

**POINT TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS  
REGULAR SUPERVISORS MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 08, 2024**

The Point Township Board of Supervisors held their regularly scheduled meeting on the above date at the Point Township Municipal Building, 759 Ridge Road, Northumberland, PA. Present were: Chairman Randall W. Yoxheimer, Vice-Chairman Thomas Strouse, Jr., Supervisor Montie Peters, Supervisor Joseph Stender, Jr. and Supervisor Clay Rowe. Also, present were Solicitor Richard J. Shoch, Office Manager/Secretary/Treasurer Amanda McClain and Office Assistant Amy Hoffman, Sergeant Kevin Herring (came at 7:41pm), Roadmaster Jared Wehry, ZEO Jackie Hart and SEO Bill Toth.

Visitors present: Helen Peters; Earl & Karen Persing; Pat Brown; Karen & Richard Smeltz; Robert Sulouff; Bryant & Sam Hamor; Leslie Kauffman; Bob Felmy; Zachary Black; John & Sharon Savidge; Rick Dandes (from the Daily Item)

Chairman Yoxheimer welcomed everyone to the Supervisors meeting and all present repeated the Pledge of Allegiance. *(Draft of the minutes of the Regular Supervisors Meeting, reports from department heads, and a copy of the bills to be paid this evening on the front table of the meeting room provided for anyone interested in viewing the information, once reviewed please return to the table).*

**Public Comment on Agenda Items:**

**J. Savidge** I don't know if this is on the agenda, I want to know if they are going to build houses up there on Hookies Grove Road across from the Balschi's property? I don't know if it perced or not.

**Peters** it is not on the agenda. Do you want to address it now?

**Hart** I know the lot is for sale and I know that there had been some inquiries, but it wasn't for a large development. It is a 4-acre lot.

**Strouse** explained where the property was located.

**Peters** the percs were done by Yordy, how long ago?

**Strouse, Jr.** 20/22 years ago.

**Yoxheimer** asked Toth when he was here (**Toth** in 2005), so it would have been prior to Toth.

**Peters** I think the point here is the percs are no good. (**Toth** correct)

**J. Savidge** so they can't build there then?

**Yoxheimer/Strouse Jr.** they would have to get new percs done.

**Strouse, Jr.** someone should let the realtor know that the percs that were done years ago, are no good.

**Toth** we had problems with the test results that were done by Mr. Yordy, which resulted in the Board adopting a Resoltion not to accept any of his percs. I believe it was around 2007 that was done.

**Peters** we have a 4-acre lot for sale, percs that are no good, what happens with the realtor?

*(Discussion ensued)*

**Yoxheimer** who should we have draft that letter?

**Hart** I can take care of that.

**Executive Session held on September 12, 2024, at 5:30:** for informational purposes only.

**Approval of Minutes:**



**MOTION** made by Peters to approve the minutes of the Regular Supervisors Meeting held on Tuesday, September 10, 2024. Seconded by Stender, Jr. and passed unanimously.

**REPORTS: (Old & New Business included):**

**Solicitor:**

**Shoch** I do have 1 or 2 updates. You may recall the last 2 meetings, there was some discussion about a property in Oak Park, I did do a search of the online Register and Recorders orders, Prothonotary as well as tax claims there are no liens of record that are on that property. There was thought that maybe there was a lien against the home from the nursing home, there is none on record.

**Brown** she just passed away yesterday.

**Shoch** that leads into the other update. We talked about the ordinance to be able to hire someone to go in and take down overgrowth things and things like that and be able to bill the property owner and if unpaid, put a lien on the property. I am still working on that. Jackie and I talked about it a little today, I will get a draft together and have Jackie review it. I will also get the ordinance together to rescind the Air Quality Ordinance.

**Strouse, Jr.** is that going to be complaint driven? (**Hart** as always, yes) ok, because driving around the Township I started looking at homes and noticed a lot that need to be taken care of.

