

**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 6, 2017, 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. 2nd Hosler. All approved.

Fayash made a motion to approve the January Regular Meeting Minutes. 2nd Fabrizio. All approved.

Hosler made a motion to approve the January Auditors Meeting Minutes. 2nd Fabrizio. All approved.

Hosler made a motion to approve the February Special Meeting Minutes. 2nd Fayash. All approved.

Treasurer's Report

\$243,611.31 total in bank accounts. A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's Report pending audit by Fayash; 2nd Hosler. All approved.

Replies to last month's public questions -

Hosler answered questions on the budget from the last meeting. Hosler took numbers from Quick Books program and broke down what the budgeted expenses and actual were. Hosler reviewed these numbers at meeting. Hosler broke down budgeted income and actual income. Hosler also discussed reimbursements and late fees with regards to the budget.

Public comment on agenda items only -

None

Police Report –

January: Chief DiMarco stated officers responded to non-reportable crash, reportable crash, assisted Tamaqua Police Department, burglary investigated at business in Brockton, criminal mischief in Brockton, disorderly conduct, non-arrest domestic call, drug related call, phone assignment, multiple suspicious activities reported, traffic hazard, trespassing on private property in Brockton, and disabled vehicle. Chief DiMarco discussed the multiple suspicious activities reported in further detail. It had been reported that individuals were going door to door asking residents for a copy of their electric/water bills after quickly showing some type of badge/name tag. Chief DiMarco stated that these individuals need permits and that they are not abiding by our rules here. This is in order for the township to know who would be going door to door. PPL, Verizon, & the cable companies always call ahead of time to let us know if they will be in the area. Chief DiMarco stated if an individual comes to your door and you do not want them there, ask them to leave and notify the township police. Chief DiMarco reported obtaining the name of the individual from Spark Energy and advised him to stay out of the area unless he notifies the township police. Hosler stated there are signs in the area stating "soliciting by permit only." Chief Dimarco stated individuals could be fined. Hosler suggested that if we make an example of one of them, it would help deter this. Chief DiMarco agreed. Chief DiMarco stated his only solid lead regarding this suspicious activity came from Christine Verdier, who followed the individual, got a description, and a phone number. Fayash advised that if someone does come to your door and you don't know them; to get a description of their vehicle and license plate. Chief DiMarco stated that more information helps with investigating these activities and to contact them or 911 immediately. Mirna Gledhill of Summit Hill Neighborhood Watch spoke of the same type of situation in their town; since the deregulation of energy people can select their energy source. It has been brought to her attention that when these individuals ask for an energy bill they can get the account number and switch the customer without their consent. It may be a legitimate company but using shady practices. Dan Gray asked about requirements for getting a permit. Chief

DiMarco stated to go on website or come to Township building to get a permit for a nominal fee. This gives the police the necessary information about who would be out in the Township.

Chief DiMarco discussed the Halloween incident involving two juveniles with damages from Hope's Collision through township to Brockton. Chief DiMarco stated the investigation would be wrapping up shortly, if anyone has any additional damage from October 31, 2016 incident to report it; so he can include it with the other estimates.

Chief DiMarco asked the Board of Supervisors to hire Christian DeAngelo as part-time patrolman to replace Pete Sandor, who resigned. DeAngelo already has his uniform, gun, and certification. DeAngelo would be paid \$16/hour.

Fayash made a motion to hire Christian DeAngelo as part-time police officer. 2nd Hosler. All approved.

Hosler asked about vehicle with Police written on the back of it. Chief DiMarco explained that All American Jeep donated a 4x4 vehicle to the township for the police at no cost to the township other than insurance. Additional thanks to Tony Stanell for helping in securing the donation from All American Jeep. Chief DiMarco stated they are using the light bar and siren box from the old red jeep.

With regards to code enforcement, Chief DiMarco stated Swenson is continuing to remove his items and is complying. Swenson has until the spring to move the vehicle on the water stop.

