

October 2, 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, October 2, 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, asked about the meeting minutes for September 11, 2023. Gary Feathers said they were not done at this time. Charles Fayash made a motion to table the minutes until the next meeting. Gary Feathers Seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

### **Treasure Report**

Gary Feathers said the Treasure is presently working on the report: Under General we are \$987 in the hole. Gary Feathers said we spent \$251,401 and our expenses were \$252,388 for the year. Charles Fayash said he will have to see how it compares to last year for public works. Gary Feathers said insurance is another \$9000 for workers compensation. We took over other townships so now we must pay. MCT Bank - General Fund Beginning Balance \$246,300 Ending balance as of September 30, \$211,906, MCT Bank – Payroll Fund beginning \$25,000 ending balance \$13,989. Mid-Penn – Liquid Fuels Fund \$76,286 ending balance \$38,923. Mid- Penn – Solid Waste Fund \$42,108, ending \$92,303. ARP Local Fiscal Recovery Grant \$94,865, ending \$94,865, MCT – Reserve Fund \$66,768, ending \$66,768. CACL FCU – Reserve fund checking \$7,254, ending \$7,257. CACL FCU – Reserve fund Savings \$128,847, ending \$124,148. Charles Fayash said. The total balance begins at \$683,034; the ending balance is \$650,160. Gary Feathers said there were no charges on the Visa Report last month. Charles Fayash made a motion to accept the Treasurer Report pending audit. Gary Feathers 2 the motion. All in favor. Vote 3 – 0

**Answers to Last Month's Public Questions:** Last month's questions regarding draining pipe on property and who is responsible. Charles Fayash said he talked to the engineer. The engineer said to see what the Solicitor opinion is on it if it is our responsibility. Gary Feathers said Mountain Road is a state highway, there is a storm sewer at the base of the mountain by the house. There is a pipe in it and the pipe is not working. The owners say that the drainage box belongs to the state, but we are responsible for the pipe. Attorney Baranko asked if it was on the right of way. Mark Buccier said it is not on our property. Charles Fayash said it might be in the right of way of the water line coming down through. Attorney Baranko asked how we should determine if it is ours. Charles Fayash spoke to a previous worker, Mr. Bauers said he did not recall putting any pipe in there. He has not worked for 15 to 16 years but, worked for 30 years before. Gary Feathers said the box is owned by the state. Charles Fayash, said it is two properties, next to each other, we do not want to go on somebody's property. Attorney Baranko said the box is owned by the state if it is part of the same infrastructure, it is theirs. Charles Fayash said what is happening is the fence is washing out in the back and caving in.

**Public Comments on Agenda Items** Only (5 minutes per person) / none

**Police Report** – Officer Wallace said an ATV complaint, a traffic complaint and a quality-of-life ticket issued. Gary Feathers asked when they were issued. Traffic Complaint on September 6<sup>th</sup>. ATV complaint on September 19<sup>th</sup>. ATV driving unsafe speeds on Valley Street. Found the mother and explained what

the consequences would be. The mother said she will handle it. \$25.00 fine on truck on September 19<sup>th</sup> with quality-of-life issues in Mary-D. Vehicle will be towed on Thursday if not moved. Ticket # 0979. Charles Fayash asked a question for the Chief, he wanted to know about the ammo, who and how he should pay for it. Gary Feathers explained he must use the municipality credit card to order it. This way it will be tax exempt. The company should issue an invoice for our records.

#### **Code Enforcement Report** - none

#### **Road Master Report**

Mark Buccier read the road master report for the month of September. Roads were paved in Tuscarora and Brockton by Schuylkill paving. We patched and paved roads, cut Township trees and grass.

- **Tuscarora Basketball Court status** – Waiting for two more quotes.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Road Paving status** - Still some issues on Mine Street and Tuscarora. Gary Feathers said hold off on payment until issues corrected. Mine Street is unacceptable, there is a 6-inch drop, Mark Buccier said he will talk to them and see how to fix it. He asked if we need to put a curb in. Gary Feathers said he is going to talk to the engineer. Tuscarora was not sealed, may not have finished because of rain. Gary Feathers will check the road.
- **Tree removal Seneca street status** - Still waiting. Gary Feathers said the contractor needs to get with Verizon.
- **Township Line Painting Status** – Delayed due to rain. Gary Feathers said he talked to the contractor and explained we need a minimum of two days' notice, cannot call the night before.
- **Garage Door Openers status** – Mark said the estimate is not only for the door openers it includes the seals around the doors. Charles Fayash said it was \$1483. Gary Feathers gave a motion to approve. Charles Fayash seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried 3-0.

**Solicitor's report** - Attorney Baranko said County deeds were sent to Paul Diehl. Understanding that we lost the solicitor. The County deeds are pending before the County Solicitors office. We have the Swenson hearing on the 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00. Marty and Frank will be the lead witnesses. I do not know what to expect. We had one that was uncontested in Luzerne County. It only lasted 15 minutes but Judge Hobbs has this case, do not know how he is going to handle this. I am going to be prepared to give a full-scale presentation. Charles Fayash asks if it is at the courthouse. Attorney Baranko said yes.

