

September 11, 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, September 11, 2023 in the Municipal Building. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. There was a moment of silence for the Fire Fighters, Police Officers and the First Responders requested by Police Chief Frank DeMarco. Present at the meeting included Charles Fayash, Gary Feathers and Charles Hosler. Charles Fayash asked the Board to amend the Agenda to add the July 3, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Gary Feathers seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

Meeting Minutes

Charles Fayash called for the approval of the regular meeting minutes for August 7, 2023 & July 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. (August)

August General Ending Balance \$246,299.85, ARP \$94,864.97, State Liquid Fuels \$76,286.33, Payroll Fund Ending Balance \$19,986.94, Garbage \$42,108.19, CACL Savings is \$7,250.61, CACL Reserve Fund is \$123,536.46, Reserve Fund \$66,765.08. Total Balances of all Accounts equals \$677,098.43. Charles Fayash made a motion to approve Treasurer's Report pending audit. Gary Feathers seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

Answers to Last Month's Public Questions – None

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only – None

Charles Fayash said the Board would like to talk about the appointment of Dana Brubaker as Treasurer. Charles Fayash made a motion to appoint Dana Brubaker as Treasurer for Schuylkill Township. Gary Feathers seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

Police Report – August 2023

Chief Frank DeMarco said there was a total of 10 calls between Middleport & Schuylkill Twp. There was a report from the Supervisors, during the times of the games at the ball field. He had an officer sit there during that time. Vehicles in Middleport that had to be cleared out. Harassment in Brockton and traffic enforcement was done on Catawissa Rd. in Tuscarora. 911 hang up call in Mary-D, Phone assignment to contact for a crash report and a domestic on Mulberry St. in Tuscarora. Chief had one code complaint in Tuscarora. Chief had the Motorola Contract for the LPRs. He said from what he understands it is \$525/yr. it is from Green's Communications. Chief said the LPRs are from the Grant from the Morgan Foundation. The contract was already approved previously he would just need another signature.

Code Enforcement Report

Charles Fayash said there was a complaint about high grass in Brockton.

Road Master Report

Mark Buccieri read the Road Master report for August 2023. Cut Township grass on all roadsides, worked on paving projects and repaired roads, Storm drain repairs and clean outs. Road Master questioned a storm drain near Brockton at the end, by Middleport. Road Master asked if that was ours.

Gary Feathers believes it is ours. Mark Buccieri believes it is blocking somewhere and recommends we put a hose through it to see if we can find where the problem is. Cut back over hanging trees on roadsides, Push back and trimmed trees at intersections, trimmed banks around stop signs, cleared road side for water drainage, building & ground maintenance around the Township, and did Equipment Maintenance. Mark Buccieri said he spoke to the Line-Painters and they said they were two weeks out. They would have to prepare and get cars moved. He is shooting for a next Saturday, September 23rd. They need to clarify some things with the Engineer.

Driveway permit for a house in Brockton at 245, 247, 249 Washington St. That would go over our sidewalk. They want to put a parking lot in for their tenants. They cannot go over the curb. They discussed how many permits would be need if the property was going to be into 3 apartments. The previous owner said it was deeded as one when he had it. He said it used to be three. Then it was deeded as one when he bought it. Attorney Baranko said that sounds like it would be a reverse subdivision and he is not sure if you can do that. He said the ordinance usually says one time. The fact that it went from 3 to 1, you can't go back to 1 to 3. Gary Feathers questioned the sewage too if it goes to 3 units instead of 1 unit. The Board agreed if it is one deed it should be one driveway permit.

