneh; motion carried unanimously.

York Adams Tax Bureau Agreement

An agreement for the York Adams Tax Bureau to collect the townships delinquent per capita taxes was approved on a motion by Chairman Bart and seconded by Mr. Zangueneh; motion carried unanimously.

2016 Budget

The 2016 Budget was approved for advertisement in the Evening Sun on a motion by Chairman Bart and seconded by Mr. Zangueneh; motion carried unanimously.

Reading Township Municipal Authority

Independent Auditor's 2014 & 2015 Financial Statements

The Board of Supervisors acknowledged receipt of the report.

RESOLUTION

Resolution 2015-21: Tax Levies for the Year 2016 was approved on a motion by Chairman Bart and seconded by Mr. Zangueneh; motion carried unanimously.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Wolf Road Access to Lake Meade

Attorney Neubaum stated that the parties reached a point where they met with a judge and came to a tentative agreement which has been put in written form for signatures. The Township, Snyders, and Shanks are in agreement. He needs Mr. Heagey to agree. If he does not, then the matter goes to trial.

Resolutions/Policy Updates

Attorney Neubaum is still working on updating the E-mail and Internet Policy.

- ~ **Resolution 2015-17 Regarding the Drug and Alcohol Policy** was approved on a motion by Chairman Bart and seconded by Mr. Zangueneh; motion carried unanimously.

- ~ **Resolution 2015-18 Regarding the Harassment Policy** was approved on a motion by Chairman Bart and seconded by Mr. Zangueneh; motion carried unanimously.
- ~ **Resolution 2015-19 Regarding the Cell Phone Policy** was approved on a motion by Chairman Bart and seconded by Mr. Zangueneh; motion carried unanimously.
- ~ **Resolution 2015-20 Regarding the Return-To-Work Policy** was approved on a motion by Chairman Bart and seconded by Mr. Zangueneh; motion carried unanimously.

Church Lease Agreement

The current lease agreement with the church congregation was renewed for an additional six month term, from January through June, 2016.

Request for Proposals for a Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor

Attorney Neubaum stated that interviews are planned for next Monday and he appreciates Mr. Wilt taking the initiative to schedule the interviews. He, along with the Zoning Hearing Board Members, will be present. Attorney Keiter was invited to attend also.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, the meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm on a motion by Chairman Bart and seconded by Mr. Zangueneh; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcia V. Weaver
Administrator/Treasurer