

MINUTES

October 4, 2021

**Hybrid Workshop of the Board of Supervisors (Zoom ID was advertised in advance in the Pike County Dispatch)
560 Route 6 & 209
6:30 p.m.**

EMS Meeting of September 30, 2021: The two mils of the Ambulance Tax came out to \$60,000, and the same amount will be going in and out. Rachel said that she, Mr. Williams, Frank Turquino, Mr. Dooley, and two Fire Department Members were present at the EMS meeting of September 30. At that meeting, Dingman Township was negotiating; their starting point was zero, and they were encouraging the group to get a commitment from Shohola Township. Dingman Township informed the group that they were running their second ambulance from the area of Buist Road, but they never notified the Milford Fire Department (MFD). Dingman Township asked Milford to step up, and Milford Township is already maxed out. How much time Dingman Township covers Milford was refuted at the meeting. 18 hours of coverage for 365 days could be possible if Dingman Township comes forward with a County match and at least as much funding as they previously did but that remains to be seen. Shohola is planning to buy their own ambulance, and to cover 6am – 6pm with paid coverage. Time schedules could be supplemented with Shohola and Westfall, as both were doing 6am – 6pm paid coverages, and a longer time coverage could be achieved by working together. The 18-hour plan could be a coverage from 6am through midnight, which would cover the vast majority of the calls, as most calls come in the evenings according to the Fire Chief's experience. Mr. Williams said that Dingman Township's two ambulances cost \$249,000 and \$255,000.

2022 Budget Proposal: The Secretary handed a preliminary version of the proposed budget for the year 2022. Supervisors asked the Secretary to update some line items. The line item "Fines and Forfeits" was decided to be condensed by getting rid of the subcategories, and \$1,000 was set for this item. \$800 was set for the "Interest Earning" category. Supervisors asked the Secretary to update the item "Hearing", as all incomes from the hearings of the year 2021 were posted in the "Zoning & Subdivision" line item. The "Zoning Permit" line item was set to \$7,500 instead of \$12,000, as the income to date for this line item was only \$4,690.48. The 2021 budget for the item "interfund Operating Transfers" had shown \$46,355 to show that the previous year's allocation was being used in 2021. Gary said that there would be \$70,000 left in the Liquid Fuels Account by the end of the year, and it would be most likely spent in 2022, and another \$55,000 would be deposited in 2022. The total of state fuel expenditure was thus set to \$125,000. The budget for "Legal Advertising" was increased to \$4,000, as the Solicitor anticipated an increase in advertising, as there is a new law regarding the agendas. The budget for the line item "Insurance" under the Govt. Building category was raised, as insurances usually go higher each year.

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Hybrid Meeting of the Board of Supervisors (Zoom meeting ID was advertised in advance in the Pike County Dispatch)

560 Route 6 & 209

7:00 p.m.

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

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

Treasurer's Report:

Shahana reported that since the last meeting she had received \$125 from Sewage, \$5,479.30 from Zoning, \$4,730.49 from the Auditor General for the Pension payment, \$10,469.44 from the Auditor General for the fire relief payment, \$25 Amazon gift card from Pike County Convention, and UGI reimbursed \$20.75 for mailing. She also reported the financial institution account balances as \$213,500.44, \$77,926.23, \$24,621.07, \$23,817.45, \$23,390.88, and \$87,270.82 in Wayne Bank (Investment), Wayne Bank (General), Wayne Bank (Payroll), NBT Bank, PLGIT (General), and PLGIT (Liquid Fuels) accounts respectively.