Drain on the State Road on Moss Glenn and Brockton. Dorothy Wisner, Moss Glenn Rd. in Brockton. She spoke to Mark Buccieri about a drainage problem. He thought it was a PennDOT issue. She said what is happening is that the drain goes half way down the property & over the years it is now sticking out of the ground and the over growth is unbelievable. She said there is now a big sink hole and the water is just settling in there and now parts of her property is starting to sink in. She spoke to a Jim Russell. from PennDOT, who is the assistant road Supervisor for Schuylkill County. He looked at it. They built the wall to keep the water off the road but the Township pipe was tide into it. PennDOT is saying that the Township tied in their pipe into their wall. Gary Feathers questioned why we would put our pipe to the State Drain. Mark Buccieri said the pipe that goes all the way down isn't on our property. Mark Buccieri wanted to the Board to advise him on what to do with this situation. Mark Buccieri said if it is a state drain the Township cannot do anything with it. Dorothy Wisner said something has to be done or she will lose her fence and some property. The Board said the state will have to address it. She will give the Board the contact number for the guy she spoke with. The Attorney recommended that we get our engineer involved. Mark Buccieri gave an update on the garage doors. He said he will be getting a quote for new door seals & new remotes. Mark Buccieri said they would like get the Tuscarora Basketball Court seal coated. Road Master had one call from Integrity Seal Coating with a quote of \$1820 which is 4000sq.ft. Road Master should them the project and around the field. Mark Buccieri said if they get the Basketball Court project they will seal around the path & the parking lot of free. Mark Buccieri asked if he needs to get more bids. Board said yes see if you can get others to come out and give us a quote. Mark Buccieri said as far as the trees on Seneca, Boyle did not take them down yet. He is trying to figure out if they are over Verizon wires. Gary Feathers said they are Verizon's wires and Boyle is having a hard time getting them to cooperate. Road Master said he will be taking the flags down tomorrow and we will have to order at least two hundred of them for next year. Charles Fayash asked the Road Master to get some prices on flags. Road Master didn't know if maybe there was a grant out there to help with the purchase of the American Flags. Hometown Hero Flags will stay up.

Roads – Mark Buccieri said the roads that need to be done are the same ones from the beginning of the year. The Quotes stayed the same. Sections of paving in Brockton would be on parts of Mine St., Valley to Firehouse Rd., Green St., Washington St., and Lewis St. Sections of paving Tuscarora would be on parts of Chestnut, Strawberry, Wyoming, Mulberry and Strawberry & Walnut. Schuylkill Paving's quote is

the same at \$22,500 and Foulk Paving is at \$24,020. Charles Fayash made the motion to approve Schuylkill Paving for paving of the above roads at \$22,500. Charles Hosler seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

Solicitor's Report

Attorney Baranko said Township deeds were reconveying back to the County. He sent the final draft to assistant county solicitor on August 22nd. We did not get a response back whether or not they were accepted. If they were accepted since they were approved by the Board he will get signatures. The next item that Attorney Baranko wanted to discuss was the Swenson Property. Swenson was certified for trial August 15th. There is no judge assigned yet. Charles Fayash asked if we can clean up the garbage that is on our right-of-way. Solicitor said he advised the Code Enforcement Officer to follow the Property Maintenance Code. Charles Fayash recommends that the Township get the front cleaned up. He asked the Board if they agreed. Solicitor said we can clean up anything in our Right-of-Way. Solicitor said keep a tab on man hours and dumping fees that it will take the Township to get it cleaned. Charles Fayash asked about the truck that is at that location. The Chief said that it has an antique tag, which is a permanent tag and does not require a state inspection. Road Master said the problem is that the truck is full of trash. Gary Feathers questioned the condition of the truck. Chief DeMarco explained under the Ordinance the Township had passed, there is a dismantling quality of life that was passed. If it is inoperable it is a yellow ticket but not total. Chief will look into it. The Board agreed to get it cleaned up from the porch out. The road dept. is not to go on the porch.

Zoning Report – Solar Panels in Tuscarora, Fence in Brockton, a Driveway Permit and on 9/27 there is a special exception meeting for a ground solar panel farm.

Council of Government – Did Not Meet.

Tax Collection Committee – Did Not Meet.

