

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

The Regular meeting of the Supervisors of Schuylkill Township was held on Monday, February 1, 2016, at 7 P. M. in the Municipal Building. Those present included Charles Hosler, Charles Fayash and Frank Fabrizio. The Pledge of the Allegiance was recited.

Fayash made a motion to approve the January Reorganization Minutes. 2<sup>nd</sup> Hosler. All approved.

Fayash made a motion to approve the January Regular Meeting Minutes. 2<sup>nd</sup> Hosler. All approved.

Fayash made a motion to approve the January Auditors Meeting Minutes. 2<sup>nd</sup> Hosler. All approved.

Treasurer's Report

\$276,841.89 total in bank accounts. A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's Report pending audit by Fayash; 2<sup>nd</sup> Hosler. All approved.

Replies to last month's public questions -

No replies to last month's questions.

Public comment on agenda items only -

Patricia Stefanek, Brockton, questioned if there was any special/executive meetings since the last public meeting. Stefanek also questioned the Solicitor, if a termination of any kind, needs to be brought up at a public meeting and made a motion on and second on. Solicitor Securda discussed this in further detail. Stefanek also questioned regarding Paul Benulis's appeal for his permit and stated that she has information stating that it was never filed and would like to know what the Supervisors will be doing about it.

Dan Gray, Brockton, questioned if the previous commenter was living within Brockton or Tamaqua and also questioned where she reported her school residence to.

Paul Benulis, Brockton, wanted to thank the supervisors for the snow clean-up, also wanted to thank the police officers for being around and being visible. Benulis also stated that he did not state that he sent in an appeal and went on to discuss his zoning permit/application/appeal.

Dan Gray, Brockton, wanted to amplify Benulis's comments regarding the snow clean-up and the hard work that all the Supervisors have put in, also wanted to thank the police officers as well for being around.

John Zubris, Brockton, wanted to thank the Supervisors for the great job of the snow clean-up, also Paul Benulis and Mike Starr for shoveling residents out and wanted to welcome both police officers.

John Bubon, Brockton, just wanted to make everyone aware that Joe Sadusky also helped with the snow removal.

Christine Verdier, Mary D, wanted to state that the township did look great from the snow removal and liked that everyone was working together. Also wanted to know who did Paul Benulis file his permit with due to ARRO being terminated as of January 14<sup>th</sup> and there was no permit filed before that date. It is public information and needs to be discussed due to the person who would like to be the law giver is also breaking the law. Verdier also wanted to inform the Supervisors of the changes on the website that still need adjusting. Verdier had then questioned if there was any discussion between the board regarding the police department allowance as well as the drug task force ordinance. Supervisors discussed that this will be tabled until next meeting.

Mary Van Pelt, Brockton, stated that everyone should drop the Paul Benulis and his permit issue and let him fight his own battle with it.

Gary Feathers, Tuscarora, wanted to thank the township workers and the fire departments for doing a great job with the fire.

Dan Gray, Brockton, stated he was out of town during the fire but wanted to mention that the owner has had several fires with high insurance payouts before and that the state fire marshal should come out to investigate the fire due to the owners past.

#### Police Report –

January: Harassment by communication under investigation; Illegal dumping pending arrest; theft of cameras in Mary-D; Criminal mischief in Brockton; Vehicle crash on 209 involving deer; Fire call at the Wax Factory in Tuscarora; Speeding complaint in Brockton; Domestic dispute in Newkirk turned into disorderly conduct; Assisted with snow removal; Patrolled township and checked bus stops in morning; Assisted with 2 disabled vehicles; Suspicious vehicle in Tuscarora; Assist motorist in Brockton; MVA in Mary-D; Drug use in Brockton

Police are going to establish speed zones throughout the township mainly at intersections on 209 and other areas where there are problems reported.

Chief DiMarco requested, to the Board of Supervisors, to use the allocated funds that is to be used for the police department, which under the chiefs understanding that the funds are already there and will not cost the township more money. Approval to re-letter the police car with blue lettering-\$?, a new LED flashlight -\$188.70; new weather mats-\$99.99; Computer reporting system so residents can have their reports here on file-\$595.00; Clothing allowance for shirt and pants (weapons, bullet proof vests, handcuffs, ETC already paid for by officers); 2 badges-\$290.28; and a second portable radio from Greens-\$3000 on a CO-STARS program.

Also Chief DiMarco discussed the phone system that when someone calls the 570-668-1077 they will be redirected, after the 6<sup>th</sup> ring, to the Schuylkill County Com Center where they can distribute the messages to the appropriate officer right away.

Verdier questioned how often do the officers think that they will be put on together to have an additional portable radio approved. Chief DiMarco discussed the scenarios.

