

**Tulpehocken Township  
Board of Supervisors  
Meeting of May 10, 2023**

The Tulpehocken Township Board of Supervisors met on May 10, 2023, in the Township meeting room at 7 P.M. In attendance and voting were Supervisors: Chairman Gary Deck, Vice Chairman Lester Feick and Supervisor Harold Zimmerman. Also present were Bryan Dronick, Police Chief and Kathy Judy, Township Secretary/Treasurer.

Members of the audience included Linda Wilcox, Jennifer Schmehl, Dan Bost and Mike Najarian.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Deck called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

The meeting continued with the pledge to the American Flag.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Dan Bost with Senator Gebhart’s Office was present to meet the Board and to discuss the expansion and renovation projects taking place at the Bethel-Tulpehocken Library. He and some other members of the audience asked the Board if the Township could make an added contribution or if in next year’s budget it would be possible to add some money for the library to help with the purchase of a new sign and furniture. They will let the Board know what the estimates are for the items. No action taken at this time.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 12, 2023 Board of Supervisors meeting - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*

**ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS**

**Personnel:** Attorney Barb Dietrich, the Township’s Zoning Hearing Board and UCC Appeals Board Solicitor, is retiring effective June 2, 2023. The Board was given contact information for several attorneys to consider as possible candidates for the positions. Mrs. Judy is to get more information and hourly rates for each and report back to the Board of Supervisors.

**Planning Commission:** As discussed at the May 4, 2023 Joint meeting, *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to advertise the June 1, 2023 Planning Commission Meeting as a Joint Meeting with the Board of Supervisors to continue work on Ordinance amendments for Solar, Wireless Communications Facilities and Animal Unit Allowances – seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

**Solicitor Legal Discussions:** None.

**Escrow Release:** Nelson Auker LDP Escrow Release #2. In accordance with the Township Engineer’s recommendation, *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to release the balance of the Letter of Credit - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

**Correspondence from Zoning Officer: April update: None.**

(205 Greble Road) - The Board discussed the status of the Zoning and Building Permit Applications for work that was taking place at the property.

(44 Rehrersburg Road) – The Board discussed conditions at the property. Although it was addressed before, there continues to be a problem with trash, debris and multiple vehicles at the property. *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion for the Zoning Officer to revisit the property and to take action if there is a code or ordinance violation - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*

**Land Development: None.**

**Recreation Board:**

We are waiting on quotes for Tree Removal, Exterminator Services and Seasonal Portable Toilets. The Board discussed whether or not it would be beneficial to purchase an outdoor facility rather than renting one. It was agreed that could be looked into and discussed further, however, it was important to get a rental out to the park a while. *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to order a rental from the company the Lions Club used last year, temporarily until we have quotes to compare - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Grant Study Committee Update – The Board discussed the status of the Lions Park project with Dan Bost, in the audience. Mrs. Judy will follow up and provide Dan with more information.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**Police Report** – Chief Dronick read the April, 2023 Police Report as follows:

	<b>TULPEHOCKEN TWP</b>	<b>MARION TWP</b>
MILES PATROLLED	1,556	737
GALLONS OF FUEL	171	0
HOURS WORKED	426	60
PATROL HOURS	216.25	57
TULPEHOCKEN AREA SCHOOL DIST. HOURS	29	0
TOTAL INCIDENTS	20	8
TOTAL COMPLAINTS	2	1
MISCELLANEOUS CALLS FOR SERVICE	52	4
FOLLOW-UP INVEST	3	7
TELEPHONE ASSIGNMENTS	10	8
COMM/RESIDENTIAL ALARMS	2	1
EMS/FIRE ADVISORIES	18	6
TRAFFIC STOPS	23	19
CITATIONS ISSUED	19	13
NON-TRAFFIC CITATIONS	0	0
TRAFFIC WARNINGS	7	7
WARRANTS	1	0
PARKING TICKETS	0	0

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS	5	1
DUI ARRESTS	0	0
MISDEMEANOR/FELONY	0	0
SECURITY CHECKS	54	24
POLICE ASSISTS	14	0
MOTORISTS ASSISTS	0	0
COURT APPEARANCES	1	1
SCHOOL (TRAINING) HOURS	0	0

Chief Dronick reported that during the month of April there were 158 calls received through Berks County 911 for police service; noting that fourteen (14) of those were for Teen Challenge

Dash Camera Purchase and PCCD Grant update – PCCD has not notified us with the final amount to be awarded. Since first applying for the grant last year, the quote from Axon for the dash cameras has gone up from \$37,440 to \$42,475 and they are firm on that amount. Also, PCCD required adjustments be made for costs on Axon’s five-year services that extend beyond the two year grant period. Right now, with the tasers denied, the increased quote and adjustments, the amount for eligible costs and what PCCD might award is estimated to be \$31,392.62 – leaving about \$11,083.06 that we would need to pay. Some terms & conditions we need to agree to are quarterly reports to PCCD on staffing and how much video footage was used in investigations, trials and court appearances. Chief Dronick asked the Board if it would like to move forward with the grant or withdraw the application. There was some discussion about looking into possible insurance discounts, what to expect when the five-year service with Axon expires and how the dash cameras are linked to automatically turn on the officer’s body camera when the vehicles emergency lights are activated. *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to move forward with the grant and, if the award letter reflects close to above amounts, authorize o placing the order with Axon and for the un-awarded amount to be paid for with ARPA funds - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

There was also some discussion about taser features, the tasers the department currently has and what replacement costs would be.