**Brown** I am telling you, it is getting bad in the Township.

**Shoch** the thought is, that would be a last resort if the other methods with fines and citations don't work.

**Hart** I did this in Danville for 12 years. I was given \$1,000 in the budget, that I could utilize. So when we went through our process and they would totally disregard our notices to mow. We would hire that service, get it done, pay the service and then bill the property owner. The next year, I had \$1,800 in my budget when I started with \$1,000. When houses would sell, or foreclosures, we would always get our money. Northumberland Borough, same thing, they do not hire outside individuals, their street department does it, they charge \$300 each time. They mowed 5 times, and they received 2 weeks a check for \$1,500 because the home was foreclosed. The foreclosure company paid that bill, and it wasn't liened, they called and said what is outstanding balances, what are the violations, and they paid it.

**Black** do you do that too for someone that is handicapped and not capable of doing it.

**Hart** that's a totally different scenario, and no, if we see someone not able to take care of themselves, we put a notice on their door and ask them to give us a call. When we talk to them and they tell us what their issues are, we will certainly reach out, now we can pay to have their grass mowed, but we may be able to find someone that can help them. How many times has this come up with someone not taking care of their property after we have fined them, this is the first time. I don't think this is an ordinance that is going to cost the Township a lot of money.

**Yoxheimer** we need to get the ordinance in place. Tommy, in your travels, about how many properties did you notice? (**Strouse, Jr.** probably half a dozen or more) we have to start somewhere. I wonder to myself how a community like Lewisburg, its hard to find a bad property up there. Why is it that most other municipalities, what do they do differently? What can we do here?

**Hart** I can probably tell you what the difference is. In Lewisburg they have a full-time code officer who scours the streets and does patrols, and it is not complaint based like it is here. They are out and they are patrolling, and they are collecting money.

*(Discussion ensued)*

**Secretary: (Financial Report on File)**

- **VFRA (Volunteer Fire Relief Association) Payment:** this is money we get every September based off the act 205 report. It's in the amount of \$23,751.91 and we turn it over to the VFRA as soon as we



get it. There was an issue with State depositing the funds but should be within 7 to 10 days, I wanted permission to immediately get the check out to the Relief Association.

**MOTION** made by Yoxheimer to approve the distribution of VFRA funds when they are received in the amount of \$23,751.91. Seconded by Peters and passed unanimously.

- Constable Harold Showers resignation letter: handed in his resignation as constable, on Oct 3. (letter was read) Black was just sworn in today as the new constable.
- Reappoint Bonnie Troxell to Zoning Hearing Board, 3-year term: if anyone in the audience is willing to serve, we need an alternate. Bob Sulouff agreed to be an alternate.

**MOTION** made by Yoxheimer to retroactively appoint Bonnie Troxell to Zoning Hearing Board for a 3-year term, effective 1/1/2024. Seconded by Peters and passed unanimously.

- Approve PMRS Adoption Agreement: asking to table this until next meeting. I want to have time to compare the 2 agreements.

**Yoxheimer** have Shoch take a look at that too.

**McClain** I have emailed the agreement to all of you and included Shoch as well. He advised that he doesn't typically get involved with Twp pensions.

**Shoch** yes, typically in the past I have not gotten involved with that, but if you want me to take a look I can.

**Yoxheimer** yes, if you would take a look at it. Since we have run across this PMRS thing with another situation here in the township, to our dismay, so I think we want anything that gets signed for PMRS to have you review it.

**McClain** I totally agree, that is why I would like to table it until next month, or until the budget meeting.

**Police Department:** *(Report on File)*

**McClain** inquired of Board if everyone had heard about the pigs/complaint?

**Yoxheimer** apparently there are about 5 pigs running around the Township. We think they escaped or were let loose from someone who owned them. They can be very destructive. Game commission has been notified, they have stated that if safe to do so, they should be eliminated.

**Lutcher** call the police if you see them, we will get there quicker than the Game Commission will.

**Fire Department:** *(No Report)*

**Black** just to inform everyone, Michael Filbert passed away this morning.

**Fire Police:** *(No Report)*

- Approval to attend parades: an email was provided asking for events coming up for approval to attend.

**MOTION** made by Yoxheimer to approve the Fire Police attend the local events in the surrounding towns. Seconded by Peters and passed unanimously.