Road master Report-

The township received two loads of salt. The township will be getting coal patch in shortly to fill in the potholes.

Solicitors Report-

There is a balance of \$4,286.97 from the Material Dynamics settlement. Atty. Baranko heard from Atty. Semanchik and the parties are in agreement to send the balance to the Schuylkill County Fire School.

Zoning Report-

Paul Benulis stated there was one inquiry about a cell phone tower at the far end of township near Tamaqua. It was not a change but an upgrade.

Committee Reports

Council of Government—COG had a meeting. Penndot discussed where they would be doing roadwork. The majority of the roadwork would be on Route 61 and some roadwork on Route 309. Also discussed was the possibility of workman's comp insurance reimbursements after three years. Recreation Committee—Committee had a meeting on January 26. The Breakfast with Santa 12/3 had 90 people in attendance and profited \$490.00.

Tax Collection Committee—Committee did not meet

Communications

No Communications.

Old Business

Fees resolution for driveway construction, permitting, and construction of improper work. Standard Overlay or Repair of Existing Driveway (includes Township Roadmaster or Township Engineering Review) changed from \$100.00 to \$50.00. New or Expanded Driveway (includes Township Roadmaster or Township Engineering Review) changed from \$250.00 to \$100.00. Additional Inspection Fees After Initial Inspection by Township Roadmaster or Township Engineering

changed from \$50.00 per inspection to \$25.00 per inspection. Fayash made a motion to approve Resolution 2017-1. 2nd Hosler. Motion approved.

New Business

Fayash made a motion to accept the resignation of Natasha Tyson effective immediately. 2nd Fabrizio. All approved. Fayash thanked Natasha for her services with the Township.

Fayash made a motion to appoint Colleen Barrett as the Right to Know officer. 2nd Hosler. All approved.

Fayash introduced Colleen Barrett as the new Township Secretary. Limited hours of 1:30 – 4:30 Monday through Thursday (Feb. 2 through Feb.10). Starting week of Feb. 13: hours 8am – 2:30am Monday through Thursday with a half hour for lunch from 11:30am – 12pm. The hours will be posted on website.

Public Comment

Paul Benulis, Brockton, questioned overages on budget items particularly the streets. Hosler explained it was items having to do with streets and maintenance, including salaries. Benulis also questioned the classification of the salt shed on the budget. Hosler stated it was separate. Fayash stated we have additional money coming from insurance once the salt shed was complete. Benulis continued to question how much the township was over budget.

Dan Gray, Brockton, appreciated the efforts of the Roadmaster with regards to items in the township that had gradually been let go for example, culverts being cleaned. Gray hopes these items will continue to be maintained in the future.

Paul Benulis, Brockton, wanted to know approximately how much the wear edge on the plow cost. Hosler stated it was between \$100 and \$200. Fayash stated the International may be more because it is a foot longer. Benulis questioned how many times it is replaced. Hosler stated it used to be three times on the GMC. Fayash stated the township replaced it once last year. Benulis stated about seeing sparks when plowing small amounts of snow. To some people this may be considered abuse but considering this is a wear part, Benulis' opinion is that it is well worth it for the amount of money it would cost to replace this part even three times in a year.

Dan Gray, Brockton, discussed the road maintenance during storms. Gray stated that the township's roads were better maintained than Tamaqua and New Phily, which means it would be safe for emergency vehicles to get through. Fayash discussed the mixture of three to one. Fayash stated he felt there were too many ciders on the roadway. Fayash has tried different mixtures, one with more salt. Salt is more expensive. Hosler stated the township did try a 50/50 mixture in the past and the township went through the salt fast. Fayash stated the intersections are full of antiskid. The antiskid the township has now is more of a rock. Fayash suggested possibly going to the quarry in Middleport because their antiskid has more of a sandstone in it. Fayash did not know the pricing if it would match to the antiskid material the township purchases from Pottsville Material. Fayash stated the township has not gotten any antiskid material recently and we currently have more than enough. Gray questioned about the affect the type of storm would have on determining your mixture. Fayash discussed trying different options to keep the roads safe.

