

Union Township Board of Supervisors  
Monthly Board Meeting  
August 12, 2013

The Board of Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Linda Evans-Boren at 7:10 p.m. The meeting was held at the Union Township Municipal Building, 3904 Finleyville-Elrama Road, Finleyville, PA. The pledge of allegiance was recited. Board Members in Attendance by roll call were Steve Parish, Larry Spahr, Linda Evans-Boren, Andrew Tullai and Brenda Cushey.

Also in attendance, Dennis Makel-Solicitor, Carl DeiCas, Township Engineer, Harold Ivery-Building Code Official, Peter Grieb-Code Enforcement Officer, Judy Taylor-Treasurer, Debra Nigon-Secretary.

Public Comment

None on Agenda Items.

Departmental Reports

A written report was provided by the Road Superintendent.

**Motion** to approve general fund bills in the sum of \$26,239.87, as presented by the Treasurer, subject to being true and correct.

Motion by Andrew Tullai, Second by Brenda Cushey

Roll call vote: Parish-yes but abstaining from anything dealing with the Finleyville Airport, Spahr-yes, Evans-Boren-yes, Tullai-yes, Cushey-yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Parish said that he did not receive materials from the meeting with Geokinetics and a packet. Mr. Makel will make sure that the Board receives a copy of the packet.

**Salt Shed Bids were Opened**

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>	<u>Bid Bond R'cd</u>
Swede Construction	\$77,743.00	yes
Miller Builders	\$78,780.00	yes
Log Cabin Fence	\$80,000.00	yes
Holbein Incorporated	\$104,603.00	yes
Lone Pine Construction	\$116,225.00	yes

**Motion** to approve the proposal of Swede Construction for the salt shed in the sum of \$77,743.00, conditioned upon approval by the Township Engineer.

Motion by Larry Spahr, Second by Brenda Cushey

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Evans-Boren-yes, Tullai-yes, Cushey-yes. Motion carried.

*Board Approved: August 26, 2013 with revisions as noted*

Mr. Spahr made note that what had been the amount saved over the years in the Capital Reserve Fund towards the purpose of a salt shed is pretty close to the price amount which was bid by the lowest bidder.

The garage addition specifications were discussed. The Township Engineer said that garage addition specifications will be ready to advertise by the end of next month.

Landscaping quotes were discussed. Four landscapers were contacted. Two contractors submitted quotes which were unopened. The two quotes were provided to the Supervisors. Bercik Landscaping submitted a quote of \$10,880 for the landscaping project. Richard Cox contracting submitted a quote \$7,810.00.

**Motion** to approve the quote provided by Rich Cox in the sum of \$7,810.00 for the municipal building landscaping project subject to review by the Township Engineer.

Motion by Brenda Cushey, Second by Andrew Tullai

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Evans-Boren-yes, Tullai-yes, Cushey-yes. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the prices of the coolers and fountains which had been supplied by the Road Superintendent.

**Motion** to approve the purchase of an ice machine for approximately \$1000 plus parts to install, and the purchase of two ADA compliant wall-mounted water fountains for approximately \$741.50 each for the Township Building and the garage and the installation of two in-line water filters with optional dispenser for filling water jugs.

Motion by Andrew Tullai, Second by Larry Spahr

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Evans-Boren-yes, Tullai-yes, Cushey-yes. Motion carried.

Emptying the police evidence room was discussed. Larry Spahr said that the last time he and Mr. Makel were at the District Attorney's office, they were told that the D.A.'s office would have to go through the list to see if anything needs to be retained. Since we have not heard from the D.A.'s office and no destruction order was issued, Mr. Makel will follow-up.

The Township Engineer discussed the letter received from Earthtech in regard to Courtney Hill Road. Mr. DeiCas has prepared a response but wants the Board to review the response letter before it is sent out.

The Township Engineer was asked his opinion in regard to the denial of our request to Bethel Park Municipal Authority to tap in the 20 or so homes in the area of 6637 Library Road where septic systems are failing. Mr. DeiCas said that, in light of their denial, we will need to sign off on the SRSTP (Small Residential Sewage Treatment Plant) Module. This will cost the homeowner approximately fifty thousand dollars. Mr. Makel will prepare a Maintenance Agreement. Later the Board will need to approve a revision of our Act 537 Plan.

Mr. Cook, attorney for Finleyville Airport, on removal of the trees in violation, updated the Board in regard to the Penn Dot inspection that was performed last week at the Airport. All the

obstructions on the Parish property have been removed. However, there are additional trees which are in violation on other properties. Mr. Cook asked the Board if they were thinking about dismissing the Parish case at this point. Mr. Makel made arrangements to discuss this with Mr. Cook this week. Mr. Spahr said that, if additional trees are to be cut and Airport Road is being used for hauling, the road will need to be bonded first. Mr. Makel will send a letter to Sherman Fitch tomorrow.