**EMA:** *(No Report)*

**Engineer:** *(No Report)*

**Yoxheimer** we have been made aware of some grant opportunity and we are looking into doing some pipe work at 2 locations. 1 is at the bottom of Mountain Road. There is a creek there that runs under Mountain Road. I am assuming the first bridge that was there was a stone structure and put pipes into the end of it. Just the geometry of the way that creek goes under that road, it actually parallels Mountain Road as it comes down and then makes a 90 degree turn and turns underearth the road, and then goes down to where it eventually comes down to Lithia Springs in that area. Because of the 90-degree turn, it



has been problematic, it catches a lot of debris. The engineer has been there with DEP. They met there today with a biologist and a couple different people. We were actually thinking of possibly the thing to do was change the geometry of the creek by cutting the corner off so it flows at an angle under Mountain Road, it was determined, permitting wise, and everything else it would be a nightmare to do that. So the decision was to just replace the pipe with an adequate size pipe. The other pipe we are looking at doing is below Furmans on Cannery across from the pond. That pipe has been traditionally too short. Trucks, no matter how much we try and prevent it, they are constantly cutting it off. After talking to Pysher, we may just look to dig that pipe out and replace it with an adequate size pipe. We need to have the grant ready by the end of November.

**Yoxheimer** who is here about 1085 Queen Street. We may as well talk about that now. This sort of plays into the engineer as well.

**Kauffman** lives at 1085 Queen Street, directly across from 11<sup>th</sup>, the stone driveway that goes back in. We have had a lot of flooding in the driveway. The water has nowhere to go. The water from Queen St directly flows right into the driveway, has eroded the driveway to the point where I have a business there, cars were coming in and out and getting damaged. So, we took it upon ourselves to fix it and then the last storm eroded it all back out.

**Yoxheimer** where is the driveway itself? On your property? Is it in the right-of-way?

**Kauffman** no, I don't have a right of way to it. The neighbor's own half of it, the other half is still 11<sup>th</sup> street that is unopened.

**S. Hamor** 11<sup>th</sup> Street has been closed.

**Kauffman** 11<sup>th</sup> Street from Queen to Duke St, not all Duke St, is abandoned. From what I understand, the Hamor's got half of that, on their side of the property. The other side, as far as I know, nobody has it. I use the driveway to get to my house. Do I have the Right-of-way to it? No, I am allowed to use it because I have been there 33 years. I am saying I have been maintaining it all by myself, it just keeps getting worse. I feel like there is a bigger problem there, that all this water is coming down the driveway.

**Peters** you can only access your property by an unopened street?

**Kauffman** yes, (**Peters** that shouldn't even be possible) it's been that way since I lived there. The back side of my property that comes off 11<sup>th</sup> street, is just a bank. This is where I am with it. We fixed it, we brought stone in, tamped it down, put a pipe in to try and alleviate some of the water.

**Yoxheimer** who gave you permission to put the pipe in?

**Kauffman** we just did it.

**Peters** asked the Hamor's if their deed reflected that they own half of that.

**S. Hamor** it's our parent's property.

**B. Hamor** currently as it sits, we got it resurveyed, we had 11<sup>th</sup> Street surveyed to identify exactly where it was at. 11<sup>th</sup> Street then based off of last years decision, since it has not been deemed by the Township, 20 plus years it was closed, so according to Eugene, we talked to a lawyer who looked into past history with disputes like this and it was a closed road, technically Hamor's own half and the other half would be Eric's dad (?), it was automatically reverted back to the owners of the abutting properties.

*(Discussion ensued)*

**Yoxheimer** gave history of that area where there used to be a creek and the residents that lived there took it upon themselves without getting permission from anyone, the township or DEP, and they put pipes in, put old drums and throwing dirt on top and started filling in the creek, now since the rain events got worse and with more homes, etc....the water can't get into those pipes and its causing this water issue.

**Peters** in the beginning of this nightmare, 25 or 30 years ago this started, and we got a room full of people from that neighborhood. We went down to that neighborhood and to our amazement they did just that. Neighbor A buried the creek, neighbor B did the same thing, when we had a major event come



through, it literally blew barrels out of the yards. The solution at that moment in time, was put the creek back. We gave them the option, no one wanted to do that. There is a solution to that, that is putting massive pipes down through there, but we don't have the revenue to do that.

