

**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, November 2nd, 2020. The Pledge of the Allegiance was recited. Those present included Charles Fayash, Charles Hosler, and Frank Fabrizio.

Charles Hosler made a motion to approve the October's Meeting Minutes. 2nd Fabrizio. All approved.

Treasurer's Report

\$528,213.16 total in bank accounts. Charles Fayash made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report pending audit. 2nd Hosler. All approved.

Visa credit card report – Clorox, rubber bands, binder clips, GPS

Answers to last month's public questions –none

Public comment on agenda items only – Christine Kostecky, Tuscarora, questioned the repeal of Section 103 of Ordinance 2000-1. Atty. Baranko stated it was eliminating a permitting process. Kostecky brought up a complaint of numerous cars and other motorized vehicles on a property adjacent to her property (407-409 Coal Street). She stated she had made complaints before but that there is a lot of junk accumulated at their property. Atty. Baranko stated it would probably fall under Quality of Life, Property Maintenance Code, or zoning; also it would fall upon the owner of the property not the tenants. Brian Seip, Mary D, questioned about what was being done about the area on Back Street that he has complained about at numerous meetings. Discussion ensued about code enforcement and police officers. Discussion about when the last time a police officer or code enforcement was up there and issued tickets. Fayash stated all the vehicles were removed. Discussion ensued about the vehicles being brought back and incomplete cars. Seip stated that nothing has been done in five months regarding numerous issues on Back Street. He also stated that the Board wants to change the rules about the number of cars etc. but that the township can't enforce the rules that they currently have without a code enforcement officer. Fayash stated that when we were looking for a code enforcement officer no one applied for the position and Chief DiMarco volunteered to do code enforcement. Discussion ensued regarding code enforcement and doing something. Seip also brought up abandoned houses and those issues. Seip wants to know when something is going to be done. Hosler stated about making a change with someone objective from outside the township.

Police Report – Fayash reported calls from October including code enforcement: township ordinances, traffic hazards, phone assignment, township ordinance, criminal mischief, PFA, abandoned vehicles, parking complaint, trespassing, assist persons. Fayash read a letter of resignation from Officer Stanell effective 11/6/2020 and Officer Oldt effective 11/7/2020. Christine Kostecky, Tuscarora, questioned why the officers were not getting a raise for putting their lives on the line. Discussion ensued about their hours, duties, and production. Erin Donley, Brockton, spoke of Chief DiMarco and Officer Stanell knowing the community and that they deserve a raise. Hosler stated the GPS devices showed time spent outside the township and at his house. Brian Seip, Mary D, questioned the wage for what police officers do and risking their lives. Christine Kostecky, Tuscarora, brought up that her complaints about the barking dogs were addressed previously by the Officers. Joe Toney, Tuscarora, questioned the wage for putting the badge on. Greg Tirpak, Tuscarora, stated the drugs in Tuscarora are out of control and he has had to call the state police several times. Tirpak stated we need police presence and communication is needed. Tirpak stated that he was aware of six individuals that overdosed at the park this summer. He also stated the traffic is going through the woods at the picnic grove. Tirpak stated he would like to see more police presence at night. Discussion ensued about results and officers' shifts, availability, and wages. One of the properties with high foot traffic with people with backpacks etc. is 320 Mulberry Street. Discussion ensued about fights and drugs happening. Fayash stated the problems with

getting police officers are the wages and the full time status of officers working at other locations. Fayash stated communication is needed and that our township is secondary to their full time jobs. Joe Toney, Tuscarora, stated we need more police presence especially at night. Mike Kostecky, Tuscarora, asked about what type of experience would any of the replacements have, compared to the current officers. Kostecky questioned Hosler about GPS. Discussion ensued about the letters of resignation, communication between the supervisors and officers, wages, scheduling, protocols, and GPS tracking. George Sotak, Brockton, questioned if the township will be down to one cop. Sotak suggested residents get the second class township regulations. Sotak stated they should be paid what they are worth. Discussion ensued about wages and duties, scheduling. Toney, asked if the supervisors (Hosler and Fabrizio) would be willing to sit down and discuss these issues with Officer Stanell. Fabrizio stated yes and Hosler stated he needs change for example night shift work. Fayash stated Stanell can't work night shift because he is full time day shift in Tamaqua. Fayash stated that communication is needed that he calls Frank and Tony and they respond. Fayash stated that they had the cars moved off the township property which prompted Seip to question why they weren't moved from Back Street then. Discussion ensued about Quality of Life and code enforcement. Christine Kostecky asked if the officers were going to be compensated with a raise. Discussion ensued. Fabrizio stated he ran numbers after the budget meeting. Hosler stated the township was planning on hiring for another Officer. Discussion ensued. Rich Magnani, Brockton, questioned the chain of command with the Chief and Officer and scheduling. Magnani also agreed with increasing the police officers' wage.

