

Union Township Board of Supervisors
Regular Board Meeting
January 25, 2016

The Board of Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Larry Spahr at 7:15 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 Larry Spahr, Charles Trax, Paul Chasko, Heather Daerr, and Deborah Sargent.

Also in attendance, Chris Furman–Solicitor, Mr. Carl DeiCas–Township Engineer, Judy Taylor–Treasurer, Debra Nigon–Secretary, Harold Ivery–Building Code Official, and Peter Grieb–Code Enforcement Officer.

Public Comment

Mr. Guido, 125 Viareggio Way, asked if the developer had provided a construction schedule. Mr. Furman informed him that no schedule has been received, but that litigation is taking place in Common Pleas Court and the developer's pretrial statement is now due. There was discussion involving the permits issued and phase approvals received by the developer.

Departmental Reports

The Recreation Board gave its report. Mr. Jason Jaki commented on the widening of the access road into Brownsville Park which had been discussed at prior meeting. He has not yet received and would like a drawing showing placement of the road to see if there is any infringement. Mr. Mellor said that he had placed a PA One Call to locate the lines which were marked. The gas company has since called him requesting a drawing. It appears that the road could be widened about 3 feet and possibly some more in the other direction. Mr. DeiCas will prepare the drawing from a Google Earth printout that he will mark.

Municipal Consulting asked for questions on their written report which had been provided to the Board. They reported that they have been busy with permits involving Sunoco, EQT, Rice Energy, and so forth. They will be moving forward on the list of items on Stonechurch Road involving the mobile home park. They reported that the jeep was moved and will meet with Mrs. Tortorice, the owner, this week. Also they intend on consulting with a Southwest Regional officer about getting the cars removed. Some of these vehicles are abandoned and he may not be able to tag them on private property.

In terms of the Union Valley Flooding project, Mr. DeiCas said that the DEP wants us to do a GP-11 General Permit which requires hydrology studies to be turned in for the bridges. He said that Mr. Ferraro did a hydrology study which should be in the office. He would like to obtain a copy of these studies since much of the base work is done. No written report was provided as he was stranded out of town due to the snow storm this weekend. He will try to replace both of the bridges with the Local Share funding available.

Mr. Furman gave the Solicitor's report and provided an update on the removal of vacant trailers on Stonechurch Road. He has reviewed Act 3 in regard to the Elrama chrome shop property in terms of liability coverage for the Township and found that there would be some protection there but that nothing about municipalities is mentioned specifically.

Motion to approve the Minutes of the November 23, 2015, Regular Board Meeting, as presented by the Secretary, subject to being true and correct.

Motion by Heather Daer, Second by Deborah Sargent

Roll call vote: Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Daerr-yes, Sargent-yes

Motion to approve the Minutes of the December 14, 2015, Regular Board Meeting as presented by the Secretary, subject to being true and correct.

Motion by Heather Daer, Second by Paul Chasko

Roll call vote: Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Daerr-yes, Sargent-yes

Motion to approve the Minutes of the January 4, 2015, Regular Board Meeting as presented by the Secretary, subject to being true and correct.

Motion by Heather Daer, Second by Deborah Sargent

Roll call vote: Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Daerr-yes, Sargent-yes

Motion to approve the Minutes of the January 11, 2015, Regular Board Meeting as presented by the Secretary, subject to being true and correct.

Motion by Heather Daer, Second by Paul Chasko

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

Motion to approve Payroll #25 dated December 4, 2015, in the sum of \$11,468.19 as presented by the Treasurer, subject to being true and correct.

Motion by Paul Chasko, Second by Charles Trax

Roll call vote: Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Daerr-yes, Sargent-yes

Motion to approve Payroll #26 dated December 18, 2015, in the sum of \$9,633.81 as presented by the Treasurer, subject to being true and correct.

Motion by Deborah Sargent, Second by Heather Daer

Roll call vote: Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Daerr-yes, Sargent-yes

Motion to approve Payroll #27 dated December 29, 2015, in the sum of \$9,748.96 as presented by the Treasurer, subject to being true and correct.

Motion by Paul Chasko, Second by Heather Daer

Roll call vote: Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Daerr-yes, Sargent-yes

Motion to approve Payroll #01 dated January 14, 2016, in the sum of \$9,619.59 as presented by the Treasurer, subject to being true and correct.

Motion by Heather Daer, Second by Paul Chasko

Roll call vote: Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Daerr-yes, Sargent-yes

Motion to approve general fund bills in the sum of \$24,060.37, as of January 25, 2016 as presented by the Treasurer, subject to being true and correct.

Motion by Charles Trax, Second by Deborah Sargent

Roll call vote: Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Daerr-yes, Sargent-yes

It was noted that the general fund bills total includes payment for a road salt purchase which explains why the bills are higher than usual this month. Mr. Chasko asked about the fine money reflected in the bills. The Treasurer informed him that SWRPD keeps the fines but that they are first sent to the Township and paid out to SWRPD.

Under old business, Ms. Taylor mentioned that she will be meeting with one of the banks this week and she will get back to the Board with the information regarding fees for transactions and other information obtained.

Mr. Chasko informed the Board that as early as tomorrow, the gentleman from Sideline Tree Service will come to the Township with a signed the agreement accepting the release prepared by Makel & Associates for payment for the work done minus the \$2000 for unfinished work. This should close out this matter.

Mr. DeiCas spoke to the DEP regarding the Union Valley Project. The project will require a general permit as stated during engineer's report. There had been questions as to whether the Township received the right amount from Local Share as only \$150,000 was approved and \$250,000 was requested.

