

**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, March 7, 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 February Minutes. 2nd Hosler. All approved.

Treasurer's Report

\$258,020.32 total in bank accounts. A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's Report pending audit by Fayash. 2nd Fabrizio. All approved.

Replies to last month's public questions -

No replies to last month's questions.

Public comment on agenda items only –

Christine Verdier, Mary D, commented towards the Solicitor regarding last month's question on whether a member of the board can fire a professional service. Solicitor Slusser had informed that it will be discussed during executive session.

Police Report –

February: Harassment by communication under investigation; information request; theft report; harassment; fire call smoke in a structure; assist Fire Company; administration reports; dog feces; check residence; assist Tamaqua police department; littering which resulted in arrest; abandoned vehicle; property found; and disorderly conduct.

Officers conducted checks at various locations and bus stops throughout the township. The police car was re-stripped to be more visible with the addition of 911 and the names of the towns on the sides. Officers will continue to monitor speed once the weather gets better and they can establish speed zones.

Christine Verdier, Mary D, questioned if the several burning situations have been reviewed by the ordinances. Chief DiMarco explained that it would be something to go through the Fire Chief in the event of there being a problem and if it becomes more of a problem the Fire Chief would contact the Chief of police to issue a citation.

Hosler questioned regarding last month's request to be approved to use the funds for the officers, there was never a vote on or an approval to use the funds and the funds were used to purchase equipment. Chief DiMarco stated that he would like to speak with the Supervisors regarding this after the meeting or discuss once in executive session.

Fayash wanted to thank Chief DiMarco for donating his time to get the car completed. Also wanted to inform that when Hosler stated that the officers had gone over by 2 hours last month, that it was actually only by a half hour and wanted to thank Chief DiMarco again for donating his time the entire month of January.

Dan Gray, Brockton, wanted to question, with the allotted amount of hours that an officer is given, how they are able to be present more than our previous officer. Chief DiMarco stated that he cannot speak on the behalf of the previous officer and he does what he can.

Road master Report-

Cleaned out culverts between Newkirk and Old 209 of debris and also stoned them. One culvert in Newkirk is completely blocked with rock and needs to be replaced. Fayash wanted to thank the Tuscarora Fire Co. for coming out to help unblock the culverts. Also, cleaned the shoulder of the road on 209 and between Sanderson St and Old 209; cleaned out additional culverts and stoned between Tuscarora and Newkirk along Old 209 and also stoned the Summit outside of Tuscarora. Repairs were done to the International as well as the GMC. Stoned a ditch at the bottom of Broad St, which seems to let the water go through, due to a pipe being buried and it is now cleaned out and unburied. Purchased 2 tri-axes of salt and also the salt shed will need to be repaired come springtime.

Hosler wanted to comment that with Fayash being Roadmaster, he has made almost \$5,000 in just this year, whereas the 4 years prior to that, Hosler himself did not make that combined in the amount of 4 years. Fayash wanted to state that it is better to have more than one person working for the jobs that are being completed. Fayash also stated that Hosler needs to clock in when he is working in order to be covered under the insurance if something would happen, this was verified by Solicitor Ashley Securda. Hosler wanted to mention that Fayash had ordered 2 loads of salt and its going to melt away due to it not being used for the rest of the year. Hosler wanted to also mention that Fayash had spend \$879 on a new jack, and Fayash had explained the reasoning of buying a new jack. Hosler also wanted to question why Fayash was out plowing with a ¼ inch of snow on the ground. Fayash stated he was plowing due to safety.

Solicitors Report- Ashley Securda

No solicitors report but Ashley would like to introduce Christopher Slusser. Confirmation was given from Christopher Slusser, that they will not be charging the township for both to be present.

Zoning Report- Benulis stated that he is here to provide the zoning report due to the township having an ordinance that a report needs to be given. Benulis stated that he would like the township to be compliant with the zoning ordinances. Benulis had stated ways to do this is open communication and not steering anyone away due to the price of the fees. Things that have been completed was putting contact information on the website and on the building, also issued 3 permits, and UCC permits are pending due to the coordination with fees. There is also a subdivision in process in Newkirk. Benulis discussed the process of getting a permit and making the information easier to access along with the help of the process if anyone needs it.