*(Multiple conversations going on at the same time, hard to pick up what is being said)*

**Yoxheimer** this is what needs to happen. I truly do not feel this is a township issue, this started many years ago by the people that lived down there. We did have an engineer study done in that area, but I don't see that happening anytime soon since it would cost literally hundreds of thousands of dollars. In the short run, with the rain events getting worse, along with the Roadmaster, bring the engineer to that area and look to see if something can be done. Maybe do a French drain system.

**Kauffman** asked about the unopened street that she is using as a driveway and if she can get ownership.  
*(Discussion ensued)*

**Road Department:** *(Report on File)*

- *Logger Quotes for Hookies Grove Road:* received quotes back for approximately 58 trees to be taken down and totally cleaned up, minus the stumps. Thunder Ridge was \$21,750; Hollenbach Timber Harvesting was \$68,000; and Frank Krammes was \$23,000.

**MOTION** made by Peters to accept the lowest bid from Thunder Ridge at \$21,750. Seconded by Rowe and passed unanimously.

- *Flail Mower Quotes:* not looking to do anything with this tonight, just wanted to discuss what I found. I got some quotes back. The part that we need to fix the mower is \$1,000. But it seems every year we are spending more and more. I reached out to Bradco, where I think we got the machine from. He got a price for almost the exact thing we have now, just to get the boom mower, it would be \$62,000. A whole new unit, new tractor, new boom mower, it would be \$185,000.

**Strouse, Jr.** you got a price for one on front of the payloader.

**Wehry** they are still working on that. We had to find out what kind of machine we had, hydrostatic or power shift. I did talk to Steve Moore at East Buffalo and our loader came from, they have a unit for the loader, he said the unit really isn't worth it cause you have to set half in the other lane to mow along the berms.

**Strouse, Jr.** is there anyone that would come in and do this twice a year.

**Wehry** no, not that I know of. You can rent them. I talked to Weavers, and he said he doesn't know of anyone either.

**Peters** you can't just get a head for that. A rotary head. Get a price on a rotary head.

**Yoxheimer** that knuckle has got to be loose again. George had replaced that back when he started.

**Yoxheimer** I want to back up a little. With Thunder Ridge, how can they come in and do this for that price? I think we should have the Solicitor write up an agreement with them. I had a gentleman ask me tonight about a place to dump brush. Do we have an ongoing relationship with Bettleyon?

**Wehry** they will allow people to dump, but they charge a fee. I have had a few people call, we have them dump in one spot and then when we have the chipper out for tree work, we will chip it up and blow it into the woods.

**Peters** even so, that's like collecting leaves, that only benefits a small protein of residents. You guys are being paid to be grinding up stuff you shouldn't be.

**Yoxheimer** I think we need to look into this. I think we have more people then even those that need leaves collecting. We need to try and figure out where people can dump this stuff.

**E. Persing** if you do this in an area where it is not monitored, you are going to get people dumping all sorts of things they shouldn't be.

**Yoxheimer** we can do it in a gated area and monitor who and what is being brought in.

**Sewage Enforcement Officer:** *(No Report)*

Toth 1 design review that a tank changed, doing a redesign; 1 permit issued; 5 soil profiles on Shady Lane for a wedding venue.

**Zoning Enforcement Officer/Ordinance Enforcement Officer:** *(Report on File)*

Hart issued 6 zoning permits:

- 128 Autumn Lane: fence
- 2098 Ridge Road: Roof top solar
- 104 Auman Lane: 20x24 Pavilion
- 542 Locust Street: Pole Barn Addition
- 2419 Ridge Road: Shed
- 138 Nottingham Dr: Covered Deck

**Planning Commission:** *(No Report)*

**Recreation:** *(No Report)*

Wehry the parts for the soccer goals came in, we will get those replaced.

**Sewer Authority:** *(No Report)*

Yoxheimer gave update on pipe replacement on Route 11.

**Other Business:**

- 1085 Queen Street water run off:

**General Public Comments/Resident Concerns:**

**Pay Bills:**

MOTION made by Strouse, Jr to pay bills. Seconded by Stender, Jr. and passed unanimously.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:41PM.  
All motions passed by hand vote.

Respectfully submitted,

**Executive Session:**

**List of Communications:** *(On File)*

Amy Hoffman, Office Assistant

**Financial Reports:** *(On File)*

Amanda McClain, Office Mgr/Secretary/Treasurer