

Maidencreek Township Board of Supervisors

July 13, 2023

7:00 p.m.

Attending: David Franke, Heidi Fiedler, Joshua Meck, Hunter Ahrens, Christina Hafer, Eric Frey, Esq. of E. Kenneth Nyce, Jim Keiser, Northern Berks Regional Police Department, and Tom Unger of Systems Design Engineering, Inc.

Guests: Anthony Spero, Eric Bauman, Kris Schittler, Mike Schittler, Jim Fox, Terance Mauer, Terri Myers, Art Myers, Howard Smith, Donna Culp, Dennis Fink, Robin Fink, Vin Snyder, Jr., Tracey Sholl, Brian Sholl, Shari Flickinger, John Flickinger, Jay Brey, Lisa Brey, Ivy Wenrich, Robert Schneider, Scott Eaken, Annie Schlegel, and Donna Bissinger

Attending the Zoom: James Cecchini, Robert Wood, Brooke Meck, Robert Farina, Patti Demming, and other guests.

David Franke called the regular meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with the Pledge to the Flag.

Heidi Fiedler motioned to accept the July 13, 2023, Agenda. Joshua Meck seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, "Aye." Motion carried.

MINUTES AND TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Joshua Meck motioned to approve May 11, 2023; minutes as presented. Dave Franke seconded the motion. The motion carried 2 to 1. Heidi Fiedler opposed the motion.

Heidi Fiedler motioned to accept the June 8, 2023, regular meeting minutes. Joshua Meck seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, "Aye." Motion carried.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Donna Bissinger, Allentown Pike, presented Dave Franke with a gift for all the years of service to Maidencreek Township.

James Fox, 1214 Chestnut St. said that flooding and debris had come through his yard, which happened previously, stating the Township did not get back to his attorney about the matter. Mr. Franke stated he did not believe that was accurate. Mr. Frey got Mr. Fox's information and said he would contact his attorney.

Terri Myers, Spirit Ct., asked what the next plan the Township has about the flooding. Dave Franke stated the rainfall was of astronomical proportions, being the worst, he has ever seen. He said the Township will evaluate, but we are still working on cleanup. The Board stated they

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understand the difficult position the homeowners are in and sympathize with everyone. The Board also stated that they also had flooding and damage to their properties and were out assessing damage to the Township the evening of the flooding. The Board stressed that they are doing everything possible they can to help the community to recover from this tragedy. They also spoke about the approvals for cleaning out Route 73 Bridge from PennDOT is responsible for the maintenance. The Township has met with the representatives from Berks County Conservation District with Senator Gebhard's office to discuss these issues due to the erosion of our stream banks and applied for grants to address a lot of the issues. The Board also said they were hoping FEMA becomes involved. The Board also said there would be dumpsters at various locations to help with the cleanup. The Board stated that the Township Water Authority was affected with significant damage. They also said the Red Cross has three locations that were posted in the Reading Eagle.

Jay Brey asked about the retention pond at Melrose Place. Joshua Meck said he went to look at both ponds and stated that Berkshire Builders are responsible. Tom Unger stated he spoke with them, and Mr. Meck stated the homeowner's association should have a key to the gate at the retention pond in case it should be opened due to debris.

Robert Farino stated there was an exposed gas line and the drainage pipes should be investigated.

Patti and Richard Demming, 112 S. View Rd. stated that a portion of the foundation of their home is gone and are in the process of finding a structural engineer to shore up their home. Joshua Meck said he would come out to see firsthand the damage.

Bob Schneider, Longleaf Dr. stated he submitted a permit application for an awning to be built over a porch on the back of his house, due to zoning issues and was not in compliance. He wanted to ask the Township to make sure the Township did not forget his concerns. The Board stated his concerns would be addressed with the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board.

Mr. Franke thanked everyone for coming tonight and knows that a lot of residents are suffering due to the flooding. He also stated that our dispatchers and road crew did a fantastic job.