Committee Reports

Council of Government—Committee did not meet

Recreation Committee—Committee did not meet

Tax Collection Committee—Committee did not meet

Communications

There is a spring cleanup for Schuylkill County, registration is due by March 31st and cleaning will be held April 21st, 22nd, 23rd, and 24th from 9am-noon. The spring cleanup will be held during earth week and anybody can volunteer to help cleanup. Cleanup will be along Penndot pick up roads; clean the garbage up and place bags along the road for Penndot to pick up.

Tamaqua Area Girls Youth Softball Association would like to use the Mary D ball field on Tuesdays in April and May. Fayash made a motion to allow them to use the field as long as they work with the other teams to make a working schedule. 2nd by Hosler. Bill Angst questioned regarding the agreement that was put in place, if the Township approves the Softball team using the field, does the agreement still stand. Fayash reassured that yes the agreement will still stand as long as the other teams are able to work out a schedule. There was more discussion made regarding the agreement and how it automatically renews every 5 years for 99 years but no date was given on the agreement on when it was signed by the township supervisors. Solicitor Slusser explained more on the continuing or terminating of the agreement.

Jessica Tirpak, Tuscarora, regarding the Softball team using the field, she feels that there is no way to be able to accommodate another team due to the Tamaqua Baseball Association and other teams already using the field. Fayash has stated that the softball team only would like to use the field for Tuesdays from April to May. There was more discussion made regarding the steps to have everyone be accommodated in the same field without being overpopulated. Chuck Joseph explained that they are only requesting to use the field for 4 practices, which would be for one month, due to the coach living in the township makes it easier for her to attend. All approved, motion passed.

Old Business

PLGIT Procurement Card is still in process due to the Secretary just retrieving the 2013 audit. The process will now proceed with that information.

There has been a request to change all the street lights to LED bulbs saving approximately \$55 a month that has been tabled from February's meeting. Discussion was made between the Supervisors regarding the lumens and also the amount of light the LED's will give off. With the concern of adding more lights to accommodate the amount of light in the township, Hosler stated to have the topic tabled until next meeting that he is able to talk to someone who has changed to LED's in the area and see if they had to add more lights. Motion to table until next meeting made by Fabrizioo. 2nd Hosler. All approved, tabled until next meeting.

New Business

Supervisors discuss purchasing of a new plow truck for the township. Fayash stated that he had gone to Kovatch to price a brand new truck, a Ford 550 four-wheel drive and loaded with everything. Price came out to be \$80,000. Fayash did research and came across Forest Township and they are selling a 2002 F-550 aluminum box, four-wheel drive, with a little over 9,000 miles on the truck. After getting the price for the truck, Fayash made a motion to purchase the truck for \$20,000 so they are able to put the bid in before Forest Township has their next meeting. Hosler stated he would like to see the truck first before a bid is placed, Fabrizioo agreed. Fayash made a motion to table until next meeting. 2nd Fabrizioo. All approved, tabled until next meeting.

The Secretary has requested to purchase 4 boxes of General Fund checks & 2 boxes of Payroll checks at the price of \$58.75 per box of 250 which brings the total to \$352.50 for 6 boxes. The Secretary also has requested to purchase 1 box of General Fund deposit slips at the price of \$31.87 per box of 200. Fayash had made a motion to purchase the requested items. 2nd Hosler. All approved.

Fayash has requested to discuss renting a street sweeper to clean up the towns. Fayash had made a motion to set a schedule for a month and date with the Council of Government to rent a street sweeper. 2nd Fabrizioo. All approved.

Benulis explained the Resolutions that he would like reviewed and approved by the Supervisors. This did include the permit fees and comparison was made between Resolution 2009-5, which was ARRO's pricing and fees, and also Resolution 2016-2, which would be the possible new fees. Fayash had made a motion to accept Resolution 2016-2 to replace the existing zoning permit fee Resolution 2009-5 and have this effective immediately. 2nd Fabrizioo. All approved.

Benulis also would like Resolution 2016-1 to be reviewed and approved by the Supervisors which contains the UCC Code fees. Fayash made a motion to table this until next meeting. 2nd Fabrizioo. All approved, tabled until next meeting.

