

Incorporated March 12, 1738

TINICUM TOWNSHIP

Bucks County

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

163 Municipal Road
Pipersville, Pennsylvania 18947

RICHARD ROSAMILIA, CHAIRPERSON
JIM HELMS, VICE-CHAIRPERSON
JOHN BLANCHARD, SUPERVISOR

Tinicum Township Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes September 17, 2019

Supervisors Rich Rosamilia, Jim Helms and John Blanchard were present with Township Manager Teri Lewis. There were approximately 13 people in attendance.

Chairperson Richard Rosamilia called the public meeting of the Tinicum Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:30 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. Emergency Services

Doug Skelton, President of Del Val Volunteer Fire Company, submitted the August 2019 Del Val Fire Company report to the Board. Skelton stated it had been a very busy month with 14 Fire Calls, 11 Quick Response calls and 5 Fire Police calls.

Skelton said that Del Val Volunteer Fire Company had received their updated Bucks County Health Certification for their Quick Response Service (QRS) program, which is good for 3 years. He said that the monthly spaghetti dinner fundraiser was well attended and made over \$700. He noted that the person who won the 50/50 raffle donated her winnings back to the Fire Company. Skelton said a Car Show fundraiser is planned for September 22nd.

B. Public Comment

River Road Safety Concerns

Cindy Gasparee, River Road, said she lives across from Bridge Five Lane. She said she was recently involved in an accident backing out of her driveway. She said she believed that the car that hit her was speeding. Gasparee said four years ago her neighbor, Karen Batts, was hit by a truck that did not slow down when she was pulling into her driveway. She said the curves and crests in the road block the driver's view of the roadway ahead. She said she would like to have the speed limit lowered and have additional signage on River Road.

Rosamilia said that River Road is a PennDOT road and, although the Board has continued to contact PennDOT about resident concerns, PennDOT's position is that their accident data does not warrant it as critical. He said the Board has tried many avenues to get PennDOT to address the area. Rosamilia said at this point they are at an impasse and it was time for State Representative Ullman's office, who has more authority with the state, to get involved.

Bill Hamlin, River Road, asked if there was a logical reason for PennDOT's unwillingness to address the issues. Blanchard said PennDOT has criteria it follows to make changes to a road, such as adding signs or changing speeds. He said the first thing they look at is the crash data. He said PennDOT maintains that their data does not support any changes. Lewis said that for over a year, they have asked to lower the speed limit. She said they did get more signs. Blanchard said they have asked for flashing lights, but PennDOT has declined. Lewis said they have paid for professional reports from experts to support the need for better safety measures, but PennDOT has not changed its position. Blanchard said the Police Dept. has done sight studies to support lower speed limits in areas where people are pulling in and out of the bridge lanes, but PennDOT has declined to make changes.

Harris said PennDOT has what is called “warrants,” which is a series of steps and if the warrant is not met PennDOT will not take action. He said that the Township has tried to act, but PennDOT does not feel it meets their warrants. Helms noted that Bridge Four and Five Lanes are only one lane, but they service many homes. Blanchard reiterated that Representative Ullman might be able to better address the situation with the state. Rosamilia said that by working in tandem with Ullman’s office they might be better heard.

Danae Hamlin, River Road, said the number of crashes, 2 out of 6 River Road homes, is a proportionately high number. She said just because it is a small community, does not mean that safety should be ignored. She asked if they, as residents, are allowed to put out safety flags or signs. Rosamilia said he would not recommend putting anything in the road right-of-way. Harris said as long as the signs do not block the view, they could put out signs. Lewis said Hamlin could contact PennDOT for permission to install a hidden driveway sign. Helms said they should get as many people as possible to use the PennDOT customer care link to make their concerns known. (<https://customercare.pennDOT.gov/>)

Four Brooks Park

Al Gillen, Cafferty Road, asked if the Township would be open to fundraising to pay to replace the damaged fencing and restore the tennis courts in Four Brooks Park. Rosamilia said it was a great idea if residents wanted to band together to improve the park. Gillen asked if the Township would offer assistance. Rosamilia said the Township would look to help, but that the Township has fixed the fence many times and the park has been repeatedly abused and that he would really like the community to come out and participate. Helms said, based on the completion of the new park, the Board is looking to reactivate the Park and Recreation Committee and that might be an avenue to help with the Four Brooks Park, as well.

C. Old Business

Announcements:

Rosamilia announced the following:

- Proposed Ordinance 245: Fence Amendments was advertised for adoption at the public meeting of October 1st.
- Proposed Ordinance 247: Critical Recharge Amendments was sent to Tincum Township and Bucks County Planning Commissions for review and comment.
- Proposed Ordinance 248: Site Capacity Amendments for minor language revisions was sent to Tincum Township and Bucks County Planning Commissions for review and comment.

Proposed Draft Ordinance 244: Tincum Township Park Rules and Regulations

Al Gillen, Cafferty Rd, referred to section 13 of the Park Rules, which bans horses, and asked if he could request permission to ride his horse across a portion of the Four Brooks Park. Helms said the intention of the new Ordinance is to protect the Township and to enforce rules when the park is being abused. He said that the rules generally follow the County Park rules.

