

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING

Nov. 13, 2017

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Jefferson Township Board of Supervisors, held at the municipal building on 157 Great Belt Rd., Butler, PA, was called to order by Chairman John Cypher at 7:00 P.M. on Nov. 13, 2017. All rose to pledge the flag.

ROLL CALL:

Those present were John Cypher, Braden Beblo, and Sec/Treas. Lois Fennell. Lois Rankin was absent on PSATS (PA State Association of Township Supervisors) business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Supervisors Cypher and Rankin attended the Safety Seminar on Oct. 11th. All three Supervisors met with PennDOT Municipal Services Rep., Allen Williams, on Mon., Oct. 23rd to hear about and ask questions about PennDOT's surface improvement project on Rt. 356 in Jefferson Township & Winfield Township (projected 1 to 4 year implementation.) All three Supervisors attended the Fall Convention of the Butler County Assn. of Township Officials on Tues., Oct. 24th. in Slippery Rock.

Supervisor Cypher attended a meeting this afternoon with Allen Williams (PennDOT Municipal Services), the township secretary, township road foreman and Summit Twp. officials regarding joint application for Multi-Modal Grant.

There was a brief executive session just prior to this meeting in regards to on-going legal matters.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED: None.

MINUTES:

John Cypher *moved* to approve the Oct. 9, 2017 regular meeting minutes as written and distributed. Braden Beblo *seconded*. Agreed by the quorum present and *motion carried*.

FINANCIAL:

Bills paid between the October 9th meeting and Nov. 13, 2017 meetings totaled 30,379.31. Bills presented for payment from the General Fund this evening totaled \$32,382.68. No bills were presented from the State Fund this evening. Total of all funds after payment of the bills was \$1,273,371.31 (which includes the \$128,668.50 received from PennEnergy for the park gas lease. *Motion* by John Cypher to pay the bills presented plus any regular bills that may become due before the Dec. 11, 2017 meeting. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. Agreed by the quorum present (John Cypher and Braden Beblo) and *motion carried*.

PUBLIC BUSINESS OR COMMENT: None.

RECREATION COMMITTEE: No report. No meetings in Nov., Dec., and January.

ROAD FOREMAN REPORT:

Chairman Cypher had no formal report to read this evening. He welcomed Bill Foertsch back and noted that the Road Crew did a good job in Bill's absence. The Road Crew is doing some extra work on the Hannahstown Rd. bridge (markers and paving of approaches to make them smoother.) They are trying to get the snow fence up, but the wet weather has been a hindrance. Chairman Cypher reported that Bill will be getting a quote for a new truck (approx. cost \$170,000), which the Board may vote on next month.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

Leo Rosenbauer, Chairman of the Planning Commission, reported on their Oct. 26, 2017 meeting. The P.C. reviewed the Land Development submission for the "Rustique Roost" (Mr. and Mrs. Simms - previous Sleeper property on Winfield Rd.) by their architect, Scot Wallace. Leo Rosenbauer read the comments from HRG, Inc. (letter dated Oct. 23, 2017): 2 comments referencing Chap. 26 (Ord. 313) Stormwater Management and 10 comments referencing Chap. 22, Subdivision and Land Development regulations. In addition to addressing these 12 items, the P.C. requires submission of a copy of their PennDOT Highway Occupancy Permit; dedication/signature sections be added to the plan (as required by Chapter 22); and noted that the 'sewage planning module' cannot be processed until the Land Development has been approved by the Board of Supervisors. The P.C. tabled action on the plan. No action needed by the Supervisors this evening (Nov. 13, 2017).

The P.C. reviewed a Lot-Line Revision submitted by Lee Harbison. The property is located at Jones Rd. and Bonniebrook Rd. The existing lots have frontage on Bonniebrook Rd. and he has proposed to add a small amount of acreage to lots 1, 2, 3, and 4. The P.C. tabled action on the plan because it was incomplete. The surveyor needs to obtain a copy of the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (Chap. 22) for his use in determining ALL missing items (which include but are not limited to: dedication/signature sections; road names; existing houses, wells and septic locations, utility lines (if any), creeks or ponds (and easement if required), acreage of each existing lot and total of each lot after conveyance, and the name of the 'plan'). No action needed by the Supervisors this evening (Nov. 13, 2017).

The P.C. reviewed and recommended approval of a side set-back modification for a proposed 960 sq. ft. residential garage for Mr. Joel Kohler on Victory Rd. He submitted a notarized letter of permission from his neighbor, James Hughes, to be only 12 ft. from the property line. After a brief review, John Cypher *moved* to grant the modification for the 12 ft. side set-back as presented by Mr. Kohler. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. Agreed by the quorum present and *motion carried*.

Mr. Rosenbauer reported that Stan Graff talked to the Planning Commission again about the proposed subdivision (of existing farm houses with acreage) and consolidation of some of the larger (land locked) acreage owned by the Nowicki family. Evie Gross noted that she checked with the township attorney, who has indicated that the Township can approve a modification to use 'tax parcel numbers and acreage' instead of requiring a full survey for the proposed consolidated lots. Leo noted that there is roughly 400 acres and it would be very costly. No action taken by the P.C. as this is still preliminary discussion and no plans have been submitted. No action needed by the Supervisors this evening (Nov. 13, 2017).

