

COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 17, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Chairman William Weimer at 7:03 pm in the meeting room of the Coolbaugh Township Municipal Office, 5520 Municipal Drive, Tobyhanna, PA.

Board Members present:

William Weimer, Juan Adams, Anthony Lamantia, Lynn Kelly 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

Announcements:

Mr. Weimer announced the following:

- Public Input will be considered at the beginning of the meeting for non-agenda items. The public will be given an opportunity to speak on each agenda matter.
- The meeting is being recorded to aid in the preparation of the minutes, please remember to state your name and city before speaking.

1. Public Input

- K. Ambrogio stated that there was a house fire on Mohawk Trail in Pocono Farms on Monday, at which there were three fire hydrants that were dry and a fourth hydrant that the Fire Company was able to open and use, but were unable to close when they were done using it. K. Ambrogio stated that he has come to the Board in the past regarding the issues that were being experienced with PA American Water Company and the lack of testing and flushing of the hydrants. The Coolbaugh Township Volunteer Fire Company has requested service and flow reports from the water company and has never received them. This issue needs to be resolved as there are people's lives in danger when we are unable to pump water to put out fires. Mr. Lamantia stated that he asked about the status of the contract last year with PA American Water as we are paying them to provide a service and have no proof that the service is in fact being provided. Ms. Ruiz-Smith asked the status of the conversations about hydrants in Pocono Farms East with Mr. Weimer stating that he has had multiple meetings with the water company and will be having another one on Friday with Mr. Lamantia and PA American Water. K. Ambrogio stated that this issue is unacceptable and stated that the fire is being investigated by PA State Police in which the flow issues will be involved.
- L. Connelly stated that she has contacted PA American Water stating that she did not hang up until they spoke with a Supervisor, also stating that she posted on Social Media for others to contact PA American Water Co., as this is a health and safety issue as well as the fact that it could affect the rates of home owners insurance as there are technically no working hydrants within 1000' of people's homes which will raise the rates for those residents.
- A. Slinger stated that she has also contacted the water company and reported the issue and her concerns as the fire company spent a lot of time trying to find a working hydrant and dragging hose which they could have been using to fight the fire if the hydrants were working. She also stated that she looked on their website and Coolbaugh Township is not even listed on the flushing schedule. Ms. Ruiz-Smith stated that this could possibly be a legal issue with PA American Water Company because

they are preventing our fire companies from doing their job. Mr. Weimer stated his displeasure with PA American on the day of the fire and will do so again at the upcoming meeting. Mr. Weimer would like to know who checks whether the hydrants are being serviced when they say they are. We are paying for this as well as the cost of the hydrants and we need quality assurance so that this does not happen again in the future. K. Ambrogio stated that the Township could hire a person to check the hydrants so that we know that they are functioning at all times. Ms. Ruiz-Smith stated that when we hire another code enforcement person this could be part of their job description.

- H. Smith provided the Board with a copy of a newspaper article dated October 8, 2017, which states that the Borough of East Stroudsburg negotiated a contract of 9 miles for \$19,302.00 for three years. He stated that at a previous meeting the Board stated that the contract with PennDot for the winter maintenance contract was not negotiable, so the Board passed the contract for a term of five years. H. Smith asked how we are unable to negotiate the contract but the Borough of East Stroudsburg can. Ms. Ruiz-Smith stated maybe it is a difference of the rate that is received by the Borough as opposed to a township. Mr. Weimer stated that he will forward the article on to Mr. Lamendola at PennDot and get an answer as to why there are no negotiation options for us and why there is a difference in the rate.
- D. Pope questioned a property down the road stating that at a previous meeting he was advised that the property needed to be cleaned up and that the Monroe County Waste Authority was working with the codes department to enforce this. Mr. Keane stated that the property has been cleaned up to the satisfaction of the MCWA, and that the property owner is working on obtaining a Highway Occupancy Permit.

2. Approval of minutes / notes : October 3, 2017 Meeting

Ms. Ruiz-Smith made a motion second by Mr. Weimer to approve the meeting minutes of October 3, 2017 as written.

