

HEREFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

August 16, 2022

The regular meeting of the Hereford Township Board of Supervisors was held in person at the Municipal Building and via Zoom. Those present were Supervisors John Membrino, Keith Masemore, Secretary/Treasurer Diane Hollenbach, Hereford Fire Chief Josh Borowski, Hereford Assistant Chief Dean Marks, Hereford Fire Police Captain Harold P. Albitz, Matthew Lorish, Crystal Gilchrist, Cliff Kerchner, Tom O'Conner, Vic See, John Yanan, Duane Bortz, Fred Saracino, Bret Marks, Jeff Hoffman, Leigha Steinke, Blake Sicco, Tom Sparr, Dean Marks, Matt Spangenberg, Irene Donovan, David Dunne and Patricia Ihlenfeld attended on Zoom.

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

Minutes

Mr. Membrino made a motion and Mr. Masemore seconded approving the August 2, 2022, regular meeting minutes. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Payment of Bills and Approval of the Treasurer's Report

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

Personal Appearances

Crystal Gilchrist, AICP certified planner and Lower Frederick resident presented information to the Board about the Perkiomen Stormwater Initiative and requested the Board sign a letter of support urging the County Commissioners in Lehigh, Montgomery, Berks, and Bucks Counties to commit to a quasi-Act 167 Plan comprehensive stormwater analysis on the Perkiomen Creek that only addresses flooding issues and not pollution issues. The Board was concerned about the ramifications of the study and the impact it could have on the farmers and taxpayers like Act 167 had in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Ms. Gilchrist stated that during the study, municipalities would only need to provide information and data. After the study was completed, each municipality's recommended actions would be different as to what the property owners could do to minimize stormwater on their properties. There might be zoning ordinance and subdivision and land development updates needed. The Board took the information under advisement.

Fire Companies

- A. **Hereford Fire Company**- Chief Borowski reported fourteen calls received and responded to for the month. Budget requests were reviewed. Mr. Marks followed up again with Ryan McKenzie's office regarding Penn DOT removing the wrong dead tree in the right of way on Conrad Road. Penn DOT stated they will return and remove the correct tree. Mr. Marks also reported on a cardiac arrest incident and commended the ambulance crew and fire company crew for their work.
- B. **Seisholtzville Fire Company**- Chief Strickland was unable to attend. The Fire Company responded to twenty-three calls. They continue to do fundraisers and apply for small grants.
- C. **Hereford Fire Police** – Mr. Albitz reported the fire police will be at the Hereford Elementary School on August 24th and Wheels of Time Car Show August 26th to the 28th.

Appointment of Hereford Fire Police

A motion was made by Mr. Membrino and seconded by Mr. Masemore to appoint Kenneth Garlick as Hereford Fire Police. All were in favor. Motion carried.

D. **Seisholtzville Fire Police** – No report.

E. **Bally Ambulance** – There were no questions for the ambulance service. They submitted their

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financial report and budget request.

F. Emergency Management Coordinator

A motion was made by Mr. Membrino and seconded by Mr. Masemore to accept Ray Strickland's resignation as Hereford Township Emergency Management Coordinator. All were in favor. Motion carried. Mr. Membrino asked anyone interested in the position to contact the Board.

G. Recreation Committee – No report.

H. Environmental Advisory Council – Minutes were available to view.

I. State Police Report –The state police report was available to view.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Probationary Period

Mr. Membrino made a motion and Mr. Masemore seconded to end Diane Hollenbach's six-month probationary period. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Appointment of Township Elected Auditors

Mr. Membrino made a motion and Mr. Masemore seconded to appoint Harry Waterman as Township Auditor with a term expiring December 31, 2023. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Membrino made a motion and Mr. Masemore seconded to appoint Robert Morris as Township Auditor with a term expiring December 31, 2025. All were in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Yanan of Sigmund Road told the Board that the resident group met about a week ago and they would like to have a small committee meeting with the Planning Commission on how to mitigate the tree issue. Some ideas brought forth were a townshipwide tree cutting day, a quarterly budget for cutting the most dangerous trees first, giving the arborist a different scope of work to identify only the ash trees and just trimming the most dangerous limbs on Hollyberry instead of taking down whole trees. Mr. Yannan suggested that the dead trees could stand for another five to ten years. Mr. Membrino stated that the Planning Commission is the wrong board. Their function is to review and make recommendations on subdivision and land development plans.

Matt Spangenberg of Township Road stated that the group would like more feedback from the Supervisors and have things move quicker instead of waiting for each township meeting for answers. He also mentioned that he does not want to see trees stacked along the roads and in yards and suggested a pick-up of the wood by the road crew. Mr. Spangenberg asked if the Board had any suggestions. Mr. Masemore wanted Ms. Dexter's input and to see how the road crew handled the tree removal on Hollyberry Road. Mr. Spangenberg stated that there are residents because of age or financial circumstance who cannot take their trees down and they need help. He was also concerned that if the branches and leaves are left to lay, they will eventually wash away and clog stormwater facilities and cause flooding issues.

Fred Saracino of Township Road asked why Hollyberry Road is at the top of the list. Mr. Masemore explained that the township owns the right of way, and this is where the issue started. Mr. Saracino suggested the township purchase or rent a chipper and pick up the trunks. He did not understand why

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the fire company is taking care of the fallen trees. He wants them available for emergency calls.

Vic See of Township Road stated that people are willing to participate in tree cutting day, but the information needs to get to the residents. He also walked Township Road with a Met Ed foreman and showed him five dead ash trees in conflict with the electric lines. Met Ed is going to deal with the trees as they fall. Mr. See also asked about the township using Topton's bucket truck to cut trees.

The group asked about scheduling a special workshop for the tree issue since the Planning Commission was not the correct meeting to go to. Mr. Membrino state the Board already meets twice a month, and it was decided to put the issue on the September 20th agenda for discussion after the Board discusses options at the prior meeting.

Dean Marks suggested that anyone closing a road call the nonemergency numbers for the state police and Berks Radio when the road closes and when it reopens. The Board asked Ms. Hollenbach to put together an informational sheet for residents.

There being no further business, Mr. Membrino adjourned at 8:27 p.m. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted

Diane Hollenbach, Secretary/Treasurer