#### **Zoning Report**

- **Sept 26 – Zoning Hearing Solar Array** – continuance to Oct 18 - Charles Fayash made a motion to move the Workshop meeting to October 25, at 7 o'clock. Gary Feathers seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried 3-0.
- **Permits** - One permit issues porch roof and one permit for a fence

**Communications Reports** - Annual Schuylkill County Township Official Convention – Oct 18. We must move the date of the workshop; it is on the same night.

#### **Old Business**

- **Return of Township property to County** - We already discussed this
- **Hometown Hero Flags status** - Gary Feathers said we have 10 now. Going to wait until next Monday to see if we get any more. On Monday I will send them in.
- **Zoning Permit** – Increase Discussion - did not have a workshop to discuss.
- **Swenson Property** – status - Previously discussed
- **Secretary/Police Position** – Gary Feathers said we did not get it posted. We do have one resume to review.

## New Business

- **Township Halloween Trick or Treat night** - Charles Hosler made a motion for the Trick or Treat night for Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of Sunday October 29<sup>th</sup>. Gary Feathers seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0
- **State Fireman relief check received** - Gary Feathers made a motion to issue a check to Fireman Relief fund of Schuylkill Township. Charles Fayash seconded. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0
- **Discuss and Motion for approval of a Resolution on PA Municipal Services Refuse Billing and agreement** – Gary Feathers explained this is for the Garbage bills. We found that it is costing us a lot of money to do it here in-house, and to do the collections. It is a lot of work and a lot of time. There are companies that will do all the work. We looked at them and the cheapest one was the Pennsylvania Services company, and their cost is \$1.10 per household, compared to what we are paying, which is \$3.50 at this time. They will do the collection, billings, and delinquencies. Everything right up to the point of filing a lien against the property. When Joe would have to get involved. There is no extra charge for that. Charles Fayash I will make a motion to approve the Pennsylvania Municipal Service Company garbage fee Bill and collection proposal. Gary Feathers seconded. All in favor. Motion Approved. 3 – 0. Gary Feathers said I think we must make a resolution to do this. Attorney Baranko asked for a copy of the contract and a draft of a resolution.
- **Discuss and Motion for approval of a Resolution for PLGIT Membership and approval to establish new PLGIT bank accounts.** - Gary Feathers explained PLGIT (Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust) is a bank, and they are paying a lot more interest than we are getting right now through the local banks. As a municipality we are allowed to open an account. Our treasure recommends this bank. If we switch over to this bank and it gives us more lucrative things to do with our funds. They have a 5% or 5 ½% interest rate. Charles Hosler made the motion to change to the PLGIT accounts. Charles Fayash seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion was carried. 3-0. Gary Feathers said we will need a resolution. Gary Feathers, Motion for the Treasure to set up the new bank accounts. Charles Hosler seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0.

## Public Comment (5 minutes per person)

**Bob Kupetz**, Mary-D is there an ordinance on barking dogs. Charles Hosler said two people must complain about the dog barking. Charles Fayash said the dog must bark for 10 minutes. Officer Wallace said he has a copy in the office, he will get him a copy.

**Jim Dino**, Time News - Wanted to know the rate we are getting at the local banks, and what is the new rate at PLGIT. Gary Feathers explained the local banks were .05% and PLGIT will be 5% or more. Jim Dino asked Gary, you mentioned Mine Street in Brockton, Mulberry Street and in between Wyoming Street and Strawberry, what was the problem with the paving project. Gary Feathers said the seal was not done, and Chestnut Street needs to be sealed. Mark said it may not have been done because of the rain. They might have finished today. Gary Feathers said we will check into it.

**Roy Habel** -Tuscarora -It is great they stopped all the truck traffic down here, but the black dirt from the trucks is now all moved to Catawissa St., and Tuscarora. When you drive down that mountain the road is black with dirt from the trucks. The drains are going to be full of dirt. I realize it is a state road, it is not your problem. It is going to be our problem when the water cannot get in the drains and ends up in the houses at the bottom of the hill. The fog lines are black. Is there something we can do to get the road cleaned up? They have a responsibility to clean that road up, I realize it is muddy. It is raining. They need

to get a street sweeper up or something, Gary Feathers said you should file a complaint with DEP office in Pottsville. Roy Habel said it is an issue I have a white truck. I go through it every day. Gary Feathers said the DEP will send an investigator out to inspect it. Roy Habel said because it is out there, it is bad. Gary Feathers said It is the same process as we must go through. We cannot just send Mark up there. Gary Feathers said fill out a formal complaint and I will get it over to the right people.

Charles Fayash asked anyone else.

**Executive session** – Charles Fayash said I make a motion to go into executive session. Gary Feathers Seconded. All in Favor. Motion Carried. 3-0. Out of Executive session.

Charles Fayash called the meeting back in session. Charles Fayash made a motion to change the workshop meeting from October 25<sup>t</sup> to November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Gary Feathers second. All if favor. 3 -0. Charles Fayash said talked about personnel in the executive session.

**Adjournment**. Charles Fayash made a motion to adjourn. Gary Feathers second. All in favor. 3-0