The P.C. plans to discuss the proposed 'burning ordinance' revisions, perhaps at the Nov. 16th P.C. meeting. John Cypher urged them to 'keep it simple'; they do not want the township to require 'any permits'. Evie Gross reported that Bill Montgomery called her and said he does not want re-appointed at the Jan. 2nd meeting for another term. *Motion* by John Cypher to place a notice in the newsletter this month, asking for interested persons to submit a letter of interest for possible appointment to the Planning Commission. Braden Beblo *seconded* the motion. Agreed by the quorum present and *motion carried*.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Last month the Proposed 2018 Budget was introduced to the Board of Supervisors. John Cypher and Braden Beblo both indicated that they have reviewed the budget and are satisfied. John noted that the park gas lease funds have been included in the ending 2017/beginning 2018 balances. *Motion* by John Cypher to authorize advertisement for the final review and adoption of the 2018 Budget at the Dec. 11, 2017 meeting. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. Agreed by the quorum present (JC + BB) and *motion carried*.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS, cont.:

At the October meeting it was noted that the Board would re-apply for the PennDOT Multimodal Grant. Last year's 'grant' (which we applied for) has not been awarded yet. The Board agreed, individually since that meeting, to do a joint application this year with Summit Township in hopes of improving our chance of being awarded. Summit Township is adding to their portion this time, which will mean that Bonniebrook Rd. is proposed to be re-done from Rt.422 (in Summit) to Rt. 356 (in Jefferson). It was noted that the state has already re-done the portion between Rt. 68 and Rt. 422. *Motion* by John Cypher to ratify the individual decision to proceed with a joint application with Summit Township. (Summit Township will be the lead township.) *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. Agreed by the quorum present and *motion carried*. *Motion* by John Cypher to designate the Jefferson Township chairman to sign any of the application paperwork if needed. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. Agreed by the quorum present and *motion carried*. Chairman Cypher noted that we will check with the Township Attorney regarding whether or not we have to do an 'Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement' for this joint venture, unless we hear back from PSATS or DCED on the matter. A resolution will have to be adopted later to authorize the application.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Cypher congratulated Sue Hartzell for having been re-elected as Auditor for a 2-year term. He and Supervisor Beblo discussed the problem of having two vacant auditor positions and the fact that for a few years now, the auditors appointed to the positions have declined to be re-appointed. Chairman Cypher said that puts us in a precarious position and believes it is time to outsource the 'audit' to a CPA or accounting firm. He explained that Sue Hartzell is still an elected auditor, but her (and one or two other appointees) only duty will be to set the compensation of any working supervisors. *Motion* by John Cypher to advertise the intent of the Supervisors to appoint a CPA (or accounting firm) at their Jan. 2, 2018 meeting 'to examine all of the accounts of the Township for the fiscal year 2017.' The advertisement must be placed before the end of November (or at least 30 days prior to the expected date of appointment.) *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. Agreed by the quorum present and *motion carried*. *Motion* by John Cypher to continue to look for someone to accept the vacant auditor position(s) (for one year) for the purpose of meeting to set the working supervisors' wages for 2018. *Seconded* by Braden Beblo. Agreed by the quorum present and *motion carried*.

MISC. BUSINESS:

- Received NOTICE from HRG, Inc. that PennEnergy Resource, LLC is applying to DEP for Permit Applications to Drill and Operate Unconventional Gas Wells (PER W45 2H well permit modification) on Bicker Rd., Cabot (Winfield Township).

- Received NOTICE from Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. that PennEnergy Resources, LLC is applying to DEP for a Permit to Drill & Operate an Unconventional Well in Winfield Township, PER W32 Well Pad off Bear Creek Rd.

- Received NOTICE from Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. that PennEnergy Resources, LLC is applying to DEP for a Permit to Drill & Operate an Unconventional Wells ((REVISING 1H-4H previously notified and adding 5H) off Golden City Rd. in Jefferson Township.

- Received NOTICE from Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc. that PennEnergy Resources, LLC is applying to DEP for authorization under the ESCGP-2 Permit for a major modification to the PER W71 Well Pad project (off Dinnerbell Rd. in Jefferson Township).

- Received NOTICE from Rex Energy that they are submitting permit applications for drilling or altering a well to DEP for R.E. Gas Development, LLC - Hofer Units 1H and 3H on Anderson Rd. in Penn Twp.

ATTENDANCE: Bill & Mandi Foertsch, Evie Gross, Leo Rosenbauer, Sue Hartzell, Roger Cypher, and Dennis Kriley

ADJOURN: *Motion* by John Cypher to adjourn at 7:50 P.M. Braden Beblo *seconded* the motion. All agreed and *motion carried*. The next regular meeting at 7 PM on Monday, Dec. 11, 2017 at the Township Building, 157 Great Belt Rd., Butler.

Respectfully submitted by Sec/Treas., Lois Fennell