

**MINUTES**  
**May 2, 2022**  
**Hybrid Meeting of the Board of Supervisors (Zoom ID was advertised in advance in the**  
**Pike County Dispatch)**  
**560 Route 6 & 209**  
**7:00 p.m.**

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

**Minutes of April 18, 2022 workshop and meeting reviewed for possible additions or corrections before approval by the Board:** Mr. Williams made a motion to approve these minutes, Ms. Hendricks seconded, and it passed unanimously.

**Ambulance Report:** Mr. Joe Saski, the EMS Captain of Milford Ambulance, said that he was reporting for the first quarter of the year. He continued that he would attend first meetings of every month, and the Supervisors said that quarterly reports would be fine. Mr. Saski continued that his report showed that all the calls were broken down based on the municipality. There were 185 dispatches over two States and eight Municipalities, 126 of those calls were responded, and 72 were transported to Bon Secour, Lehigh Valley, Pocono, and Newton Medical Center. The report also broke down the paid staffing and volunteer, and they were working on covering the nights with volunteers. Breakdowns included other criteria, such as car accidents, allergic reactions, refusals of care, and use of paramedics. Five payments were made over the course of the quarter, \$30,395.86 was paid for staffing, and \$6,000 of maintenance was done. Rachel added that this Township had contributed \$15,000 and the County had contributed \$15,000 through the Township. Mr. Saski thanked the Township for the support that they were receiving from our community.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Shahana reported that since the last meeting she had received \$400 from sewage, \$10 from Zoning, and \$119,154.40 from the Tax Collector.

**Roadmaster:**

Gary M. Williams, the Roadmaster, reported that the holes on the dirt portion of Lily Pond had to be patched, as there were 200 kids on Saturday. He added that the road crew had been getting the trucks and salt ready for the next winter, a couple of trees were down from the rain and the wind, and some brush cutting was done also.

**Public Participation #1:**

Marian Keegan, a resident of Lackawaxen Township, said that she was running as a Democrat for the position of the State Representative. She discussed her background and desire to give outstanding service to the community.

Penney said that the item, Mr. Donahue's presentation, was under new business, but a lot of people were present to listen to his presentation. She asked Mr. Donahue to start his presentation.

**John Donahue – a proposal to elevate the NRA to a national park and preserve:**

Mr. Donahue said that there is a lot of misinformation out there, and this presentation would help in making the right decision. He continued that he doesn't represent the Government, and it's not a government proposal. He was looking forward to providing a clear picture about the proposal, and it goes back to the creation of the park. The purpose of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DEWA) and the Middle Delaware National Scenic and Recreational river (MIDE) is to preserve the natural, cultural, and scenic resources and values of the Delaware River Valley and provide opportunities for resource-based recreation, education, and enjoyment in close proximity to the most densely populated region of the nation. Delaware Valley National Park & Preserve can be the first national park in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Mr. Donahue continued that the Proposal was for a certain percentage of the existing DEWA to become a National Park, and this designation would offer the highest level of protection. The great majority of the existing Federal area would become a Preserve which is the designation most like a National Park but where Congress allows certain consumptive uses such as hunting. All traditional uses would continue, and it won't impact on fishing, or boating. The proposal won't create fees, include state lands, or affect state regulations, and it would ask for additional lands from willing sellers to eliminate any temporary impact on hunting. Formal designation as a National Park creates greater awareness and prestige, and people will be proud of their national resource and take better care of it when they visit. The travel industry has already reported a significant increase in visitation and spending in New River Gorge, WV since its designation as a national park. According to this report, there was an increase of 600,000 visitors at New River, and 600,000 people is a lot of meals and hotel rooms and gasoline supporting the local economy.

Mr. Donhue said that this change would add to the economic and social value the park contributes to the local area. When President Johnson signed the legislation, he said that this national park will be within a day's drive of 15% of the American population. Those people deserve to have their national park that meets every criterion of national park recognized as much as anyone else in the country does. The Lenape Preserve will continue and enhance traditional activities such as hunting, in perpetuity.

Mr. DiLorenzo asked if the side roads would be closed by the gate, and if only the people coming to the park would be allowed. Mr. Donahue replied that the amenity fee had been there since the eighties, and that includes water, sewer, boat, and beach accesses, and the Visitor Use Management Plan had included an entrance fee, which could have generated \$4-5 million every year for use on the local roads and people. The public didn't like it, and it was rejected, as 85% of those fees are spent for the collection. Only a little bit of money was left for putting sands and rocks on the river beach, it's not even worth it, and he stopped the Park from collecting on Route 209 for that reason. There was a time, when there was no money, even closing Milford Beach was considered, and the gas company that was building the pipeline had paid for Milford beach. Kittatiny gets a lot of people, but PSE&G paid \$80,000 to keep it open. Park service employees

