

Incorporated March 12, 1738

TINICUM TOWNSHIP

Bucks County

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

163 Municipal Road
Pipersville, Pennsylvania 18947

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

Tinicum Township Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes August 18, 2020

Supervisors Jim Helms, John Blanchard and Richard Rosamilia were present with Manager Teri Lewis, Township Solicitor Steve Harris and Officer Nicole Madden. The meeting was held in the Township building meeting room. Masks and social distancing were required. There were approximately 7 people in attendance.

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

A. Police Report

Acting Chief Nicole Madden, Tinicum Township Police Dept., gave the following report for July:

- 154 Incident Reports: 86 service calls, 40 traffic calls, 24 crime-related calls, 4 court-related.
- Arrests:
 - DUI arrest made by Officer Compas following a traffic accident on E. Dark Hollow. The subject fled the scene, but was apprehended after a multi-department search led by Officer Compas.
 - DUI arrest made by Officer Gerding following a bicycle crash on route 611. The subject was incarcerated following the arrest on a detainer from the Probation and Parole Dept. Officer Gerding received praise from Probation and Parole Dept. for his excellent communication with their dept. during the arrest.
- 4 Reportable Traffic Accidents:
 - Due to distracted driving, a driver caused a three-vehicle, rear-end accident on route 611.
 - A single vehicle left the road on a curve on E. Dark Hollow Road. The driver fled the scene and was later arrested for DUI.
 - A two-vehicle accident occurred on Durham & Geigel Road intersection due to driver who proceeded without proper clearance.
 - A tractor-trailer struck the Golden Pheasant Bridge and a bicyclist on River Road. The bicyclist sustained minor injuries and was transported to the hospital. PennDOT immediately arrived on the scene to survey the damage to the bridge and replaced the damaged guardrail the next day. The truck had all the proper permits to be on the road.

B. Old Business

1) Land Preservation Committee Recommended Conservation Easement Purchase

The Land Preservation Committee recommends that Tinicum Township purchase a conservation easement on the following property:

- Owners/Applicants: William and Suzanne Barnhurst
- TMP: 44-007-046-002 and 44-007-045
- Location: 8 Sanctuary Hill Lane, Upper Black Eddy, PA 18972
- Size: +/- 20-acre property; a 2-acre Building Envelope is proposed.
- Proposed Township purchase price: \$26,568, plus closing costs, which is 24% of the appraised value of the development rights. The balance of the purchase price would be a donation by the landowner.

Helms said approval is subject to a two-week, public comment period commencing August 18, 2020.

Motion to: to open public comment for the proposed conservation easement on 8 Sanctuary Hill. TMP 44-007-046-002; 44-007-045 for a period of two weeks.

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

- 2) Update on Conservation Easement Agreement with Heritage Conservancy and Frances Nowicki Trust
Rosamilia asked for an update on the Nowicki Conservation Easement. Harris said that the title company would not insure the purchase because there was not final judgement of the trust. Rosamilia expressed concerns about appraisal costs on easements that are not completed. Harris said they will need to amend the agreement of sale to extend the closing date to thirty days after the final judgement, otherwise the agreement of sale will expire and the seller may require another appraisal.

C. New Business

1) PMRS IRS Compliance

Helms stated there was a request from the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Service (PMRS) for ordinances to reinstate and update both the Police and the Non-Uniform plans. He noted that there are no changes to the plans and these documents are necessary for PMRS and IRS requirements.

Motion to: authorize advertisement of Ordinance 250 and Ordinance 251 reinstating and confirming both the uniform and non-uniform retirement plans.

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

2) Appointment of Acting Chief Madden as Police Department Open Records Officer

Motion to: appoint Acting Chief Nicole Madden as the Open Records Officer for Tinicum Township Police Department.

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

D. Regular Business

1) **Minutes:**

Motion to: approve the Minutes of the June 16, 2020 meeting as written.

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

2) **Treasurer's Report & Budget Recap:**

Helms stated the Treasurer's Report and Budget Recap for July is posted on the bulletin board.

3) **Payroll Report:**

Motion to: accept the Payroll Reports for the periods ending July 17th in the amount of \$34,456.05 and \$21,288.23; July 31st in the amount of \$24,800.53; August 14th in the amount of \$23,939.54.

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

4) **Disbursements:**

Motion to: approve the below listed disbursements.

