

MINUTES
July 20, 2020
Zoom Meeting of the Board of Supervisors
7:00 p.m.

A scheduled meeting of Milford Township Supervisors was called to order at 7 P.M. by Chairperson Penney Luhrs through a Zoom call, the meeting ID for which had been advertised in advance in the Pike County Dispatch. Also present were Vice-Chairman Gary M. Williams, Supervisor Rachel Hendricks, Solicitor Anthony Magnotta, Zoning Officer Shawn Bolles, and Secretary/Treasurer Shahana Shamim.

Rachel Hendricks made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, Gary M. Williams seconded, and it was passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Shahana reported that she had received \$1,650.00 from Zoning, \$130.87 from code Inspections, and \$6,249.92 from delinquent taxes. She also reported the account balances as \$48,755.39, \$128,466.12, \$19,267.43, \$7,043.61, and \$77,754.70 in NBT Bank, Wayne Bank (Investment), Wayne Bank (Payroll), PLGIT (General), and PLGIT (Liquid Fuels) respectively.

Roadmaster:

Gary M. Williams, the Roadmaster, reported that the part time road crew had been mowing the lawn and he had repaired the loader also, as the full-time road crew was on vacation. He continued that he had received all the salt of last year's contract with American Rock Salt Company. Mr. Joseph Hudak had sent a Road Maintenance Agreement, which the Solicitor had reviewed, with Columbia Gas for Schocopee Road for Fire Tower Road. Mr. Williams made a motion to sign this agreement and to send it back to Mr. Hudak. Rachel seconded to this motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Zoning:

Zoning Hearing Board Meeting: Penney said that there were only two Members in the Zoning Hearing Board, and there was a vacancy. She asked Mr. Bill Pitman if he would be able to join this Board as a Member. The Solicitor explained to him that the Zoning Hearing Board is a judicial body, which has a separate Solicitor and considers cases of variances for special exceptions, acts as a judge.

Public Participation #1:

One of the participants of the meeting inquired what DCNR was doing at the end of Fire Tower Road. Gary replied that the Game Commission was repairing their portion of that road, and they were done for the year. He added that next year their work would span up to Pond Eddy Creek, on which they would be constructing a bridge. This participant inquired what TRUGREEN did for Milford Township. Supervisors replied that this company had been fertilizing and controlling weeds of Township building's lawn for the past five years. Fred Weber inquired if DEPG had proposed townhomes or condominiums. Penney replied that the DEPG was proposing condominiums. Fred Weber inquired if any provision of not allowing condominiums to be rented could be added to the Zoning Ordinance. Penney replied that the Planning Commission is working on the ordinance revisions.

Correspondence:

Shahana presented correspondences including PSATS, Pike County Commissioners, Milford Hill Zoning, GAIT, Pike County Office of Community Planning, Kiley Associates, Pike County Conservation District, Delaware Water Gap NRA, Vacant Property Registration program administration, Orange Stone Group, NEPA Newslines, Twin Lakes Utilities, Inc., and Pike County Area Agency on Aging.

Rachel commented that the correspondence from Pike County Commissioners stated that Milford Township had entered into a contract with Delaware Valley Emergency Services, and that was not correct. She added that Milford Township had made a donation to the Milford Fire Department, no contracts were made, and this information needed to be sent back to Pike County Commissioners. She further added that Mr. Mrozinski from Pike County Planning had alerted for Census 2020, and it is imperative that residents of this Township responded to the Census Count. The Solicitor asked the Secretary to file the request of the resident, who had asked to be informed about any Zoning hearings for his adjoining property.

Old Business:

- a. **Emergency Services:** Rachel Hendricks said that Supervisors of this Township had attended a meeting with Dingman Township, Shohola Township, and Milford Borough, and that meeting needed to be ratified, as they did not get enough advance notification from the Borough. She continued that Supervisors had decided in the last meeting that the website and letters to the Editor would be used to alert residents about the criticality of emergency services. Commissioners had told Milford Township Supervisors that they would reconsider to change the EMS call strategy which was blocking some employees from continuing to volunteer. Milford Borough is applying so that the municipal donations for paying third party EMTS to staff the ambulance are reimbursed through FEMA, PEMA, and CARES Act funds. Penney added that the EMT course, which usually costs money, would be free for the time being. She continued that she found a donor who would anonymously donate \$5,000, she would put a bucket in her store, and then she would match for up to \$1,000 from her store. Dingman Township and Milford Borough are requesting Milford Township to donate \$5,000, and hence the budget needed to be reviewed once more. Commissioners have assured that whatever the Township donates would be reimbursed through PEMA, FEMA, CARES Act., and the \$5 Million funding, which the County had received but there is no timeframe for reimbursement through FEMA or PEMA, the priority source the County wants initial requests to go through.

