

Board Approved: September 28, 2015 with revision as noted.

Union Township Board of Supervisors
Regular Board Meeting
September 14, 2015

The Board of Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Larry Spahr at 7:05 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 Stephen Parish, Larry Spahr, Charles Trax, and Paul Chasko. Edward Frye did not attend. Also in attendance, Dennis Makel–Solicitor, Judy Taylor–Treasurer, Debra Nigon–Secretary, Harold Ivery–Building Code Official, and Peter Grieb–Code Enforcement Officer. Carl DeiCas—Township Engineer, did not attend.

Public Comment

Victor Cilia, 2555 Route 88, commented that speeding on Route 88 was “out of control” and referenced a recent accident that occurred. Mr. Spahr said that Chief Hartman is interested in running another set of speeding patrols if the Board is in agreement, but that a recent speeding patrol was done on Route 88 which resulted in many traffic stops and citations.

Pete Guido, Tuscany Estates, asked for use of the Board conference room during their Home Owner’s Association meetings which are being held at the Township. Due to the storage of potentially sensitive information in that room, this request was denied. Mr. Guido also said that he had inquired about the judgment against Quaker Engineering and was informed that there were no judgments. Mr. Ivery confirmed that this would be correct since the magistrate continued the matter. The case was not withdrawn and, after tomorrow, September 15, the Township can cite the developer accordingly in regard to the work he agreed would be done. Mr. Guido commented that the developer has started work on the club house but that this work was not part of the complaint.

George Powell, 4289 Finleyville-Elrama Road, requested that the speed limit be reduced on Finleyville-Elrama Road temporarily while Route 88 is closed. Finleyville-Elrama to Route 837 has been designated as the detour route. Both are state roads and not under the purview of the Township; however, he requested that the Board ask Penn Dot to lower the speed limit on Finleyville-Elrama and/or install a light at the intersection of Finleyville-Elrama and Route 837. He expressed concern for drivers pulling out on Maple Street and other roadways. Mr. Parish explained that he has already spoken with Penn Dot about the closing of Route 88 and the routing of traffic and PennDot was not receptive to his suggestions.

Departmental Reports

Officer Loughner read the statistics on police activity for the month of August. There was a discussion of break-ins and whether they have been occurring more frequently recently. Officer Loughner could only recall one recent theft from the police reports which he receives from those on duty in the Township. However, over their history here in Union Township and elsewhere other individuals have had items stolen from unlocked cars and homes. There was a reminder for residents to lock vehicles and doors as some perpetrators do target unlocked

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property. Officer Loughner also mentioned the SWRPD Bicycle Helmet program, saying that, should the Township desire to participate in having helmets distributed to Township children, some helmets are still available.

The Road Superintendent, Tom Mellor, gave the road report. Work included cutting limbs overhanging the road, work on McClelland Road, work on the Patterson Road / Snee project, some sewage issues, and additional work which is included in his written report. He also said that a gear box had gone bad on the mower which was re-built in house. There have also been breakdowns on other equipment. The flail was discovered to have been installed backwards which is assumed to have contributed to recent issues with the flail kicking up rocks. He also noted that duct work was made and installed to correct the air conditioning issue in the garage addition. He noted that Delattre also switched out the float switch in the furnace. Mr. Mellor attended an MS4 meeting at the offices of KLH Engineers and spoke with a contact there who informed him that they could come out and assist with signage and sewers, and may be able to help us with a GIS system or the purchase of the appropriate hand-held GPS which would be necessary to mark sewage and sign locations in the Township. Mr. Mellor also reported that there has been damage to the garage door in the addition. Mr. Mellor received an estimate of \$2300 for repair. Since he believes that is high, he will have them quote the whole door to see if that is any less expensive. Mr. Mellor also said that new chainsaws and a pole saw are needed due to the fact that the crew spends more time trying to start them than cutting trees. Mr. Trax commented that he had opportunity to use this equipment and agreed it was in poor shape. The quote is attached to the Road Superintendent's report. Also new tires are needed for an estimated cost of \$4500 to \$5000 for three of the trucks. The paving contractor has notified Mr. Mellor that he will start the keyways tomorrow.

Motion to authorize purchase of chain saws and tires per the supplied estimates in the amount of approximately \$7300.00.

