

MERCER TOWNSHIP, BUTLER COUNTY  
4629 WILLIAM FLYNN HWY, PO BOX 380  
HARRISVILLE, PA 16038  
724-735-2705

Meeting Minutes: October 21, 2024

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman, J. Bennett, Jr. **Members present:** E. Treese, W. Long, N. Ciochetto, L. Giesler, S. Gallagher. **Visitors:** W. Pitts-Butler Eagle, T. Hogue-Resident. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** **Motion** to accept the September 16, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes as printed: E. Treese. Second: W. Long. All in favor, motion carried. **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:** **W. Pitts:** Reporting on mtg. **Terry Hogue:** Speeding on Station Rd. is bad, even with speed humps. Can we add more? Pulling out onto Rte. 8 is dangerous. J. Bennett, Jr. updated the solicitor & new supervisor on Station Rd. issues. Supervisors will investigate. Old Crawford house – can see light through the garage roof and house. Supervisors will investigate. **Reich Subdivision:** **Motion** to accept the Reich subdivision: W. Long. Second: E. Treese. All in favor, motion carried. **Giesler Subdivision:** Confirming answers to questions before subdividing. **OLD BUSINESS: Kozy Rest Sewage Expansion:** **Motion** to sign Intermunicipal Agreement & Public Private Partnership with Kozy Rest Campground & Marion Twp.: E. Treese. Second: J. Bennett, Jr. All in favor, motion carried. **Motion** to adopt **Ordinance #81** – Intermunicipal Agreement & Public Private Partnership with Kozy Rest Campground & Marion Twp: E. Treese. Second: W. Long. All in favor, motion carried. **Public Sewer: Incomplete (5). Delinquencies- Five or more months (10). Property Liens (9). Sheriff Sale (5):** Solicitor filed to continue Sheriff sale on 3 V. Kennedy properties. Should be up for sale in May. S. Heller sale scheduled for Nov. 15, 2024 at 11:00 am. R. McFeaters up for Judicial Sale. **Auto Pay:** 44 of 120 accounts (37%) are set up. **Delinquency Rate:** Total-11%; Severe-8%. **Sewer Lateral Inspections:** 1379 Eau Claire Rd. passed; 4148 William Flynn Hwy. pending. **Grinder Pumps:** Alarm went off at Becker's. Marvin replaced pump & sent it for repair. **Emergency Generator:** Marvin will watch. **Concrete Stanchions:** Marvin will explore cost to replace & provide a quote. **Sludge Removal:** To be scheduled in Oct. **Private Sewer: On-Lot Sewage Permits (2024): (5). Municipal Office: Building Permits (2024): (15) Office Roof:** G. Ferguson inspected the roof & sealed several areas. **Municipal Garage: New Dump Truck:** **Motion:** to pay \$50,353.25 from Liquid Fuels Fund & \$39,846.75 from Capital Reserve for a total of \$90,200.00, which pays the balance of the new fully equipped truck in full: E. Treese. Second: W. Long. Discussion: W. Long requested we hold pmt. until everything has been received & inspected. All in favor, motion carried. **Flagger Training:** G. Ferguson completed. **"For Love of the Lost"/Fish property:** Magistrate filed in favor of the Twp. Mr. Fish filed an appeal. Discussed in executive session. Moved to litigation. **EMC/Weather – Emergency Mngmt. Coordinator:** Attended FALL Boot Camp on 10-12-24 at SRAHS. **Shields Rd. Tree:** WPP cut down on 10-15-24. Area was cleared & residents were pleased. **EMS QRS Agencies:** A copy of the HVFC minutes from 10-8-24 reports they are working towards certification. **Holding Tanks in Township:** New agreements have been mailed to be signed & recorded with the Butler Co. Recorder of Deeds & then returned to office. **Allegheny Mineral Corp./White Oak Road Closure:** Solicitor made changes & sent a new updated proposal to AMC. **139 Shields Rd:** N. Graham (141 Shields Rd.) is asking to have the