

CLINTON TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS MEETING

MINUTES

August 15, 2017

CALL TO ORDER at 7:00 PM: Kathy Allen, Ed Boyd, Jim Halstead. Others present included Tom Hartwig (Engineer), Mark Duster, John Rhyshek, Terry McCorkle, Chuck McCorkle, Sharon Stephens, Roy Stang, Deanna Stang, and John Shaw.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: There were no public comments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Kathy Allen announced that the hearing for the Comprehensive Plan Update will take place on November 6th at 7:00 PM at the Township building. Mr. Hartwig, Township Engineer, commented that he has mailed out a copy of the final Comprehensive Plan Update Document to contiguous municipalities, the School District, and the County Planning Commission seeking comments on or before the October 2, 2017 Planning Commission Meeting. An electronic version of the final plan will be sent to the Township Secretary for posting on the Township website. Final copies will be provided to the Township for public viewing at the Township Building.

Kathy Allen made the following prepared statement on behalf of the Board of Supervisors: “The township supervisors have been working in a determined and decisive manner with Mike Gallagher, township solicitor, about an incident with a road crew employee. We have dealt with this matter in an assertive manner. We have started the process of the updating the Clinton Township Employee Handbook to prevent future incidents like this from occurring by providing clear and direct written policies and procedures.”

Jim Halstead made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2017 Supervisors Meeting as corrected. Ed Boyd seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed. The corrections were brought to the attention of the Board by John Rhyshek who stated that he did not complain about Jake brakes in the Township. It was John Shaw who commented on this matter. Also, there was a typo under the Administration section where the word “raid” was used instead of “raise” and under the public comments section where “Chuck” was spelled “Cuck.”

Engineer Tom Hartwig presented the treasurer's report as follows:

July 2017 Treasurer’s Report

PLGIT General Fund:

Beginning Balance \$321,895.85
Ending Balance \$330,072.94

PLGIT Valley Park Capital Reserve Fund:

Beginning Balance \$38,959.87
Ending Balance \$38,995.43

PLGIT Special Fund:

Beginning Balance \$317,450.83
Ending Balance \$317,741.22

PLGIT Liquid Fuels Fund:

Beginning Balance \$182,332.06
Ending Balance \$182,492.74

Northwest General Fund:

Beginning Balance \$491,225.83
Ending Balance \$455,481.89

Northwest Payroll Fund:

Beginning Balance \$352.74
Ending Balance \$634.76

Northwest Park Account:

Beginning Balance \$140.10
Ending Balance \$140.10

Northwest Act 13 Account:

Beginning Balance \$21,076.28
Ending Balance \$180,477.19

Total Ending Balance: \$1,506,036.00

Ed made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Jim seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Jim made a motion to pay all bills and payroll. Ed seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Planning Commission:

A motion was made by Ed Boyd and seconded by Jim Halstead to approve the Stephens Subdivision as recommended by the Planning Commission. All voted in favor and the motion carried. A motion was made by Ed Boyd and seconded by Jim Halstead to send the matter of allowing McCorkle Enterprises Landscape & Design to continue to operate at 181 Knoch Road with the following Conditions, as recommended by the Planning Commission, back to the Planning Commission for additional consideration and deliberation in view of Mrs. McCorkle's statement and belief that their business does not fit the description of an in-home business per the Township Ordinance. All voted in favor after much deliberation and discussion and the motion carried. The Conditions are as follows:

1. Hours of Operation 7AM to 5PM
2. No external lighting
3. No storage of fertilizer or hazardous materials
4. Equipment stored inside
5. Construction of separate driveway

The discussion that occurred on the matter of McCorkle Enterprises Landscape & Design focused on Mrs. McCorkle's reference to their business situation and Section 322 of the Zoning Ordinance pertaining to home occupations. Considerable discussion occurred on the matter of the Planning Commission recommending that a separate driveway be installed. This was questioned by Mr. Rhyshek due to the fact that neighbors to the north of the McCorkles have a shared driveway also. Supervisors Allen, Boyd, and Halstead all indicated why shared driveways were not a good idea and Engineer Hartwig provided opinion on the derivation of shared driveways and how now Townships are not approving subdivisions with shared driveways for the reasons evident in the McCorkle's situation. Mr. McCorkle stated that the shared driveway is on property owned by his neighbor but he has been using the shared driveway since 1984. Mr. McCorkle apologized for this matter coming before the Supervisors as it is a matter to be resolved between himself and his neighbor. However, he stated that he did not involve the Supervisors on this matter but instead his neighbor did.

Mr. Halstead indicated that the Planning Commission was unanimous in their recommendation to the Supervisors on the matter of McCorkle Enterprises Landscape & Design and the conditions listed for approval, but due to questions concerning the Township Zoning Ordinance and the need for clarification on that matter, it would be best if it went back to the Planning Commission for additional discussion. Supervisors Allen and Boyd agreed.

Road Department:

Jim submitted a road report for July 19 – August 15. Ed made a motion to accept the road report. Jim seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Additional Public Comments:

Mark Duster questioned the work being done on Jack Road and when the contractor will seal the road and fill in around various box culverts. Jim Halstead commented that work on Jack Road should be done within a month.

Deanna Stang and Roy Stang complimented the Road Department for their work on Miller Road.

John Shaw expressed concerns about the PennDOT work on Cox's Corner and left a written summary of his concerns with the Board of Supervisors to consider. The concerns included the cost of the Township's future maintenance responsibilities, paying for electricity and water, and cutting the grass. All three Supervisors indicated they have been and will continue to be in touch with PennDOT on these matters as well as projected project completion dates and intended to include a line item in the 2018 budget for these items.

John Shaw also indicated that the Penn Energy signs need put back up on Spring Valley Road.

John Shaw opined that the Township should not waste time and money painting centerlines on the roads within the Township. The lines do not last through the winter months. Mr. Halstead indicated that lines will be painted earlier this year leading to better paint curing and hopefully a longer life expectancy.

John Shaw questioned if the Township has a code of ethics. Supervisor Allen responded that it did. Mr. Shaw suggested that the Township's application for employment require drug and alcohol testing, etc.

John Shaw also requested a 25 MPH speed limit be established on Spring Valley Road. Considerable discussion on this topic occurred with Supervisors Allen and Halstead indicating that an ordinance would need adopted and Engineer Hartwig stating that a traffic study would need completed looking at trip data, site distances, and house spacing. Supervisor Boyd opined that the problem is not speed limit reduction but instead police enforcement of current speed limits. Also, gas well and pipeline activity within the Township has increased traffic and vehicular speeding. Mr. Boyd stated that in the past the State Police have been accommodating when a regular patrol or speed monitoring operation was requested of them on a Township Road. Mr. Halstead concurred.

Deanna Stang questioned if the Township was still considering using the Saxonburg Police for enforcement within the Township. Supervisor Allen indicated that was still an option being considered by the Township but 911 call records requested by the Township from the Pa. State Police revealed Clinton Township to be low in crimes with the majority of the calls focused on speeding and accidents.

John Rhyshek commented on the Cox's Corner work being done by PennDOT and that he has witnessed large rock being put back in "fill" areas along with dirt. He opined that large rock cannot be compacted in those areas and the presence of the rock in the subsurface of fill areas will lead to drainage issues in the future.

Ed Boyd made a motion to adjourn. Jim Halstead seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Adjourn at 8:09 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah K. Altomari, Secretary