Roadmaster:

Mr. Williams said that there was an additional charge of \$2,272.91 in the invoice for the Schocopee Road Shoulder, and the amount was originally \$7,300. He added that an additional 62 Tons of materials needed to be acquired, and it was not anticipated. This extra \$2,272.91 could be taken out of the General Account, while the original \$7,300 could be paid from the Liquid Fuels Account. He made a motion to pay this \$2,272.91 out of the General account, Penney Luhrs seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Public Participation #1:

Supervisors had previously discussed concerns that Kern Lane may not be wide enough for the Fire Department vehicles, and if the Fire Department informs the Township that any area of the Township is inaccessible, then it's the Township's responsibility to notify those property owners. Mr. Williams added that Malibu Trail is at the end of the Moon Valley Road, and he had informed Mr. Billy Shi that his family (Mr. Shi's) owns those roads. Mr. Eric Passaro, the Captain of the Milford Fire Department (MFD), presented a pre-plan for Malibu Trail and Kern Lane, and this pre-plan was in accordance with NFPA 1640. It included the list of types of buildings for the construction, and those were all single occupancy housings with a mix of part time and seasonal residents. He also discussed the water supply options, exposure factors, evacuation procedure, EMS considerations, road conditions, and environmental factors. He continued that both daytime and nighttime members of MFD were informed of this situation, and drills and training were conducted for handling this issue. Multiple agencies would need to be included in a fire response to this area to accommodate the particular needs and restrictions of

the road. Rachel made a motion to notify the road owner that the emergency response time for those properties would be longer, as it would be mutual aid dependent, and she added forwarding the MFD response plan for emergency calls for those properties to the owner to her motion. Mr. Williams seconded this motion, and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Hendricks informed the representatives of MFD that Econo-Pak has a lot of people in their facility, and it is proposing to add a 125,000 square foot warehouse. She added that a gas pipeline passes through the middle of this property, they should have a gas leak/explosion evacuation plan in place, and they need input from MFD. She further added that the proposed plan is in the township office, and it needed to be reviewed by MFD so that they could confirm that the FD will have adequate access to that facility. Mr. Mike Bello, the 1st Assistant Chief of MFD said that they were looking to buy a UTV, which would help in responding to such special calls that were discussed that night. Rachel told him that this Township would be happy to provide supports for making applications to procure these types of vehicles. She added that she would add this matter to the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Secretary's Report:

Shahana presented various correspondences received, including from Delaware Riverkeeper Network, PennDOT, Department of Environmental Protection, ReImagine Appalachia, Pike County Conservation District, Milford Fire Department, Zoning Officer, Pike County Courier, Pike County Public Library, Pike County Human Services, Pike County Commissioners Office, DCNR, PIRMA, Certificate of Liability Insurance, Thomas Shepstone, and Vito Dibiasi.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

- a. **Water Protection Ordinance - Wellhead/watershed zoning amendment:** Penney said that this ordinance was forwarded to the Board of Supervisors last Thursday, and Supervisors did not have enough time to review it. She made a motion to table this item to the next meeting, Mr. Williams seconded, and it passed unanimously.
- b. **Office Computers – professionals and budget:** Penney said that the office computer system has some deficiencies, and Barry Bernathy, the County IT, had advised to hire somebody to solve these issues. She continued that some other Townships were having these problems too. The Zoning Officer and the Sewage Officer were unable to use their Permit Manager software, and Mr. Bernathy had done a temporary fix, but there are other issues that needed to be fixed. The Township has new laptops, which need to be setup, and a firewall needs to be installed.
- c. **9/30 Ambulance Meeting - ratification of attendance of the Supervisors:** Rachel said that the Borough had informed the Township about this meeting, but they did not give enough time to vote for the Supervisors' participation. She made a motion to ratify the Supervisors' participation at this meeting, Penney seconded, and it passed unanimously. She continued that the County was allocating matches to each of the Municipalities for their ambulance expenditures, and it is a new thing. All Municipalities need to share their plans about using these available funds so that a regional 24/7 coverage could be achieved. If Dingman Township shares in the cost for paid personnel in Milford, then 18 hours of coverage could be possible from MFD, but the question is what Dingman

Township intends to do at this point. Port Jervis has an agreement with Matamoras because of their proximity. Milford Department will likely continue its relationship with Delaware Valley EMS for staffing purposes, and currently Milford Township/Borough covers 12 hours five days a week in winter, spring and fall and 7 in summer.