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

General Fund	Amount	Memo
Earth Link	\$37.41	Web Hosting
ReadyRefresh	\$77.00	Bottled water all depts
DCED	\$49.50	4th Qtr. UCC Code
Harris and Harris	\$2,406.25	Legal Services June
NAPA of Ottsville	\$469.96	Police Fleet maintenance parts
Merry Maids	\$198.00	Cleaning - July
PMRS	\$5,821.65	2nd Qtr. 2020 non-uniform
PMRS	\$2,807.30	2nd Qtr. Uniform
Balasio Excavating and Grading	\$24,450.00	Inv 3673 BCCD Dirt Roads Grant
Aflac Business Services	\$280.04	Elec Supplement Insurance withheld
Aflac Business Services	\$280.04	Supplement Insurance withheld
Ricoh Americas Corp	\$154.00	Copier Printer Scanner Lease
Merry Maids	\$99.00	Cleaning Services 7-27

Verizon Wireless	\$330.82	Police Wireless
VISA - Training	\$353.40	COVID Guard/ Computer/Leeda
Hartford Insurance	\$292.52	Life and Disability
Keystone Municipal Engineering	\$1,302.00	Engineering Services June
Keystone Municipal Services Inc	\$1,292.00	Bldg. Inspections and Review
Service Electric Telephone	\$415.95	Telephone Service
Courier Times, Inc.	\$343.17	Public Notices - ZHB
WEX, Inc	\$1,206.31	Police Fleet Fuel
Met-Ed	\$307.00	Electricity Police and Admin
Met-Ed	\$47.79	Electricity Park
Grim, Biehn &Thatcher, July	\$1,160.00	Zoning Hearing Board Legal Services
DelGuerico's Disposal Service	\$155.00	Trash and Recycle Removal
ReadyRefresh	\$118.40	Bottled Water - All Depts
Ricoh Americas Corp	\$93.00	Copier base Lease
Keystone Municipal Services Inc	\$1,462.00	Bldg. Inspections and Review
Staples Credit Plan	\$140.96	Police Supplies
PennTeleData	\$180.21	Internet Modems
Met-Ed	\$105.03	Electricity Garage
Internal Revenue Service	\$2,128.70	Employer FICA
Internal Revenue Service	\$2,635.88	Employer FICA
Internal Revenue Service	\$1,628.55	Employer FICA
Internal Revenue Service	\$1,897.26	Employer FICA
Internal Revenue Service	\$1,831.37	Employer FICA
PSATS	\$114.68	Unemployment 2 nd Qtr. 2020
Pa Dept of Labor & Industry	\$167.59	Unemployment 2 nd Qtr. 2020
Keystone Collections	\$2842.27	2 nd Qtr. 2020 Employee EIT
United Healthcare	\$11,077.01	Employee Healthcare
Earth Link	\$41.41	Website Hosting (2 months)
Harris and Harris	\$2,856.25	Legal Services July
Courier Times	\$339.48	Public Notices
Blum Moore	\$350.00	Stenography Services
Met-Ed	\$32.32	Electricity Traffic Light
M & W Precast	\$687.95	Stormwater Pipe (BCCD)
Allan Myers Quarry	\$26,061.56	Stone – DSA (BCCD)
Tackett Planning	\$1,831.37	Zoning and Planning Services July
Payroll Fund	Amount	Memo
PA Dept of Revenue	\$81.34	2 nd Quarter Wage Tax Due
Pay period ending add'l 7/10/20	\$13,048.75	Paychecks +Final
Internal Revenue Service	\$6,618.92	Employee FICA
Pa Dept of Rev	\$653.55	PA Wage Tax
Pay period ending 7/17/20	\$26,337.96	Paychecks
Internal Revenue	\$5,933.96	Employee FICA
Pa Dept of Rev	\$1,057.78	PA Wage Tax
Pay period ending 7/31/20	\$18,884.26	Paychecks
Internal Revenue Service	\$4,235.80	Employee FICA
Pa Dept of Rev	\$761.39	PA Wage Tax
Pay period ending 8/14/20	\$18,181.46	Paychecks
Internal Revenue Service	\$4114.62	Employee FICA Tax
Pa Dept of Rev	\$734.95	PA Wage Tax
State Fund	Amount	Memo
STTC	\$6120.22	Grader Tires
ATCO International	\$163.75	Shop Supplies
Wehrung's	\$142.96	Shop Supplies
Tractor Supply	\$50.44	Shop Supplies/Hardware

