

**Tulpehocken Township
Board of Supervisors
Meeting of March 13, 2024**

The Tulpehocken Township Board of Supervisors met on March 13, 2024, in the Township meeting room at 7:00 P.M. In attendance and voting were Supervisors: Chairman Gary Deck, Vice Chairman Lester Feick and Harold Zimmerman. Also, present were Michelle Mayfield, Township Solicitor; Bryan Dronick, Police Chief; Kathy Judy, Township Secretary / Treasurer and Lisa Care, Sewer Service Secretary.

Members of the Audience included: Kevin Billman, Susan Wolfe, Heather Hanna and Harry Reinhold.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Deck called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. The meeting continued with the pledge to the American Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2024 Board of Supervisors Meeting - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

Planning Commission Recommendations:

- Waiver of Land Development – Kevin Billman, 20 East Market Street. The applicant wants to replace two existing out buildings with one larger 4,000sf building and is requesting a waiver of the land development requirement. In accordance with the Planning Commission’s recommendation, *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to grant the waiver of Land Development with the conditions that Mr. Billman satisfies the Township Engineer’s requirements for E&S and Stormwater as discussed at the Planning Commission meeting on March 7, 2024, meets with the Zoning Officer to verify the impervious surface credit being taken and to determine what the storm water calculation is, secures the Township Engineer’s approval for the placement of the build; and, at his own expense, has the Township Engineer perform an on-site inspection before it is covered -- seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Solicitor Legal Discussion:

- **Tax exemption for Rehrersburg Lions Park Street Light Tax** – No action taken.

Correspondence from Zoning Officer:

- **February Update:** 44 Rehrersburg Road – it was requested that this be tabled to be discussed in Executive Session since it is under litigation.

- Review Zoning Hearing Board Application – Matthew McClure, 73 Teen Challenge Road
 - The hearing date is March 19, 2024
 - The property is in the EAP District.
 - The application is for a variance of Section 300, Definitions, which limits Accessory Solar Energy System to rated capacity of no more than ten kilowatts
 - The proposed array is 15.2 kW
 - The Planning Commission has made a recommendation in support of the application. After some discussion, *Chairman Deck made a motion to recommend that the Zoning Hearing Board support of the application - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0),*

The Board and Solicitor discussed amending the Accessory Solar Energy System definition to increase the rated capacity and kilowatt limits with language to meet, but not exceed, the energy needs of different applicants. This is to be revisited at the April, 2024 meeting.

Recreation:

- Lions Park: Maintenance and operation repairs and purchases including:

- Seasonal portable toilet rental: *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to order a portable toilet from Bailey's to be delivered to the park for May 1, 2024 - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*
- Quote for internet hot spot service for surveillance system – Police Chief Dronick provided the Board with a quote from the current cellular provider for a Wi-Fi hot spot device and monthly service cost. SmrtGuys confirmed it would be compatible with the system. *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to order the hot spot service to operate the park surveillance system from AT&T FirstNet - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*
- Grant opportunities for development at the park – Inquiries are to be made to YSM and the Township Engineer about preparing the application for the DCED grant – *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to hire the Township Engineer or YSM to prepare the application for the next grant and authorize the Chairman to sign the application - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

STAFF REPORTS

Police Report – Chief Dronick read the February, 2024 Police report as follows:

	<u>Tulpehocken</u>	<u>Marion</u>
MILES PATROLLED	1718	721
GALLONS OF FUEL	158	
HOURS WORKED	432.5	60
PATROL HOURS	214.75	32
TULPEHOCKEN AREA SCHOOL DIST. HOURS	36.25	
TOTAL INCIDENTS	9	6
TOTAL COMPLAINTS	5	2
MISCELLANEOUS CALLS FOR SERVICE	62	6
FOLLOW-UP INVEST	9	1
TELEPHONE ASSIGNMENTS	16	5
COMM/RESIDENTIAL ALARMS	0	0
EMS/FIRE ADVISORIES	27	10
TRAFFIC STOPS	23	9
CITATIONS ISSUED	27	14
NON-TRAFFIC CITATIONS	0	0
TRAFFIC WARNINGS	7	0
WARRANTS	1	0
PARKING TICKETS	0	0
TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS	3	5
DUI ARRESTS	0	0
MISDEMEANOR/FELONY	0	0

SECURITY CHECKS	17	1
POLICE ASSISTS	12	0
MOTORISTS ASSISTS	3	1
COURT APPEARANCES	7	3
SCHOOL (TRAINING) HOURS	0	

Chief Dronick reported that during the month of February there were 152 calls received through Berks County 911; noting that eleven (11) were for Teen Challenge.

Chief Dronick updated the Board that the 2024 bill for the tasers was received. *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to pay the bill and submit an invoice to Marion Township for reimbursement - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Road Master’s Report: Vice Chairman Feick read the February, 2024 report. The work consisted of several snow events, equipment repairs, patching pot holes, stock piling salt, sewer maintenance and meter readings, cleaning a lot of wood from roads. A log jam under Midway Road bridge was cleared. Vice Chairman Feick also mentioned that the grader is in for repairs.

Fire Chiefs’ Report – Vice Chairman Feick reviewed activity for the Keystone Fire Company and read the report for the Rescue Fire Company for February, 2024.

