

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SCHUYLKILL TOWNSHIP  
75 WALNUT STREET  
MARY-D, PA 17952**

The Regular meeting of the Supervisors of Schuylkill Township was held on Wednesday, August 5, 2015, at 7p.m. in the Municipal Building. Those present included Charles Hosler, Christine Verdier and Charles Fayash. The Pledge of the Allegiance was recited.

The Chairman entertained a motion to accept the July Minutes. A motion was made by Verdier, Fayash second. All approved.

Treasurer's Report

\$412,956.39 total in accounts.

Verdier made a motion to accept the report from QuickBooks pending audit. Hosler 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved.

Replies to last month's public questions.

Verdier reviewed a request to install dashboard cameras in the police car with several municipalities who have police departments. Most departments and State Police are using "Watchguard" camera systems with high quality video and audio, but the cost to purchase is between \$4200 and \$4500. No department that was contacted is using body cameras at this time.

Verdier reviewed the possibility of a 5K run through the township with the Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission. The director is willing to assist with an event. If a committee would be formed, ESRC Director Mariachi can be reached at 570-668-2919 to discuss further.

Public comment on agenda items only

Paul Benulis, Brockton, wanted to know why questions posted at previous meetings do not get any response from the Board.

Dan Gray, Brockton, would like to see more review by the Supervisors of issues brought to their attention.

Police Report –July 2015

No report. Police officer on temporary medical leave.

Roadmaster Report-

Installed two handicap parking signs in Mary D and Brockton.

Grass cutting, pothole repairs, opened drains, removed trees from roadway around township. Road review through township still pending.

Line painting contractor contacted by Fayash and employee is no longer with company. Further contacts will be made because totes of paint are still at the Township.

Solicitors Report- Michael Greek

2016 Garbage contract bids have been prepared. PSATS Ordinances for Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund and Health Insurance Trust Fund were reviewed and ready to be advertised.

Committee Reports

-COG-Meeting held on July 22, 2015.

Discussion was held related to land bank process. Rep. Goodman attended the meeting. Cost to participate in land bank is \$1000 per municipality per year. Further discussions are still pending on how the land bank will work

-ESRC-Meeting held on July 23, 2015

No quorum was present. Basketball and Volleyball Leagues are finished. Tamaqua Borough submitted a grant for the upgrades of the bathhouses at the Bungalow along with drainage upgrades. 5K run reviewed with director for Schuylkill Township.

## Communications

- Invitation to attend a Pipeline Safety Course on September 1, 2015 at Genetti Best Western in Hazleton for Board, Staff and Emergency Services.
- Contractor Tax Clearance from Department of Revenue was received.
- Unemployment Compensation filing received for Jaime Moore. Also received was notification that the file was closed by Department of Labor and Industry.
- Shut-off notice from PPL was received for the Street Lights because nonpayment from April, May and June. Payment was delivered to Weis Markets for immediate action so shut-off would not occur.
- Cancellation Notice received from State Workers Insurance Fund for nonpayment of fire company workers compensation insurance
- CDBG grant requires the filing of a Self-Evaluation for Compliance of ADA regulations at all township facilities. Verdier will meet with consultant to complete.
- Resignation of Joseph Pedron received on July 27, 2015.
- Letter from District Attorney Christine Holman about the formation of a Blight task force and a Code Enforcement Association to be held on September 3 at 10am at the Courthouse.
- Letter from resident Mark Bassler regarding ongoing blight issues at property next to his home on Valley Street in Brockton.
  - Paul Benulis commented that he would like to see Supervisors assume role of Code Enforcement Officers and if not them, assign this duty to the police officer. Much discussion was underway between audience, supervisors and solicitor regarding this issue.