- d. **Hometown heroes – cost for Banners, Brackets, and Installation:** The representatives said that they decided to take over from six Navy moms, the banners had been hanging for two years, and those are wearing out. Each banner costs \$100, brackets cost \$50, and the installation charge for each banner was \$75. They asked if the Township would be able to provide some financial help, and that way they would be able to hang more banners. There would be 60 banners in this Township, and they are all honoring veterans and active duty service members. It would be in the newspaper, and it was posted in other media outlets for donation. Supervisors said that the Township used to donate to Pike County Public Library, Humane Society, and Pike County Developmental Center, but it stopped because currently EMS is the most critical problem in this area. Rachel suggested using the parking lot for fund raising activities or for circulating information. Mr. Williams suggested contacting Steve of Pike County Light & Power. Rachel asked them to provide flyers if they had any. Their email address is dvhometownhero@gmail.com.

Public Participation #2:

Mr. DiBiasi said that the new schedule of regulated activities and land uses for the Watershed/Wellhead Protection Ordinance was recently posted, there were some improvements, and he thanked the Board for those changes. He continued that manufacturing activities, dyeing establishments, laundries that utilize cleaning solvents, printing and photo processing establishments, furniture and finish stripping, vehicle repair, body repair and painting still remained in Zone C, where the Springs and the aquifer are located. The ordinance stated a 35 gallon restriction for chemicals, and that contradicted with aforementioned schedule of uses. Rachel said that there's a difference between the permitted use and the conditional use. She continued that permitted uses have the blanket approval, whereas conditional use hearings are required for conditional use approvals. Public can comment, and conditions are set by the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

Penney asked Mr. DiBiasi if he had made a list of permitted uses for Zone C from his perspective. Mr. DiBiasi said that residential developments could be allowed on top of the aquifer, which is two and a half miles long and 2,000 feet wide. Penney commented that that is a suggestion for changing the developmental zone to a residential zone. Mr. DiBiasi said that PennDOT had built Route 6 on the aquifer, and they had to pay a fine for that. He added that the use item "Trucking, bus, and taxi terminal" in the schedules of uses means that a trucking warehouse of 250,000 square foot warehouse could be accepted.

Mr. DiBiasi said that Golf Course was still left in the Zone C, where the aquifer and the springs are. He continued that quarry and mining operations were also still allowed in Zone C, and the SIC 10-14 allows to explore for coal, petroleum, natural gas, and fracking. The group "Friends of the Milford Aquifer (FMA)", which has 106 people, wants to state that the delineated aquifer (Zone 2 of Milford Springs) is not defined in this proposed ordinance, and it is defined in the Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP). The proposed ordinance doesn't even provide a visual representation of the Zone 2, and just assumes that it's in the Watershed. No maps or definitions of the aquifer exist in the ordinance, and there's only a reference, which is not a legal attachment. If the Milford Water Authority (MWA) comes and advises about the aquifer, then it would still

be in the advisory position. The delineation of the aquifer needs to be attached to the ordinance, which is the law of the Township. Rachel said that Zone C is larger than the aquifer, and fracking cannot be done here because of the Delaware River Basin's ban.

The Solicitor agreed that the aquifer cannot be figured out from the map of the proposed ordinance, and Rachel also agreed that the map needed to be more clearly defined. The Solicitor added that according to the proposed ordinance, the truck, bus, and taxi terminals, which have gasoline, are only being prohibited in Zone A, but not in Zone B and C. Mr. DiBiasi added that the proposed ordinance states that a developer can hire a hydrologist to find the aquifer, and the "Friends of the Milford Aquifer" is saying that the aquifer is already delineated. Rachel added that the other constituents would be able to comment on this ordinance also, and this Board will eventually have a public hearing to decide whether the ordinance could be adopted or not. The Solicitor added that there is a lack of understanding of the zoning concept, and he would talk to Mr. Shepstone, as he had some questions too. Rachel said that the proposal of allowing only residential development on top of the 13 square mile aquifer is not acceptable. She added that all of the 22 square mile Watershed cannot be put into Conservation Easement. She further added that Milford Municipal Authority (MMA) did buy the most sensitive area, the springs.

There was no other business or executive session needed. Ms. Hendricks made a motion pay the bills and adjourn, Ms. Luhrs seconded, and it passed unanimously. Adjournment was at 8:21 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Shahana Shamim

Secretary/Treasurer