Motion: to adopt the proposed Ordinance 244: Tincum Township Park Rules and Regulations.

Motion by: Helms. **Second by:** Blanchard. Voted upon and passed.

Motion: to name the new park in Ottsville, “Tincum Community Park.”

Motion by: Helms. **Second by:** Blanchard. Voted upon and passed.

River Road (Route 32) and Smithtown Road Intersection

Helms said he had been contacted by a number of Smithtown area residents, concerning a lower level PennDOT manager who had given the Township permission to paint warnings on the road. He asked for Harris’s opinion. Harris said that by the Township trying to regulate what is occurring on a state-regulated road, if there was an accident the Township could become liable for it. Rosamilia said that a mid-level manager giving approval is not the same as authority from the commissioner. Helms questioned why PennDOT would not handle it themselves. Helms and Rosamilia said it makes sense to contact Rep Ullman and support her efforts in reaching out to PennDOT. Helms said this was an issue

that started with the Smithtown Road intersection, but it is part of a larger issue along River Road where there are multiple entrances.

The Board suggested that residents send letters to the Township by October 1st requesting that PennDOT address the safety issue. They said the letters of concern would then be forwarded to Representative Ullman along with a letter from the Board. Bill Cahill, Everbreeze Drive/EOC, said River Road from Bridge Lane Three to the Boy Scout Camp is the area of greatest concern.

Blanchard cautioned residents to have realistic expectations. He said from a law enforcement standpoint, signs and road painting may not significantly change the speeding because it is a difficult area to enforce.

D. New Business

Proposed Draft Ordinance 246: Sewage Amendments

Rosamilia said that the Board received the draft revisions from the Township Planner and Solicitor on Friday and had not had adequate time to review the amendments. He said that the intent of the amendment was to make it easier to for residents with standard single-family septic systems by:

- eliminating the need for a Township septic permit to repair an existing system,
- eliminating the need for a Township septic permit (a simple Zoning review/permit would be sufficient) to install a new standard on lot single-family system, and
- revising escrow requirements to minimize hardship.

Rosamilia said that the Board would address the proposed amendment at the next public meeting.

Fire Police Requests

Motion: to authorize any available fire police to assist with traffic control for the following two events:

- Springfield Township Community Day, September 28th from 8 am to 3 pm; and
- Springfield Fire Company Halloween Parade, October 27th from 10:30 am to 2:00 pm.

Motion by: Rosamilia. **Second by:** Blanchard. Voted upon and passed.

Tinicum Conservancy Request

The Tinicum Conservancy requests confirmation of a 4-acre building envelope for TMP 44-014-033 located at 255 Hollow Horn Road as shown on the plan.

Motion: to approve confirmation of 4-acre building envelope for TMP 44-014-033, 255 Hollow Horn Road.

Motion by: Rosamilia. **Second by:** Helms. Voted upon and passed.

E. Regular Business

1) Minutes:

Motion to: approve the Minutes of the September 3rd meeting as written.

Motion by: Blanchard. **Second by:** Helms. Voted upon and passed.

2) **Treasurer's Report & Budget Recap:** The Treasurer's Report and Budget Recap for August are posted on the bulletin board. Rosamilia said the Township was well within the budget.

3) Payroll Report:

Motion to accept the Payroll Reports for the period ending August 30th in the amount of \$27,686.82.

Motion by: Rosamilia. **Second by:** Blanchard. Voted upon and passed.

4) Disbursements:

General Fund	Amount	Memo
Allied Administrators for Delta Dental	\$833.89	Dental Insurance
Hartford Life Insurance	\$153.45	Life Insurance
Verizon Wireless	\$224.05	Police Wireless
PennTeleData	\$180.21	Modems
Staples Credit Plan	\$121.85	Office Supplies and digital rec
Wehrung's	\$294.71	Supplies
Ehrlich Green Team	\$576.00	Pest Control Sept. 2019 thru Aug. 2020