H & K Materials	\$500.00	Hot Patch Asphalt
Eagle Power and Equip	\$143.65	PWD Fleet Parts
Open Space	Amount	Memo
Del Val Regional Finance Assoc.	\$11,916.03	Open Space Bond

E. Zoning:

1) Ordinance 252: Zoning Ordinance Clean Up for Zoning Codification

Harris said he met with Tracy Tackett, Township Planner and Zoning Officer, regarding the clean-up ordinance. He put forth two points he had discussed with Tackett:

- a. Reserve Parking: If the Applicant can demonstrate that 100% of the parking is not needed for their use, the Board may authorize that escrow for up to 30% of the required parking spaces be held in reserve. Harris suggested that the escrow be held for 36 months instead of 60 months.
- b. Service Station Convenience Store (E14A): This is a use that would permit a convenience store of up to 6,000 square feet, such as a Wawa or Turkey Hill. Harris suggested that the use be called "E14A *Fueling* Station with Convenience Store," to separate the use from E14 service station or E16 automobile repair station uses.

Motion to: send the amended Ordinance to the Tincum Township Planning Commission and Bucks County Planning Commission for review with the changes as noted.

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

2) Announcements:

a. Zoning Hearing Board application ZHB 2020-4 The Tretton Farmstead

Request is for relief from various sections of the ordinance to allow the use of a barn for a wedding/event venue. The property located on 31 Creamery Road, Ottsville, is located in the Commercial District. TMP# 44-001-022-002. The hearing originally scheduled for August 13th, was convened and continued to September 24th at 6:45 pm. Interested parties wishing to attend must email the Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor at meberle@grimlaw.com, prior to noon the day of the hearing, to request an invitation to the remote meeting.

Rosamilia asked if the hearing could be held in person. Lewis said she had spoken the Zoning Hearing Board solicitor, Mary Eberle. Lewis said Mary Eberle had the following concerns about holding the upcoming Tretton hearing in person:

- It would involve too many people to safely hold it in the township meeting room.
- There would not be the necessary electrical outlets for the stenographer, etc. to hold it in the township parking lot.
- Other larger, possible venues contacted did not want large groups of people due to possible contamination.

Harris said he felt Eberle had done a good job with the virtual hearings and given the number of people who had signed up for the Tretton hearing it was not practical to have the meeting in person. Lewis noted that the maximum number allowed in doors is 25.

F. Subdivision/Land Development/Conditional Use

1) Partial Release from LOC Real Pro Creamery Road Subdivision Escrow

Lewis said that lots have been sold and Township Engineer, Tom Fountain, had inspected the improvements and approved a partial release from the Letter of Credit.

Motion to: approve the partial release of escrow for Real Pro/Select Properties in the amount of \$38,528.25, in accordance with Keystone Engineering Certificate of Improvement, and authorize the Township Manager to execute on the Board's behalf.

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

G. Miscellaneous/Public Comment

Tim Cashman, Quail Lane, asked Helms if he would be willing to comment on the special report on the Headquarters Bridge being written by the Bucks County Herald. Helms agreed.

Cashman said that Camp Galil told him that during the Tinicum Conservancy's annual inspection of the camp, had encouraged the camp to contact the Delaware Riverkeeper concerning replacing the Headquarters Bridge because it would cause flooding and damage to the camp. Cashman said he was asking publicly that the Tinicum Conservancy not make that recommendation in the future.

Tim Hall, Cafferty Road, asked if the Township had any plans for the dying ash trees along the road. He said he understood that ash trees in the right-of-way were the property's owner responsibility. Harris said there is a procedure if there is a perceived danger that can require property owner to remove the trees. Helms said that the township had addressed these issues three years ago when the emerald ash borer made its way into the township. He said Public Works Director, Doug Skelton has and continues to work with property owners to identify dead trees that could pose a hazard to the roadway. Lewis noted that both Met-Ed and Skelton had stated that 80% of the trees that fall into the road are top-heavy, live trees, not ash trees. Lewis said that if there is tree that is of concern, the Township can send a letter to the property owner.

H. Executive Session

Supervisor Helms recessed the regular meeting at 8:09 pm to discuss matters of personnel and potential litigation. Helms reconvened the meeting at 8:54 pm. There was no action to report.


I. Adjournment:

Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm.

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

The next meeting of the Board of Supervisors is scheduled for September 1st.


TINICUM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Jim Helms, Chairperson



John Blanchard, Vice-Chairperson



Richard Rosamilia, Supervisor