

Maidencreek Township Board of Supervisors
December 10, 2020

Attending: Heidi Fiedler, David Franke, Claude Beaver, Diane Hollenbach – Manager, Tom Unger – Systems Design Engineering, Eugene Orlando, Jr. – Orlando Law Office

Guests: Mark DeBlasi, Donna Culp, Allyson Hamburg, Tristan Hamburg, Francis Scott, Anthony Spero, Angel Toro, Gary Hadden, Scott Eaken, Jennifer DeCola, John Reber, James Patterson, Heather Schoener, Dan Miller, Keith Shuman

Zoom Attendees: Cody Rhoads, Debbie Didyoung, Katelyn Gruber, Greg Wolfe, Josh Meck, Sean Showalter, Connie Showalter, Alan Shinkus, Jeremy Schoener, Eric Bauman, Jim Schoellkopf, Bob Wood, Heather H., Kim Berger, Jamie Kilyk, Joe Rudderow, Kris Harrell

Heidi Fiedler called the December 10, 2020 regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Maidencreek Township Building, 1 Quarry Road, Blandon and asked everyone to rise for the Pledge to the Flag. An executive session for personnel was held November 16, 2020 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. and December 7 from 9 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

MINUTES & FINANCES

Minutes

A motion was made by David Franke to waive the reading of the minutes and approve the minutes for the November 9, 2020 budget meeting. Claude Beaver seconded the motion and hearing no questions, it passed unanimously.

A motion was made by David Franke to waive the reading of the minutes and approve the minutes for the November 12, 2020 regular meeting. Claude Beaver seconded the motion and hearing no questions, it passed unanimously.

A motion was made by David Franke to waive the reading of the minutes and approve the minutes for the November 23, 2020 special meeting. Claude Beaver seconded the motion and hearing no questions, it passed unanimously.

Resolution 20-2020 Meeting Rules of Decorum – Heidi Fiedler read the resolution limiting public comment to three minutes and setting rules for conduct during the meeting. Scott Eaken asked if three minutes was a hard number. He could see where there would be discussion on topics that required more time. The Board intends to allow discussion before motions are adopted but regular public comment should be only three minutes in length to keep the meeting orderly and provide everyone an opportunity to speak. David Franke asked for Gene Orlando's opinion of the resolution. Mr. Orlando had no issues with the resolution.

A motion was made by David Franke to adopt Resolution 20-2020 Rules of Decorum. Claude Beaver seconded the motion and hearing no questions, it passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report and Bill List

A motion was made by David Franke to approve the November 2020 Treasurer’s Report and Bill List. Claude Beaver seconded the motion and hearing no questions on the motion, it passed unanimously.

Update on Police Service – Heidi Fiedler updated the audience on actions taken in regards to obtaining police service for Maidencreek Township. The Board hired a consultant to study manpower needs and formulate a budget and spoke with the chief of Central Berks about coverage. Maidencreek Township requested mediation between all parties and Ontelaunee Township’s solicitor at Ontelaunee Township’s regular meeting turned down mediation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Angel Toro of the Northern Berks Regional Police Department and Berks County Fraternal Order of Police thanked the Board of Supervisors for their efforts to save the Northern Berks Regional Police Department. He appreciated the olive branch that was extended and hoped in spirit of Christmas the olive branch would be extended back. The officer’s lives hang in the balance.

ENGINEER

Tom Unger of Systems Design Engineering, Inc. reported that all land development and subdivision plans were current. Redners Quick Shop and Car Wash had received preliminary plan approval. The Kopfer variance was granted by the Zoning Hearing Board and there were no plans reviewed in December. Mr. Unger continued his storm damage visits and commented that the road crew did a nice job on the Lutz swale repair. Heidi Fiedler asked if there was follow up on the W Walnut Tree swale complaint. Mr. Unger stated that he and the property owner have not been able to reconnect.

SOLICITOR

12 Chestnut Street – Mr. Orlando explained that the easement received from the attorney for James Fox, owner of 12 Chestnut Street, Blandon had the indemnity paragraph deleted which protects the township against claims except for gross negligence and intentional damage. The Board of Supervisors did not wish to accept the modified easement agreement. Mr. Orlando was instructed to send the Township’s original agreement to the attorney for Mr. fox.

