

Maidencreek Township Board of Supervisors

June 8, 2023

7:00 p.m.

Attending: David Franke, Heidi Fiedler, Joshua Meck, Hunter Ahrens, Christina Hafer, Nicole Manley, Esq. of E. Kenneth Nyce, and Tom Unger of Systems Design Engineering, Inc.

Guests: Nicole Donna Culp, Eric Bauman, Antony Spero, Mike Schittler, Kris Schittler, Dennis Fink, Robin Fink, Richard Wick, Sandy Renninger, Leroy Renninger, Charles Voorhies, Nancy Runyon, Tim Wales, Mary Wales, Donna Bissinger, Kimberly Burns, and Aaron Rogers.

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

David Franke called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge to the Flag.

Heidi Fiedler made a motion to amend the agenda to add Resolution 24-2023 for disposing of records. Joshua Meck seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, "Aye." Motion passed.

MINUTES AND TREASURER'S REPORT

Heidi Fiedler motioned to accept the May 11, 2023, final draft by the Township Manager without including the final statement about the events concerning the Low Head Dam. The motion died due to a lack of second. Supervisor Meck commented that he wanted more time to review the minutes draft. Tabled until July.

Heidi Fiedler motioned to approve the May 2023 Treasurer's Report and the Check Request List for May 2023 bills. Joshua Meck seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, "Aye." Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Charles Voorhies, 284 W. Walnut Tree Drive, asked the Board if they have heard from Folino about the Overlay District and the traffic study. Mr. Ahrens responded that he reached out to them to see if they would be on the agenda for tonight's meeting. They said the traffic study was not complete and did not specify a time frame.

Heidi Fiedler stated she believes that it is unfortunate and disgraceful that Supervisor Franke investigated the Low Head Dam matter, appearing as an official investigation. She stated that she was not aware of any official Board action taken in executive sessions or public meetings regarding the matter. Commenting that the Sunshine Act prohibits the Board from meeting outside of an executive session. She also stated this was done before the primary election, using misleading statements for purposes of discrediting her in the election. Ms. Fiedler stated PSATS declined to intervene in the issue and believes the Ethics Commission will also decline to intervene.

Dave Franke stated there was a public outcry concerning the use of Township funds without any authorization of the Township Board of Supervisors. Mr. Franke commented that as Chair of the Board, he put together a timeline that was developed from a record at the Township and asked PSATS and the Ethics Commission for review and for suggestions on how to proceed.

Heidi Fiedler stated PSATS does not intervene because they have no jurisdiction over these types of political issues. She said the work was authorized by the Township Manager and was within

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his authority to authorize the work. She went on to say the Township Engineer is responsible for securing the permits.

Dave Franke stated that no work was approved for the Low Head Dam and now it is well over \$10,000.00 in funds including the permit fees that were doubled over the issue. He said the Township will wait to hear from the Ethics Commission on recommendations.

REPORTS

Northern Berks Regional Police Report

Dave Franke stated that Chief Keiser is not in attendance this evening. The Northern Berks Regional Police monthly meeting will be Monday, June 12, 2023, at 6:00 pm and the updated report will be available after the meeting.

Mr. Voorhies asked about the possible carjacking at Lords and Ladies. Mr. Franke stated he could contact the NBRPD and encouraged residents with concerns to do the same.

Engineer Report

Accept Maiden Creek Associates LDP Time Extension.

Heidi Fiedler made a motion to accept the Maiden Creek Associates LDP Time Extension until September 18, 2023. Joshua Meck seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, "Aye." Motion passed.

Accept Crossings at Maidencreek LDP Time Extension.

Heidi Fiedler made a motion to accept the Crossings at Maidencreek LDP Time Extension until September 18, 2023. Joshua Meck seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, "Aye." Motion passed.

Consideration of Stormwater Ordinance Revisions.

Mr. Unger stated that he is still working on the revisions for the Stormwater Ordinance and will have them ready for the July meeting. He said the MS4 permit is on a five-year renewal and is due in September along with the Stormwater Ordinance ready for adoption to stay in compliance.