SEWER OPERATIONS

Judgements and Delinquent Sewer Accounts: Lisa Care presented information on several delinquent accounts that may require action. Actionable were: 6 Magdalena Street – *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to approve transferring the Certified Judgement to the County and commencing with a personal property Sheriff Sale - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

7653 Lancaster Avenue – In addition to judgement in 2020 that has not been satisfied, there are now two additional liens plus an additional six months that are past due. *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion authorizing the Solicitor to file a civil complaint and secure a judgement for the additional past due amounts and transfer both judgements to the County Court ahead of commencing with a Sheriff Sale - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*

The Solicitor stated that Ordinance 2015-2 is outdated and does not reflect the firm’s current hourly fees. *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion authorizing the Solicitors’ office to prepare an ordinance to update the rates for attorneys’ fees in connection with the collection of delinquent municipal accounts and authorizing it to be advertised for adoption - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*

Vice Chairman Feick advised that the Mt. Aetna treatment plant has been experiencing extra water coming in for the last three or four months, maybe from the Lancaster Avenue pump station. He’ll continue to monitor this and watch pumpstation readings to try to locate the source.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Used dump truck from Jackson Township** – Nothing new to report at this time – no action taken.

- **Guard rail repair on Teen Challenge Road** – The driver’s insurance company has agreed to pay the claim in full, eliminating the need to go through the Township’s insurance – no action needed.
- **Discuss tax to help fund fire and ambulance emergency services.** The Board, Solicitor and public in attendance continued talks about a tax being put in place to help fund fire and ambulance emergency services. Some new points raised were if ambulance memberships due to the tax would include Teen Challenge, what fire company and ambulance representatives should be invited to a workshop meeting and seeing if anyone from the county would be available to attend. A date for the workshop meeting is to be announced at the April Board of Supervisors meeting.
- **Village Estates agreements, dedication of pump station and outstanding bills** – *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion authorizing the Solicitor to draft a letter to the Developer outlining outstanding items that must be taken care of before the Township can take dedication of the pump station - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Discuss purchase of a drone** – This was tabled to be discussed in Executive Session

CORRESPONDENCE:

- BCCD Deck Road TA Summary – The Board reviewed and discussed the County’s assessment for potential drainage improvement project for Deck Road – no action taken.
- CELG Municipal Sponsorship Form 2024. The Board agreed to increase it’s contribution by \$100 for 2024. *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to approve making a \$500 contribution for 2024 - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Accept 54 Mill Road, Vernon & Louann Martin property, into Agricultural Security Area and sign Acceptance Certificate. *Supervisor Zimmerman made a motion to accept the parcel into the ag security area; reject any modifications, changes or additions; authorize the Chairman to sign the Acceptance Certificate; and authorize the Solicitor to have it recorded - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).*
- Quote for AED wall cabinet – Stryker has quoted \$396.55 for a wall cabinet with alarm to house the Municipal Building AED unit. *Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to purchase the wall cabinet from Stryker - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman and passed unanimously (3-0).*

The Board agreed to look into offering CPR and AED training for interested employees.

TRAINING AND OTHER INVITATIONS

- LTAP 2024 Courses in Berks County
- BCPWA – RSVPs for the April 11, 2024 meeting are due by April 1, 2024

FINANCIAL REPORT AND APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT OF BILLS

Account Balances for the end of February, 2024 were as follows:

General Account	\$ 9,551.04
1 st Citizens General Holding Acct	\$ 159,639.91
General Prime Account	\$ 418,058.34
State Aid Account	\$ 35,467.74
Street Light Account	\$ 24,537.04
Recreation Fund – Class Account	\$ 15,737.30
Recreation Fund – Prime Account	\$ 91,468.53
Payroll Account	\$ 36,038.38
American Rescue Plan Account	\$ 178,317.77

Payments of Bills for this March 13, 2024 meeting are:

General Account – Checks #21987-22030 in the amount of \$79,740.08

Street Light Account – Check #497 in the amount of \$1,911.43

Recreation Fund – Checks # 158-159 in the amount of \$206.01

American Rescue Plan Account – Check 1011 in the amount of \$5,189.50

Total Expenses for this March 13, 2024 Meeting are \$87,047.02

Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to approve the payments of the bills for this March 13, 2024 meeting - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman passed unanimously (3-0).

Sewer Accounts balances for the end of February, 2024 were as follows:

Sewer Operation Class Account – \$ 8,125.76

Sewer Operation Prime Account - \$136,317.67

Balance in the Sewer Holding Account - \$97,708.43

Debt Service Account - \$462,549.98

Payments of Bills in the Sewer Operation Account for this March 13, 2024 meeting are:

Check #3158 to 3168 in the amount of \$19,708.39

Vice Chairman Feick made a motion to approve the payments of the sewer bills for this March 13, 2024 meeting - - seconded by Supervisor Zimmerman passed unanimously (3-0).

EXECUTIVE SESSION (if needed): At 9:35 P.M. the Board called an Executive Session. At 10:50 PM the Board returned from Executive Session; Litigation and Employment were discussed. No Action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Chairman Deck made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 P.M. - - seconded by Vice Chairman Feick and passed unanimously (3-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Judy, Secretary
Tulpehocken Township