

January 8th, 2024
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, January 8th, in the Municipal Building. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Present at the meeting included Charles Fayash, Gary Feathers, and Mike Boyle

Meeting Minutes

Charles Fayash called for the approval of the regular meeting minutes for December 11th, 2023. Charles Fayash made the motion, Gary Feathers seconded the Motion all in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

Treasurer's report (December) /visa report- Not available currently. Charles Fayash asked Ashley Securada about paying the bills since we made a motion at the Reorganization meeting. The motion states to authorize payments of regular monthly invoices due prior to the next regularly scheduled monthly meeting. Since we did not have it listed as an item on this agenda can we pay them? Ashley Securada said they should be approved at a meeting and since we did not have the item on the agenda, we cannot pay them. It was on the agenda for the reorganization meeting. Did you pay them under the Treasure report in the past? Charles Fayash the treasure report was just the budget and any visa cost. Ashley Securada agreed we should not pay and list them on the next agenda meeting.

Answers to last month's public questions - none

Public comments on agenda items only (5 minutes per person)

Richard Magnani, Brockton, I noticed down below, there is a resignation from the Auditor. One I would like to be considered for that. I have already done it and I will do it again the same way I did. I will do it for free. Gary Feathers said we had to pay you. Richard Magnani, I do not want the money it cost \$200.00 in taxes.

Police Report

Chief Frank DiMarco gave the police report for December. There were 8 calls for the month of December. Noise/Ordinance complaint in Middleport. Traffic enforcement in Middleport. Traffic enforcement in Middleport as requested by the mayor. Traffic enforcement on Catawissa Road, at 30-37 Catawissa Road. Theft of Verizon copper wires was investigated between state police, West Penn Township, and our department, which resulted in multiple arrests. Criminal mischief, animal assistance in Tuscarora and assisted motorists on route 209. One code enforcement complaint of junk in the yard in Mary D. Trash was removed. I would like to welcome Supervisor Mike Boyle. There was a warrant service. The individual was transferred to the Schuylkill County prison. I have officers using the old 209 more frequently instead of the new 209 to increase patrols in the area due to the thefts and dumping of garbage and tires. Charles Fayash said they should be driving the old 209. Chief Frank DiMarco just wanted to remind the staff to use old 209. Traffic enforcement has been going well at the Tuscarora intersection. Office Litwiller did an excellent job apprehending multiple suspects in that Verizon Wire case. Charles Fayash and I went to both crime scenes on Saturday morning and found more evidence. West Penn Chief Bonner gave us a lead on the suspect he had identified through junk yards, he also had evidence to corroborate with ours. Officer Litwiller and Chief Bonner then worked together and interviewed multiple suspects, they executed search warrants and took multiple individuals into custody.

They were arrested and incarcerated at Schuylkill County Prison. More arrests to follow. Looking into a radar speed sign for Valley Street and Brockton to address the speeding issues brought up by Mr. Leskin. Saint Clair and Port Carbon are already using this system. It is a solar powered unit. It alerts the drivers to slow down. The board agreed to investigate pricing. Charles Fayash asked Ashley Securada if we can use COVID money to purchase these solar powered speed alerts? Ashley Securado yes, it is public safety. Chief Frank DiMarco ammo has been ordered at a \$100 savings. LPR is scheduled for February. Installation will be done by Green's Communication; the car must go to Green's Inc. and install the system in the car. The system will link up to our computers. This was paid for with the \$28000 grant from the John Morgan Foundation. We purchased guns, computers in the car, the ENRAD speed timing device was \$3500 and the License Plate Reader (LPR). Charles Fayash no tax dollars were used that was all from the grant. Chief Frank Dimarco Absolutely not a dime came from the taxpayers. Charles Fayash thanked the Chief for getting us the grant and asked how much money was left for ammo or anything else. The Chief said he would have to check. I do not have the numbers in front of me. I think there might be a little left. It was about \$18000. Gary Feathers asked if the price was the same as what we were quoted two years ago. Chief Frank DiMarco said yes, the price is the same. Charles Feathers asked about any other grants. Gary Feathers said the North Central Highway Grant would pay overtime for the officers. The township will pay the overtime and then be reimbursed. Chief Frank DiMarco will research how to apply for the grant. The January schedule will be completed if we hire additional officers. As for now we are still working with the past schedules without Jason Lex. Completed 14 hours of mandatory training. Will submit hours for training. Thermal paper for the police cars was ordered and received. Tim Walsh is here if you would like to interview him as an Officer. Charles Fayash explained we cannot discuss this since it is not on the agenda. Gary Feathers said he was not aware of any of this. Chief Frank DiMarco said he sent an email. All we have currently is three officers. Chief Frank Dimarco asked what you would like to see more of from the police department? Charles Fayash asked to control the speeding and vehicles parked on the white line in Tuscarora. Mark Buccieri said the cars are parked on the line and he must drive the truck around them when plowing. Charles Fayash said on Walnut Street in Tuscarora. Chief Frank Dimarco we will patrol there for cars parked on the fog line. Gary Feathers suggested patrolling Old 209 at night. Make it random not every night. Chief Frank DiMarco would you like to 2 am? Gary Feathers, we discussed this before for night coverage, random coverage. Charles Fayash we will discuss this in the executive session. Chief Frank DiMarco Moving forward we will do more speed enforcement on old 209. There was a question from John Zubris, Brockton, about a crime watch. The Chief said if you see something say something call 911. Chief Frank DiMarco submitted a report on total calls for the year.