There has been a request to install a street light at the top of Wyoming St. in Tuscarora. Fabrizioo stated that there are a few houses at the top that are very dark at night and feels there should be a light installed. Fabrizioo made a motion to have a new street light installed at the top of Wyoming St. in Tuscarora. 2nd Fayash. Hosler nay. Motion approved.

Public Comment

John Zubris, Brockton, wanted to comment regarding last month's comment about someone in the meeting room that killed the ex-secretary, stated that making an accusation like this could fall into a lawsuit unless proof is made. Zubris also wanted to comment towards Patricia Stefanek and her comments towards the auditors.

Mary Van Pelt, Brockton, questioned why some people in the audience were able to comment but others could not. Van Pelt also wanted to mention that when the Supervisors are speaking, the audience is not able to hear them and they need to speak up.

Billy Zahora, Mary D, concerned if the township has a plan B for garbage pickup, for the people who have not paid. Garbage is piling up and will start to cause a smell and cause rodents to go through once the weather gets warmer. Chief DiMarco explained that with the ordinance the township has, the officers are able to write a citation if the problem persists. Other discussion was made to take the delinquencies to the Magistrate.

Mark Blasko, Mary D, questioned if the garbage bills are not paid, will there be a lien on the property. Supervisors stated that the next step would be taking them to the Magistrate.

Tracy Dannenfelner, Brockton, wanted to question the budget for the police if there was an emergency and they had to go over the hours, would there be enough in the budget to cover the overage. Also wanted to comment with the maintenance department, it is better to spend the money now and get things caught up so when things are completed, it would just be maintenance to keep everything going.

Aggie Kane, Tuscarora, wanted to comment regarding an article that was made by the Times News regarding Christine Verdier stating that the Supervisors were violating the Sunshine Act, whereas Verdier had visited all the auditors and wanted them to vote at the Auditors meeting to have the Roadmaster's pay dropped to \$7.25 an hour from \$14.00. Also commented regarding Verdier's actions and comments around the township recently is a sad attempt to hurt people.

Christine Verdier, Mary D, explained the Sunshine Law in detail as to when Board members outside of a meeting make decisions amongst each other that at that point it is a violation. Verdier stated that she did not violate the Sunshine Law due to visiting each auditor one by one discussing her plans, not as a group because she did not want to violate the Law. Verdier stated she did this action as a citizen activist and not as a member of the Board.

Dan Gray, Brockton, wanted to agree with Christine Verdier in stating that she is no longer a Supervisor.

Mary Van Pelt, Brockton, stated that Verdier defended herself for everything except insulting the Benulis family during breakfast.

Patricia Stefanek, Brockton, wanted to move to Brockton to be involved and make things better in the township. Stefanek understands why Linda DeCindio no longer comes to the meetings due to all the negativity. Also questioned if the variance amount is going to stay the same, due to the cost was never to be used as a fundraiser for the township, and also because other fees are due for the variance process. Supervisors stated that the variance fee is staying the same at \$500.

Dan Gray, Brockton, wanted to disagree with Stefanek on the residents coming to the meetings due to the reason is there is no where to park. Gray also wanted to agree with Stefanek and stated that he does not know anyone who has patted her on the back for her years of service.

Mary Rudy, Mary D, she states that she apologizes if some people's consciences are bothering them, but she is not going to waste her time commenting back to Zubris.

John Bubon, Brockton, illustrated a story about a 5 year old leaving a bird out of the cage. Bubon questioned Hosler if the township receives bills every month and also if they are being paid every month. Also questioned regarding the missing bill from 3 years ago for the garbage bill and questioned if the Secretary still receives a percentage of the garbage bills paid. Bubon went on to question if the meeting that was held to change the locks for the building, back when Fayash was elected, if that was a violation of the Sunshine Law. Bubon also commented that the voters, who voted, were voting for the other way.

Paul Benulis, Brockton, wanted to state that the police car looks fantastic. Also stated that he normally has to spread the word for the meetings and there seems to be a great turnout for not having a chance to advertise for this meeting. Benulis also stated that he would like to see the Supervisors be more professional.

Dan Gray, Brockton, with him being part of the commonwealth he wanted to comment that he is proud to have neighbors that are working through to get things done.

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

Adjourned

Attest: Natasha Tyson