

**COOLBAUGH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
April 6, 2021**

The work session was called to order by Chairman William Weimer at 6:00pm via the Zoom Virtual Media App.

Board Members present:

William Weimer, Anthony Lamantia, Clare Colgan, Lynn Kelly and Alma I. Ruiz-Smith

Board Members absent:

None

Staff present:

Patrick Armstrong, Township Solicitor, Erin Masker, Township Secretary, Meredith Thompson, Business Manager and Tomas Keane, Director of Codes and Zoning

Staff absent:

None

1. Discussion on Proposed Fireworks Ordinance

Solicitor Armstrong stated that he prepared the ordinance which was reviewed by the Board at their last work session and stated that the only changes he made was changing the distance for setting off fireworks from 150' to 200' from a dwelling and changed the time that consumer fireworks were allowed to be used which is up until 11:00pm with the exception of New Year's Eve and July 4th. The Board discussed the times and agreed that the exception for New Year's Eve and July 4th would be 1:00am. Mr. Lamantia asked Mr. Weimer if there is already a permit in place for display fireworks being advised that there is. Mr. Weimer stated that there should be verbiage added to reflect that if residents live in an HOA and their rules are stricter, that those rules supersede the Township Ordinance. He stated that once the revisions are made, the ordinance should be sent out to the HOA's to review and submit comments. This will be placed on a future work session. Ms. Ruiz-Smith asked that the Journal and The Boro Newspaper share this information as well to make residents aware that are not in an HOA.

2. Discussion on Rate Increase for Township Sewer Service

The Board discussed possible options that were presented for an increase to the monthly fee for Township sewer customers. Mr. Weimer stated that the costs have gone up significantly and we need to offset the costs and manage the business the right way. He stated that the rates should have been raised throughout the past ten years to help to offset the cost of these expenses. Ms. Ruiz-Smith stated that she is in favor of option three that was presented which would increase the cost per EDU for customers as follows: Residential: \$72.39, Commercial/ Multi-Family: \$74.43 and Industrial: \$76.77. Ms. Kelly stated that she understands the need for an increase but stated that with the example provided the burden is on the residential customers, stating that the businesses are getting the benefit. Ms. Thompson stated that currently Walmart is the only industrial user on the system. Ms. Colgan stated that she spoke with residents that live in other areas and stated that they are paying \$80.00 per month/flat rate. Ms. Kelly stated that the Board previously discussed not raising the rates and requesting a rate freeze for residents if the system was sold, stating that we are now doing the dirty work for PAWC should they purchase the system. Mr. Weimer stated that we did not raise taxes for nine years which we were proud of, but we were unable to effectively manage the business of the Township, now that we have raised taxes we are running the business more efficiently. He stated that rates should have been increased annually as we saw that there were issues and expenses being incurred, but we didn't. Now we have to in order to help cover the costs. Solicitor Armstrong stated that the rates can be changed by resolution should the Board choose to and stated that he would also need to change the wording in the ordinance at section 316.F.1 to reflect that the rates can be changed from time to time by resolution and remove the rates that are listed.

3. Other Business

Mr. Weimer reviewed the flyer that was presented to the Board from the Pocono Mountain Public Library which listed available programs. Information on all programs that are available is on the Pocono Mountain Public Library website.

Mr. Weimer stated that there is an issue on Pope Road which D. Pope brought a sample of to the Township. He stated that they have engaged the Township SEO to assist with finding and resolving the issue. He will be going out to the property and testing the system to see which house it is coming from and to determine the best course of action in order to resolve the issue. D. Pope stated that is it coming from the house that has 15-20 people living in it. He stated that the dirty water is now running toward the well on another property. Mr. Weimer stated the Mr. Schray is working on it and will continue to work through it until it is resolved.

4. Public Comment

Nothing was heard.

Work Session ended at 6:4338pm.