Rachel read out the Proclamation for making the month of August an Appreciation month for EMS, and she made a motion to adopt it. Gary M. Williams seconded to this motion, and it was passed unanimously. Rachel made another motion to change the outside sign to “Thank you EMS volunteers”, to provide certificates of appreciation to the Ambulance volunteers, and to purchase “Milford Strong” T-shirts. Penney seconded to her motion, and it passed. Rachel and Penney said that that they would donate their Supervisor pays to purchase those shirts. Penney seconded to this motion and it was passed.

- b. Emergency Management Plan:** Mr. DiLorenzo, the Emergency Management Officer, informed that the Emergency Management Plan of Milford Borough covered a lot of the needs of Milford Township. He continued that he needed a list of all equipment that the Township had. Making the Township a shelter would cost money, as a shower facility would have to be built. Contact information for the Fire Department, gas company, electric company etc. needed to be posted in the Township's website, as a lot of people do not have this information. Gary M. Williams said that he would volunteer with Bob to serve on an Emergency Management Committee. Ms. Hendricks instructed the Secretary to open a page in Township's website so that emergency instructions and contacts could be posted.

New Business:

- a. Zoning Permit Fees:** Penney said that this item would be revisited in the next meeting, as there was a glitch in the new fee schedule, which the Board had been considering.
- b. GAIT Car Wash Request for August 22, 2020 (rain date August 23, 2020):** Penney Luhrs made a motion to approve this request with the insurance and following COVID-19 related requirements, such as wearing masks. Gary M. Williams seconded to this motion, and it was passed unanimously.
- c. Orange Stone Group:** Shawn informed that he had contacted Pike County Tax Bureau, and he was waiting for this property's card from them. He continued that the property owner was informed that this property was situated in the Residential Zone when he purchased the property, and hence only two families in a building could be allowed. This previous property owner had erroneously been taxed for a single family, instead of two families until 2019, when a Certificate of Occupancy for two families was given to this property owner. Rachel made a motion to table this item to the next scheduled meeting, as more information about this property would be available by then, Gary M. Williams seconded, and it was passed unanimously.
- d. Sewage Questions for Next Meeting:** Penney said that she was in favor of extending the Central Public Sewage. She continued that Lake Wallenpaupack is critically important to the residents and businesses of that area, just as the Delaware River is to us. Although extending this Sewage does not seem cheap and a lot of people do not like changes, there are some positive sides for this Extension. Brian Shawn, the Operator of Lake Wallenpaupack and a Member of the Board of Directors of Lake Wallenpaupack Water Shed Authority, would be available to be present in the next Supervisors' meeting for answering any questions that residents may have about discharging effluent into a major waterway, and he won't charge anything for his attendance. She made a motion to allow Brian Shawn to be present at the next meeting, Gary M. Williams seconded, and it was passed unanimously.
- e. Mr. DiLorenzo informed that there was a problem with Moon Valley Septic System, and the President of that Association was refusing to fix it. He continued that that community had four septic systems, they got the Sewage permit through the Township, but this permit was based on DEP's approval, which had happened back in the eighties. Lawn mowers had broken some shallow sewage pipes, that community had hired Greiner to fix the problem, but the same problem had happened again. Mr.**

DiLorenzo said that he would send a violation letter to them, and the Court would fine the Community.

Rachel Hendricks informed that the ad for the availability of the survey for the Comprehensive Plan was published under legal notices. She commented that it should have been published as a regular advertisement, and she made a motion to publish this as a regular advertisement. Supervisors preferred to publish it in the Pike County Courier, as everybody gets it and it is free. Gary M. Williams seconded to this motion, and it was passed unanimously. The Solicitor said that he would not be able to attend the next scheduled meeting because of a personal commitment. Rachel said that names and years of services of Ambulance volunteers could be stated in the next scheduled meeting.

Public Participation:

Erika Burnett commented that the Central Public Sewage would add a lot more discharge into the Delaware River and an uncontrolled growth would happen. Penney said that the expenditure for the Sewage Extension was the Borough's problem, not the Township's. She added that polluting local creeks is not a good idea, and hence the Central Sewage is not a bad thing. Mr. Weber stated that the Central Sewage would add a daily discharge of 180,000 gallons, and that would make the water of Delaware River unsuitable for drinking. He continued that the total becomes 700,000 gallons when Matamoras Borough's and Westfall Township's discharges are added, and heavy rains can make this situation even worse. Mr. DiLorenzo commented that the expenditure for this extension is not fathomable, as residents of Moon Valley cannot even bear the cost of fixing their leaking sewage. Rachel commented that the Township officials have a responsibility to remain engaged in this process as some residents and businesses will hook up, such as Wheatfield Village which she believes has a court order mandating they hook up when Central Sewage is available. She continued that this discharge of 700,000 gallons was of only one source, and there are other sources of discharges, which DRBC is in charge of monitoring.

There was no other business or executive sessions needed, and Penney Luhrs made a motion to pay the bills and adjourn, Gary M. Williams seconded, and it was passed unanimously. Adjournment was at 8:06 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Shahana Shamim

Secretary/Treasurer