

August 7, 2023
Board of Supervisors Meeting
Schuylkill Township
75 Walnut Street
Mary-D, PA 17952

Introduction

The Regular meeting of the Supervisors of Schuylkill Township was held on Monday, August 7, 2023 in the Municipal Building. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Present at the meeting included Charles Fayash, Gary Feathers and Charles Hosler.

Meeting Minutes

Charles Fayash called for the approval of the regular meeting minutes for April 3, 2023. Charles Hosler asked about July's meeting minutes. Charles Fayash called for a motion to table approval of the July 3, 2023 meeting minutes. Gary Feathers seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0 Charles Fayash called for a motion to approve the April 3, 2023 meeting minutes. Charles Hosler made the motion. Gary feathers seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

Treasurer's Report

Charles Fayash read the Treasurer's Report. (July)

July's General Ending Balance \$224,840.34, ARP \$94,792.49, State – not updated yet this month, Payroll Fund Ending Balance \$33,578.07, Garbage Not updated yet, CACL Savings is \$5, CACL Reserve Fund is \$123,536.46, Reserve Fund \$66,762.24. Total Balances of all Accounts equals \$543,514.60. Charles Fayash asked Gary Feathers to explain why the Garbage account wasn't updated yet. Gary Feathers said if we deposit on Saturday, the account is usually not updated until Wednesday because of the large deposits. Charles Fayash asked the board if there is another bank they would be interested in dealing with. Charles Fayash made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report pending audit. Charles Hosler seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0 No Visa report for this month.

Answers to Last Month's Public Questions – None

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only - None

Police Report – July 2023 –

Chief Frank DeMarco said the UCR Reports are completed for 2022 up to June 2023.

There was a 911 hang-up that was investigated. Garbage complaint in Middleport. 2 littering complaints one in Brockton the other in Middleport, Welfare check in Tuscarora. There was an assault in Middleport resulting in an arrest of the offender. EMS was called to a place on old SR 209 for a pregnant woman that fell. Chief DeMarco said the only Ordinance was about weeds and Officer Litwhiler took care of it. Chief DeMarco said LPRs were ordered today through Greens Communications. They will install the 2 camera system. Blithe Township is getting the same system. He also ordered the cheapest Ammo he could find from SGA Ammo, LLC. 500 Rounds of 9mm, 200 case of 223 Ammo for the AR, 10 Boxes of Buck Shot and 10 Boxes of Slug for the Shotguns and a grand total of \$678.

Charles Hosler asked if he shopped around. Board agreed to wait to decide until next month.

Gary Feathers wanted to see Police Procedures and Protocols by the end of the meeting. He feels that it is not legitimate. Gary Feathers expressed his feelings about the manual and he wants to see it. Chief DeMarco said that is standard operating procedure and that is what he goes by. The Supervisors would like to review it and they want the Solicitor to review it as well. The Supervisors will determine if it is acceptable. Attorney Baranko said he was here in 2016 and it was referenced back then.

Gary Feathers made a motion to buy a new refrigerator. He feels that police evidence should not be in a refrigerator that people use. Chief DeMarco said they are sealed. Attorney Baranko said there is a chain of custody and it has to be sealed and signed off on. The Supervisors agree that the evidence should be stored separately. Charles Hosler seconded the motion. Charles Fayash said they need to get prices on them first. Charles Hosler said the Police Dept. can have the frig they have been using and they need to put a lock on it so no one can get into it other than the police dept. Gary Feathers made a motion for Mark Buccieri get prices on a refrigerator. Charles Hosler seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0 Gary Feathers said he would like an executive session as well.

Code Enforcement Report – None

Road Master Report

Mark Buccieri read the Road Master report for July 2023. Equipment Maintenance, Township grass was cut. Sunny Drive was paved by Folk Paving. Road work in Tuscarora, Mary-D and Brockton. Tuscarora patch work was done on Ore St. Did patch work on Coal and Broad on the corner, there was water going on someone's driveway. Did repairs on the corner of Long & Wyoming St. because of a dip by the Stop sign, patch work on Clay St. on Dutch Hill, they also fixed the dirt roads in Dutch Hill because they were washed out from all the rain. Mary-D patch work at the bottom of Sunny Drive. Fixed wash away swale on Lewis St. Patch work on Washington St. in Brockton as well.

Mark Buccieri said they have all the tree bids in. Andy Smarr did not give a quote because he felt it was too risky. Noecker's Tree Service was \$1900 and Boyle was \$1800. It's 6 trees at the bottom of Seneca. He said they would just leave the wood there. Mark Buccieri said the road dept. would get rid of the wood. Gary Feathers made a motion to award Boyle as long as their liability insurance is on file at the Township. Charles Fayash seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

Mark Buccieri asked the Supervisors if they want to do anymore paving this year. They cannot reuse the roads that they already got bids on. They have to come up with different roads to get bids on. Mark Buccieri said he will come up with different roads next meeting. Gary Feathers said Coal Street needs work and should be on the list. Supervisors discussed which roads they feel should be done. Mark Buccieri said he will work on a list. Charles Fayash asked if he was going to fix the sewer sinking down by the Pit Stop. Charles Hosler said the pipe is fine. He said the dirt is probably getting sucked into the trap. Mark Buccieri said yes.

Solicitor's Report

Attorney Baranko said the Franchise Agreement was duly advertised, Valley Street was advertised as well. Both are on the Agenda for potential action. Attorney Baranko did a fee resolution to increase the Zoning Application fee to \$25. Gary Feathers said we need to look at that closer. Charles Fayash made a motion to approve the Valley Street Ordinance. Gary Feathers seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0 Charles Fayash made a motion to approve the Ordinance for the Comcast Proposal. Gary Feathers seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried.3-0

Zoning Report -None

Council of Government – Did Not Meet.

