

July 3, 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, July 3, 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 June 5, 2023. Charles Fayash called to amend the June 5, 2023 meeting minutes to exclude any vote that included Charles Hosler. Charles Hosler did not attend the June 5, 2023 meeting. Gary Feathers seconded the motion with the modification of removing Charles Hosler from those meeting minutes. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

Treasurer's Report

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

June's General Ending Balance \$247,561.21, ARP \$94,757.44, State \$79,788.59, Payroll Fund Ending Balance \$34,441.42, Garbage \$42,109.23, CACL Savings is \$5, CACL Reserve Fund is \$123,226.67, Reserve Fund \$66,759.40. Total Balances of all Accounts equals \$688,648.96. Charles Fayash made the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report pending audit. Charles Hosler seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0 Visa Report for this month was \$14 to adobe.

Answers to Last Month's Public Questions – None

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only - None

Police Report – June 2023 - None

Code Enforcement Report – None

Road Master Report

Mark Buccieri was unable to attend the meeting. Gary Feathers read the Road Report for the month of June. The Road report consisted of Extensive drain repairs and clean outs, cut brush trees in New Kirk and graded roadsides, Repaired dirt roads in Township washed out from rain storms, put up Hometown Hero Banner Flags, patched potholes, Equipment maintenance, Cut Township grass and roadsides. Gary Feathers said there are two tree removal quotes for Seneca St. The quotes were from Boyle \$1800 and Noecker's Tree Service for \$1900. Charles Hosler wants to table it until they get more information on the quotes. Gary Feathers made a motion to table it. Charles Hosler seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

Solicitor's Report

Valley St. – Attorney Baranko missed the ad and he will put it in for next month. That can go on the Agenda for Approval as far as the no parking.

Swenson update he was defaulted on June 14th. Attorney Baranko is giving him to July 14th. There was no activity at all when Attorney Baranko checked the docket. If there is no activity by July 14th then he will file a certification for trial and we will get a judge assigned. As far as his default he should be banned from presenting any defense to the allegations of the violations. Gary Feathers asked if we could do anything in the meantime. Attorney Baranko said he would continue to site him.

Charles Fayash when can we act on this property. Attorney Baranko said not for a while. He doesn't recommend going on the property. Charles Fayash asked if we can clean up anything on our Right-of-Way. Attorney Baranko said yes anything on the Township Right-of-Way.

Zoning Report - None

Council of Government – Did Not Meet.

Tax Collection Committee – Did Not Meet.

Communications - None

Old Business

- **Line Painting Revised Quote** – The Board received in an email that the Company that gave the quote for line painting back in March could not honor that price due to the increase in materials. It went from somewhere around over \$14K to \$15,840. Charles Fayash made a motion to approve the quote of \$15,840 for Line Painting in the Township from DeAngelos Construction Service Line Painting Division. Service, LLC Gary Feathers seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0 They will not be able to start until the Ordinance is in place.
- **Comcast Proposal Agreement** – Gary Feathers spoke to them. Attorney Baranko said they need a franchise agreement approval from the Township for cable service not telecommunications. So internet, telecommunications they don't need the agreement. They can run lines anyway. It is the cable service they need our approval. Comcast does not have plans to run lines up the Tuscarora mountain. Gary Feathers' concern is what height are they going to run their lines. Gary Feathers asked the Attorney what was his recommendations. Attorney Baranko said it is going to bring another competitor to the table. Some of the surrounding Townships are moving forward with it. Charles Hosler made a motion to go ahead do an Ordinance to approve the Comcast Franchise Agreement for a 7-year term @ 5%. Charles Fayash seconded the motion. All in favor. Gary Feathers opposed. Motion was carried. 2-1
- **Return of Township Property from the County** – the Forester visited. Gary Feathers spoke to the Forester. Gary Feathers said the Forester said there is a lot of sellable lumber on the parcel and he was going to put a proposal together. The Forester will get bidders together to look at it and we can make a decision after he makes his proposal. Charles Fayash asked would the money for the trees go to the County or to the Township. Attorney Baranko said the Township.
- **Valley St. Parking Ordinance** – the Board already discussed.
- **Hometown Hero Flags** – revised cost for 2023 is \$250. Minimum order is 10 flags. Gary Feathers said all the Flags are up and there were a lot of good comments. The Board thanked the Secretary for running with this. Gary Feathers were already having a couple more orders in. Charles Hosler asked if there was a deadline to get them in. Gary Feathers said as soon as he gets a minimum of ten he will submit the next order.