Solicitor

Nicole Manley announced the dates for the Conditional Use Hearings that will be June 14, 2023, at the Township Building at 6:30 pm. Also scheduled for July 11, 2023, and August 8, 2023. She also stated that Jeff Bukowski, appointed by the court, is overseeing the hearings.

Manager/Public Works

Consideration of Bank Account Restructuring.

Mr. Ahrens stated he met the Tompkins Bank to discuss concerns around collateralization as well as general security. He spoke about utilizing a check scanner from Tompkins in the office to save time instead of physically going to the bank. Mr. Ahrens also said he needed to check with the Township Auditors to see that a proposed account-sweep system, that bundles all funds into

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an interest-bearing account when not in use, is appropriate. He stated the benefit of this newer system had higher interest rates without having restrictions commonly held with a certificate of deposit.

Summarization of Activities with Comcast.

Mr. Ahrens stated Comcast decided the Township's fees were higher than comparable communities and shelved the project for the foreseeable future. He said the Road Crew has taken pictures of the areas that still need to be fixed by Comcast, and if there are safety issues and the Township does the work, Comcast will have to pay the cost.

Consideration of Resolution 23.2022 for Vision Zero Commitment.

Mr. Ahrens spoke about the federal grant that's available for trying to eliminate fatalities through transit networks, with a focus on Park Road. The grant would require cooperation with the State is attained, but the initial study would be conducted over the entire Township.

Heidi Fiedler motioned to adopt Resolution 23-2022 Vision Zero Policy Agreement. Joshua Meck seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, "Aye." Motion passed.

Request to County of Berks to Prioritize Reconstruction of Route 73 and Calcium Intersection.

Mr. Ahrens spoke about sending this to the County of Berks Planning Commission asking them to prioritize this project within the next funding and to be completed by the end of 2028. The project would realign the intersection at Route 73 and Calcium Road to make it safer.

A motion was made by Heidi Fiedler to request the County of Berks Planning Commission to prioritize the reconstruction of Route 73 and Calcium Road Intersection. Joshua Meck seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, "Aye." Motion passed.

Discussion of Strategic Planning Workshop Meeting.

Mr. Ahrens explained that he would like to schedule a special strategic planning workshop meeting focused on the budget, including the 15-year road plan prepared by the staff, the capital improvement plan, and a 5-year budget projection of the Township's finances. He said having a presentation recorded through Zoom would be available to disseminate to the public, and holding the workshop meeting to be dedicated to policy decisions that need to be made. The Board and Mr. Ahrens discussed starting the meetings in August or September.

Discussion of Plow and Electric Upfits Purchase for Ford 750.

Mr. Ahrens and the Board shared that the recent truck purchased with the recycling grant does not have the equipment for snow removal; the grant used to pay for it does not pay for that equipment. The difference between purchasing a conventional plow and an electric plow including the prices for each and the benefits of a conventional plow were discussed. The Board, Mr. Ahrens, and Mr. Shuman also discussed the warranties of both and purchasing through the COSTARS system.

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Joshua Meck motioned to purchase the conventional plow for \$49,226.00. Heidi Fiedler seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, "Aye." Motion passed.

Business

Appoint Connor Tucci to Township Clerk (Seasonal) (June-August a Union Rate of 23.02 per hour.

Heidi Fiedler motioned to appoint Connor Tucci to Township Clerk, seasonal with a Union rate of 23.02 per hour. Joshua Meck seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, "Aye." Motion passed.

Accept the Resignation of Jason Bailey (Planning Commission Member) and Discuss Replacement.

Heidi Fiedler motioned to accept the resignation of Jason Bailey, effective June 23, 2023, and including a letter. Joshua Meck seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, "Aye." Motion passed.

The Board discussed advertising the vacancy for anyone interested in serving on the Planning Commission Board.

Resolution 24-2023 Disposition of Records (2009-2022).

Heidi Fiedler motioned to adopt Resolution 24-2023 disposition of records for the years 2009 to 2022. Joshua Meck seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, "Aye." Motion passed.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Heidi Fiedler and seconded by Joshua Meck. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Hafer
Township Secretary