John Zubris, Brockton, wanted to revisit the streetlight issue. Fabrizio stated he sent two emails asking him to be at the meeting and has not gotten a response. Zubris and Hosler discussed the streetlight issue. Zubris asked about the handicap signs and collecting fees from previous signs. Fayash discussed the look back time frame for charges with Atty. Baranko. Also discussed the ordinance, fees, and annual fees. Zubris addressed Chief DiMarco about the streetlights and public safety. Chief DiMarco stated that when he runs speed in Middleport it is better illuminating the highway, but that anything better comes with a cost. Hosler stated that the Middleport intersection has

four streetlights illuminating the intersection, therefore it shouldn't be used to judge whether it is better due to the fact the lights are concentrated in that particular area. Fayash stated that the light at the bottom of the Middleport mountain at the end of town is LED and Fayash stated there is a difference between the LED and regular light. Zubris asked about the streetlight out by township building. Hosler stated it was a high pressure sodium and it is the same as what the township has throughout. Fayash stated there is a LED light on Firehouse Road and some residents have them. Fayash stated PSATS will have PPL presenting. Zubris voiced that the LED streetlights would happen eventually and that the township should have them pay for it.

Paul Benulis, Brockton, questioned if the Board was going to look into this further because the public has expressed an interest in the LED streetlights. Benulis stated that the local townships that have already changed to the LED streetlights must be going to them because they are better and there are incentives out there. Benulis and Hosler discussed the rate versus usage. Fayash stated approximately \$600.00-\$700.00 a year at \$50.00-\$54.00 a light to upgrade. Hosler stated PPL the footprint from an LED streetlight doesn't go out, it goes straight down. Hosler stated the streetlights the township has may not be as bright, but that it goes out further. Benulis, Hosler, and Fayash discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the LED streetlights. Benulis asked for an unbiased evaluation. Fayash suggested going to Middleport to look into the streetlights and find out the wattage.

Gary Feathers, Tuscarora, asked if the township was limited to LED or could we go with an HID bulb. Whether the changing of the color of the bulb was an option or not for the township.

Dan Gray, Brockton, stated the township should not pay attention to what the other towns are doing. Gray expressed concerns regarding sleeping with the LED streetlights and not being able to see the stars at night. Gray is opposed to changing to LED streetlights because there isn't a major benefit.

Erin Donley, Brockton, expressed frustration at revisiting the streetlight issue. Donley asked for lights on Cemetery Road, then Donley stated she was being sarcastic.

Mary VanPelt, Brockton, asked if the existing streetlights were so great, why are sections of Valley Street so dark. Hosler stated it was because the streetlights are spread out. Hosler and Fayash discussed the spaces between Middleport's streetlights. Hosler and Fayash discussed the cost versus benefits of the change to LED streetlights. VanPelt questioned the cost versus safety of community. DiMarco stated it would benefit the police, but it comes at a cost. VanPelt stated she was not asking for a streetlight for in front of her home.

Eugene Taschler, Newkirk, wants something done about the speeding through Newkirk. It is various times of the days. Taschler stated he has asked for stop signs in the past. Fayash agreed that the speeding is occurring. DiMarco stated that when the police are on the lines checking for speeding, the vehicles slow down because they see the police car. DiMarco stated the police cannot use radar. Pennsylvania is the only state that doesn't allow the use of radar. DiMarco expressed frustration on the radar issue. DiMarco suggested looking into putting signs up in the spring; warning of the speed zone. Taschler expressed his frustration with the Board's lack of action dating back to 2004 and lack of placing stop signs in Newkirk. Hosler stated that stop signs were not the answer, but more speed control. DiMarco restated he would look into getting two signs for warning of the speed zone.

Mary VanPelt, Brockton, stated stop signs don't work. VanPelt's daughter was killed because a person ran the stop sign.

Fayash made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 2nd Hosler. All approved.

Adjourned

Attest: Colleen Barrett