Maidencreek Township Authority Renewal- The Authority will be moving forward to adopt their resolution in 2021 after which the township may proceed with the ordinance adoption.

Request for Mediation between Maidencreek Township, Leesport Borough and Ontelaunee Township – Mr. Orlando reported that he had spoken to Attorney Magovern and Maidencreek

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Township's request for mediation had been declined by both Ontelaunee Township and Leesport Borough.

Redner's Quick Shop and Car Wash Zoning Appeal - Mr. Orlando explained that Redner's Quick Shop was looking for an agreement from the Zoning Hearing Board to resolve the appeal to the lighting condition placed on the plan at their recent zoning hearing. The attorney for Redners was unable to resolve the situation with the Zoning Hearing Board and asked if the township is interested in participating in the appeal and investigating a resolution to the appeal. If a condition is unreasonable, sometimes parties reach a stipulation that a judge agrees to. If the Board wished to resolve matters in this fashion, they would have to authorize the solicitor to participate in the zoning appeal and resolve the appeal by agreement. David Franke asked what the neighbor's opinion would be on the lighting condition. Claude Beaver felt that the Zoning Hearing Board should handle this. The Board of Supervisors did not wish to participate in the zoning appeal.

MANAGER

Diane Hollenbach reported that the township had been awarded a grant for \$142,682 for the purchase of a chipper and a truck.

Garage Roof – Heidi Fiedler stated that she was informed that the garage roof leaked and this was a health and safety issue. She had the manager obtain a quote to repair the roof. Diane Hollenbach presented two quotes, one for shingles (\$9,950) and one for a corrugated metal roof (\$10,850). Mrs. Hollenbach cautioned that a new garage roof was not in the budget and something else would need to be removed. Heidi Fiedler stated that the capital reserve could be used. Diane Hollenbach did not feel comfortable spending any reserve with the upcoming unknown expenses for starting a police department. Keith Shuman and Claude Beaver felt that the road crew could repair the roof. David Franke agreed. Heidi Fiedler wanted to do the roof replacement and not keep fixing it since the long-term goal is to keep the garage in use.

A motion was made by David Franke to authorize the road crew to repair the garage roof with the road crew doing the labor. Claude Beaver seconded the motion.

Comments on the motion – Heidi Fiedler stated that this was a health and safety issue and there was mold. David Franke asked who told Supervisor Fiedler this. Heidi Fiedler responded some of the employees. James Patterson of Spirit Court asked why employees are going to Supervisor Fiedler instead of the foreman. Heidi Fiedler stated that the board had meetings with the employees and she feels this is her responsibility. Jennifer DeCola of Coronet Drive asked if it is costing \$10,000 shouldn't the board look at other options and get a professional opinion and rediscuss. Hearing no further comment, Claude Beaver and David Franke voted. "Aye." Heidi Fiedler voted, "Nay." Motion carried.

BUSINESS

Recycling Addendum

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A motion was made by David Franke to authorize the Chair to sign the 2021 Recycling Contract Addendum. Claude Beaver seconded the motion and hearing no questions, it passed unanimously.

Resolution 21-2020 Adopting the 2021 Budget

A motion was made by David Franke to adopt Resolution 21-2020 Adopting the 2021 Budget. Claude Beaver seconded the motion and hearing no questions, it passed unanimously.

Resolution 22-2020 Adopting the 2021 Real Estate Tax Rate

A motion was made by David Franke to adopt Resolution 22-2020 Adopting the 22-2020 Real Estate Tax Rate. Claude Beaver seconded the motion and hearing no questions, it passed unanimously. Heidi Fiedler commented that there was no increase to the tax rate.

Storm Water Repair at 177 West Wesner Road

A motion was made by Claude Beaver to approve the two quotes from Ambrus Co LLC in the amount of \$2,600 and \$2,500 for installation of storm water pipe in W Wesner Road. David Franke seconded the motion and hearing no questions, it passed unanimously.

An executive session was called for personnel from 7:45 p.m. to 8:35 p.m.

A motion was made by Claude Beaver, seconded by David Franke, to adjourn the December 10, 2020 meeting of the Maidencreek Township Board of Supervisors. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted "Aye". Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Diane Hollenbach, Township Manager/Secretary/Treasurer