

# MINUTES

November 18, 2019

Milford Township Building  
560 Route 6 & 209, Milford PA

7:00 p.m.

A scheduled meeting of Milford Township Supervisors was called to order at 7 P.M. by Chairman Gary Clark. Also present were Vice-Chair Penney Luhrs, Supervisor Gary M. Williams, Solicitor Anthony Magnotta, and Secretary/Treasurer Shahana Shamim.

A motion was made by Gary M. Williams, seconded by Penney Luhrs, and passed to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

Receipts since last meeting: Code Inspections \$125.51, Zoning \$350, BF Environmental Consultant \$470, R. E. Transfer Tax \$4,695.67, Pennsylvania Treasury \$5,620.81, Pike county Commissioners \$125.00, Checking account interest \$.20, PLGIT interest \$458.26, October budget update, and the budget proposal for 2020

## **Roadmaster:**

Mr. Gary M. Williams reported that the road crews had finished putting millings on the dirt portions of Schocopee Road. He continued that Tommy Greiner roller was used, and there were no charges for it. Mr. Williams also reported that all the winter trucks were ready for plowing. Trucks were out twice already this season, as the temperature became 32-33 degrees Fahrenheit.

## **Public Comments:**

Phyllis Simpson inquired if the new Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance for density change was an alternative to the ongoing proposed Amendment, or if it was just an addition. Supervisors replied that it was an alternative. Penney Luhrs added that the Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance was pushed back to the Planning Board to come up with a new idea. She added that the Board of Supervisors now want to come up with a new Amendment, which would include properties with and without central sewage. Fred Weber inquired if the original Amendment, which was proposed, was dead forever. The Solicitor replied that the Planning Commission would look at both Amendments and then come up with a new Amendment. Fred confirmed with the Solicitor that the original Amendment would not be voted.

Ms. Rachel Hendricks handed out minutes of October 2, 2019 Sewage project meeting. She pointed out that in the minutes it was written that if the sewage cannot be found then it would be marked as a cesspool. She added that these sewage meetings were scheduled at 3 P.M., and hence the attendance had been poor. The Solicitor replied that if the Engineer cannot inspect the sewage, then he should have to explain to DEP. Rachel added that Engineers should be held accountable if they mark the unreachable sewages as cesspools. The Solicitor added that the Engineer probably did not have this issue in Milford Township and Borough. Ms. Hendricks suggested that the Sewage meetings should be videotaped so that the interested community could stay informed. Penney suggested asking Mr. Osterberg for videotaping these meetings.

Patricia Lutfy from Delaware Township inquired if Mr. James Depetris was still interested in developing in the Santos' property. Supervisors replied that Mr. Depetris might think about building medical facilities. Mr. Clark said that commercial buildings could be done in that property. Penney added that something like Milford Towngreen could be another option for Mr. DePetris.

**Correspondence:**

Shahana presented correspondences from PSATS, NPS, PennDOT, Pennsylvania Hardwoods Development Council, Pike County Conservation District, PSATS Grassroots, Pike County Humane Society, Safe Haven, Liberty Flags, Pike County Area Agency on Aging, Blue Ridge Communications, NEPA Alliance, legal, Kiley Associates, and PSECU.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

