

**Tulpehocken Township
Board of Supervisors
Meeting of June 14, 2023**

The Tulpehocken Township Board of Supervisors met on June 14, 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 Andrea Book, Linda Wilcox, Kevin Wilcox 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: Andrea Book was present to share data with the board showing that any stories they may have heard recently about her dismissing cases are not correct. She presented an activity sheet for traffic citations that have been filed by the Tulpehocken Police for the last eighteen months. Andrea went over the number of cases that were withdrawn by the officers and did not go to court, the number of cases that were gotten rid of because the person was deceased before any court date, the number that were not guilty because the officer did not appear in court and the number that were negotiated as deals prior to Andrea walking into the Court Room. The resulting total number of cases heard amounted to three that were found not guilty and four that were found guilty.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 4, 2023 Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors Joint Meeting - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*
- *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 10, 2023 Board of Supervisors Meeting - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*
- *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 22, 2023 Board of Supervisors Special Meeting - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*
- *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 1, 2023 Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors Joint Meeting - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

Personnel:

Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor position - In accordance with a motion passed at an advertised Special Meeting of the Zoning Hearing Board on May 30, 2023, *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to acknowledge the Zoning Hearing Boards' decision to hire Michael J. Gombar, Jr., Esquire to serve as Tulpehocken Township's Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor effective May 31, 2023 - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

UCC Appeals Board Solicitor – The Board discussed that Attorney Gombar was still interested in the position. *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to hire Michael J. Gombar, Jr., Esquire as Tulpehocken Township's UCC Appeals Board Solicitor effective June 15, 2023 - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Planning Commission: None.

Solicitor Legal Discussions: None.

Escrow Release: None.

Correspondence from Zoning Officer: April update: None.

- (231 Godfrey Street) – There are chickens and turkeys at the property. A letter was sent giving the property owner until June 10, 2023 to respond.
- (344A Godfrey Street) – There are still chickens at the property. A Notice of Violation was sent giving the owner until June 25, 2023 to comply.
- (44 Rehrersburg Road) – Zoning Officer was notified about conditions at this property.
- It was also announced that there is a Zoning Hearing scheduled for June 20, 2023 regarding a pole building construct at 205 Greble Road.

Land Development: None.

Recreation Board:

The Board discussed updates about Property and Maintenance matters. As was previously approved, the seasonal portable toilet has been delivered to the park and the exterminator has been out to service the park property. The tree removal has not been arranged; the Board agreed to revisit the matter once some quotes are obtained. The possibility of future grant funds for a permanent outdoor bathroom were mentioned. And it was noted that the exterminator recommended service twice a year for routine maintenance.

STAFF REPORTS

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

	TULPEHOCKEN	MARION TWP
MILES PATROLLED	1,981	793
GALLONS OF FUEL	197	0
HOURS WORKED	457	60
PATROL HOURS	221.75	57.5
TULPEHOCKEN AREA SCHOOL DIST. HOURS	42.9	0
TOTAL INCIDENTS	8	2
TOTAL COMPLAINTS	8	4
MISCELLANEOUS CALLS FOR SERVICE	68	8
FOLLOW-UP INVEST	3	2
TELEPHONE ASSIGNMENTS	16	4
COMM/RESIDENTIAL ALARMS	0	0
EMS/FIRE ADVISORIES	23	9
TRAFFIC STOPS	32	16
CITATIONS ISSUED	22	14
NON-TRAFFIC CITATIONS	0	0
TRAFFIC WARNINGS	13	3
WARRANTS	2	0
PARKING TICKETS	0	5

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS	3	2
DUI ARRESTS	0	0
MISDEMEANOR/FELONY	0	0
SECURITY CHECKS	57	20
POLICE ASSISTS	10	0
MOTORISTS ASSISTS	1	2
COURT APPEARANCES	4	0
SCHOOL (TRAINING) HOURS	8	0

Chief Dronick reported that during the month of May there were 151 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 – Chief Dronick reported that we did get awarded \$31,392.62 in grant funds and the dash cameras have been ordered. He’s been told by Axon that it will probably be February or March of 2024 before they are available. If they are able to speed that up, the earliest would still not be until the end of 2023.

Update regarding new police vehicle – Chief Dronick advised that it should be delivered to the dealership by June 30th. With outfitting time, it would probably not be in service until late July.

Roadmaster Report:

Supervisor Feick read the May, 2023 report. The work consisted of sewer maintenance work, reading meters, removing trees from roadway, mowing lawns, working on equipment, going to a DCED Workshop, hauling stone into stock pile, removing some tree branches in Mt. Aetna, working on the Witman Road project, working in the shop, some complaints about dead trees on Deck Road – most of them have been marked for removal, helping Upper Tulpehocken with some sewer issues, a meeting with the installers at the Mt. Meadows Pump Station, installing the generator at the Teen Challenge Pump Station, painting some curbing, cold patch work, processing a driveway permit, meeting with the exterminator at the park and highway mowing.