Dan Gray stated that despite the price of the radio, he feels it is better to have 2 radios and possibly not need the one then have something happen and not have enough radios. Chief DiMarco discussed the difference between portable and mobile radios.

A resident questioned if there will be an issue if a resident calls for a non-emergency situation and it directs it to 9-1-1. Chief DiMarco discussed the protocol for this.

Hosler had discussed the budgeting for the police officer hours and that the officers have exceeded that by 2.5 hours. Also Hosler had discussed that if an emergency would happen in the beginning of the week/pay period that the officer(s) need to attend to, that they need to compensate their hours for the remainder of the week so they would not go over. Fayash also added that Chief DiMarco had donated his time for the month of January at no cost to the township.

Dan Gray questioned if there will ever be a time where the officers would have to spend more time during an emergency and have to go back to normal hours due to the emergency. Chief DiMarco stated that it will be discussed with the Supervisors.

John Bubon, Brockton, stated that according to Hosler's comment regarding going over the allotted amount of hours, if the officers are at 60 hours and there is an emergency that they are not able to go out and assist. Chief DiMarco stated it will be discussed with the Supervisors.

Road master Report- Cleaned out gutters and pipes where the street corner was blocked on Broad St. in Tuscarora. Fayash thanked the Tuscarora Fire Co. for helping to unblock due to it being blocked for years. Cut & removed branches and small trees from the roadway on Walnut St, Mary-D and a section between Sanderson St. and Dutch hill, Mary D due to safety. Plowed and removed snow from the township and thanked everyone for their help and patience with the snow.

Hosler questioned when did the Roadmaster position become a full-time position stated that he has been working 40 hours every week. Fayash stated that it is not a full-time that it is a working position. More discussion was made between Hosler and Fayash regarding the snow removal and other Roadmaster duties. Hosler also questioned why there was someone driving one of the township trucks, during the snow removal, without being on the books. The subject was discussed more between Hosler and Fayash.

Solicitors Report- Ashley Securda

No solicitor report but wanted to mention that her name is Ashley Securda and that she is from the Slusser Law Firm from Hazleton.

Committee Reports

Council of Government—COG had a meeting on Wednesday 1/27 for the reorganization meeting. All the offices stayed the same, land bank was also discussed.

Recreation Committee—Committee did not meet

Tax Collection Committee—Committee did not meet

Communications

The Schuylkill County Mental Health/Development Services sent letter stating that if you are aware of anyone who is homeless in the area to contact the township office to fill out a form to send it into the Development Services.

Berkheimer no longer has Travelers Insurance for their bond coverage partner but they still have the same \$1000 coverage on the bond but through Fidelity & Deposit Company of Maryland.

Schuylkill County Demolition Process, all applications must be accompanied by a resolution authorizing it.

Old Business

PLGIT Procurement Card process is still in process and needs to be discussed regarding opening an additional bank account. Someone came in from PLGIT to discuss the set up of the card and that they have suggested to have a separate account that when its time to make a payment it just comes out of that separate account. Subject has been tabled.

Update on Paul Benulis's neglecting of permit on new structure. Fayash discussed that Benulis had given his permit in as well as a check for \$55. Fayash made a motion to accept Benulis's permit. 2<sup>nd</sup> Fabrizio. Hosler nay. Motion approved.

Fayash would like to appoint Paul Benulis as zoning officer for Schuylkill Township at a rate of \$150 month. Fabrizio added with the agreement that he attends the zoning hearing board meetings and meeting with the UCC. Zoning ordinances and protocol was discussed by Benulis. Fabrizio made the motion to appoint Paul Benulis as zoning officer at a rate of \$150 a month with the added requirements. 2<sup>nd</sup> Fayash. Hosler nay. Motion approved.

Fayash would like to make a motion to appoint Comprehensive Inspection Agency to enforce the UCC Codes, Jerry and Jeff Farro. CIA is qualified to do 17 out of 20 inspections; ARRO was only qualified to complete 7 out of 20 inspections. A concern from a resident and member of the Tuscarora Fire Company, about their open permit/inspection and who would continue to finish the open applications. Fayash stated that they would discuss with CIA and see if they would pick up where ARRO left off. Also another resident questioned if ARRO had turned over all of the previous records to the township. Discussion was made and the motion was recited by Fayash. 2<sup>nd</sup> Fabrizio. All approved.

### New Business

Fayash made a motion to approve the 2014 audit from Dave Shelcusky. 2<sup>nd</sup> Hosler. All approved.

Tamaqua Area Chamber of Commerce is asking to renew our membership for 2016. The membership cost is \$150 for 3-5 employees. Hosler made a motion to renew the membership. 2<sup>nd</sup> Fayash. All approved.