said that it should be like a library, which has no fees. Mr. DiLorenzo inquired about the gate, and Mr. Donahue replied that he himself had put those gates for emergency purposes. He continued that when he started working there were three one-hundred-year floods, and a number of emergencies had happened. He added that he had spent \$25 Million just on Route 209 maintenance. Mr. DiLorenzo said that 10% would be national park area, and the hunting area would be outside that. He added that the hunters won't be able to hunt on the line, and he inquired what the safety area would be. Mr. Donahue replied that that area won't change, and hunters can't hunt within 450 feet from the line. He added that there are 29 areas, where hunting is prohibited, and those areas could be discounted when all the information is available. He added that they were asking for authorization.

Mr. Fred Weber said that Mr. Donahue was not a part of any government, and still he was pushing for this. He added that even if Mr. Donahue's proposal passes, there's no guarantee that what he proposed in his presentation would happen, as it would be up to the government. Keith from Dingman Township said that Mr. Donahue's proposal to the government won't harm anybody. He continued that the recreation area consists of the land that was besieged from hundreds of thousands of people, homes, and businesses, and the Congress using the eminent domain again won't be desirable. Rachel said that at the last meeting, the Board had decided to send letters to the legislators regarding the Board's concerns, and the Board had explicitly requested to prohibit any eminent domains for any legislations regarding this redesignation.

Christina Albrecht, a resident of Dingman Township, said that a member of a local Lenape tribe had contacted her through the FaceBook. She continued that this member had pointed out that the Lenape in this area are not federally recognized, and the federally recognized Lenape tribes are in Oklahoma. This proposal speaks a lot about honoring the first nation's people, and this local tribe feels that they are not being included in this Lenape Cultural Center. 90% is preserve and 10% is national park, which is the prime hunting area, and hunters won't like the idea of taking their hunting area away. The borders of a preserve are fluid, so there will be a lot of changes in the boundary in the next 5-10 years, and the concern is that Sierra Club is anti-hunting and they are heavily involved in developing this proposal. There will be an influx of visitors and there won't be any additional funding. There are 423 units under the jurisdiction of National Park Service in this country, the top five funded include recreational areas, and the redesignation won't guarantee any additional funding. There are a lot of limitations on what can be done in a National Park, which has jurisdiction over the fee structures, access points, and borders. Mr. Donahue replied that there is nothing fluid about boundaries at all. He continued that there will be a map and a delineation of the boundaries, and the park management does not get to change that. The museum in Pennsylvania was actually run by local people, but then the Delaware nation took it over, and it is run by the federally recognized tribe. Two out of the top five units having big budgets is not good statistical data. There are 64 national parks, which might be among the top 50 and 100. The budget for Golden Gate is \$27 Million, and the reason for that is their Congressional Representative was the Speaker of the House or the Minority Leader. The Gateway in New York is also top funded, and the reason for that is that their Senator is the Majority Leader of the Senate. Ms. Albrecht said that the other National Recreation Area that is top funded is Sandy Hook.

Jon Kameen from Dingman Township said that the Sierra Club website stated that they would like to increase the National Park area to over 200,000 acres, currently it's 70,000 acres, and that suggested that there would be some changes in boundaries. He inquired if Mr. Donahue had a map for that. Mr. Donahue replied that it's not in the proposal, he didn't say it in the recent

Zoom for Friends of Delaware Water Gap, and he would remove it from the Sierra Club website if it's there. Rachel added that the proposal stated adding additional lands from donors to the preserve area. Mr. Donahue replied that that would be authorized by Congress, and that authorization would be sought. He continued that the existing authorization has 4,000 acres. He had added 3,000 acres to the park when he was the Superintendent, all that area was immediately opened for hunting, and hence it shouldn't be construed as anti-hunting. Sierra Club is not anti-hunting, but there might be some specific situations.

Patricia Lutfy inquired what the boundaries and acquisitions of the additional land that Mr. Donahue had mentioned would be. Mr. Donahue said that the loss to the sportsmen that would result from the creation of the National Park portion would be added back into the Preserve, and so at the end of the day there won't be any loss of acres. He added that the willing sellers are private people, and the State doesn't sell lands to the Federal Government. Penney said that people are worried about what had happened back in 1965-1970, and they think that Mr. Donahue would come and take their land. Mr. Donahue added that it's important to identify the lands that add resilience and connectivity to the State lands. He added that Pennsylvania State lands and the hunting clubs were connected, and a wildlife corridor was created. Ms. Lutfy said that Mr. Donahue had mentioned that 01 would be the boundary, and Mr. Donahue replied that the Road 2001 won't be the boundary, as there are a lot of homes along the way, but rather when pushed to identify a limit that could be referenced on a map, that was the only landmark that made sense to use. He added that that Road is outside the boundary, and the intention is to consult with all the constituents.