Communications

- Tuscarora Fire Company Invites Supervisors/ Secretary to their 100th Anniversary. Gary Feathers explained that the Tuscarora Fire Company will be celebrating their 100th Anniversary in October. They are having a formal banquet for the members and there was a formal invite to the Board of Supervisors and the Secretary. If anyone interested they need to know by next week.
- Private Sale -302-304 Valley Street in Brockton. County Delinquent Tax Waiver Request. They asked if the Board had any concerns and if they had any issues with the sale. Gary Feathers said it would be a wash on the taxes.
- Charles Fayash announced Annual Schuylkill County Elected Officials Convention is October 18th.
- Charles Fayash announced that on September 14th the Tamaqua Ambulance is hosting a roundtable about coverage at the Hometown Fire Company at 7PM.
- Broadband survey and input on Grant Application by October 6th. Gary Feathers said Comcast said they were only coming in for cable, however he feels that that are coming in for internet too. He said they went for a federal grant that included internet. Gary Feathers said if anyone has concerns to submit their concerns about broadband coming in. Gary Feathers recommends the citizens that live up on the mountain, to say you are getting federal money you should run it up the mountain too.

Old Business

- **Hometown Hero Flag Status** – Gary Feathers will be putting another order in in the next week or two. The Tamaqua American Legion donated \$50 to the Township for the installation of the flags. Board of Supervisors thanked the Tamaqua American Legion for their donation.
- **Completion of Police Officer Rehire (contract)** – Attorney Baranko prepared the contract for the Board to approve. Gary Feathers made a motion to accept it as written. Charles Hosler seconded the motion. All in favor. Charles Fayash opposed. Motion was carried. 2-1
- **Zoning Permit – Increase Discussion** – Attorney Baranko prepared a Resolution about the increase back in August. Gary Feathers said we need to discuss and review all the fees. The Board has to discuss increases for residential and commercial.
- **Refrigerator Purchase** – Gary Feathers said they have a price quote from Lowes for \$598. Charles Fayash said we have the refrigerator already. The Road Master brought one in that he was going to get rid of. Chief DeMarco said the refrigerator that was at the building was thrown out about two months ago. Gary Feathers said the reason why it was thrown out was because the workers were upset because nothing was being done about it. Chief DeMarco said he understands that. Chief wanted to read a quote from the County Coroner at a public meeting. On November 22, 2022, Schuylkill County Coroner’s Office received from us remains of evidences, that we had in our possession. The container was a metal sealed paint can wrapped in a plastic bag, received by Deputy Albert T Barnes and scheduled for cremation. The contents were preserved in a secure evidence paint can. This can is designed to seal and preserve evidence from contamination by air or other outside elements. The cans are coated on the inside to eliminate corrosion from specimens and to prevent leakage. These containers have been sealed by police as evidence and were wrapped in a plastic bag. The remains will be cremated by the County’s contracted cremation services. Gary Feathers asked if they were in a plastic bag. Chief DeMarco said they were in a garbage bag. Gary Feathers said he had pictures that they were not in a plastic bag in the refrigerator. Chief DeMarco said they were disposed of. Gary Feathers said he is not arguing that they weren’t disposed of. Charles Fayash asked if it was leaking. Charles Fayash asked why it wasn’t brought up sooner. Gary Feathers asked what would it matter. If something is wrong and people are upset about a situation eventually it will need to be addressed no matter when it comes out. Gary Feathers made a motion to purchase the refrigerator and use General Funds to purchase it. Charles Hosler seconded the motion. All in favor. Charles Fayash opposed. Motion was carried. 2-1

New Business

- **Charles Fayash said** we held executive board meeting on August 31st to discuss Secretary/Treasurer and Sept. 5th was to discuss personnel of the police department.
- Board of Supervisors need to terminate Denise Hill’s Bond she had when she was able to be the Treasurer/Secretary as per the insurance company. Charles Fayash made the motion to terminate the Treasurer/Secretary Bond as of September 11, 2023 for Denise Hill. Gary Feathers seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0
- Letter of Intent – Gary Feathers explained that DCED will bring someone in to do training for the Treasurer/Secretary and help us through the process of hiring with no cost. We need a letter of intent for them to come in to help and the Board approves them coming into help. Charles Hosler made the motion. Charles Fayash seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

