

**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, October 7, 2015, at 7 P. 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 September Minutes. A motion to approve the September minutes as written was made by Fayash, 2nd Verdier. All approved.

Treasurer's Report

\$395,790.49 total in bank accounts. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report pending audit was made by Verdier; 2nd Hosler. All approved.

Replies to last month's public questions.

Fayash answered last month's question regarding parking over the white line on Valley St. causing a traffic hazard. Fayash stated he met with the person responsible for parking his vehicle in the line of traffic on Valley St., Brockton. The person stated he is doing this in order to slow down the traffic going through the town as someone almost got hit going into the Notary Office. Person has since moved his vehicle in closer to the house and the situation seems to have been corrected, at least for now. Charles Hosler also stated the Supervisors will be discussing Ordinance 87-2—adopting no parking zones.

Public comment on agenda items only

Paul Benulis, Brockton, asked if we still had a police officer as he has not seen the officer lately. The last meeting she attended was in July; there have been no police reports. He questioned why she is not present at this meeting when he saw her standing outside a few minutes earlier. There was an ongoing discussion about why police officer is not attending the monthly meetings.

Police Report – September 2015

No report. Officer is presently out on a call in Mary-D Fire Chief.

Roadmaster Report-

Repaired pot holes; cut grass. Township got 280 tons of anti-skid; 400 tons were ordered. The Township will be purchasing salt for the winter season.

Solicitors Report- Michael Greek

Solicitor could not attend this month's meeting but could be reached on his cell phone if needed.

Committee Reports

Tax Collection Committee-Fayash attended the September 23, 2015 meeting. There was a rumor going around about Berkheimer sending an email that went viral; some people thought it was a scam, but the Berkheimer Representative stated people online with them will be getting an email from them. The meeting lasted only six minutes--they approved the minutes from the previous quarter and last month's meeting.

Council of Government--Fayash attended this meeting. There was a Cold Patch demonstration. They discussed two towns that did not pay their annual dues yet. The Land Bank was also discussed regarding demolishing abandoned, run-down properties; Schuylkill Township opted out of the program. Next COG meeting will be November 18 at Frackville.

Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Committee—meeting was cancelled

Communications:

The township received a letter from Commonwealth Contract Responsibility Program regarding approved tax clearance for the CBDG grant.

Renewal information from PA Department of Labor Industry (Worker's Comp Renewal.) There was a \$5,000.00 increase due to two Workers Comp claims filed by the Tuscarora Fire Co. two years ago. If no additional claims are filed, we should see a decrease in the fee next year.

The township received a letter from the Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce thanking the Township for renewing their dues. We utilize the Direct Energy program which provides reduced costs for electric bills.

We received a letter from Attorney Greek stating that he received notice from the Cohen Law Group offering free legal assessment regarding cable franchise agreement and wireless matters. This is provided at no cost; Verdier stated it sounds good and the Township should take advantage of the offer.

Schuylkill County Township Officials Association invited all township officials and staff to attend the annual meeting on October 21 at the Community Fire Company Hall in New Ringgold. They bring in speakers and vendors who share information with the Municipalities. Dues are now payable.

A motion was made by Verdier to adopt a resolution approving the PLGIT Procurement Card; 2nd by Hosler. All approved.

Old Business

Chuck Fayash used his truck to take the TV's to the Tamaqua Transfer Station during the allotted two week acceptance period. Some people dropped additional TV's and tires after the designated acceptance period; Charles Hosler took those and some tires to the Transfer Station.

New Business

A motion was made by Verdier to revise Township Ordinance 87-2 – adopting no parking zones on Valley St., Brockton. There was much discussion as to what is required to make the changes; will need more clarification. There motion to revise Township Ordinance 87-2 was tabled until the November meeting when the Supervisors will revisit this issue.

After several interviews, the Supervisors made a decision to hire a permanent Township Secretary/Treasurer at \$13.00 an hour with a 2% garbage fee collection stipend and \$150 monthly travel allowance. Verdier made a motion to hire Natasha Tyson, Brockton, as the new Township Secretary/Treasurer pending background check; 2nd by Hosler. All approved.

The selection of a new Maintenance Person was put on hold. The Supervisors need further discussion before a final decision is made. Issue will be discussed in Executive Session.

Verdier made a motion to keep the police officer out of the meeting room when the video camera is recording as long as the officer is a member of the Drug Enforcement Task Force. 2nd Hosler: Roll Call: Hosler-Yes; Verdier-Yes; Fayash- No. Motion passed.

Public Comment

Pat Stefanek, Brockton, asked what was the Berkheimer 'scam' that went viral on Facebook. Response: They did not say what it was just that emails will be sent. It is unclear as to who will actually be getting the emails. Ms. Stefanek asked how they could send emails to every one.

Dan Gray, Brockton, made mention of no police report for the month. He has not seen her lately. He stated there have been loud parties; graves in the local cemetery are being vandalized by interlopers having 'parties' there; and he also mentioned parking issues on Valley St. Chairman Hosler stated that these issues are systemic in all the Municipalities. A part-time police officer cannot be all places at all times.

John Zubris, Brockton, stated that Paul Benulis offered to turn his camera away from the police officer during her appearance at the meetings, then why can't the officer be present? He also mentioned the parking hazard on Valley St. Brockton with a truck blocking the view should you want to make a left-hand turn. Who dug the holes in Reevesdale for the sewer survey, and isn't it the Sewer Authorities responsibility? Response: Charles Hosler said he dug the holes. It is not the Sewer's Authorities responsibility as the sewer lines do not cover that area. Reevesdale houses have their own on-lot systems.

Dan Gray also stated that the camera does not have a long range view, thus the officer would not be seen if she sat behind the camera. He also voiced his opinions on why the police officer is not visible.

Paul Benulis stated that his purpose of filming the meetings, and posts them publicly, is for those who are unable to attend the meetings. He objects to the motion to have the police officer remain off camera.

Mary Van Pelt, Brockton, stated her objections as to why the police officer can't be at the meetings and why are there no reports.

Erin Donley, Brockton, asked why the police officer hasn't called her back regarding a prior incident. Response from Verdier: the officer has been in contact with the District Attorney's office; that is the only information available at this time.

Gene Tashler, Newkirk, asked about the garbage being dumped on old 209. Response: Hosler did pick up some garbage, but more and more is being dumped. PSATS does have a camera and will loan it to Municipalities, so that might be an option the Township could pursue.

Halloween Trick or Treat in the Township is on October 31, 2015 from 6 to 8 PM. Notices are posted.

The Supervisors entered Executive Session at 7:54 PM. Discussion regarding maintenance position. Exited Executive Session at 8:19 PM.

Verdier made a motion to adjourn the meeting; 2nd by Fayash. All approved.

Adjourned

Attest: Suzanne Apanavage