Code Enforcement Report – Marty Sowers, Light Heigel & Associates, spoke about his company and code enforcement. Sowers spoke of the Property Maintenance Code use rather than the Quality of life ordinances. Property Maintenance Code deals with exterior and interior. The interior requires administrative warrant with a probable cause. PMC also deals with vehicles, broken windows, plumbing, electrical, etc. If the water is shut off and placard the residence as uninhabitable due to safety conditions which is a tool for removing people in this structures involved in drugs etc. Sowers also spoke of dilapidated structures, junk in the yard, rodent infestation, holes in siding, etc. Fayash questioned about abandoned houses. Sowers stated that Solicitors work with him and issue letters to banks etc. Atty. Baranko brought up the remediate opportunities in front of judges. Sowers stated the county judges are less tolerate of the violator and the way the issues are presented to the judges plays a large role in how the judge rules. Sowers has experience with several judges throughout the area and developed a rapport with them. Sowers stated that the PMC allows for the thirty days to address or clean up the problem and then the judge can set a fine daily for the days that follow if not in compliance. Sowers stated setting a schedule and first try to work with them but then move from there. Fayash asked if it is based on complaints. Sowers doesn't patrol - didn't say he wouldn't but prefers complaint driven issues and through the board written or oral. George Sotak, Brockton, asked cost. Sowers stated it is \$67/hr. Barb Sotak, Brockton, questioned about Emerick Street and safety along with visual with a possible mirror or something to see when pulling out. Sotak also asked about the surveyors. Fabrizio stated the surveyors were brought in because our engineer suggested it to check the right away and clear sight triangle. Fayash stated once the survey comes back a mirror will be considered. Joe Toney, Tuscarora, asked about renters and owners in reference to Code and PMC. Sowers stated that PMC lets you address both.

Roadmaster Report- – Hosler reported Mark cleaned up at the end of Marsella Road, Mary D, cut back overgrowth, replaced Locust Ave Street sign, scraped the sides of Locust, patched pot holes, changed faded stop sign in Brockton, removed leaves from the drains, changed exhaust manifold on pick up truck, put new plow on pickup truck, repairs on GMC, Pickup truck inspection, maintenance on salt spreaders, picked up tvs and trash on Old 209, repairs on mower, drain project, got modified for drains, replaced damaged road deflectors, etc. Christine Kostecky, Tuscarora, asked about the corner of Coal and Broad Street a one way stop sign. Discussion ensued about Broad Street and stop signs. George Sotack, Brockton, questioned the law on motor bikes and atvs through town. Brian Seip, Mary D, asked about the culvert on Back Street. Discussion ensued about the drainage. Seip insisted that the township denied permission to put excess asphalt blacktop in the pothole. No one at the township was aware of that and did not deny or grant permission because the township was not contacted. The board reviewed quotes on zero turn mowers. Hosler made a motion to purchase a zero turn mower for no more than \$10,500. 2nd Fayash. All approved. Fayash made a motion to purchase a

compressor for no more than \$1,200. 2nd Hosler. All approved. George Sotak, Brockton, questioned about the rumor of the Dollar General in Brockton. Fayash stated that they received an email asking about the land and underground tanks but no formal permit applications have been submitted to the township.

Solicitors Report- Atty. Baranko asked if the Board reviewed the garbage contract he prepared. The Board has until Thursday to review. The Quality of Life Ordinance revisions were discussed. Joe Sadusky, Mary D, asked a question about vehicles and tarping them. Discussion ensued.

Zoning Report- Two UCC permits were issued: Denning (patio extension) Mengle (deck/pool); Five Zoning permits were issued Denning (patio extension) Mengle (deck/pool), Blickley (shed), Blickley (fence), Canfield (pole building).

Committee Reports

Council of Government-none

Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Committee- none

Tax Collection Committee- Committee did not meet

Communications: Tuscarora Fire Company submitted bills paid by the donation from the township. Northern Schuylkill Code Enforcement Forum announces a four part training geared toward elected municipal officials, municipal staff, and municipal solicitors. PA Department of Environmental Protection sent a letter regarding participation in a conference call about a permit modification to increase the permitted average daily volume and maximum daily volume from 1,500 tons per day to 3,000 tons per day for the BRADS landfill at 1061 Burma Road in Blythe Township. Fayash stated he spoke with Mr. Bowers from the dump and he mentioned that the township might be able to get some money from the dump that someone should come to one of the meetings. Fayash will check into when they will have a meeting. Thank you letter for the township's donation of \$1,500 towards the firefighter training school.

Old Business – Repeal of Section 103 of Ordinance 2000-1 Code Enforcement. Fayash made a motion to approve Ordinance 2020-1. 2nd Hosler. All approved.

New Business- The Board of Supervisors have reviewed and discussed the 2021 Annual Budget. Fayash made a motion advertise the Annual Budget for 2021 in the newspaper and available for public viewing. 2nd Hosler. All approved. Schuylkill Headwaters is requesting a donation for their fingerlings program. Fayash made a motion to donate \$500.00 to the Schuylkill Headwaters. 2nd Hosler. All approved. Hosler made a motion to approve a \$500.00 donation to Tamaqua Public Library. 2nd Fayash. All approved. Fayash made a motion to purchase (200) flags no more than \$650. 2nd Hosler. All approved. Fayash made a motion to temporarily increase the visa limit to \$1000 for the flag purchase. 2nd Hosler. Lettich & Zipay has completed 2020 Financials/Audit. Fayash made a motion to approve the 2% garbage commission check for Colleen Barrett for \$1811.99 on the \$90,599.53 collected from 10/25/19-11/01/20. 2nd Hosler. All approved. Discuss the single street light removal. Fayash made a motion to remove the single street light. 2nd Hosler. All approved. Discuss raising the LST rate. Hosler made a motion to raise the LST from \$10 to \$52. 2nd Fabrizio. All approved. Fayash made a motion to approve the Repository Sale of the property at 614-616 Wyoming Street in Tuscarora. 2nd Hosler. All approved. Fayash asked if the other supervisors wanted to bring Stanell in to talk to them. All agreed to meet.

Public Comment –Erin Donley, Brockton, made the comment to talk things out and communicate. Donley supports the police force remaining on with the township.

George Sotak, Brockton, asked about the PPL light and who owned it. Discussion about removing it and cost. Fayash made a motion to adjourn. 2nd Hosler. All approved.

Adjourned

Attest: Colleen Barrett