In terms of the Overlook Area Sewerage Project, the EDU count is 23 EDUs and 2 vacant lots.

Regarding the agenda item involving the open road crew position, Mr. Mellor could not, due to recent required snow removal, get through the list to determine the short list of candidates. He will have that list soon.

The easement agreement prepared for 19 Patterson Road was held in abeyance to allow another review by Chris Furman.

In terms of the request by the American Legion that the Township pay the electricity charges for the honor roll, Mr. Chasko informed the Board that the American Legion's electrical cost for the honor roll is estimated to be \$350 annually. Prior to this request, the Township donated \$100 towards each of three honor rolls in Union Township, the others being the one in Elrama and the one in Courtney.

Motion to reimburse the American Legion for the full cost of electric at Gastonville Memorial honor roll in Finleyville.

Motion by Charles Trax, Second by Paul Chasko

Roll call vote: Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Daerr-yes, Sargent-yes

Mr. Spahr noted that the intent is to provide the same benefit of paying the full electric cost to the Elrama honor roll and Courtney Honor Roll. The honor roll caretakers will need to provide

a copy of their electric bills as the intent is to provide the same benefit of paying the full electric cost to the Elrama honor roll and Courtney Honor Roll.

Motion to reimburse the two other honor rolls for their entire electrical billing with proof of billing.

Motion by Paul Chasko, Second by Charles Trax

Roll call vote: Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Daerr-yes, Sargent-yes

A quote for an audit of Jordan Tax Service has not yet been received from Cypher and Cypher.

Regarding the transfer of billing for Elrama sewerage to WESA, Mr. Furman informed the Board that WESA should be signing the WESA Collection Agreement tonight. Ms. Taylor added that customers have now received their first bill. There were no glitches or problems and checks have already been received by WESA.

Regarding the agenda item on Open Items, Mr. Chasko informed the Board that he has been working on a list of projects which began in an attempt to bring the new Board member up to date on the status of all open issues. He has been adding actions under each item to track progress on each project. He will go over the list one last time with Ms. Taylor before distribution.

Only one Letter of Interest was received for Vacancy Board Chairman.

Motion to appoint Frank LaTorre for Vacancy Board Chair in 2016.

Motion by Deborah Sargent, Second by Heather Daerr

Roll call vote: Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Daerr-yes, Sargent-yes

Ms. Sargent inquired why, per the Minutes, an advertisement for solicitors was approved but has not yet been published. The Secretary informed the Board that she was unclear how the Board wanted to proceed with advertising and the specifics as to where to advertise and how long and whether an RFP would be prepared. When questioned as to why she didn't ask, she said that she was unsure whether she could ask any Supervisor, or just the Chairman and what would be considered sufficient in this case.

Motion to advertise in the Observer-Reporter asking interested parties with experience in municipal law to submit a proposal for solicitorship of Union Township.

Motion by Paul Chasko, Second by Deborah Sargent

Roll call vote: Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Daerr-yes, Sargent-yes

Mr. Spahr informed the other Supervisors that any member of the Board can place an item on the meeting agenda. In regard to the two monthly meetings currently scheduled by the Board, an option was discussed of treating the first meeting of the month as a work session referred to as an agenda meeting which would allow the Supervisors discussion and time to determine what subjects require being put on the agenda for action at the second monthly meeting. No decision was made in regard to the two monthly meetings. It was explained that Informational Meetings allowed the Board to get together in preparation for a decision.

Ms. Sargent inquired, based on the information received in the last Informational Meeting with professional services, whether the Board wanted to consider adding code enforcement services and whether Municipal Consulting Services was able to provide those services. Heather Daer questioned whether it would be worth hiring someone part-time with no benefits, perhaps a police officer or someone familiar with PA Code law, to do additional code enforcement. Municipal Consulting Services suggested going over the items open list first and then making the determination whether more time is needed.

Mr. Snee, 93 Courtney Hill Road, spoke out from the audience in regard to hiring a Township Manager. Mr. Spahr explained that, for a Second Class Township, that this would be an expensive proposition since there are costs of about \$75,000 plus an automobile and other monetary considerations.

The road superintendent provided the Board with a quote for installation of extra springs on the two new trucks being customized. Mr. Mellor noted that the other trucks had helper springs installed to help carry the weight of the extra equipment.

Motion to approve the quote, Estimate #1669, from Ray's Springs for helper springs for trucks 3 and 4 and the new truck if needed for the approximate cost of \$1900.

Motion by Charles Trax, Second by Heather Daer

Roll call vote: Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Daerr-yes, Sargent-yes

Motion to approve audit for Cypher and Cypher for years 2015 in the sum of \$7,400, 2016 in the sum of \$7,625, and 2017 in the sum of \$7,860, with reconciliation of the township tax collector at \$1000 plus out of pocket costs and all other terms in their engagement letter as stated.

Motion by Heather Daer, Second by Paul Chasko

Roll call vote: Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Daerr-yes, Sargent-yes

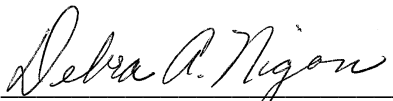
There was no Executive Session.

Mr. Spahr mentioned that Rick Saccone recently visited the Township and spent time riding along with Scott Kirchner during his shift. Mr. Saccone informed Mr. Spahr that he takes a tour every once in a while with a police department in his district. In his note to Mr. Spahr, Mr. Saccone acknowledged the efficiency and sincerity of Scott Kirchner.

Motion to adjourn at 8:52 p.m.

Motion by Charles Trax, Second by Heather Daer

Roll call vote: Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Daerr-yes, Sargent-yes


Debra A. Nigon, Secretary