

COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL CENTER

5520 Municipal Drive , Tobyhanna, PA 18466
(570) 894-8490 • FAX (570) 894-8413

COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORK SESSION NOTES May 3, 2016

The work session was called to order by Chairman William Weimer at 6:00 pm in the meeting room of the Coolbaugh Township Municipal Office, 5520 Municipal Drive, Tobyhanna, PA.

Board Members present:

William Weimer, Juan Adams, Lynn Kelly, Anthony Lamantia and Alma I. Ruiz-Smith

Board Members absent:

None

Staff present:

Jerry Hanna, Solicitor, Erin Masker, Recording Secretary and Maureen Mills, Controller

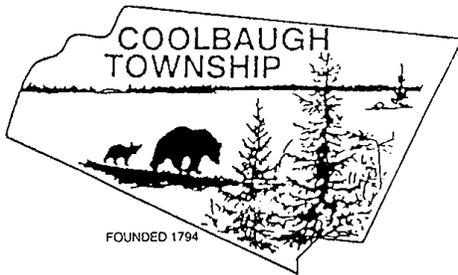
Staff absent:

None

Mr. Weimer announced that this work session is being recorded to aid in the preparation of the notes.

1. Discussion Re: Burn Ordinance, Fire Lanes and Authorization for Enforcement of Violations

Mr. Weimer stated that the burn ordinance is old and needs to be revamped. This concern was brought to his attention when there was recently an issue of illegal burning during a burn ban in the Township and there were no police and fire personnel dispatched to the call. A resident of the Township took to social media complaining about the situation which she stated she spent ninety minutes trying to get someone dispatched to the scene through the county 911 service. Mr. Weimer stated that he believes that if there is an issue with time and other issues taking precedence when it comes to law enforcement he understands that, but that it may be beneficial to the Township to authorize Code Enforcement Officers, Zoning Officers and Fire Chief to be authorized to cite for violations. Ms. Ruiz-Smith stated that considering their response with regard to the railroad arms in Pocono Summit, we need to turn the tables on the regional police. D. Pope stated that he will take this concern back to the Pocono Mountain Regional Police Commission meeting to try to find out where the issue came in. M. Fairservice stated that DPW is responsible for the burn ban signs being put up and taken down within an allotted timeframe, and if revisiting the burn ordinance there should be a time frame associated with it so that it is not up one day and down the next. It will become too confusing to the residents. M. Fairservice stated that she found out about the burning ban on Facebook. M. Fairservice also stated her concern with the fact that we are paying for police service through PMRPC and by authorizing others to cite for violations, we are taking away responsibilities from the regional police which we are paying them to take care of. Therefore we will continue to pay them the same amount while they are essentially doing less work. Ms. Kelly stated that the Monroe County Waste Authority issues citations which move forward, and believes that we need to strengthen our process for citing so that it is a done deal without having to go to court for every case. Mr. Adams asked where the money for citations goes, and was advised by Mr. Weimer into the general fund. Mr. Adams also expressed his concern for the safety of Township employees when dealing with these situations as you are never sure what you will encounter. H. Smith asked if Codes Enforcement officers are under the same legal standards as far as not being able to go off the road, being advised by Ms. Kelly that they have the legal right to walk up to



COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL CENTER

5520 Municipal Drive , Tobyhanna, PA 18466
(570) 894-8490 • FAX (570) 894-8413

the door of the residence as a legal Township Agent conducting business on behalf of the Township. H. Smith stated that the burning ban used to be required to remain in effect for thirty days and stated that there should be a time frame associated with it. Ms. Kelly stated she is all in favor of no burning in the Township except for recreational as we do provide the recycling center that can be utilized for everything else, asking Mr. Hanna if the changes being discussed would require hiring of a professional to make the changes or if he felt this could be handled in house. Mr. Hanna stated that doing them in house should be fine. Ms. Ruiz-Smith asked if it is possible to have a shredding service come and shred documents with sensitive information on them on site during bulk drop offs, being advised by Mr. Weimer that we will have to look into it. Mr. Weimer asked that the Board review the ordinance changes included in their packet and come back to the next work session with any suggestions or questions prepared.

2. Other Business

Mr. Weimer was contacted by residents at Pocono Farms asking about the gypsy moth spraying that other Municipalities are doing in conjunction with the county. Mr. Weimer stated that he told the resident that he would look into it, stating that after speaking to Assistant DPW Foreman, Kyle Knecht he has found that we have not done this in years. He would like to find out if this is something that the Board is interested in and if so we could look into it for next year. Mr. Weimer also discussed the possibility of purchasing a light for the DPW recycling center to help with providing adequate lighting to be able to get clear and concise footage from the cameras when prosecuting for illegal dumping. He received a quote which was approximately \$1800.00. Mr. Adams suggested using a solar powered light.

3. Public Input

Nothing was heard

The Work Session ended at 6:45 pm. The Board of Supervisors went into executive session from 6:47pm-7:02pm.