- Gary Feathers said the next letter is a community program through AARP that we put in for which they would have the ability to hire people on a temporary basis up to 4 years and would pay their way. That was for just general knowledge. Gary Feathers made a motion to approve SCEP AARP, a hiring agency, to hire us a Secretary. Charles Fayash seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0 This program is run through Schuylkill County Senior Citizens Program. They look for people that are 55 or older, that are retired and do not want to work full time. They will train and place them part time. They allow them to work 18-20 hours/week.
- **Secretary Position** – The Board announced they are still looking for a part-time Secretary up to 20hrs./week. The hours would be during the day for the public. The rate is negotiable.
- **Address Police Officers email to the Board**
- **Police Salary**
Charles Fayash said Officer Litwhiler sent the Board a list of other areas part time salaries. Ashland \$23, Cass Twp. \$23, Foster Twp. \$26, Minersville \$27, N. Union Twp. \$25, Tamaqua \$26.92, McAdoo \$20.68, Kline Twp. \$20, Frackville \$25, Mahanoy City \$24, Shenandoah \$24, Orwigsburg \$26, Branch/Reilly \$28, Mahanoy Area School District \$25, St. Clair School District \$30, Port Carbon \$21, Blythe Twp. \$24, Rush Twp. \$21, Ryan \$21, West Mahanoy \$21, Ringtown \$23, Union \$23, Girardville \$19, Higgins \$26, Pine Grove \$26, Nesquehoning \$26 and Walker Twp. \$19.50. The average Salary is \$23.98. Charles Hosler said they need to go to look at population. Board of Supervisors said we should look at the PSATs Salary Survey. Gary Feathers said he would to make a motion to reach out to Tamaqua about regionalizing the Police Dept. Then we would be guaranteed 24/7-year long coverage. We need to find out what it would cost to do so.
A resident expressed the board should pay our officers more and give them more hours. The Board just wants to look at options.
Chief asked if we can advertise to hire for another Part-time Police Officer. Attorney Baranko said we need to decide on the pay rate before we hire. Charles Hosler made a motion to advertise in the newspaper for a part-time officer, must be ACT 120 certified, pay rate negotiable with experience.
- **AMMO**
Chief said the best price for AMMO he was able to find was \$678. Charles Hosler made the motion. Charles Fayash seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0
- **Protective Equipment**
Chief spoke about bullet proof vests. He said he is not sure if there is somewhere we can get a grant for them. Charles Fayash asked the Chief to look into that as soon as possible and we will look into the PSATs Salary Survey to check out pay rates.
- **Contract for Officers**
The Board will modify the contract the Solicitor prepared.
- **Schuylkill Township FVD-Worker’s Comp Policy for Tuscarora Fire Co. & Mary D Fire Company**
Gary Feathers submitted it this morning. He thanked Mary D & Tuscarora Fire Companies for getting it done quick. There will be a significant increase as well.

Public Comment

John Zuber – Brockton – asked if 302 & 304 Valley St. is the property with all the weeds? 209 Valley Street has all the weeds. There were complaints about it. It will be addressed.

Darren Kistler – Mary D – It is his understanding the land that was discussed earlier was giving by the County and now the Township is giving it back. Mr. Kistler wanted to know why they would do that. Gary Feathers said the Township first of all isn't into the property business. The other issue is that land we couldn't do anything with it. We gave it back with hopes that the County would sell it. The Townships hands are tied with that property. They couldn't sell it or subdivide it. The only thing they could do is walk on it. Mr. Kistler asked if it would be made public and said there is land by his property that he would like to acquire if it was made available. He would hope if the land becomes available they would offer it to the adjoining properties first. Gary Feathers said we cannot speak for the County. The Board questioned Mr. Kistler what land he was referring to. The Board said the land by School St. would be available and they were not talking about that section. The Board of Supervisors said they are keeping their section.

Nicole Tewksbury – Mary D – asked about the property that the Township wants to convey back to the County. The Solicitor said the deeds were drawn up based upon the Township's approval. The deeds were prepared and went the County solicitor. If they say the deeds are fine, we get it and have them signed and it is theirs. She also thanked the Twp. For cleaning up the tree so fast.

Roy Habel – Tuscarora – said last month he was instructed to get a hold of T-Mobile, he said they wouldn't even acknowledge his address. Board instructed him to go right to the store. He said he did and they still will not acknowledge his address.

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. He said we spoke about personnel. Charles Fayash said he would like to make a motion to advertise for a secretary for up to 20hrs. a week. Gary Feathers 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