- A. **Computer Replacement:** The Solicitor said that the proposal from A Plus Onsite Computer Services Windows 7 would not work after January 14, 2020. Mr. Clark informed that one of the computers in Township was acquired only six months ago. Penney said that she would get estimates from other professionals. Gary Clark made a motion to allow Penney to look for other vendors, Gary M. Williams seconded, and it was passed unanimously.
- B. **Property Assessments:** The Solicitor said that the assessments of three properties were brought down and he had already attended hearings for two of these properties. He added that one of the properties was assessed as a five bedroom home, but it was not a five bedroom home. This property was assessed as having two fireplaces, but it had none.
- C. **TruGreen:** Gary M. Williams made a motion to accept TruGreen's contract of \$432.24 for maintaining the lawn of Milford Township building. Supervisors said that the price had gone up, but they had added the Summer fertilizing this time. Gary Clark said that lawn maintenance was added in the 2020 budget, and seconded to Mr. Williams' motion. The motion was passed unanimously.
- D. **2020 Budget:** Gary Clark said that Supervisors had reviewed the budget, which was proposed for the year 2020. He made a motion to authorize the Secretary to advertise for a public hearing to pass the budget in the meeting of December 16, 2019 at 7:00 P.M, Gary M. Williams seconded, and it was passed unanimously. Phyllis Simpson asked if this budget could be uploaded in the website. Shahana replied that she would advertise the proposed budget in the newspaper. The Solicitor said that the proposed budget would be available for inspection in the office. Gary Clark added that the cost would be 25 cents per page.
- E. Gary M. Williams read from Pocono Records that National Park Service was looking to put a toll fee on Rt. 209 for every vehicle. He continued that Dingmans Township, Delaware Township, and Lehman Township had sent letters to the Park Service to say 'no' to this plan. He added that he would like to see Milford Township also do it. Somebody, who travels back and forth this road would cost him/her about \$500 a year. A booth would need to be placed, and even an employee would need to be hired for collecting tolls. Rachel Hendricks commented that since Milford had lost Urgent Care Center, and a lot of people have started going to Stroudsburg for health care, Lehman Township, Delaware Township, Milford Borough, and Dingmans Township had sent their letters to stop this plan for toll collection. Rachel added that they had presented to Bushkill

and Sparta. Mr. Clark made a motion to authorize Mr. Magnotta write a letter to the Department of Interior for asking to not make Route 209 a toll road, Penney Luhrs seconded, and it was passed unanimously. Mr. Clark also made a motion to ask Department of Interior to present their Route 209 toll plan to Milford area, Gary M. Williams seconded, and it was passed unanimously.

- F. **Blue Ridge Communications:** The Solicitor informed that Blue Ridge Communications was seeking a two-year contract, and hence he himself would have to contact this organization before the end of the year. Mr. Clark made a motion to accept the two-year agreement from this organization, and receive the funds, Ms. Luhrs seconded, and it was passed unanimously.

## **Public Participation #2**

Gary M. Williams informed that the Promethean Institute, which was owned by Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, would be taken down. Tom Miller from Milford Township inquired if Blue Ridge Communications was going to put Fiber Optic in Moon Valley Road. The Supervisors replied that they never heard anything like that. Rachel Hendricks inquired how the Auditors' meeting in January could be held, as there was a vacancy in that Board. The Solicitor replied that the Auditor would be appointed in the first Supervisors' meeting of the year, and the Auditors' meeting would be held after that. Rachel commented that the Roadmaster's yearly salary and each of the Supervisors' salary were raised in the Auditors' meeting, which was held in the month of January of the current year. Gary Clark replied that the Supervisors' hourly salaries had been lower than that of other employees, and that's why these salaries were raised. He continued that Milford Township was blessed, as it had employees with 70 years of experience. The CDL licenses are awarded by State Inspectors, and there is a shortage of CDL drivers. In 2011 Gary M. Williams was looking for an experienced driver with CDL license, and Gary Clark had just retired from PennDOT at that time. Gary Clark added that his hourly salary, which was set at the last Auditors' meeting, was way lower than his PennDOT hourly salary. The Solicitor clarified that it is the Auditors' responsibility to set salaries for Supervisors. He added that Auditors look at some documents, such as, PSATS reports and salaries from other Townships to decide how much Supervisors' salaries should be. Gary Clark added that Auditors also look at the budgets for setting Supervisors' salaries.

There were no other businesses or executive sessions needed, so a motion was made by Gary Clark to pay the bills and adjourn. Gary M. Williams seconded to it, and it was passed unanimously. Adjournment was at 8:01 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Shahana Shamim  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Milford Township  
Pike County