

**MINUTES**  
**August 3, 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 Pocono Record. Also present were Vice-Chairman Gary M. Williams, Supervisor Rachel Hendricks, 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 \$250 from Zoning and \$6,822.07 from Tax Collector. She also reported the account balances as \$50,833.22, \$135,299.01, \$16,406.94, \$7,044.39, and \$77,763.28 in NBT Bank, Wayne Bank (Investment), Wayne Bank (Payroll), PLGIT (General), and PLGIT (Liquid Fuels) respectively.

**Roadmaster:**

Gary M. Williams, the Roadmaster, reported that road crews had been working on drainages. Crews had also been getting equipment ready for winter.

**Zoning:**

Mr. Shawn Bolles, the Zoning Officer, said that he had been looking for the Official Zoning Map for Milford Township, he had contacted Mr. Shepstone, who had told him that this Official Map existed somewhere in the Township. He continued that he had issued three Zoning Permits in July, and those were for an accessory structure, a temporary food sale, and an inground pool. A conditional use hearing was scheduled for an indoor recreational center in the Bon Secours Building.

**Public Participation #1:**

None

**Correspondence:**

Shahana presented correspondences from State Representative Michael Peifer, Anthony Waldron, Shohola DG, Pike County Commissioners Office, Liability Insurance, Pennsylvania Municipal League, Borough of Milford, Pike County Elections Office, and Pike County Area Agency on Aging.

**Old Business:**

**a. Extension of emergency declaration for COVID-19:** Rachel Hendricks made a motion to extend the emergency declaration to September 7, 2020, Gary Williams seconded, and it was passed unanimously.

**b. Emergency Management Plan:**

Gary M. Williams reported that he had a discussion about the equipment and the amount of salt that the Township has for handling emergency services with Peggy Emanuel to develop the resource list for the emergency management plan. He added that Ms. Emanuel was ready to start drafting the Emergency Management Plan.

**New Business:**

- a. Sewage Questions – Brian Schan (Lake Wallenpaupack):** Penney introduced Mr. Schan, who was a Member of the Board of Lake Wallenpaupack, was in charge of running the Sewage Treatment Plant, and he was also in charge of managing the Watershed. Mr. Schan added that he had been working for 35 years, and he represented 13 treatment plants, which discharge into Lake Wallenpaupack throughout the Watershed. He said that using Water Treatment Plants *is* better than using cesspools, as users often throw oil and paints, which often affect the soil adversely (and eventually it affects the water quality in that area), whereas treatment plants are capable of treating these elements to a level acceptable to the environment. In reply to Rachel Hendricks’ and Fred Weber’s questions, Mr. Schan informed that Lake Wallenpaupack Waste-Water Treatment Plant was a modern plant, had strict guidelines, and the amount of flow into that lake was 650,000 gallons. Chemicals, such as antibiotics and carcinogens, settle down in the sludge, and then those are removed and wasted in a special tank. Wastes from commercial properties, such as hair salons, are dried and incinerated by following DEP and DRBC guidelines for protecting the environment. Some of these wastes are spread out into farming fields, and those soils are eventually tested.
- b. Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation to EMS Volunteers:** Supervisors decided to table this to the next meeting’s agenda.
- c. Ratification for attending 7-29-2020 EMS Meeting and Approval for attending Future EMS Meetings:** Rachel Hendricks made a motion to ratify the attendance of Township Supervisors in the EMS meeting, which was held on July 29, 2020. She also made a motion to approve Supervisors’ attendances in future meetings, which would be scheduled for discussing the EMS situation. Gary M. Williams seconded these motions, and those passed unanimously.
- d. Pike County Commissioners announce new funding – how to handle applications:** Rachel Hendricks made a motion to apply to the County for the CARES Act. Funding, Penney seconded, and it was passed unanimously. Rachel said that the expense that the Township had incurred for the COVID-19 situation, such as, buying the zoom camera, advertising for electronic meetings, and purchasing backpack sanitizers could be recouped with this funding. Rachel volunteered to work with Shahana to submit this application before the deadline.
- e. Ambulance Tax:** Rachel said that it was critical to consider enacting an ambulance tax by referendum. She continued that the extra money from this referendum could not be diverted to other causes by future a Board of Supervisors as would be the case