Motion by Charles Trax, Second by Steve Parish

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Frye-absent. Motion carried.

Motion to approve general fund bills in the sum of \$93,086.41 as prepared by the Treasurer, subject to being true and correct.

Motion by Paul Chasko, Second by Charles Trax

Roll call vote: Parish-yes-abstaining from anything for Finleyville Airport, Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Frye-absent. Motion carried.

The Board discussed the amendment to the "Big Box" Ordinance. It was explained that, since the amendment involves a change to the Zoning Ordinance, it has to be submitted to both the Washington County Planning Commission and the local Planning Commission.

Motion to submit the amendment to the Big Box Ordinance Washington County Planning Commission and the local planning commission for review.

Motion by Steve Parish, Second by Paul Chasko

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Frye-absent. Motion carried.

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The Overlook Sewage issue was discussed. The Township of South Park desires that Union Township pay back costs for the residents who were illegally tapped in which is an item of discussion as to what is appropriate. The sewerage cost for residents of the Overlook Street and Library Hill area of Route 88 have been estimated to be \$105 to \$110 per month by the Township engineer. This is high, and additional grant funding will be needed. It was noted that in past meetings, the Township engineer expressed confidence that the Local Share Committee would approve an award for the sewerage project.

It was discussed that obtaining a grant for the Union Valley flooding project is still a priority of the Board. However, the Township has not been successful in past years in obtaining a grant from the Local Share Committee for that project. Mr. Parish suggested that the engineer submit two grant applications to Local Share, one for each project. There is an October 1st deadline to submit for these projects.

Motion to approve Resolution 2015-07 approving an application to the LSA for grant funds for Overlook Street Area sewerage project.

Motion by Steve Parish, Second by Paul Chasko

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Frye-absent. Motion carried.

Motion to approve Resolution 2015-08 approving an application to the LSA for grant funds for the Union Valley flooding project.

Motion by Steve Parish, Second by Paul Chasko

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Frye-absent. Motion carried.

In regard to Finleyville Airport, Mr. Chasko said that the project had been divided into two RFP's: one RFP for Section A (Taylor/Coslow) and another RFP for Sections BCD&F. Mr. Chasko explained that the remaining work is being broken down into two RFP's, because Section A involves the portion of ground in the backyards of owners Taylor and Coslow which requires the contractor having the machinery needed to remove 8 foot high brush, to grind 65 stumps, and to till, treat and prepare the ground in that area for seeding; whereas, this equipment is not needed in Sections BCD&F. A quote was solicited for Sections BCD&F first and was due into the Township this past Friday. The secretary contacted four contractors by mail and Mr. Chasko contacted multiple others by phone. Of the contractors contacted for a quote, two contractors responded: Neighborhood Tree Service in the sum of \$14,890.00, and Arbor Tree Service in the sum of \$13,900.00. The solicitor has not yet contacted Sidelines Tree Services for their signature on the final payment agreement which he prepared to close out that contract with a final payment of \$4,550.00, a reduced amount agreed to by the Board. He will contact them this week.

The quotes for the RFP on Section A are due to the Township in two to three weeks. There will be a contract signing sometime this week for Section BCD&F. Mr. Makel said that he would like the project to be on hold for now so that he can review the legal issues surrounding the two RFP's or put on hold until the other quotes come in for the other RFP to allow for a review of the code.

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Motion to table award of the Finleyville Airport RFQ Sections BCD&F pending solicitor review.
Motion by Charles Trax, Second by Paul Chasko
Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Frye-absent. Motion carried.

WESA delinquent collection was discussed. Mr. Makel asked about fees and bonds. Ms. Taylor informed him that she and a representative(s) from WESA discussed bonds and settled on about \$75,000 for the bond. Currently the Authority has not bonded the employees. WESA has no issue with getting bonded; however, they do not have the bond in place yet. Collections won't begin until January 1, 2015, so there is time for the bond to be obtained. Ms. Taylor said that it was estimated that for the whole year WESA would collect \$160,000 to \$180,000 in Elrama billing fees. The law says they need to be bonded for as much Township funds as they may have at any one time, which is the basis for the \$75,000 bond determination. Mr. Makel said that he has seen fraud audits costing \$30,000 to \$50,000 dollars. A fraud audit that he has experience with has been going on for two years. Also, he said he has known of on-going theft by an employee that spanned 9 years before it was detected. In light of these instances, he suggested an increase in the bond amount to \$100,000.