- **Discussion:** None
- **Vote:** 4-0-1, motion passes. (Mr. Adams abstained due to his absence at the meeting)

3. Monthly Reports

- **Pocono Mountain Regional Police Department-** Presented by Ms. Kelly, stating that the commission is working on their budget and will possibly be passing it at the November meeting. D. Pope asked about the intentions of Mount Pocono Borough with respect to their staying with the Regional Police with Ms. Kelly stating that they are still weighing their options and have not made a decision yet. Ms. Ruiz-Smith stated that the commission has asked them to let them know their intentions as soon as possible so that they can finalize their budget. Mr. Weimer stated that he spoke to Officer Nero at the community event at Clear Run Intermediate and he is very grateful for the \$25,000 donation to be used toward the purchase of the K9 car from Coolbaugh Township. Mr. Weimer also met K9 officer Creed which has over 20 collars and he has already had two or three drug busts. Ms. Ruiz-Smith stated that she attended an event with Lieutenant Williams and Chief Wagner who are already praising Creed for a drug bust that apprehended three people on his second day on the job. M. Fairservice asked if there was an answer as to why the PMRPD was not in attendance at the Touch a Truck event.
- **Pocono Mountain Regional EMS-**Presented by M. Lemley. Ms. Ruiz-Smith stated that she spoke to Tim Lee at the Mountain Center regarding a possible presentation by the PMREMS and confirmed with M. Lemley that she should contact Denise with the information, he agreed.

- **Coolbaugh Township VFC-** Presented by K. Ambrogio, stating that at Monday's fire the tower truck incurred damage and that the repairs could be costly. K. Ambrogio stated that two groups have undergone training on drones which will allow for night vision and thermal imaging. The dual engines will arrive at the Coolbaugh Township Fire House on Thursday and they will be hosting an open house on Sunday at Station one for everyone to come out and see the new trucks from 10am-2pm. Mr. Adams thanked the Coolbaugh Township VFC for their service.
- **Gouldsboro VFC-** Presented by Mr. Weimer.
- **Thornhurst Fire & Rescue Ambulance-** Presented by D. Wagner. Ms. Ruiz-Smith asked how many volunteers they currently have with D. Wagner responding approximately forty in all categories.
- **Tobyhanna Township VFC-** Presented by T. Counterman. Ms. Ruiz-Smith asked how many volunteers they have currently with a response of 25 active and 40 on the roster. Mr. Weimer stated that we are coming up on the end of the year and stated that the requests including receipts for reimbursement of recruitment and retention funds in the amount of \$4,000.00 must be submitted for payout before the end of the year. Mr. Weimer also stated that he would like a small statement as to why each company purchased the items that they purchased and how these items will enhance recruitment and retention efforts for their company. These fund requests are to be sent to Ms. Masker.
- **Pocono Mountain Public Library-** Presented by A. Shincovich, stating that Ghoulbaugh will be held on Saturday October 28, 2017 from 1-3pm at the pavilion at Municipal Park on Route 423.

4. Pocono Mountain Municipal Airport Authority- PennDot Request for Letter of Acknowledgement for Highway Occupancy Permit

Mr. Decker from the PMMAA was in attendance to give a brief description on the location of the proposed driveway that would give the Game Commission the right of way to be able to hold their timber harvest which will also result in the trimming of trees that are impeding the approach on the runway. Mr. Decker stated that this will be a gated, limited use access. Ms. Ruiz-Smith asked if the fire company would have access to use this road in case of an emergency, being advised that would be a question for the rail authority.

Mr. Weimer made a motion second by Mr. Adams to approve the request for a letter of acknowledgment for the PMMAA application for a Highway Occupancy Permit from PennDot.

- **Discussion:** None
- **Vote:** All in favor, motion passes.

5. Release of 2017 Remaining Donations

Mr. Weimer made a motion second by Ms. Ruiz-Smith to release the remaining donations as presented on the list in the amount of \$82,563.00.

- **Discussion:** D. Pope stated that the bill for the pavers was submitted and requested that the Board issue a check for the payment in the amount of \$11,250.00. **Vote:** All in favor, motion passes.

6. Authorization to Advertise Sludge Hauling Bid for January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2019

Ms. Kelly made a motion second by Mr. Adams to advertise the Sludge Hauling Bid for January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2019.

- **Discussion:** None
- **Vote:** All in favor, motion passes.

7. Controller Report

Ms. Mills presented the report as of September 30, 2017.

