

Minutes of South Beaver Township Regular Meeting

April 12, 2023

The regular April meeting of the South Beaver Township Board of Supervisors held in the South Beaver Municipal Building located at 805 Blackhawk Road was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Chairman Thomas Miller. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Officials present: Thomas Miller, John Onuska, Jack Mintier, Ashley Carr, John Heyl, Joseph Budicak, Dan Petrich

Others present: Kevin Henderson, Andy Leech, Phyllis Faust, Alberta Sanders, Monica & Paul Begley, John Genzler, Neil Morrison, Irene Ridenour, Kelly Stanton, Christina Sicheloff, Rose Leslie.

Jack Mintier made a motion to approve the March meeting minutes. John Onuska seconded the motion. Motion carried.

John Onuska made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and pay the following bills: General Fund, Check No. #15751-#15794, Total \$57,987.32, Payroll Fund, Check No. #11623-#11653, Total \$34,075.12, State Fund, Check. #2137, Total \$2,301.12, Fire Tax, Check No. #171-172, Total \$1,563.80. Jack Mintier seconded the motion. Motion carried.

John Heyl gave the engineers report. It will be filed. John received some quotes on the generator installation and will have a report with recommendations for next meeting.

Dan Petrich gave the police report. It will be filed. The Police Tahoe has arrived and the department is still working on the radios and computers, once that is complete the impala will be taken out of service and handed over to the Township. Dan anticipates losing a full time patrolman for another job and asked the board to look for a replacement. There is a shortage of police officers and it is hard to compete with other municipalities. Dan said that we need to get creative and start thinking outside the box to attract and retain employees, such as modifying vacation, reimbursement for cadet's academy time, or a hiring bonus because he doesn't see it getting better any time soon.

Kevin Henderson gave the road report. Kevin reported the road department has been busy cleaning up after the storms. Kevin is looking into a Bronco blower to help with cleaning up roads. Kevin is in the process of receiving quotes, this blower would be able to be towed and one guy could use it. John Onuska made a motion to approve the purchase of a blower not to exceed \$12,000 from the State Fund. Thomas Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ashley Carr gave the fire report. It will be filed.

Thomas Miller, Jack Mintier, John Onuska, Joseph Budicak, Daniel Petrich, Kevin Henderson and Ashley Carr held an executive session on a personnel matter.

Kevin Henderson asked the board to hire James Rich as a full time road department employee with no CDL.

John Onuska made a motion to approve hiring James Rich at the non CDL Full Time rate of \$20.00 per/hour with a 90 day probationary period. Jack Mintier seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Neil Morrison was present asking if any soil testing had been done on the ballfields and park, he states that the night the train cars were ignited the plume went over his house which is near the park. John Onuska stated that the State and EMA assured us anyone outside of the designated area was not affected. Neil said there was evidence in the Brady's Run Watershed which he has the report for. The board asked Neil to email that document and they will look into testing at the park.

Christina Siceloff was present stating that she has health concerns since the train derailment and that her and other family members have been sick on and off. She said she has gone to meetings in East Palestine and Darlington and aren't getting any answers. She feels like nothing is being done through government agencies and representatives aren't calling her back. She is currently on waitlists to get her water checked and feels like she should have soil and water testing and shouldn't have to wait. John Onuska stated that the Township is directed from the state and has the same resources that were made available to everyone else. John asked what she is looking for from the board, as the state is the one with the resources and we have received no new information. Christina asked if she is able to get any air, water or soil testing. John asked Ashley Carr to contact Josh Kail's office and asked that they return phone calls to the residents contacting them with concerns. Joe Budicak told Christina that the Township can't do anything to help her recover from her injuries and if it were him he would look into a lawyer and that she may be able to get testing done through that method.

Irene Ridenour asked what the Township is doing about mileage from the county reassessment. Joe Budicak told her that in order for the Township to create an annual budget and determine its mileage it can't do that without a total assessment from the county. The Township will need the county to get their reviews done in time and provide a total assessment.

Kelly Stanton was present and asked who is taking care of South Beaver residents after the train derailment and stated she was diagnosed with chemical exposure and feels like no one will help them.

Rose Leslie was present and said she has been experiencing health issues since the derailment and provided photos to the board of her pool cover and testing from Campbell's lab from the water on her pool cover, which she believes was ash residue. She provided a copy of the Campbell's report to the board.

Alberta Sanders said that she attended some of the train derailment meetings and talked to the PA DEP and Norfolk Southern and asked a Norfolk Southern representative that if someone does private testing if they would pay for it. He didn't say yes, but he did say to keep all of your receipts so Alberta just wanted everyone to know if they are paying out of pocket for anything to keep their receipts and they may be able to be reimbursed.

John Onuska asked Joseph Budicak if the park should be shut down until the Township determines if there is any hazard with the soil. Joe said that the Township first needs to determine if it is justified to shut it down and suggests having it tested. John will reach out to Kevin Whipple at Beaver County to get it tested. Ashley Carr will reach out to Geopetro as they had offered to assist the township in anything the Township may have needed after the derailment, Ashley will ask if they will test the park soil.

John Onuska made a suggestion to update the burning ordinance to exclude burning of leaves and grass in the moderate density zoning district. Phyllis Faust asked what provisions residents in those areas would have to get rid of leaves. The board will explore their options, but unfortunately Echo Valley doesn't accept leave drop offs anymore. Joe will begin to update the burning ordinance with the zoning district restriction and also clean up the fines section and return it back to the board for review and comments.

Joseph Budicak stated that the Rustic Meadows Case Management Conference is scheduled for April 24th.

Jack Mintier made a motion to approve the Vojnovich Subdivision extension of time request. John Onuska seconded the motion. Motion carried.

John Onuska suggested getting a survey of the road department properties. After receiving the county

reassessment John and Kevin walked the property and there is a lot more property then they were aware of and it appears other neighbors are storing items on Township property. John Heyl stated that LSSE can provide a service order for consideration.

John Onuska made a motion to approve resolution 8 of 2023, a resolution for plan revision for new land development for the Gumpf Plan of Subdivision. Jack Mintier seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There has been some recent vandalism at the park and John suggested the Township look into cameras. Dan Petrich will look into camera options.

The PSATS NewsBulletin for April was distributed to the board.

Tom Miller adjourned the meeting at 8:54 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Carr