## Old Business

- Overdue 2014 garbage bills can have judgements or municipal liens attached at the Magistrate's office. Further discussion necessary.
- 2015 Garbage bills will now have \$20 per month late fees added. About 50 Households are delinquent.
- Motion made by Verdier to amend last month's motion to approve the 2016 Garbage Contract for advertisement by adding 500 Households. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hosler. All approved.
- PLGIT Procurement Cards—meeting with staff was held and Verdier made a motion to move forward with P-Cards. Fayash 2<sup>nd</sup> and all approved.
- 2015 partial audit being completed by David Shelcusky, who was approved in January to complete the 2014 audit. Payroll complete and general fund still pending.
- 2014 audit will be started once the 2015 audit is finished.
- Petty Cash receipts submitted by past Secretary need to be verified as to what items were purchased, where they were purchased and who was reimbursed for these items. The receipts provided to the Board do not indicate these items, nor was there any explanation with the receipts. Much conversation ensued regarding this issue.
- Advertisement for Code Enforcement Officer was discussed. Verdier made a motion to do a request for proposal of services rather than a Code Enforcement Officer as the Solicitor discussed. Hosler 2<sup>nd</sup> and all approved.

## New Business

- Township issued a condemnation of 65 Sunny Drive due to water turn off by Mary D Community Association. Water bill was paid, water turned back on and condemnation was removed from property.
- Property Maintenance Code Appeals Board was discussed. Current Appeals Board is the Board of Supervisors.
- Verdier made a motion to support a \$1000 Annual Contribution to Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission. Fayash 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved.
- Fayash made a motion to support a \$500 Annual Contribution to the Tamaqua Public Library. Hosler 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved.
- Verdier made a motion to advertise a new ordinance requested by PSATS Group Trust for participation in the Unemployment Compensation Group Trust and Health Insurance Group Trust. Hosler 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call. Hosler: Yes; Verdier: Yes; Fayash: No.

-Hosler made a motion to contribute \$1500 to each fire company (Brockton, Mary D and Tuscarora).  
Fayash 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved.

-Verdier made a motion to advertise for the following positions: Part Time Secretary/Treasurer and Full Time Maintenance. Fayash 2<sup>nd</sup>. All approved.

### Public Comment

John Zubris, Brockton, asked where is there a pipeline in the Township? What is the cost of the 2015 partial audit? When will the 2014 audit be completed? Shared information about a blighted property on Union Street that is caving in.

Michele Hill, Mary D, asked about the property next to her on Dodson Street and what the township is doing regarding clean up.

Mary Van Pelt, Brockton, stated that the police officer does not return calls so it does not matter what phone company is involved. When was the last time the building was cleaned?

Paul Benulis, Brockton, presented written complaints regarding the police department to the Board. 8 similar complaints were filed by different residents and 1 individual police complaint regarding a specific case was filed by one resident.

-Who on the Board authorized the police officer to stay out of the meeting room during meetings? When did the officer begin medical leave? Wants further investigation into confrontation at last meeting between two members of the audience.

Dan Gray, Brockton, asked why is cop out of meeting room? Went to District Attorney and she told the group (Benulis, Gray and Bubon) that she advised Officer Dempsey stay off the camera. District Attorney has no authority over police officer, only supervisors do.

Erin Donley, Brockton, stated that she was involved in incident last month and she stopped the angry person from reaching the other person.

Mary Van Pelt, Brockton, would like Board to talk with Tamaqua about their Code Enforcement firm from Allentown because she had a tenant evicted after one letter from the Code Enforcement.

Pat Stefanek, Brockton, stated that when the Supervisors are discussing business, residents should not "butt" into the conversation, comments should be saved for the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

Mary Rudy, Mary D, asked if it is ok for a resident to walk around meeting room during public comment.

Carol Hartung, Mary D, asked if there is a burning ordinance in the Township. There is, so she asked if it could be amended so she could burn paper at her home.

Dan DeCindio, Tuscarora, stated that the code enforcement process is not working in Tamaqua.

Gary Feathers, Tuscarora, wanted to discuss the condemnation and appeal board further.

Verdier made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Hosler. All approved.

Adjourned

Attest: Suzanne Apanavage