should a general fund tax increase be used instead. By law, Supervisors could put half a mil for the ambulance funding, which would generate \$14,000, but this amount would not fund a lot of man-hours. While the Borough can put two mils maximum into their referendum, second class Townships could place higher mils into the referendum. She made a motion to authorize the Solicitor to prepare the paperwork for placing a two mil ambulance tax referendum onto the ballot of the November of 2020 Election. By doing the referendum with the regular November Election, there would be no cost to the Township for the Election, according to the Board of Elections. Penney seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously. Rachel stated that as of then, 12-hour shifts (7am-7pm) are being covered with the anticipation of CARES Act, funding the third party EMS Service. The money would flow directly from the County to the Borough, The Township would get the previous donated money back, and the money which would be needed to continue this service for the rest of the year. Additional measures will be necessary for 2021, once the CARES Act funding runs out. Lackawaxen and Hemlock Farms are spending \$300,000 - \$400,000/year for EMS service. Some volunteers might also be available to fill up the gap hours. Shohola Township might put another \$5,000 for this service, to cover the current cash flow situation, and Dingmans Township is capable of raising their tax to a full half a mil to add to available funding for future needs, as they may direct.

- f. Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation to EMS Volunteers:** Rachel said that this item would be tabled to the next meeting, as she was waiting for full names of some remaining volunteers. She continued that T-shirts were ordered for these volunteers, and JEM Screen Printing wanted to donate these T-shirts to these volunteers. She and Penney would donate their Supervisors pay for some other type of appreciation for these volunteers. Penney and Rachel agreed to use their donated pay to purchase gift certificates for local eateries such as the Naked Bagel for the EMS volunteers.
- g. Nomination for Civics Award:** Rachel stated that PSATS has an award program called Small Town America Civic Volunteer Award. She made a motion to nominate Mr. Charlie Drummond of Milford Fire and Ambulance for this Award for his 43 years of EMS service, Penney and Gary both seconded this motion, and it was passed unanimously. Penney volunteered to put this application in before the upcoming deadline.
- h. Computer Upgrade:** Shahana informed the Supervisors that the computer she was using was upgraded by KRS Computer Services, and it was working well. Penney made a motion to hire this company to upgrade other computers in the Township for \$575, Gary M. Williams seconded, and it was passed unanimously.
- i. Zoning Permit Fees:** The Zoning Officer asked to table this item into the next meeting's agenda, as he was still working on issues, which were brought up earlier.
- j. Orange Stone Group:** Penney said that this item would be placed into the next meeting's agenda, as the Solicitor was not present with them.

### **Public Participation:**

Kevin Stroyan commented that the first recommendation in the Executive Summary of Act 537 Plan was that the OLDS ordinance is enacted for all portions of the Municipality. He added that the previous representation to the public was that anyone who is not affected by the pipeline of the Sewer will not have any effect on their property, whereas the phrase, “throughout the Municipality”, was used in the OLDS ordinance.

A representative of Delaware Water Keeper network commented that their organization was involved with Act 537 and other parts of the watershed, such as in Monroe County. She added that it was important to think about how this area would look like in 20 years, and she cautioned about sprawls in this area. She further added that Delaware Water Keeper network was putting a lot of effort in looking at old sewer treatment plants and sewer alternatives. Mr. Stroyan commented that the draft of the Act 537 only included alternate routes for Central Public Sewage, but it did not include any actual alternatives for the Central Public Sewage. The representative from Delaware Water Keeper Network said that Spray Irrigation could be an alternative for the Public Central Sewage. Penney commented that this Central Public Sewage is needed by Milford Borough, and not Milford Township. She added that people usually do not take care of their septic systems. Fred Weber commented that the Central Public Sewage would multiply the amount of discharge into the Delaware River. Penney replied that she would prefer this to everybody having their own cesspools. She added that a lot of Municipalities die, economically, as they cannot keep their restaurants because of not having a Central Sewage, and pumping out the septic so often costs a lot.

There was no other business or executive session needed. 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