- **Discussion:** None

8. Current Obligations

• General Fund	\$	57,305.16
• Sewer Fund	\$	8,676.61
• Liquid Fuels State Fund	\$	453,458.12
• Escrow Fund	\$	<u>610.00</u>
Total Disbursements	\$	520,049.89

Mr. Adams made a motion second by Mr. Weimer to pay our current obligations in the amount of \$520,049.89.

- **Discussion:** Ms. Ruiz-Smith asked for more description on checks made payable to Sundance in the future. H. Smith referenced check #7639 for Gilmore and asked how far we are from the LSA Grant deadline. D. Pope asked how much money is left in the grant.
- **Vote:** All in favor, motion passes.

9. Other Business

- Mr. Weimer stated that there were twelve dumpsters used for the last cleanup as there was a good turnout.
- Mr. Weimer stated that the sign truck is going to be undergoing heavy repairs and could be costly.
- Mr. Weimer stated that leaf cleanup will continue until the snow falls.

Mr. Weimer made a motion second by Mr. Adams to authorize the payment of 11,250.00 for the pavers for the monument at the Municipal Complex.

- **Discussion:** Mr. Weimer asked if there are volunteers coming to place the pavers or if DPW assistance will be needed. H. Smith stated that he and D. Pope will be doing the pavers and requested use of the tamper. H. Smith requested permission to bring a small tractor to move the pavers and the Board agreed that is not an issue. Mr. Weimer stated that if DPW assistance is required, please let him know so he can coordinate it.
- **Vote:** All in favor, motion passes.

Ms. Ruiz-Smith made a motion second by Mr. Weimer to donate the old gator that has been replaced to be donated to the Coolbaugh Township Volunteer Fire Company.

- **Discussion:** None
- **Vote:** All in favor, motion passes.

Mr. Weimer made a motion second by Ms. Kelly to authorize the advertisement that Coolbaugh Township gives notice that the Coolbaugh Township Board of Supervisors intends to adopt an Ordinance at its regularly scheduled meeting on December 5, 2017, the Board will also hold a public hearing to receive public comment on the issue of adopting a Volunteer Tax Incentive Ordinance on November 21, 2017, at 6:00 P.M. at the Coolbaugh Township Municipal Center located at 5520 Municipal Drive, Tobyhanna, Pennsylvania. The Ordinance, to be adopted under Act 172 of 2016 (Incentives for Municipal Volunteers), will establish tax credits for Municipal Volunteers.

- **Discussion:** None
- **Vote:** All in favor, motion passes.

- Ms. Ruiz-Smith stated her concerns about incoming mail that is being emailed to the Board. Ms. Ruiz-Smith would like to be sure that the issues that are incoming are being resolved or at least responded to. There were a few items that came in which included but were not limited to letters for tax relief, a letter requesting municipality support to vote no regarding the states intending to use 911 funds to balance the budget, and a

letter from PA Dept. of Labor regarding several projects that were inspected by Bureau Veritas that were found to have deficiencies which need to be addressed to be sure they are in compliance.

- Ms. Ruiz-Smith suggested giving the report from Barry Isett’s office on Building #2 to Township Engineer Russ Kresge to review as he will be preparing the RFP for the project.
- Ms. Ruiz-Smith also stated that there was an introductory letter from Barry Isett’s office stating what services they offer. Ms. Ruiz-Smith would like them to be considered from projects that are outside of the services provided by our Township Engineer.
- J. O’Boyle spoke to the location of the PMMAA project stating that there was an access road that there was previously an agreement that the fire company could use the road for evacuation and that the road as well as the bridge would be maintained. Discussion ensued that the road Mr. O’Boyle was speaking about and the one that is currently being proposed with the HOP Application are two different roads. Mr. Weimer stated that the bridge has been repaired but the road upkeep has not been taken care of.

10. Board of Supervisors Executive Sessions

- **Prior:** Tuesday, October 17, 2017 from 6:00 pm- 6:28 pm Re: Legal

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Adams second by Mr. Weimer to adjourn.

- **Vote:** All in favor, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.

NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING: Wednesday, November 8, 2017 at the Coolbaugh Township Municipal Office meeting room.

- Work Session- 6:00 pm
- Business Meeting – 7:00 pm

Submitted by: Erin Masker, Recording Secretary

Reviewed by: _____
Lynn Kelly, Township Secretary

Witnessed by: _____
William Weimer, Chairman

Date: _____