REPORTS

Northern Berks Regional Police Report

Chief Keiser went over the activity report. He spoke about new handguns, and vehicles being upfitted, interviews will be next week, and hiring in late August or early September. He also stated the public can go to the website for updates on crimes. National Night Out will be on Tuesday, August 1, 2023.

Chief Keiser stated that his heart goes out to all the people in the community that suffered losses from the July 9th flooding.

Engineer Report

Consideration of Stormwater Ordinance Revisions.

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Mr. Unger discussed the Stormwater Ordinance revisions draft that will be reviewed by the Planning Commission. He stated there would be a summary of the changes in the ordinance going beyond the state ordinance. Mr. Unger, Mr. Ahrens, Mr. Frey and the Board discussed the timeframe of the MS4 deadline, advertising for the Stormwater Ordinance revisions.

Discussion of Escrow Release.

Mr. Unger spoke about Redner's request for their reduction letter of credit and said there is a punch list of items to address.

Mr. Unger provided the Board with the subdivision review status checklist plans, stating they are current, the activity report for zoning and code enforcement, and the SEO report.

Solicitor

Mr. Frey stated the next Conditional Use Hearings will be on July 24, 2023, and August 8, 2023. He stated they are trying to schedule another in late August and two September dates.

Manager/Public Works

Consideration of Bank Account Restructuring.

A motion was made by Heidi Fiedler to authorize the Township Manager to start the process to close accounts with Mid Penn Bank and Truist transfer funds to Thompkins Vist Bank. Joshua Meck seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, "Aye." Motion carried.

Updates on 2023 Road Work.

Mr. Unger said Ontelaunee Heights and East Wesner Road are complete. Mr. Ahrens stated there is one piece left for West Shore Drive, due to the road crew needed in other areas due to the flooding.

Scott Eaken in the audience would like the roads on the back of the lake to be done next year, essentially Ridge Road and Kemmerer Road. The Board agreed to look into these roads for next year's roadwork.

Consideration of Resolution 25-2023 Update to Comprehensive Fee Schedule.

Heidi Fiedler motioned to adopt Resolution 25-2023 resolution establishing a comprehensive fee schedule including permits plan review and establishment of miscellaneous use of the township facilities. Joshua Meck seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, "Aye." Motion carried.

Discussion of Strategic Planning Workshop Meeting.

Mr. Ahrens asked the Board for direction communication to the public, regarding creek issues and costs of zoning, and land development including the budget. Mr. Ahrens and the Board discussed meetings being planned to start in September.

Discuss Appointment, and Potential Interviews, of Planning Commission Members.

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Zoning Hearing Board Alternate, Maidencreek Township Authority Board, and Planning Commission Board have vacancies. The Board discussed having interviews with potential candidates, requests for resumes, interest letters, dates, and times.

Discussion and Approval of Job Descriptions for Laborer I, Laborer II, and Laborer III.

Joshua Meck motioned to accept the Job Descriptions for Laborer I, Laborer II, and Laborer III for Maidencreek Township Road Crew. Heidi Fiedler seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, “Aye.” Motion carried.

BUSINESS

Approve Memorandum of Understanding with Teamsters Local No. 429 for Sick time in 2023.

Heidi Fiedler motioned to approve and sign the Memorandum of Understanding between Maidencreek Township and Teamsters Local No. 429 for the use of sick time. Joshua Meck seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, “Aye.” Motion carried.

Approve Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2024 – 2026 and Memorandum of Understanding on Slotting with Teamsters Local No. 429.

Heidi Fiedler motioned to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement for 2024 to 2026. Joshua Meck seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, “Aye.” Motion carried.

Heidi Fiedler motioned to approve the Memorandum of Understanding on Slotting with Teamsters Local No. 429. Joshua Meck seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, “Aye.” Motion carried.

Accept the Resignation of Jason Peters (Maidencreek Township Authority Board Member) and Discuss Replacement.

Heidi Fiedler motioned to accept the Resignation of Jason Peters from the Maidencreek Township Authority Board, sending a letter of thank you for his time served. Joshua Meck seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, “Aye.” Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Heidi Fiedler and seconded by Joshua Meck. The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Hafer
Township Secretary