

**Tulpehocken Township Board of Supervisors
Meeting of January 2, 2024**

The Tulpehocken Township Board of Supervisors met on January 2, 2024, in the Township meeting room at 6 P.M. In attendance and voting were Supervisors: Chairman Gary Deck, Vice Chairman Lester Feick and Harold Zimmerman, Supervisor. Also, present were Michelle Mayfield, Township Solicitor; Bryan Dronick, Police Chief and Kathy Judy, Township Secretary / Treasurer.

Members of the Audience included: Shirley & Marvin Ritter, Bruce Hardy, Gail Malsbury, Kevin Weaver, Debbie Speidel, Steve & Susan Shollenberger, Susan Wolfe, Jody Mill, Jayne Seifrit and Amy & Tim Bouffard

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Deck called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

The meeting continued with the pledge to the American Flag.

PUBLIC HEARING OF ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS: Chairman Deck began by explaining the need to amend the ordinance to include rules and regulations for solar energy and the creation of a green energy overlay area where solar farms could be allowed within the Township. The Board and Atty. Mayfield answered questions about what the ordinance will allow, what is in place to ensure upkeep and protect against abandonment of any solar farms built. It was also discussed that being in the green energy overlay district should not impact assessment value or Ag Security Preservation status unless the property owner would choose to allow solar facilities to be built on the property.

Chairman Deck gave a brief summary of the Zoning Ordinance amendments for the keeping of domestic farm animals and backyard chickens. Atty. Mayfield read the regulations for backyard chickens in Village Center and Chairman Deck spoke about the amendment to the definition of animal unit in order to make allowances more consistent in the various zoning districts throughout the township.

Atty. Mayfield spoke briefly about the amendments to the Zoning ordinance for wireless communications facilities needed to comply with state law. She explained that they have to do with allowing for small equipment and antenna additions to poles, barns and other existing structures and they are not part of and do not change the Township's existing cell tower regulations in any way.

After confirming there were no more questions, *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-1, amending the Tulpehocken Township Zoning Ordinance of 2013 regarding rules and regulations for solar energy, the keeping of domestic farm animals and backyard chickens and amending the definition of animal unit - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2024-2, amending the Tulpehocken Township Zoning Ordinance of 2013 regarding wireless communication facilities - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chairman Deck.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 13, 2023 Board of Supervisors meeting - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

Personnel: None.

Planning Commission: None.

Solicitor Legal Discussions: None.

Escrow Release: None.

Correspondence from Zoning Officer: None.

Land Development:

Village Estates: Payment of bills and taxes. Backup Pump. – *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion authorizing the Secretary to contact Village Estates about payment of the 2023 School Real Estate tax bill and to copy the Tax Collector - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Recreation:

Lions Park: Maintenance and operation repairs and purchases: None.

STAFF REPORTS

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

	<u>Tulpehocken</u>	<u>Marion</u>
MILES PATROLLED	1463	689
GALLONS OF FUEL	175.5	
HOURS WORKED	404.75	60
PATROL HOURS	181.25	44
TASD HOURS	37.75	
TOTAL INCIDENTS	14	3
TOTAL COMPLAINTS	5	2
MISC. CALLS FOR SERVICE	68	1
FOLLOW-UP INVEST	0	2
TELEPHONE ASSIGNMENTS	32	2
COMM/RESIDENTIAL ALARMS	0	0
EMS/FIRE ADVISORIES	17	8
TRAFFIC STOPS	19	14
CITATIONS ISSUED	20	15
NON-TRAFFIC CITATIONS	0	0
TRAFFIC WARNINGS	10	8
WARRANTS	0	2
PARKING TICKETS	0	0
TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS	10	2
DUI ARRESTS	3	0
MISDEMEANOR/FELONY	0	0
SECURITY CHECKS	19	1
POLICE ASSISTS	5	0
MOTORISTS ASSISTS	0	1
COURT APPEARANCES	0	2
SCHOOL (TRAINING) HOURS	0	0

Chief Dronick reported that during the month of December there were 144 calls received through Berks County 911; noting that fourteen (14) were for Teen Challenge.

Road Master's Report: Vice Chairman Feick read the December, 2023 report. The work consisted of regular monthly sewer work and meter readings, one snow event, meeting with Dalton Zimmerman about trees on West Four Point Road, spreading salt at a fire scene, cleaning trucks, meeting with SmrtGuys about camera system for at the Park, posting notices for the Zoning Ordinance Amendment Hearing, and cleaning gutters.

The Board discussed some cleanup work that will be needed where some trees washed down to the bridge on Midway Road. Vice Chairman Feick also reported that there is no update on the Utility Truck.

Fire Chiefs' Report – Vice Chairman Feick reviewed activity for the Keystone Fire Company and read the report for the Rescue Fire Company for December, 2023.

Chairman Deck addressed the audience and asked for their thoughts and feedback on a possible tax being put in place to help fund fire and ambulance emergency services. Some discussion followed. Workshops will likely take place this year to develop a plan and have something in place before next year.

SEWER OPERATIONS

Judgements and Delinquent Sewer Accounts: No action needed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Following up on a letter from the Township Tax Collector that the Board discussed at the December 13th meeting, *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-7 establishing that previous year county tax refunds under \$5.00 will not be issued by the Township Tax Collector - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

OTHER BUSINESS:

SmrtGuys Bi-Yearly Service Contract - the quote from SmrtGuys for the Bi-Yearly Service Contract for 2024 is \$590 (a \$40.00 increase) *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to accept the Smrt Guys 2024 bi-yearly service contract for a cost of \$590.00 - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*

SmrtGuys Quote for Synology NAS System - the Board reviewed a quote from SmrtGuys for upgrading the data storage and backup system for \$945. Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to accept the quote and authorize the system upgrade work - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).

TRAINING AND OTHER INVITATIONS

Berks County Public Works Association will meet on January 10, 2024; registration to attend is due January 3, 2024.

FINANCIAL REPORT AND APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

General Account	\$ 21,771.10
1 st Citizens General Holding Acct	\$ 244,962.36
General Prime Account	\$ 414,313.80
State Aid Account	\$ 24,717.94
Street Light Account	\$ 27,491.90
Recreation Fund – Class Account	\$ 16,146.29
Recreation Fund – Prime Account	\$ 95,552.59
Payroll Account	\$ 18,137.67
American Rescue Plan Account	\$ 259,610.86

Payments of Bills for this January 2, 2024 meeting are:

- General Account – Checks #21901-21918 in the amount of \$40,774.19
- Recreation Fund – Checks # 152-153 in the amount of \$315.93
- American Rescue Plan Account – Check 1008 in the amount of \$11,085.40
- Total Expenses for this January 2, 2024 Meeting are \$52,175.52

Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to approve the payments of the bills for this January 2, 2024 meeting - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman passed unanimously (3-0).

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

- Sewer Operation Class Account – \$3,275.98
- Sewer Operation Prime Account - \$135,096.68
- Balance in the Sewer Holding Account - \$34,497.73
- Debt Service Account - \$458,406.95

Payments of Bills in the Sewer Operation Account for this January 2, 2024 meeting are:

- Check #3129 to 3132 in the amount of \$1,629.77

Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to approve the payments of the sewer bills for this January 2, 2024 meeting - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman passed unanimously (3-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION (if needed): The Board did not call an Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 P.M. - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Judy, Secretary
Tulpehocken Township