- **Mandatory Training - Attend 2023, Mandatory Use of Force and Control Tactics Training before January 1, 2024.** Completed training – Charles Fayash made a motion to pay the \$100.00 with proof of the training with an invoice and proof the trainer is a trainer. Mike Boyle second: All in favor. Motion Carried.

Road master report

Mark Buccieri gave the road master report for December. Maintenance of equipment, and potholes getting ready for the snowstorms. Working on the international spreader. Used the last of the cold patch we will get 3 to 5 tons more this month. Still working on the stop signs for Tuscarora. Salt is good eventually will need cinders. Should be okay for the season. The wiper motor went again, we had Plasters Company repair it before. Harness caught on fire again, I unplugged it. There must be a ground issue. It is something more than just the wiper motor. Mark will check to see if there is a warranty. Spare

plow pump rebuilt on the international was around \$400. The pickup truck will need new tires around \$600 to \$800; I will check Costar and Kens. Mark asked if there is a clothing allowance and cell phone allowance. Charles Fayash thinks it is \$100 we did not change anything. Gary Feathers was not sure about the clothing allowance.

- Cold Patch - Gary Feathers made a motion to purchase cold patch not to exceed 30 tonnages, until Hot Patch season starts. Chuck Fayash seconded the motion. All Approved. Motion carried.

Solicitor's report -

Ashley Securada I am here for attorney Joe Branko, who cannot be here due to medical reasons. I am sad to see us go. I know the Slusser law firm has been representing this Township for several years. Attorney Branco did bring me up to speed with several correspondents and several items that are pending currently with the Township, but most of them are appropriate for executive sessions. I would like to discuss those in executive session. They are mostly regarding pending litigation.

Zoning report – 1 permit garage Brockton pending - Gary Feathers waiting for payment.

Committee reports Council Of Governments – Meeting Scheduled January 24, 2024, 7pm

Communications

- **HTH Status** - Gary Feathers all flags are installed. Mark and Bob did a great job. Lots of compliments from the public. We are still running the program. We received 9 more applications and will be putting an order in. I believe there is a total of 25 so far.

Old business

- **PLGIT's Account Status** – Gary Feathers the treasure was waiting for the Reorganization meeting to finish the paperwork with the correct names.
- **return of property to county status** - Gary Feathers said he talked to Paul and the paperwork should be done at the end of the month. Ashley Securada said there were some changes at the courthouse so there has been a delay. Charles Fayash clarified it should be the end of January.
- **Back Street Property Status** – Gary Feathers thinks the hearing is on the 21st. Ashley Securada said the hearing is on the 25th. Somebody should attend on behalf of the county.
- **Township Audit** – Scheduling for Jan 12 (Dollar General Escrow Closed Out) - Gary Feathers said Jones and Company will be here at 8 o'clock on January 12th to complete the audit. Supervisors should be available. Gary Feathers said he will be there all day.

New business

- **Discussion And Motion for Approval and Advertising Of 2024 Meeting Schedule** - Charles Fayash made a motion to advertise the meeting schedule and have them all as regular township meetings, no workshop meetings. Gary Feathers second the motion All in Favor. Motion carried.
- **On The Clock Electronic Time Keeping** (Replacement for Manual Time Clock) - Dana Brubaker recommends eliminating punch cards and using On the Clock app for timekeeping. Employees clock in and out on an app on their phone or a computer. The cost is about \$24.50 for 7 employees a month and \$30 for 10 employees. The benefit is that it feeds information into the payroll system. Not just the hours but where I put the hours into QuickBooks. At present we cannot track the actual dates and times staff work. We will be able to run more accurate reports. The program can track where they clock in and out. Officers could key in their own training time. Officers called out would clock in using the app. Charles Fayash asked about supervisors using equipment would they have to be clocked in for liability reasons. Ashley Securada It depends on where the incident occurs and when it occurs. If something does happen and you are driving a vehicle. If it occurred during the scope of your normal business, then you

are covered. Charles Fayash made a motion to go to the electronic timecard replacing the manual timecard. Mike Boyle second the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