**Motion** to release the Spencer Subdivision escrow in the sum of \$200.89.

Motion by Steve Parish, Second by Brenda Cushey

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Evans-Boren-yes, Tullai-yes, Cushey-yes. Motion carried.

**Motion** to release the Buzinsky Subdivision escrow in the sum of \$138.83.

Motion by Brenda Cushey, Second by Steve Parish

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Evans-Boren-yes, Tullai-yes, Cushey-yes. Motion carried.

**Motion** to authorize a lien on 16 Stout Street in Elrama for the price of demolition, filing cost, and attorney fees.

Motion by Andrew Tullai, Second by Steve Parish

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Evans-Boren-yes, Tullai-yes, Cushey-yes. Motion carried.

### Public Comment

John Mulheren, 5211 Lew Street, addressed the Board in regard to his concerns of seismic testing being conducted on Lew Street. His concern is that there is a shallow mine beneath his home and mine subsidence could be possible. He read a letter that he had sent to the Board earlier in the week which addressed his concerns about mine subsidence and existing cracks in his foundation, a house at the end of Lew Street which had been sinking and had to be stabilized, a sinkhole which had once appeared in Brownsville Park, and a local contractor reporting that he broke through into a mine while digging a foundation. He listed other concerns about mine subsidence as well. He asked the Board whether they could prohibit the thumper trucks on Lew Street. The solicitor said that the Seismic Testing Ordinance, No. 2011-01, would enable the Township to disallow thumping in certain areas such as plans of homes. Mr. Makel said that Geokinetics has not yet sent in an application for seismic testing. The Township can approve or not approve that application or put constraints on where the company is allowed to test. Mr. Spahr mentioned a mine drainage issue which presented itself and had to be remedied in the vicinity of Brownsville Park from mine water flowing out and flooding some properties.

**Motion** to authorize the Engineer to review a map of the Township to determine the minimal impact on residents concerning seismic testing with the cost to be borne by Geokinetics provided that the application is approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Motion by Linda Evans-Boren, Second by Brenda Cushey

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Evans-Boren-yes, Tullai-yes, Cushey-yes. Motion carried.

Ms. Powell, 96 Gilmore Road, suggested that no thumping be allowed near the cemetery.

The Board recommended that residents schedule the free inspections if they have concerns.

Bill and Norma Busha, 6187 Brownsville Road, asked what could be done about the drainage issue on their property. They have been out of their home and have a disabled son. They were angry and of the understanding that the Township issued building permits which allowed the owner of the property on the hillside above them to level, in their estimation, 12 acres of trees. However, there is no Township permit for tree removal on private property. Mr. Busha said that, during the storms of July 10, 2013, the large amount of water flowing down the hill behind their home from the neighboring property caused his basement to collapse. The solicitor suggested that they retain a lawyer, perhaps on contingency, to seek damages from the owner of the property above their residence. The solicitor said that he would get back in touch with them by Friday.

Linda Nagy, 3476 Frye Avenue, wanted an update on the sink hole on her property. She lives on the corner of Frye Avenue and Isabella Street and the water is directed onto her property through a pipe, which deteriorated due to age, causing a sink hole. She was informed that, at its last meeting, the Board authorized, as a good neighbor, that pipe be provided to her to make the repair. The Township Engineer suspects that a former owner filled in a drainage ditch and had placed the pipe there to make the property more usable. Her son wanted to know why he couldn't resolve the problem by just capping off the pipe which would take him much less time and effort. The Township Engineer said that this would cause a problem. Per the solicitor's request, Ms. Nagy's son provided his name and number to the solicitor who will get back to him this week.

Hal Breining, 44 Finley Avenue, Boyka Plan, spoke regarding Tomko saying that the violations by Tomko have taken way too long to resolve. Mr. Breining also said that, at one time, when Union Township had its own police department, in 2003 and 2004, residents collected money towards the purchase of a police canine officer. Mr. Spahr said that there was approximately \$800 to \$900 collected towards purchasing a dog, but due to concerns with maintenance of the police dog, the purchase was never made. Mr. Breining said that this money should be returned. It was discussed that it was possible that the money was re-purposed during the period of time when the Township almost went bankrupt, prior to the disbandment of the local police force. The Treasurer said that she would look to see if she could find any records in the Minutes of the funds collected for the police dog.

The Chairperson announced a reminder for the Washington County Convention being held on August-September 19. If anyone is interested in attending they need to contact Judy Taylor.

*Board Approved: August 26, 2013 with revisions as noted*

**Motion** to adjourn at 9:12 p.m.

Motion by Brenda Cushey, Second by Larry Spahr

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Evans-Boren-yes, Tullai-yes, Cushey-yes. Motion carried.

  
Debra A. Nigon, Secretary