Tax Collection Committee – Did Not Meet.

Communications - None

Old Business

- **Line Painting Revised Quote** – Gary Feathers said if everyone is good with it he will call him this week. Supervisors agreed.
- **Comcast Proposal Agreement** – Charles Fayash said we already discussed earlier at the meeting.

- **Return of Township Property from the County** – Solicitor said he didn't speak to the County since they discussed the timbering. Charles Fayash said would if the County doesn't take it back after the timbering. Attorney Baranko said then we are stuck. Gary Feathers feels they should just give it back. So they are not stuck. Attorney Baranko said he will do a deed and tell the County that we will convey it back to them.
- **Valley St. Parking Ordinance** – the Board already discussed.
- **Hometown Hero Flags** – Gary Feathers said they have 7 paid for and three more he will have another order.
- **Completion of Officer Rehire.**

Charles Fayash asked Attorney Baranko if they rehired last meeting after they came out of executive session if that ok to do if it was not on the Agenda. Attorney Baranko said it should have been on the Agenda however it can be ratified. Attorney Baranko said he does have the agreement. Chief DeMarco asked if that was a contract for a police officer. Attorney Baranko said it was an employment contract. Chief questioned why would we need that if we are part time. Chief DeMarco disagrees with it and said it is a waste. Gary Feathers made a motion to rehire Jason Lex. Charles Hosler seconded the motion. Chief DeMarco is protesting it. He feels that we will get sued. Chief DeMarco said we were supposed to have an executive session for him to present his case. He said you are going against the Chief of Police and I am still the Chief of Police. Gary Feathers said we are the Supervisors and you work for us. Chief DeMarco said in December he resigns in protest and you will hear from an Attorney from his side. He said it was personal. Gary Feathers said it is not personal maybe on the Chief's end. Chief DeMarco said you're not going to defame a Chief of Police when he recommended and he is in the middle of an investigation of a part-time police officer for violating codes here. Gary Feathers asked what codes. Chief DeMarco said violating the J-Net policy. It is a criminal prosecution. Charles Fayash called all in favor of the last motion. Charles Fayash opposed. Motion was carried. 2-0

- **Zoning Permit – Increase Discussion** – Gary feathers said we will need to table that. Charles Fayash made a motion to table the Zoning Fee Increase to the Sept. Meeting. Gary Feathers seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0
- **Jones & Company – Audit**

The auditors are still working on it. They need to come back in. Denise was working on getting information together for them. They did get the tax collector information from the tax collector.

- **Garbage**
Using a billing/collection Agency (ex. Sewer Authority)

Charles Hosler said the company that they used at the sewer authority said they charged \$2.50/bill. Utility billing would collect that then after a certain amount of time it doesn't get paid it would then go into collections. Charles Hosler said we would get everything they would owe and the billing company would get 20% of what they would tack on. Gary Feathers asked Charles Hosler to have them write something up for their services.

Exemption of vacant homes from Garbage – Gary Feathers said the Ordinance clearly states the exemptions need to be in by January. He said that people are piling them in now and that is in violation of the Ordinance. He said we shouldn't be accepting the exemptions. Charles Fayash asked if we could change it. Attorney Baranko said we could with an Ordinance. Charles Fayash said there wasn't a late fee date on the bill. Gary Feathers said they have 30 days.

- **Garage Door Openers (status)**

Didn't hear from anyone for a quote. Independent Door and Lock came & worked on the doors then they were supposed to give us a quote for new openers. Gary Feathers said to reach out to someone else for another quote.

New Business

- **2nd Round Road Paving** – Mark Buccieri will be getting quotes.
- **Public Safety Resolution-** Gary Feathers said they talked about it already, procedures.
- **Personnel Actions** – Gary Feathers said that will be discussed in executive session.
- **2% garbage commission** asked if she was still getting that. Charles Fayash said yes for this year.
- **Tree removal bid on Seneca Street, Tuscarora** – was already discussed earlier in the meeting.

Public Comment

Roy Habel – Tuscarora – wanted to know about the Comcast Agreement and if it included Tuscarora Heights. Gary Feathers said no. Mr. Habel asked how long are we going to allow Breezeline to have a monopoly in this area. He asked the Supervisors what are they going to do about it. He is frustrated that one company can have that kind of control. Charles Hosler recommended him to try T-Mobile.

Jim Dino, Times News asked about Valley Street Parking Clarification. Attorney Baranko gave him a copy of the Ordinance.

He also confirmed the quote to cut the trees of \$1800 from Boyle Mechanical. And the Township for Hometown Hero Flags.

Executive Session

Charles Fayash made a motion to go into executive session. Gary Feathers seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

Charles Fayash called the meeting back in session. Spoke about personnel and they discussed the pay rate of the rehire Jason Lex. Gary Feathers made a motion to pay him \$17.50/hr. with a probationary period for 6 months and an additional 2 months if the Board so chooses. Charles Hosler seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0 Gary Feathers said the police schedule will be provided one-week prior to the end of the month the officers will fill it out and the Chief will provide it to the Supervisors for review and approval at each months meeting via email or text. Gary Feathers made a motion to redo the SOP for the Schuylkill Township Police Dept. it is their policy manual and for the Board to review and have the Solicitor review it. Charles Fayash said as of now they will follow the one in place. Charles Hosler seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

Adjournment – Charles Fayash called for a motion to adjourn. Charles Hosler made the motion. Gary Feathers seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

Transcribed By:
Temporary Secretary
Schuylkill Township