

HEREFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

March 1, 2022

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic the regular meeting of the Hereford Township Board of Supervisors was held via Zoom and in person. Those present were Supervisors John Membrino, Keith Masemore, Karla Dexter, Secretary/Treasurer Diane Hollenbach, Assistant Secretary Louisa Masemore, Engineer Jennifer Van Dyke, Solicitor Eugene Orlando, Fred Saracino, Matt Ferdock, John Yanan, Barb and Gary Snyder, Cliff Kerchner, Rosemary & Glen Greenawald, Caryl Pettijohn, Chad Quinton, Jack Arnold, Vic See, Matt Moyer, Larry Iampietro, Matt & Jen Spangenberg

On Zoom attendees: Irene Frick, Harlan Snyder, Candace Perry, and Jeff Ney.

Mr. Membrino called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

MINUTES

Mr. Membrino made a motion and Ms. Dexter seconded approving the February 15, 2022, regular meeting minutes. All were in favor. Motion Passed.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mr. Membrino made a motion and Mr. Masemore seconded to pay the bills and approve the Treasurer's report. All were in favor. Motion Passed.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES

There were no personal appearances.

WORK CREW REPORT

Mr. Masemore reported that the road crew worked on fixing potholes and sweeping streets. Five Points Road needs repair and this repair was budgeted to be done in 2022. Also, the Township was down to two trucks during the last storm. Everything has been repaired.

ENGINEER

Arborist Work Update

Ms. Van Dyke reported that the arborist completed Quadrant 1 and has moved onto Quadrant 4. Hollyberry Road has been completed. Ms. Van Dyke is working on defining the scope of work for the Hollyberry Road tree removal and a request for proposals will be ready in a few weeks.

Public Comment on the Arborist Work

John Yanan of 7953 Sigmund Road stated that he has lived in the township thirteen years, loves the area but feels violated by the arborist's work. The arborist is trespassing, defacing property and when a marked tree falls, the Board has changed it from an Act of God to a liability. Mr. Yanan had 130 trees tagged and asked what initiated the ordinance and if there was a precedence for this action. Mr. Membrino answered that the residents of Hollyberry Road brought a problem with ash trees to the Board, and the Board decided to look at the issue townshipwide. The Board hired a certified arborist to look at the health of the trees. Mr. Yanan asked if there were infrastructure funding to cover the tree removal. He has forester from Met Ed coming in two weeks and asked where Met Ed stood with this.

Matt Ferdock of 32 Weaver Road stated that his property has sixty trees marked along the powerlines. He was quoted \$2,700 each for the removal of two trees. He asked where the money would come from to pay for the removal of the sixty trees the arborist marked. Mr. Ferdock felt that

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the ordinance changes the character of the township and is government overreach.

Fred Saracino of 220 Township Road stated that this ordinance changes liability and felt this destroyed the beauty of the Township. He questioned how the cost of the removal of the trees would be paid. Mr. Saracino stated when the electric company was cutting trees at the high-tension lines, they sent letters explaining what was marked and how they were cutting them down. He asked when the thirty days for removal given in the ordinance started. Mr. Membrino stated that the arborist is putting the trees on GPS and marking helps that process. Once the Township knows what needs to be done, letters will be sent.

Matt Spangenberg of 58 Township Road had over one hundred trees marked on his property. He asked where he was going to put one hundred trees. Mr. Spangenberg asked if this project is bigger than anticipated. It was not.

John Yanan asked if it was possible to do the work without marking the trees and what can be done about the healthy trees that are marked. The engineer will discuss the marking and an appeal process with the arborist.

Victor See of 130 Township Road suggested not paving Five Points Road. Township Road is a gravel road that in terrible shape too. He asked about repealing the ordinance. Mr. Membrino stated the Board would take it under advisement. Ms. Dexter stated that the ash trees are dangerous. Even cutting them down poses a danger as they can explode.

Caryl Pettijohn of 64 Hollyberry Road stated that the trees in the right of way are the Township's, and the Township is responsible for them. Mr. Masemore explained that the fifty-three foot right of way on Hollyberry Road was owned by the Township. Other properties have ownership to the centerline of the road and property owners should check their deeds.

Cliff Kerchner of 98 Hollyberry Road asked how the Board arrived at the current ordinance and it was taken from a sample ordinance. Mr. Membrino explained that the Township solicitor had created it.

ZONING OFFICER

Ms. Van Dyke reported that the Zoning Officer responded to one complaint.

SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

The Board reviewed a copy of the SEO report for February 2022.

BUILDING INSPECTOR

The Board reviewed a copy of the Building Inspector's report for February 2022.

SOLICITER

Act 537 Plan- Audubon Land Company – Solicitor Orlando reported that the Act 537 working group met and is making progress. Audubon Land Company will be providing a master plan for their property so the Township can quantify the sewer need. Mr. Membrino added that the Board had asked him to find out how many units would be age restricted. There are no age restricted units, but the developer will look at the concept. He will estimate the number of school age children the development could bring.

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Pine Tree Road Auction - Solicitor Orlando reported that the buyer does not have the title report yet for the land off Pine Tree Road. Closing will be coordinated and occur within a sixty-day period. It can be tied to a meeting to authorize someone to sign the deed.

SECRETARIES REPORT

Ms. Hollenbach reported that the office was preparing for the audit. The annual recycling report was completed. Ethics statements were distributed, and grant opportunities given to the Environmental Advisory Council. Ms. Masemore continues to work on the new website and updating the personnel rules and regulations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Essa Bank Account Signature Cards

Mr. Membrino made a motion and Ms. Dexter seconded to authorize the signing of the Essa Bank Account signature cards and resolutions. All were in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Road Work for 2022 - Chris Day provided the Board with a quote to double seal coat Old Mill Road and Greenhouse Lane for \$108,387.00. This would be in addition to the work on Five Points Road. The 2022 budget allowed for \$104,741 for the double seal coat.

Mr. Membrino made a motion and Mr. Masemore seconded approving Option A from the 2022 Budget which included a base course on Five Points Road and a double seal coat on Old Mill Road and Greenhouse Lane as the 2022 roadwork. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Planning Commission Pay – Mr. Masemore provided the Board with some history of Resolution 2002-05 that authorized payment to the Planning Commission when the state passed Act 2 of 2002 amending the Municipal Planning Code to allow Planning Commission compensation. At the time, the Planning Commission did not want to be paid. The Board of Supervisors decided to ask the Planning Commission again if they wanted to be compensated before repealing or modifying the resolution and asked the secretary to place this on the Planning Commission's next agenda. Ms. Van Dyke also asked if the secretary could put Planning Commission reorganization on that agenda as well.

Draft Memorandum of Understanding with Berks County Conservation District – There were no comments on the draft Memorandum.

Inactive Account Notices

Mr. Membrino made a motion and Ms. Dexter seconded to sign the inactive account notices for Suburban Investment Corp, Berks Properties, Molls Garage and Jack Romig to reactivate the accounts. All were in favor. Motion carried.

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

Avian Influenza Alert – Avian influenza was discovered in Delaware. Flocks should be kept away from other birds. Dedicated footwear should be worn when servicing the flock.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Yanan asked how to follow up on the concerns discussed this evening about the arborist's work. Mr. Membrino stated residents should come to meetings. The engineer would be present with an

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update at the April 5th meeting.

There being no further business, Mr. Membrino made a motion and Mr. Masemore seconded to adjourn at 8:23 PM. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Hollenbach, Secretary/Treasurer