

Maidencreek Township Board of Supervisors

April 11, 2024

6:00 p.m.

Attending: David Franke, Joshua Meck, Eric Bauman, Diane Hollenbach, Christina Hafer, Eric Frey, Esq. of E. Kenneth Nyce Law Office, Jim Keiser, Northern Berks Regional Police Department, Pamela Stevens of Systems Design Engineering and Tom Unger of Systems Design Engineering.

Guests: Keith Shuman (Road Foreman), Dan Miller, Fire Chief at Blandon Fire Company, Anthony Spero, Mike Schittler, Gavin Milligan, Nancy Runyon, Aaron Rogers, and other guests.

Attending the Zoom: Robert Wood, Brooke Meck, Dawn Geschwindt, and other guests.

David Franke called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge to the Flag.

Eric Frey called the Conditional Use Hearing for Heeby's at 6:00 pm.

A motion was made by Joshua Meck to close the Conditional Use Hearing for Heeby' at 7:00 pm, seconded by Eric Bauman. Hearing no questions on the motion, it passed unanimously.

Eric Frey stated the Board will have a brief executive session which began at 7:11 pm and ended at 7:16 pm.

David Franke called the meeting back to order at 7:18 pm.

Mr. Frey said the Board is prepared to approve Heeby's Conditional Use application.

A motion was made by Joshua Meck to approve Heeby's Condition Use application subject to the following conditions. The applicant will remove the trailers as testified this evening. The applicant will provide a West Wesner Road emergency access to the satisfaction of the Township and provide a gate with a locking system as required by the Township during the land development approval process. The applicant completes the land development application and approval process with the Township. The applicant satisfies all Township codes regarding zoning, SALDO, stormwater, and building codes. The applicant's project is substantially similar to the plans and testimony presented this evening. Eric Bauman seconded the motion and hearing no questions on the motion, it passed unanimously.

David Franke called the regular April 11, 2024, meeting back to order at 7:21 pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Joshua Meck motioned to approve the April 11, 2024, Agenda. Eric Bauman seconded the motion and hearing no questions on the motion, it passed unanimously.

Joshua Meck motioned to approve the March 14, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes with corrections. Eric Bauman seconded the motion and hearing no questions on the motion, it passed unanimously.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Charles L. Voorhies, 284 West Walnut Tree Drive.

Maidencreek Township Board of Supervisors

April 11, 2024

6:00 p.m.

Mr. Voorhies said the Newsletter didn't address the \$5 million Bond along with the Water Authority and wanted to know what the cost would be yearly to the Township for the bonds. Mr. Franke said they already addressed this and wanted to address the Tax increase in the Spring Newsletter.

Ms. Fiedler refused to give her address. Her comment was discounted.

REPORTS

Northern Berks Regional Police Report – Chief James Keiser

Chief Keiser reviewed the NBRPD Activity Report for March 2024 for Maidencreek Township, including calls for service, citations, traffic warnings, vehicle contacts, crashes, arrests, fuel, mileage, and hours of service. Chief Keiser said they are working on National Night Out, starting meetings, and working on the venue having it at Berks County Fairgrounds due to needing more space. The last new vehicle that is currently getting up-fitted will be for the supervisor. The officers will be running an aggressive driving campaign with a grant from PennDOT.

David Franke said we are conjoined with other Townships for National Night Out. He also said Maidencreek Township will purchase a car from NBRPD to be used for the Township's road crew and will cost \$1.00.

Charles L. Voorhies, 284 West Walnut Tree Drive asked the Chief if the NBRPD had a plan for the excessive speed along Schaeffer Road, Tamarack Blvd, and Route 73. Chief Keiser stated that they set up times for enforcement details in different areas.

Engineering & Zoning Reports – Tom Unger

Mr. Unger stated all the plans are current for the Subdivision Review Status Checklist. He said there was no action on Crossing at Maidencreek at the Planning Commission meeting. The Maidencreek Associates Warehouse's Final Land Development Plan was reviewed and the Planning Commission recommended a conditional final plan approval contingent upon meeting the requirements of the SDE review letter dated March 28, 2024.

Mr. Unger stated in the Zoning/Code & UCC report that the permit has been received for the stream bank restoration gravel bar and dredging at the Walnut Tree Drive Culvert. The permit is valid through December 31, 2028, and the work may not be completed through October 1st through December 1st and February 15th through June 1st of each year. The Township has to have an acknowledgment of appraisal of Permit Conditions signed and returned to DEP before the commencement of work.

Tom Unger stated the 2024 Road Bids will be accepted and will report to the Board May 9, 2024, meeting. He also said they are still proceeding with the Cornerstone Bridge permitting.

Authorize emergency repair of the sinkhole at 109 Penrose Drive.