Ms. Meg Rosenfeld said that the concern regarding the use of eminent domain is a very valid one because of the history of this place. She inquired if the proposal addressed this matter in the proposed legislation. Mr. Donahue replied that they will ask for authorization to acquire lands from willing sellers only, and that implies that there is no eminent domain involved. Rachel asked if Mr. Donahue would be willing to add a hard statement about the prohibition of eminent domain in the legislation, as that would assure a lot of people, and he said 'yes'. He continued that people wanted to save the Delaware River Valley, they wanted to keep it nice and right, and that's what he had been doing. Rachel said that Mr. Manion had commented about funding gap issues, and the Board considered it as a serious issue. She inquired what the people could do to ensure that the park gets the funding that it actually needs. Mr. Donahue replied that constituents, can ask themselves for the Congressmen to give more money to the Park so that the garbage could be picked up,. Delaware Valley High School had gone on a trip to meet former Congressman Sherwood, who had asked them what the biggest problem was, and students had said that it was Route 209. Mr. Donahue added that he had received Million dollars the following week to start working on that road. In reply to Penney's request, he said that his email address is [jdewa@ptd.net](mailto:jdewa@ptd.net), and he had added delvalpark.org and some other contacts in his presentation slides.

Mr. Kameen said that if 10% of additional land were to be lost to the National Park from the willing sellers does the proposal included any funding that would reimburse the Township for those taxable properties? He added that it would increase the burden of tax on the remaining 90% of the land, and that would apply to the schools as well. Mr. Donahue replied that there is a payment called "Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)", and Delaware Valley gets a huge amount of money from the Department of Education. Mr. Kameen inquired if that amount would change if some lands were transferred to the National Park. Ms. Hendricks inquired if that would be included in the legislation, and Mr. Donahue replied that he did not know about that. Mr. Stroyan

inquired where the location of that 10% park would be. He also inquired when Mr. Donahue was expecting to attach it to a bill or legislation. Mr. Donahue replied that it might take a year or even ten years, and the timing would depend on figuring out where the National Park would be. He added that a volunteer had already started doing the GIS work, and Mr. Stroyan could be a great resource.

Mr. Stark commented that 600,000 new visitors would be walking and hiking through the park. He added that Mr. Donahue had mentioned that the designation change may not lead to more funding, but it will help to compete more strongly for funding. Mr. Stark inquired if it would be just from the increase in visitation or if there were other specifics about it. He added that National Parks usually have more regulations than National Recreation Areas. He also inquired if Mr. Donahue was aware any National Parks that did not have fees. Mr. Donahue replied that National Parks are strongly protected and getting more visitors would be helpful in getting funding. He continued that one of the advocate groups had said that there is good legislation and bad legislation. According to these advocates, changing the name and nothing else would be bad legislation. The legislation should address the issues that are being discussed, such as, infrastructure and implementing the visitor management plan that identifies potential beaches. The technology can eliminate the necessity of the fee booths, such as paying fees from the phone when cars are parked and nobody collecting money from the meter.

Supervisors thanked Mr. Donahue for his time and the educational presentation. Mr. Donahue appreciated the invitation, and he said that he would be happy to provide anything that the Board would need, such as bringing the map to discuss which would be good and which would be bad once it is developed. Rachel requested of him, that he incorporate all the feedback that was given to him into the plan.

#### **Old Business:**

- a. **RFP for the Comprehensive Plan:** Rachel said that Supervisors would interview the applicants at the next workshop and then rank them at the next meeting. She made a motion to add this item on the next meeting's agenda, Penney seconded, and it passed unanimously.
- b. **Scenic Rural Character Preservation Application:** Rachel said that the actual proposed contract would have to be attached to this application, and the Board was not ready yet. Rachel made a motion to add this item to the next meeting's agenda, Penney seconded, and it passed unanimously.
- c. **Act 537 Plan:** Penney said that some constituents had asked her to finish this project. She made a motion for spending \$1,000 for Microbac to do the water testing, as some people in the Township did actually want the Sewer Treatment System. Gary seconded the motion, and it passed. Rachel said that she was concerned about the language in the existing Intergovernmental Agreement, which stated that the Municipalities would have to pay for however much goes over \$140,000. She added that this \$1,000 may not be the stopping number, and she added that the letter with this concern needed to be sent to the County as the Board had previously voted to do.

Penney said that survey letters would be sent to the residents with Milford Water Authority's letterhead, and Mr. Doug Manion from Milford Water Authority (MWA) added that this survey is to see the interest of residents to hook up. He continued that the

design would depend on how many residents would be interested in hooking up. He himself is a Council Member of Milford Borough, and it had given \$10,000 to MWA to expedite those five Intermunicipal Agreements, as \$140,000 from the County did not cover those expenses. The County doesn't want to cover these expenses, and hence it's up to the Municipalities now. Rachel said that the difference between Milford Township and the Borough is that the Borough wants this sewer service.