**Roadmaster Report:**

Supervisor Feick read the April, 2023 report. The work consisted of a call-out for trees down, sewer maintenance, reading meters, shop work, patching potholes, taking the snow equipment off of the trucks and equipment and put it away, getting Witman Road ready for paving, putting drainage boxes and new pipes in on Witman Road, met with Zinn Insurance, work on problems with the generator at the Mt. Aetna Waste Water Treatment Plant, attended the Berks County Public Works Meeting, got the zero turn mower ready for mowing, cleaned pump stations, mowing lawns, hauling ground, met with guard rail contractor to fix guard rails on Host Church Road, attended the PSAT’s convention, posting notices for the Zoning Hearing.

Road Project – *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to ratify the approval to advertise a special meeting for the bid opening and any other business - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

## **Fire Chiefs' Reports**

Supervisor Feick read the monthly reports for the Keystone Fire Company and the Rescue Fire Company.

## **SEWER OPERATIONS**

Judgements and Delinquent Sewer Accounts: Nothing to act on at this time.

Vice Chairman Feick updated the Board that the meters and meter repairs needed between the three pump stations is going to cost approximately \$16,000.

Vice Chairman Feick advised that:

- the meters and meter repairs needed between the three pump stations is going to cost approximately \$16,000.
- a meeting is scheduled to go over Mountain Meadows pump station issue
- the contractor came out and reset the new generator without calling us to come out as requested.
- the Teen Challenge generator is scheduled to be installed Friday, May 12, 2023.

Sewer Service Fee Waiver Request – The Board reviewed a letter submitted by Harold Zimmerman asking that the sewer service fee for his vacant lot at 28 Church Street be waived. The account is up to date and paid through March, 2023. *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to approve the request waiving current and future bills until there is a connection made to the sewer service - - seconded by Chairman Deck and passed (2-0), Supervisor Zimmerman abstained from the vote*

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Fireworks Display Permit, Teen Challenge Training Center - *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to approve the application and issue Fireworks Display Permit 2023-1 - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Berks Association of Township Officials Association Dues of \$75.00 – *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to approve payment of the 2023 dues - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Center for Excellence in Local Government at Albright 2023 Municipal Sponsorship request. In 2022 the Township contributed \$400 – *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to contribute \$400 - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Berks County Redevelopment Authority letter regarding Community Development Block Grant Program 2024-2026 – *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to remain in the County's CDBG Program - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS AND APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT OF BILLS:**

Account Balances for the end of April, 2023 were as follows:

General Account	\$ 11,296.62
First Citizens General Holding Account	\$ 227,418.41
General Plus Account	\$ 278,563.59
State Aid Account	\$ 152,267.50
State Plus Account	\$ 39,598.03
Street Light Account	\$ 20,630.49
Recreation Fund – Class Account	\$ 16,521.15
Recreation Fund – Prime Account	\$ 113,686.18
Payroll Account	\$ 17,019.73
American Rescue Plan – Class Account	\$ 40.31
American Rescue Plan Account	\$ 368,648.58

Payments of Bills for this May 10, 2023 meeting are:

General Account – Checks #21562-21595 in the amount of \$61,349.87

Street Light Account – Check #486 in the amount of \$2,074.80

Recreation Fund – Checks # 125-126 in the amount of \$190.06

Recreation Planning Escrow – Checks # 115-116 in the amount of \$1,979.04

Total expenses for this May 10, 2023 Meeting are \$65,593.77

*Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to approve the payment of bills for this May 10, 2023 meeting - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Sewer Accounts balances for the end of April, 2023 were as follows:

Sewer Operation Account: \$6,746.73

Balance in the Sewer Holding Account: \$90,713.24

Debt Service Account: \$442,128.59

Expenses for this meeting: \$23,363.79

*Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to approve the payment of bills for this May 10, 2023 meeting - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Authorize transfers from the General Fund per the 2023 approved budget:

- *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to approve the transfer of \$4,396.00 to the Building Maintenance Fund - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0)*
- *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to approve the transfer of \$ 2,000.00 to the Police P.T.O. Fund - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*
- *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to approve the transfer of \$11,264.00 to the Emergency Services Fund*
- *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to approve the transfer of \$ 5,000.00 to the Recreation Fund - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

**ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

*Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 P.M. - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy Judy, Secretary  
Tulpehocken Township