



Berkshire Township Trustees
Regular Meeting
June 27, 2022

Call to Order: Mike Dattilo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Determination of a Quorum/Roll Call: Trustees Mike Dattilo, Rod Myers and Paul Disantis were in attendance. Also Present were Kevin Vaughn, Township Administrator; David Weade, Zoning Inspector; Scott Hoffman, Roads Supervisor and Chris Sharlike, Board Clerk

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion to approve the minutes from June 13, 2022: Motion to approve made by Mike Dattilo and seconded by Rod Myers. Motion approved 3-0.

The next Trustee meeting: July 11, 2022, at 1454 Rome Corners Road at 7:00 p.m.

Announcements:

- The new shed has been installed at the cemetery.

New Business:

- **Swearing in of new Board of Zoning Appeals member:**
Kim Zianno Hartman was sworn in by Chairman Mike Dattilo

Visitors: Bret Bacon, Deputy Administrator/Resource Conservation Program Coordinator Delaware Soil & Water Conservation District and Doug Readle, liaison from the Delaware County Engineer's Office

- Brett and Doug gave a presentation and answered questions regarding the petition process and the status of the drainage improvement project on Dustin Road, which involves right of way that the township owns. The project has been through the first hearing with the second hearing expected in September. If all goes as planned, the project will begin either in the spring of 2023 or after the last hay cutting in order to be as least disruptive to the landowners as possible. The cost will be shared by the landowners proportionate to the percentage of land benefitted by the project. Payment can be made up front or assessed over a period of time, usually eight years. The cost to the township is estimated to be about \$30,000. Once completed, the township will be responsible for maintenance.

Department Updates:

- **Scott Hoffman, Roads Supervisor**
 - The mower has been fixed and the ditches have been mowed twice so far
 - Guard rails have been weed whacked
 - Berming has begun with Blayney, Domigan and Dustin Roads completed; Plum has been started
 - Speed signs have been installed on Joe Walker and Meadow Chase

- Foundations have been poured at gravesites
- The pad was poured for the new shed
- Mowing, weed removal and tree trimming is being done at the township building and on Joe Walker Road

- **David Weade, Zoning Inspector**

- 134 new permits written so far in 2022
- Of the 3 properties that were scheduled to be mowed as part previous resolutions, 2 have been mowed and the other has been partially mowed
- There will be a zoning hearing on July 7
 - Northstar Apartments on Wilson Rd requests to amend their final plan with a roofing change
 - The District at Berkshire proposes to build 300 apartments on 25 acres on South Wilson Road across from the Tanger Outlet Mall
- Those expected at August 4 Zoning Commission Meeting are:
 - Candlewood Suites to split off the Hampton Inn property to build 60-61 bed hotel
 - Plum Creek subdivision, which was tabled at the June 13, 2022 meeting, will return with a revised plan
- Projects
 - Northstar Apartments are ready to break ground quickly if their amended plan is approved
 - Camping World has begun moving dirt and doing jobsite work
 - AMH Homes on the south side of Wilson Road west of North Galena, submitted their final plans to Delaware County today for 100 homes
 - The archery center on Carters Corner Road, which was approved 3 or 4 years ago, will have to return at a later date with a new development plan, although they won't lose zoning. The owners want to move forward at a more opportune time. In the meantime, they have leased a building in Johnstown.
 - The property owner east of TSC intends to build a building for a wholesale landscape company in the future, but currently has installed a driveway and is storing equipment and dumpsters.
 - The property at 36 and Domigan Road has been purchased by Envision Pools with plans to build a wholesale/retail pool business.
 - A cell tower has been installed on Trenton Road and Inspector Weade has fielded a number of questions. It has been confirmed with the Delaware County Prosecuting Attorney's office that since this is a public utility in an agricultural district, there is nothing the township can legally do to prevent construction.
 - Inspector Weade noted that the Zoning Commission has been working hard and spends a lot of time preparing for meetings ahead of time.

- **Mike Dattilo, Chairman, Berkshire Township Board of Trustees**

- Attended a Township Association meeting on solar and wind. Townships are being advised to get their zoning ready for companies coming in looking for land. It's expected that development will be accelerating in the next 7-10 years.

- **Motion to approve Resolution no. 22-6-1 to enter into an agreement between Berkshire Township, Delaware County, and Fanning/Howey Associates, Inc. as to form and approving Kevin Vaughn as township representative**

Minor edits to the contract for design options for the township building will be handled by Administrator Kevin Vaughn.

Motion made by Paul Disantis and seconded by Mike Dattilo. Motion approved 3-0.

- **Motion to approve a buyback of cemetery graves Deed No. 330 (8 graves with original purchase price of \$2,400) payable to Tamma Hughes**

Motion made by Mike Dattilo and seconded by Paul Disantis. Motion approved 3-0.

- **Motion to approve a request for engineering assistance for speed/guardrail/barrier study for Joe Walker Road**

Motion made by Mike Dattilo and seconded by Paul Disantis. Motion approved 3-0.

- **Discussion – Street Tree Pruning**

- Administrator Kevin Vaughn explained the need to trim overgrown street trees on some of the township streets. The trees are not being trimmed by the owners and the HOAs do not have the authority to make the homeowner trim them. Snowplows cannot plow curb to curb, causing a backup of snow and ice which could create backup issues for homeowners. Mail trucks, EMS, fire trucks and school busses also have difficulty passing. The staff suggests hiring a professional tree company to do an initial pruning according to code, which is 14 feet above streets and 8 feet above sidewalks. Once trimmed, the township should be able to maintain the trees. The challenge is that this could set a precedent. A letter would be sent to homeowners to give them the opportunity to trim their own trees according to code prior to a deadline set by the township.

Public Participation

- Mary Howard, South Galena Road, expressed appreciation for the new cemetery building and said it looks fantastic.

Paying of Bills

- **Motion to pay all bills and authorize P.O.'s since the last regularly scheduled meeting of June 13, 2022:**

Motion made by Rod Myers and seconded by Paul Disantis. The motion was approved 3-0.

Adjournment

- **Motion to adjourn:**

Mike Dattilo made a motion to adjourn at 8:36 p.m. The motion was seconded by Paul Disantis and was approved 3-0.

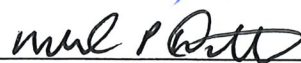


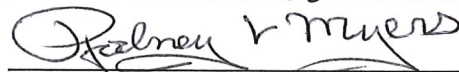
Meeting Secretary Signature



Approval Date







Berkshire Township Trustee Approvals



Fiscal Officer