Road Project – All paperwork has been received for both the paving and the seal coat contracts. *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to ratify signing the contracts and sending the Notices to Proceed - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Guide Rail repair at Host Church Road – The guard rail was found damaged from a hit and run incident. The Board discussed the repairs that made and reviewed the invoice received for \$13,995.00. *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to approve payment of the invoice and to issue the check - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Work on manhole in the Altalaha Church parking lot – The Church is preparing to have their parking lot resurfaced. Vice Chairman Feick explained that when the main sewer line was put in, the Township had to dig up a section of macadam in the parking lot and then back filled it with stone, but never fixed it. The Church is asking that the Township pay for that section to be fixed to prepare it for paving. The contractor they’ve hired to repave the lot has given a quote of \$2,900 to dig out and put base macadam in the section. *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to approve paying for the base repair of that section - - seconded by Harold Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Vice Chairman Feick advised that a car hit one of our mowing tractors. The driver was attempting to pass the tractor, encountered a car coming the other direction, to avoid the head-on turned his vehicle back and into the tractor tire. There were no personal injuries. The tractor's tire rim has been repaired but he'd still like to get a replacement rim as a backup.

Vice Chairman Feick stated that part-time road employee, Burt Wessner, is interested in getting a CDL License. The Board members agreed that it would help the Township when he's needed for Snow Removal and Mowing. The CDL class and licensing would cost \$3,500. *Chairman Deck made a motion to approve paying for the licensing as an employee training or continuing education expense, on the condition that upon the Solicitor's review it's determined that it would be an acceptable use of funds - - 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:

6 Magdalena Street – A fourth lien has been filed. *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to authorize the Solicitor to commence civil action - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Vice Chairman Feick shared that there are various Sewer Service issues being worked out including high test results at the Mt. Aetna Pump Station (new UV lights and new sensors have been installed), some meter issues and there is one pump down.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

CORRESPONDENCE

Request from Teen Challenge for Fire Police coverage at their annual Celebrate Festival & Fireworks Display on Saturday, July 8, 2023 from 8:30 PM – 10:30 PM (raindate is Sunday, July 9, 2023). *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to approve providing Fire Police coverage at the event as requested - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Request from the Borough of Robeson for Fire Police assistance at their Annual Fireworks Event on Saturday, June 24, 2023 starting at 6:00 PM to approximately 11:00 PM. *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to approve providing Fire Police assistance at the event as requested - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Letter and 2023 Affiliate Member Form from Berks County Conservation District requesting contribution to environmental education programs. The Board reviewed the request, discussed the various services the Conservation District provides to the Township and agreed to make a contribution. *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to approve making a \$500.00 contribution to the Berks County Conservation District - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to amend the agenda to include: 1) ratify approval to provide Fire Police Assistance at Bernville Borough Memorial Day Parade, 2) make a Public Statement that this Meeting's Agenda was not posted on the Township website in the required timeframe and to adopt the Amended Agenda - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).

Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to ratify approval to provide Fire Police Assistance at the Bernville Borough Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 29, 2023 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).

Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion that the Board of Supervisors hereby announce for the record that, despite best efforts, this Meeting's Agenda was not published on the Township Website in the required timeframe and that the Board of Supervisors approves adoption of the agenda as amended - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).

OTHER BUSINESS:

Joint Comprehensive Plan – Jefferson Township has reached out to invite all of the Townships in the School District and our mutual Solicitor to meet and have discussions to see if there would be interest in developing a Joint Comprehensive Plan - - *Chairman Deck made a motion to respond that Tulpehocken Township is interested in attending and taking part in a meeting to discuss the matter further - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

FINANCIAL REPORTS AND APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT OF BILLS:

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

General Account	\$ 55,175.45
First Citizens General Holding Account	\$ 297,127.49
General Plus Account	\$ 279,776.39
State Aid Account	\$ 152,892.45
State Plus Account	\$ 39,770.43
Street Light Account	\$ 38,260.96
Recreation Fund – Class Account	\$ 16,599.31
Recreation Fund – Prime Account	\$ 112,195.37
Payroll Account	\$ 20,244.41
American Rescue Plan – Class Account	\$ 40.48
American Rescue Plan Account	\$ 370,253.59

Payments of Bills for this June 14, 2023 meeting are:

General Account – Checks #21597-21605 in the amount of \$75,652.72

Street Light Account – Check #487 in the amount of \$1,633.05

Recreation Fund – Checks # 127-130 in the amount of \$418.95

Total expenses for this May 10, 2023 Meeting are \$77,704.72

Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to approve the payment of bills for this June 14, 2023 meeting - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).

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

Sewer PLGIT Prime Account: \$154,178.70

Sewer Operation Account: \$6,593.05

Balance in the Sewer Holding Account: \$70,931.17

Debt Service Account: \$444,053.51

Expenses for this meeting: \$39,617.37

Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to approve the payment of bills for this June 14, 2023 meeting - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 P.M. - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Judy, Secretary