Mr. Manion said that MWA is coordinating the Intermunicipal Agreements, but there's no funding for it. Rachel added that there's no funding for the legal expenses, but MWA will receive the grant money, and the administrative fees will apply which they will collect. She added that it would be a transmission line for this Township, and she won't want this Township to put \$10,000 for it. Gary added that there's not a lot of property owners along this line to hook onto it.

- d. Milford Highlands NPDES Permit – Authorize the Secretary to write letters to the property owners:** Penney said that everybody in Milford Highlands needs to have NPDES permits now. The Solicitor added each of these property owners would have to contact the Pike County Conservation District (PCCD) to ascertain whether or not they have an NPDES permit. He further added that he and Mr. DiLorenzo were present at the meeting of PCCD. Mr. DiLorenzo added that it was clear from PCCD that individual NPDES permits would be necessary before doing any construction. He continued that the property owners would have to apply for NPDES permits, and there would be permit reviews. The problem with these reviews is that it can be done quickly, but it doesn't fall under the 107 day rule as NPDES permits. The Solicitor added that he had reminded the DEP that they should let the Township know if any property owner doesn't acquire the NPDES permit, and then that property owner's permits would have to be revoked. Penney made a motion to authorize the Secretary to write letters to each of these property owners educating them on the NPDES permit, and to contact PCCD for their application. The motion passed.

**New Business:**

- e. Request to use the Meeting Room:** The Secretary said that she didn't receive any applications from the requester. Penney made a motion to table this item to the next meeting's agenda.
- f. Wellhead/Watershed Zoning Amendment – sending it to the County:** Penney said that there's no County map to send along with this Amendment. Rachel added that the County was making the map, the text of this Amendment needed to be sent to the County for their comments and feedback, and it was recommended by Mr. Farley at the last Planning Board meeting. Gary made a motion to send this text to the County for review, Rachel seconded, and it passed unanimously. In reply to Mr. Manion's inquiry, the Solicitor said that the County gets 30 days to review it. Rachel added that the overlay map would be required for this Amendment to go to public hearing, but the official Zoning Map has to be done first. She added that the County is creating the Zoning map, and the Planning Board is working with them. Mr. DiLorenzo added that there were a lot

of questions on the properties, and the Planning Board had been working on it. They anticipated receiving the zoning map soon.

**g. Reimbursing for Zoning Hearing Board Webinar:** Rachel made a motion to reimburse Bill Pitman for attending the Zoning Hearing educational webinar that PSATS offered, Mr. Williams seconded, and it passed unanimously.

**h. Price increase of \$4,000.00 for purchase of 2023 Mack from M&K Trucking:** Gary said that he got a call from Mr. Klusaritz, the sales manager of M & K Truck Centers, where the 2023 Mack was ordered. He added that Mr. Klusaritz had informed him that the Mack Corporation had notified them that there will be a \$4,000 material surcharge on the price of any vehicle that was built after May 1, 2022. The Solicitor said that he had called PSATS, and this was happening throughout the entire COSTARS program. Gary added that Mack has the least amount of surcharge compared to other companies. Rachel made a motion for Gary to execute the necessary paperwork recognizing this surcharge, and Gary added that with this surcharge, the cost of this Mack would be \$199,790.06. Penney seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Rachel said that support letters to the State Legislators should go out as soon as possible for the LSA Grant the Township applied for to help with the cost of this truck.

#### **Public Participation #2:**

Mr. Vito DiBiasi asked if the text of the Shepstone ordinance would be updated before sending it to the County for their comments. The Supervisors replied that the text would be sent as it is. Rachel added that the County will send their comments and the map, and then the Board will move forward with the process of the Hearing.

Gary made a motion to pass the Resolution # 05022022, which is written for the National Park issue, Rachel seconded, and it passed unanimously. Rachel added that this Resolution is based on the letter of concerns to the Federal Legislators.

Rachel suggested to wash the mold of the building before the election, and Gary suggested cleaning the carpet before the election as well. He added that he had always used Magic Carpet from Montague and they do an excellent job. He made a motion to contact Magic Carpet to clean the carpet prior to the primary election, Rachel seconded, and it passed unanimously. Rachel said that at the last election, their staff had expressed their concerns about the lighting of the room. Gary said that those lights were LEDs.

There was no other business or executive session needed. Gary made a motion to pay the bills and adjourn, Penney seconded, and it passed unanimously. Adjournment was at 8:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Shahana Shamim

Secretary/Treasurer