abandoned & deteriorating house beside/behind him at 139 Shields Rd. removed. Discussed in executive session. Mr. Graham will be notified of recommendations. **200 Shields Rd:** Culvert was adjusted & repaired. **NEW BUSINESS: Budget 2025:** Meeting scheduled for Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm. **Election Day:** (11-5-24) Office is closed. **Solicitor:** Received Proposal for Services for 2025. **Millage Rate:** Millage rate change to be determined so it can be reported to DCED by the Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> deadline if increased. Supervisors want to segregate the millage rate for the fire company. Currently the fire company is receiving a 1.8 mill donation. **Motion** to propose and advertise a 2.0 mill tax increase designated for fire tax on the tax cards: J. Bennett, Jr. Second: W. Long. All in favor, motion carried. **Fee Schedule rates:** Rates for 2025 need to be determined. **Ordinance #80:** Employee Handbook. **Motion** to advertise Ordinance #80 Employee Handbook: E. Treese. Second: J. Bennett, Jr. All in favor, motion carried. **Supervisor Compensation:** As of Dec. 1, 2024, a bill will be in effect to allow increased compensation salary caps for township supervisors. Increase can be from the current \$1,875 per year up to \$3,145 per year. **Motion** to create an advertisement of **Ordinance #82** to increase the Supervisors pay to \$3,145 per year: J. Bennett, Jr. Second: W. Long. All in favor, motion carried. **OTHER BUSINESS: Liquid Fuels Fund Review:** (10-8-24) Accounts were found in good order. **Green Lights on Twp. Vehicles:** Law was passed that green flashing lights can be installed on Twp. vehicles as well as municipal contractors. **MEETINGS/CONFERENCES/TRAINING: Mercer Co. COG:** (9-18-24) John attended. Discussed each municipality & what is happening. **PA1 Call Safety Day Conference:** (9-19-24) John attended. Guest speaker was buried alive & rescued. Spoke about recovery & PTSD. Owners of an underground utility: Critical to take a picture of the markings for proof. **Butler Co. Tax Collection Committee (BCTCC):** (9-24-24) Nikki attended. Berkheimer EIT collection contract is slated for renewal in 2026. **Municipal Grant Writing Workshop:** (9-30-24) Nikki attended. Good information on DCED & PennDOT grants & the application process. **Butler Co. Local Government Officials Course:** Three sessions: Nikki attended all three. **Butler Co. Municipal Outreach Mtg:** (10-8-24) All 3 commissioners provided updates regarding the election, budget, infrastructure bank, & the BC3 training classes. **BCATO Safety Seminar:** (10-9-24) Nikki & Lori attended. Received interesting & pertinent information. Received Right-to-know training & certification. **Butler Co. COG:** (10-24-24) 2-3:30 pm - Penn Twp. Munic. Bldg. Bill will attend. **ROAD REPORT:** 9/4/24 - Responded to a complaint on Valley View Rd. 9/19/24 - Bill & I repaired Mr. Bowser's driveway. 9/23/24 – Picked up 2 tons #4 stone for the project at Crum residence. 9/28/24 – John mowed Browntown Rd. 9/30/24 – Mowed Shields & Glacial Till Rds. **FINANCIAL REPORT:** General Fund - \$110,024, Sewer Fund - \$74,349, Liquid Fuels Fund - \$137,406, Capital Reserve - \$55,481, Escrow Fund - \$5,017, Total - \$382,277. **Motion** to accept the Financial Report & pay bills due through the next month: J. Bennett, Jr. Second: E. Treese. All in favor, motion carried. Supervisors & solicitor began executive session for litigation purposes at 8:40 pm. Executive session adjourned at 9:15 pm. **ADJOURNMENT:** **Motion** to adjourn meeting at 9:20 pm: E. Treese. Second: W. Long. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Lori Giesler, Township Asst. Secretary