New Business

- **Zoning Permit – Increase Discussion** – Gary feathers said the average Zoning Permit is \$10. The average industry is \$50. The paperwork and the admin to process these and put them through is a lot of work. Gary Feathers recommends they raise the cost a little bit. Charles Hosler made a motion to increase the Zoning Permit Fee to \$25. Charles Fayash seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0
- **Jones & Company – Audit- Punch List of Information Requested**

The auditors were here for two full days. The punch list is just about done. The Secretary did a great job. It was a learning process but they walked us through it.

- **Garbage**

Using a billing/collection Agency (ex. Sewer Authority) – Charles Fayash announce if you didn't receive your trash bill, please call the office.

Exemption of vacant homes from Garbage – Gary Feathers expressed that the policy they have right now is creating an issue in the Township. He feels if you have water & sewer connected then you should be paying a garbage bill. Gary Feathers asked if the Attorney had any suggestions on what we can do. People are filing exemptions for garbage because they own the property but they don't live there. Charles Fayash said we have to figure out how many households are paying garbage and how many are claiming they are exempt. Gary Feathers said 499 garbage bills were mailed out. Charles Fayash feels there should be more than that. Charles Hosler said everyone should be getting a bill. They would have to write a letter every year to request exemption if they felt they shouldn't have to pay a garbage bill. Attorney said he would do census on how many exemptions they have now. Take an inventory of who is exempt and do an investigation to see which ones are abandoned or vacant? Send the property owner a letter to verify the exemption. If they change the exemption requirements the Board will have to revise the Ordinance.

Gary Feathers feels the Board should consider a billing/collection agency for the garbage bills. Gary Feathers feels it will take a lot of stress and issues off the Township. Board agreed to get a quote for a company to do that. Gary Feathers called for a motion to have the company come in to discuss the options and get a quote for the company to collect garbage bills and collect payments. Charles Fayash seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

- **Garage Door Openers**

Two outdoor remotes unrepairable. They had someone look at all three doors They got the middle door working. The two outside ones the internal controllers on the garage doors do not work. They need to be replaced. Their recommendation was to change the garage doors out or manually put them up and down. We do not need a heavy duty garage door opener. A medium duty would be sufficient. The company will be giving us a quote. Charles Fayash asked to have the company give us a quote for seals for the doors too.

Public Comment

John Zubris – Brockton – wanted to give credit to Denise for starting the Hometown Hero Flag Program. He verified the cost of \$250 and asked about the applications. He wanted to give credit to the guys that hung the flags. He also gave credit to Gary Feathers.

Bob Kupetz – Mary D – spoke about the garbage exemptions. He asked if the exemptions for the garbage bills be tracked by the moving in permits. The Board said sometimes we do and sometimes we don't. Mr. Kupetz said you have to enforce something to get something he believes. The realtors would have the person buying the home fill out the moving in but the personal sales usually don't.

John Zubris asked if someone calls to participate with the Hometown Hero Flag Program, can they leave a message. Gary Feathers said yes, he comes in and checks the messages daily and he will call them back.

Charles Fayash asked the Board what will they do if residents want to pay their garbage bills. Gary Feathers said for right now they can put them in the drop box. No cash just checks will be accepted right now or mail it in.

John Zubris asked Gary Feathers if he can have some applications just in case someone asks.

Jim Dino, Times News asked about the forester. Charles Fayash said his recommendation were what trees to cut out and what to leave. Dino asked how many acres all together. Charles Fayash said about 20 acres.

Jim Dino asked if the Board wants to use the same company as the sewer authority to collect the garbage bills. Yes, we would like to talk to them to see if they can help. Gary Feathers said they are a billing and collection agency. They will receive the bills and process them. Jim Dino asked if June 23rd was the deadline for applications for the temporary secretary. Gary Feathers said thank heavens above that she is doing good, right now she is coming in a little bit and we are doing ok right now. Her plan is to come back.

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. Charles Fayash said they spoke about personnel, banking, secretary, and garbage. Charles Fayash said we also got a letter from one of the officer asking to be reinstated. Gary Feathers said Jason Lex requested reemployment for Schuylkill Township. Gary Feathers made a motion to rehire Jason Lex as a part-time officer for Schuylkill Township with an agreement for him to sign a written contract and a probationary period. The Attorney said they will establish the probationary period next month. Charles Fayash asked when will he be able to start if approve. Attorney said next month. Charles Hosler seconded the motion. All in favor. Charles Fayash opposed. Motion was carried. 2-1

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

Transcribed By:
Temporary Secretary
Schuylkill Township