There was a request for two new street lights to be installed in Schuylkill Township; one at 701 Broad St in Tuscarora and one between 467 & 469 Valley Street in Brockton. PPL states it is free of charge to put the lights up as long as it is in 150 feet of a transformer. Both locations are right at a transformer, if it is longer than 150 feet, it would cost \$3 per foot of wire. Fayash made a motion to have the 2 street lights installed at those 2 locations. 2<sup>nd</sup> Fabrizio. Hosler nay. Motion approved.

Fayash has made a request to have all street lights changed to LED lights which would save the township approximately \$55 a month. Hosler and Fayash discussed that there may be a difference between the wattage of the LED and high pressure sodium bulbs. Subject has been tabled until next month to complete more research on the bulbs.

There is a request to look into the Illegal Dump Free PA Surveillance Camera Loan Program. Fabrizio discussed more into detail regarding the program. Hosler made a motion to look into the Camera program. 2<sup>nd</sup> Fayash. All approved.

There has been a request for a handicap sign to be installed in front of a resident's home. The resident is Robert Howay at 51 Locust St, Tuscarora. Hosler made a motion to install the handicap sign for the resident as long as the handicap sign is removed from Eleanor Prosymchak's home due to her passing; there is no longer a need for the sign. 2<sup>nd</sup> Fayash. All approved.

Fayash made a motion to order 140 ton of salt under the CO-STARS contract. 2<sup>nd</sup> Hosler. All approved.

Feasibility study for the Reevesdale Sanitation was discussed with the engineers on options and the cost for the residents and our township in case there would need to be a sewer system put in place. There was a discussion between Hosler and Fayash regarding the options. Fayash made a motion to take the option of the low pressure to Tamaqua at \$46.67 a month for residents, including Reevesdale and Newkirk, to the sewer plant. 2<sup>nd</sup> Hosler. All approved.

### Public Comment

John Bashago, Chairman of the Zoning Board, questioned if the person appointed as UCC Code enforcement officer is also the Engineer. Hosler stated that our township engineer is still Alfred Benesch. Fayash also discussed possible future changes for the zoning in the township to lower the price for the residents.

Patricia Stefanek, Brockton, stated that she feels that it is a shame to elect someone as the zoning officer, who states that he knows the township ordinances so well and knows there are other illegal buildings/structures being put up but he is just going to ignore them. Stefanek also stated that what the township is doing is rewarding Benulis for not following the ordinances and it is just a shame.

Dan Gray, Brockton, towards the previous commenter, stating that whether a building is improperly or properly built/tore down, it will be reported through the Board to decide if the resident gets approved for their permit or, depending on the structure, to give the resident a citation.

John Zubris, Brockton, wanted to point out that Christine Verdier had gone to each elected auditors home and provided them with an agenda to change the Roadmaster's pay from \$15/hr to \$7.25/hr for the auditor's reorganization meeting on Wednesday January 6<sup>th</sup>, also stated that it is illegal to change the rate of the Roadmaster wage.

John Bubon, Brockton, states that he feels that Christine Verdier feels she can no longer legislate beings she is no longer a Supervisor, so he feels that she is decapitating what goes on with the Supervisors in the township. Bubon discussed the reasons of voting for a Supervisor and reasons why a Supervisor would not get reelected. Bubon explained that if a person disrupts a meeting that there are two options: one is to ask them to leave and then there is also a code in the law enforcement book stating that they could be arrested. Bubon also went on to discuss not informing the police officer that she was let go and why he feels that it happened. Bubon states that he feels that there is also some bullying happening within the township towards the Supervisors.

Paul Benulis, Brockton, wanted to explain that even though people are mad because he was elected as the zoning officer, if he does not do his job properly, the Board can fire him. Benulis then discussed on the new possible zoning rules, due to variances costing \$500. Benulis had discussed on why he wanted the position for the zoning officer and wanted to let the residents know what his future plans are to save people money and aggravation.

Dan Gray, Brockton, wanted to say that elections have consequences and also on how the elected behave. Gray also stated, that if you do better things, that you do get credited for it. Gray also wanted to say that he is thankful for the new changes that have started so early in the year and looks forward to upcoming changes for the township.

Mary Rudy, stated regarding Bubon's comment about bullying, that the bullying is coming from them and seems to just go towards the women of the township and that it is a shame.

John Zubris, Brockton, wanted to share regarding letting ARRO Consulting be our zoning that it was costing the township too much money for variances which is why nobody in the township wanted to have anything done.

Mary Van Pelt, Brockton, discussed how she felt as far as Christine Verdier being told to leave the meeting.

Fayash made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup> Hosler. All approved.

Adjourned

Attest: Natasha Tyson