Ms. Taylor also suggested an audit of Jordan Tax Service when the Township is through with their contract.

Motion to approve a bond in the sum of \$100,000 for any person(s) who handles money in terms of receipts or performs financial transactions for Union Township in connection with the WESA Union Township collection agreement and that any provisions of any agreement / dishonesty insurance provisions would name the Township as an additional insured.
Motion by Paul Chasko, Second by Charles Trax
Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Frye-absent. Motion carried.

The attorney fees for the proposed WESA delinquent collection agreement were discussed. Ms. Taylor said that it was explained to her that the billing employee does the majority of the work items listed on the Attorney Fees Resolution and sends the delinquent notices to the customers. The attorney only handles liens. Nonetheless, it was agreed that the fees are similar to those in the Jordan Tax Service Agreement. The delinquent collection agreement was tabled for further discussion and clarification of the attorney fees.

Steve Parish mentioned a dead deer on a State Road which has yet to be removed. Officer Loughner informed him PennDot has been notified by him personally many days ago but they have not yet acted on the request.

Motion to schedule Budget Workshops for Tuesday October 6 at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 20, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. and Tuesday November 17, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.
Motion by Paul Chasko, Second by Charles Trax
Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Frye-absent. Motion carried.

The worker's compensation renewal was reviewed. Since there were no claims, the renewal shows little deviation from the amount charged last year.

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Motion to approve the Municipal Risk Management (MRM) Trust Worker's Compensation Renewal Agreement in the sum of \$14,452.00.

Motion by Steve Parish, Second by Paul Chasko

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Frye-absent. Motion carried.

The deadline for a final list of individuals attending the County Convention is September 15 which is tomorrow. All interested were informed to make the staff aware if they were going to attend.

Motion to reimburse Pamela and William Oravec, 53 Hobbit Lane, for overpayment of real estate tax for years 2009 through 2015 due to the clerical error of the assessment office [in the sum of \\$374.01.](#)

Motion by Steve Parish, Second by Charles Trax

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Frye-absent. Motion carried.

Heather Daer, 6187 Route 88, inquired about whether the DEP made Union Township beholden to resolve the flooding issue in Union Valley as part of a flood mitigation program. Also, Ms. Daer asked whether any other municipalities are contributing to the flooding, whether the Township engineer has been involved in pursuing solutions and participating in joint meetings with other municipalities who are working on flooding issues, whether the flooding in Union Valley is occurring as a result of old construction models in Union Township, and whether retention/detention ponds could play a role in a solution or alleviation of the flooding problem. Mr. Spahr said Mr. DeiCas attended an inspection of the Union Valley area by the Army Corps of Engineers several years ago at which time a plan for resolving the problems was determined. The engineer was not present at the meeting to address some of these questions.

Mr. Spahr said that it was found that the three primary factors determining the growth and development in a municipality are: modern infrastructure ([road system](#)), schools and first responders.

There was an announcement regarding Free Flu Shot Clinics being conducted by Jefferson Hills Ambulance. These clinics will be held:

- **October 3, Saturday** – 11:00 am to 1:00 pm West Elizabeth
West Elizabeth Borough Building
- **October 8, Thursday** – 9:00 am to 12 pm
Representative Saccone's Office, 1002 Old Hickory Lane, Jefferson Hills
- **October 9, Friday** – 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm
St. Francis Church, Finley Hall – Rt. 88 – Finleyville
- **October 10, Saturday** – 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
Forward Township Fire Hall
- **October 17, Saturday** - 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
Jefferson Hills Municipal Center, 925 Old Clairton Rd., Jefferson Hills

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- **November 4, Wednesday** – 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
St. Francis Church, Finley Hall – Rt. 88 - Finleyville

There was no Executive Session.

Motion to adjourn at 8:46 p.m.

Motion by Paul Chasko, Second by Charles Trax

Roll call vote: Parish=yes, Spahr=yes, Trax=yes, Chasko=yes, Frye-absent. Motion carried.

Debra A. Nigon, Secretary