Blum-Moore Reporting Services	\$250.00	Cond Use Stenography Services
Keystone Municipal Services Inc	\$1,235.00	Bldg. reviews and inspections 8-12 - 8-23
DelGuerico's Disposal Service	\$155.00	Trash and Recycle Removal
Staples Credit Plan	\$306.59	Police Supplies and software
United Healthcare Insurance Company	\$10,226.09	January 2019 Health Insurance
Uniform Gear	\$371.45	Police Uniform Supplies
Cooper Mechanical	\$72.50	Air filters - Police Dept
Wehrung's	\$5.62	Police Supplies
WEX, Inc	\$1,753.04	Police Fuel
Harris and Harris	\$3,586.90	Legal Services August 2019
Keystone Municipal Engineering	\$976.50	Grading
Keystone Municipal Engineering	\$4,352.00	Engineer Services -Park
Ricoh Americas Corp	\$113.96	Scanner /Copier Lease
ReadyRefresh	\$207.55	Bottled Water and Cooler Rental - 3 Depts
Holicong Locksmiths	\$245.10	Alarm Monitoring
Met-Ed	\$339.48	Electricity Pol Admin
Met-Ed	\$20.52	Electricity Park
Met-Ed	\$103.68	Electricity PWD
Met-Ed	\$28.50	Electricity Traffic Light
Merry Maids	\$300.00	Janitorial Services Aug
Internal Revenue Service	\$2,118.06	Employer FICA Tax
Uniform Gear	\$831.25	Bulletproof Vest
YCG	\$260.00	Calibration/Speed Timing
Safeguard Business System	\$308.36	Printing (checks and envelopes)
NAPA of Ottsville	\$112.56	Police Fleet Fluids
Tackett Planning	\$3738.75	Zoning and Planning Services Aug
Del Val Vol Fire	\$10,059.66	Passthrough Only Insurance Claim
Payroll Fund	Amount	Memo
Pay period ending 8/30/19	\$20,913.14	Paychecks
Internal Revenue Service	\$4,861.89	Employee FICA tax
Pa Dept of Rev	\$850.00	PA Income Tax
State Fund	Amount	Memo
ATCO International	\$154.00	Solvents and fluids PWD fleet
NAPA of Ottsville	\$162.74	Parts PWD Fleet
Wehrung's	\$492.37	Public Works Tools and Supplies
H & K Materials	\$212.00	Asphalt Patch
Keller's Farm Machinery	\$18.40	Ignition Switch
Suburban Propane	\$290.37	Diesel Fuel
Interstate Batteries	\$302.95	Truck Batteries
Plumstead Materials	\$302.95	Stone
Escrow Fund	Amount	Memo
Geoff Hanes Stiles	\$4,797.20	Refund of Unused Septic Construction Escrow
Keystone Engineering	\$790.50	Professional Service Fees
Open Space Fund	Amount	Memo
Tom Rodriquez and Assoc.	\$2,300.00	Land Pres Appraisal
Harris and Harris	\$306.25	Legal Services Open Space
Park Fund	Amount	Memo
Twining Construction	\$81,792.00	Park Path Inv. #2

Motion: to accept the disbursements as written.

Motion by: Blanchard. **Second by:** Helms. Voted upon and passed.

F. Miscellaneous/Public Comment

Budget Meeting

The Board agreed to hold the first budget meeting workshop on Friday, September 27, 2019 at 5:30 pm. Budget work sessions will be continued, as needed, throughout the process until the final budget is ready for adoption. Continuance dates will be advertised on the Township website.

Headquarters Bridge

Tim Cashman, Quail Lane, asked Harris how long will it take for the Headquarters Bridge litigation to be settled. Harris said he estimated 3 years if there are no further appeals. Cashman asked how long it would take to build the bridge after that. Rosamilia said 3 years. Cashman asked if the Board would consider black topping Sheephole Road to improve access to his neighborhood, since it's been 9 years that the bridge has been closed.

Rosamilia said it is designated as a "scenic road" and asked Harris what would be allowed. Harris read from the ordinance and said it would be possible for the Board to make that decision. Rosamilia said there is a cost to the Township, but added that moving forward to pave the road will probably initiate another lawsuit. He asked Cashman if he had any success in speaking with the Delaware RiverKeeper Network (DRN) to facilitate meeting with PennDOT. Cashman said he had not had any success, despite a number of attempts and had even contacted Governor Wolfe and State Senator Mensch. He said the Township needs to move forward with blacktop costs. Rosamilia said he would get the costs, but wanted to wait until the court ruling in October to make a decision. He said the Board is willing to do anything needed to get bridge access (rehab or new build), as long the Township does not take ownership of it.

Proposed Draft Ordinance 246: Sewage Amendments

Rick Swiantecke, Septic System Consultant, asked when the septic system ordinance will be on the website. Lewis said that the amendments must be advertised and reviewed by Bucks and Township Planning Commissions.

G. Executive Session

Supervisor Rosamilia recessed the regular meeting at 8:30 pm to discuss matters of litigation. Rosamilia called the meeting back to order at 9:35 pm.

Rosamilia announced that the Board discussed matter of litigation, the Township received an offer of settlement in the matter of Nowicki v. Tincum Township.

Motion: to decline the settlement offer in the matter of Nowicki v. Tincum Township, Bucks County.

Motion by: Rosamilia. **Second by:** Blanchard.

H. Adjournment

Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 pm.

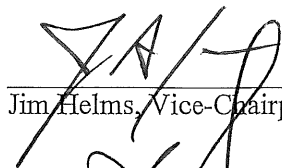
Motion by: Blanchard. **Second by:** Helms. Voted upon and passed.

The next meeting of the Board of Supervisors is scheduled for October 1st, 2019 at 7:30 pm.

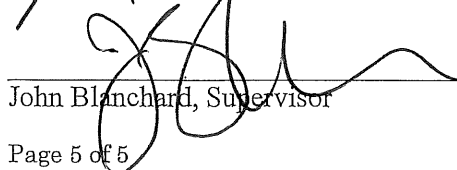
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