- **Resolution For Comprehensive Inspection Service Fee Schedule** - Chuck Fayash I will make a motion to approve Resolution 2024-1 Schuylkill Township schedule of uniform construction code permit fees. Gary Feathers second the motion. All Approved. Motion Carried.
- **Resolution For Appointment To Voting Delegate For Tax Collection Committee & Alternate** - Gary Feathers made a motion to approve per the reorganization meeting resolution number 2024-2 for Ann Miller and Mike Boyle as Delegates for the Tax Collection Committee and Alternate. Mike Boyle seconded. All Approved Motion Carried.
- **State Ethic Commission – State Of Financial Interest Forms Need Completed** - Gary Feathers we need completed forms back ASAP. This is for 2023 year.
- **Resignation Letter Received From Auditor, Affective December 29, 2023.** - Mike Boyle made a motion to accept the resignation letter. Motion was not seconded. Charles Fayash abstained from the vote since it is his wife. No one second the motion. Charles Fayash we will move on. (Charles Fayash returned to this item with a question for the Solicitor.) Charles Fayash asked Ashley Sucerra about the Auditor position According to PSATS if it is not financially making any difference, do I have to abstain from voting? According to PSATS, if she (my wife) were auditor, she could not make a vote on anything that would affect our family such as an increase of pay or decrease of pay. Can I vote or not? If I cannot what is the reasoning? If I can or cannot. Ashley Securada said it would be a conflict of interest. That is my legal opinion that you do have a direct conflict of interest because it is a position that directly affects, you know, a close relative of yours. Gary Feathers made a motion to table this item for the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Mike Boyle. Charles Fayash abstained because it was his wife's resignation. 2-1 Motion carried. Charles Fayash asked if we can cancel the Auditors meeting? Ashley Sucerra said no.
- **Appointment Of Auditor-** Resignation letter was not accepted so Auditor could not be appointed.
- **Updating Of PSATS Membership Form Township Positions-** Need to replace someone with the Charles Hosler position since he is no longer on the board. Specifically, the Township Fiscal, the SSplus viewer and the Township Supervisor. Gary Feathers made a motion to table to next meeting to clarify user's rights. Mike Boyle second the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.
- **Discuss/Motion To Approve Creating And Moving Of Township Website Through Psats-** Gary Feathers explained there was an issue last week posting items to the website in a timely manner and we could not post to the webpage ourselves. This caused an issue with the Sunshine law. PSATS offers a website for townships. There is a \$240 annual fee and a \$200 one-time fee to set up and launch the website with a .org location. Presently we are paying \$400 a year. This will allow our staff to upload directly to the website avoiding using a third party. Gary Feathers made a motion that we spend the \$440 initially set up account with them and termination with this other organization we would be a .org webpage not a .com. Mike Boyle seconded the motion. All approved. Motion Carried

Public comment (5 minutes per person) -

John Zuber, Brockton – Wanted to compliment Mark and Bobby for the excellent job they did with the hometown Hero Flags. I want to acknowledge Gary for the many hours he put into being the secretary

and did not want a dime for it. I am extremely disappointed in the chairmanship. We should share the around a little bit. So let somebody else be the Chairperson. That is all I have to say.

Charles Hosler, Brockton – Wanted to put his name in for the auditor once it comes around.

Jim Dino, Mary D – What was the reimbursement for covering Middleport police? Charles Fayash said the contract is \$24999. Jim Dino - Gary what was the new solicitor's name. Chris Riedlinger is in Orwigsburg. Jim Dino – That grant you got Morgan Foundation Grant paid for guns, ammo and the LPR, what else? The Chief said ENRAD speed timer and the computer systems in the car. Charles Fayash it did not pay for the ammo. Jim Dino I will need a copy of the meeting minutes and the reorganization.

Rich Magnani– Frank the guns you purchased who owns them. When an officer leave does, he takes the gun. The Chief said the guns are property of the township. Rich – What happens to the guns when they get old, and they want to cycle into new guns. Chief DiMarco cannot answer that. Gary Feathers – they will bring them to the Township, and we will decide.

Bob Kupetz, – The new website when will it be available. Gary Feathers- it is going to take time. Bob – That will be a .org site. Gary Feathers yes it will. We do not have all the details currently.

Gary Feathers - A public notice. Just a FYI for everybody, they have a rash of carbon monoxide issues going on in the Township. Please get the word out, make sure you have Co detectors. Get your chimneys checked. We just had another incident tonight. It is the season. Just trying to protect everybody and watch out. Charles Fayash does the fire company give them out. Gary Feathers the fire company has smoke detectors. The Tuscarora Fire Company, and I think Mary D Fire company can handle it. If they are out, they will call us we have some. Carbon dioxide is a big one. We do not have any but get them. Check your chimneys and wood stoves and pallets.

Executive session

Charles Fayash made a motion to go into executive session. Mike Boyle seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Charles Fayash out of Executive session. Discussed Personnel and resignation letter.

Adjournment: Charles Fayash made a motion to adjourn. Gary Feathers seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.