Mr. Unger said the sinkhole reopened at 109 Penrose Drive and had the stormwater pipe videoed twice and there are two joints in the pipe open and sent bid proposals and received quotes from several contractors. Mr. Unger explained the cost and the procedures for the repair and replacement.

Maidencreek Township Board of Supervisors

April 11, 2024

6:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Joshua Meck to accept the quote from Wexcon to repair the sinkhole at 109 Penrose Drive in compliance with the bid proposal received. Eric Bauman seconded the motion and hearing no questions on the motion, it passed unanimously.

Mr. Unger said the Stormwater Activity Report is attached and the Board did not have any questions.

Joshua Meck addressed the water issues with residents who were in the audience living on Villa Circle and Guldin Road. Mr. Unger said that he would go out and take a look at the situation and give a response to the property owner.

Charles Voorhies asked Mr. Unger about the flooding at Schaeffer Road and if anything would be addressed with the work scheduled at the West Walnut Tree Bridge. Mr. Unger explained the work is at West Walnut Tree Drive Culvert and wouldn't affect Schaeffer Road.

Mr. Voorhies asked about the brake retarder ordinance. Mr. Unger stated they sent the ordinance to PennDOT and are waiting for a response from them.

Solicitor – Eric Frey, Esq.

Eric Frey had an update on the Conditional Use Warehouse Appeal and briefs on the Neighbors Appeal stating they have been filed and the argument is on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, in the Court of Common Pleas. Mr. Frey asked for an executive session after the meeting regarding the Conditional Use Warehouse Appeal, the enforcement action of 320 Main Street, and a couple of personnel matters with no action taken.

Public Works – Keith Shuman

Approval of purchase of playground mulch.

A motion was made by Joshua Meck to approve the purchase of playground mulch from Mulch Madness for \$4,859.00. Eric Bauman seconded the motion and hearing no questions on the motion, it passed unanimously.

Approval of hiring of seasonal help for Street Sweeping.

A motion was made by Eric Bauman to approve hiring seasonal help for two weeks for Street Sweeping not to exceed \$30.00 an hour, starting Monday, April 15, 2024. Joshua Meck seconded the motion and hearing no questions on the motion, it passed unanimously.

Authorization for Keith Shuman to transfer vehicle from the police department on behalf of the Township.

A motion was made by Joshua Meck to authorize Keith Shuman to transfer the vehicle from the Northern Berks Regional Police Department on behalf of the Township. Eric Bauman seconded the motion and hearing no questions on the motion, it passed unanimously.

Maidencreek Township Board of Supervisors

April 11, 2024

6:00 p.m.

Manager – Diane Hollenbach

Diane Hollenbach asked if the Board had any questions about the report presented, the Board did not have any questions about the report.

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of hiring beMarketing to assist in website construction.

David Franke explained that the present website is too expensive and they looked for a more affordable website with fewer complications. Diane Hollenbach explained the new website costs \$6,200.00 to implement and will be \$360.00 a year for the life of the website. She said Gavin Milligan has helped with the new website. She also explained that the website would be user-friendly. Gavin Milligan from 312 Cassidy Court explained to the Board about his contact with Civic Plus and the cancellation of the present website. Diane Hollenbach said we will update the new website as soon as possible.

A motion was made by Joshua Meck to approve beMarketing to assist in the website construction with a cost of \$6,200.00 and a maintenance cost of \$360.00 a year. Eric Bauman seconded the motion and hearing no questions on the motion, it passed unanimously.

Diane Hollenbach stated the present website has been canceled.

NEW BUSINESS

Authorization to pay off Tax Revenue Anticipation Note.

A motion was made by Joshua Meck to authorize the payoff of the Tax Revenue Anticipation Note for \$610,175.68. Eric Bauman seconded the motion and hearing no questions on the motion, it passed unanimously.

Authorization to hire an appraiser to appraise potential real estate acquisitions.

A motion was made by Joshua Meck for the authorization to hire an appraiser to appraise potential real estate acquisitions. Eric Bauman seconded the motion and hearing no questions on the motion, it passed unanimously.

Charles Voorhies asked what properties the Township is looking to purchase. Mr. Frey said the Township does not have to identify the properties and explained the reasoning behind it.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Motion to accept the 2023 Audit.

A motion to accept the 2023 Audit was made by Eric Bauman and seconded by Joshua Meck. Hearing no questions on the motion, it passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report and Bill List.

Maidencreek Township Board of Supervisors

April 11, 2024

6:00 p.m.

A motion to approve the bills and accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was made by Eric Bauman, seconded by Joshua Meck. Hearing no questions on the motion, it passed unanimously.

Eric Frey reiterated there will be an executive session after the meeting with no actions required.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Joshua Meck and seconded by Eric Bauman. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Hafer
Township Secretary