

Incorporated March 12, 1738

TINICUM TOWNSHIP

Bucks County

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

163 Municipal Road
Pipersville, Pennsylvania 18947

RICHARD ROSAMILIA, CHAIRPERSON
JIM HELMS, VICE-CHAIRPERSON
ELEANOR BRESLIN, SUPERVISOR

Tinicum Township Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes December 6, 2022

Supervisors Eleanor Breslin, Jim Helms and Richard Rosamilia were present with Township Manager Teri Lewis and Township Solicitor Steve Harris. The meeting was held in the Tinicum Township building meeting room. There were approximately 16 people at the meeting and 11 in attendance online. A few of those present were also online.

Chairperson Rosamilia announced the meeting would be live-streamed on Zoom. 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. Announcements

Thank you, Susan Bunkin

The Board thanked Sue Bunkin for the beautiful holiday decorations for the Township building.

Winter Songs in the Park, December 10th from 4 – 5 pm

The Palisades Madrigal Singers will be performing at the Tinicum Community Park in Ottsville. The entire community is invited to enjoy the music in the meadow.

Tax Collection

The Board and Township office has been made aware of the issues residents have been experiencing and is working with the tax collector, Bucks County and Palisades School District on behalf of the community. The previous tax collector had been in office for nearly 30 years and a new tax collector was elected last year. Although the tax collector is an elected official, not an employee of the Township, and the role the Township can play in terms of supervision is limited, the Board met with the new tax collector to discuss resident concerns and to offer assistance to improve the communication. The Board has also been informed that the tax collector has been paired with a mentor from the Bucks County Association of Tax Collectors and is hopeful that the tax process will go more smoothly in 2023.

Executive Session

The Board announced an executive session had been held prior to the meeting from 6:00 PM to 7:25 PM to discuss legal issues regarding the Headquarters Bridge. No decisions were made. The Board also met with potential volunteers for the Communications Committee.

C. Old Business

Sherman Road Speed Limit

Rosamilia said the traffic speed study of Sherman Road and subsequent further reduction to 30 mph is a reasonable, responsible policy and opposed the further reduction to 25 mph. He said that abandoning the PennDOT speed limit review process on state roads, which is used by many municipalities, sets a precedence for anyone to request a reduced speed on a local road. He said that with 65 miles of local

roads, future costs to taxpayers could cost from \$80,000 to \$105,000 just for signage, result in excessive signage, and result in a waste of enforcement and public works resources without reasonable review.

Rosamilia said that the alignment of local roads is a natural speed deterrent and that dangerous or hidden portions of any local road could have yellow suggested speed limit signs in those challenging areas without ignoring the speed study process and without the high cost of additional speed limit signs.

Rosamilia asked Breslin and Helms to reconsider adopting the proposed 25-mph ordinance and enact the previously proposed 30 mph that was recommended by both the Police Department and the Planning Commission (PC).

Breslin said that at the November 1, 2022 Supervisor meeting it was determined that Sherman Road meets the definition of “residence district,” which sets the speed limit at 25 mph. She noted that the signage costs would be the same regardless of whether the speed limit was posted at 30 or 25 mph. Breslin stated that the residents of Sherman Road presented the Board with a petition with 30 signatures requesting that the speed limit be lowered to 25 mph.

Breslin said designating one township road as a “residence district” did not mean that all township roads would become “residence districts” nor was it setting a precedence. She said consideration would still be made on a road-by-road basis with the Board making the ultimate decision if a road met the criteria for and should be designated a “residence district,” or if the police should conduct an engineering and traffic study to determine a safe speed limit, or if it was appropriate to leave it unchanged.

Breslin said she was in favor designating Sherman as a ‘residence district’ and establishing a 25-mph speed limit.

Helms said that before the request was sent to the PC for review, he had made the motion that the speed limit be lowered to 25 mph on Sherman based on the definition of “residence district.” He said he shared some of Rosamilia concerns about the potential for future requests for lower speed limits and that requests would need to be made on a case-by-case basis. He said, however, that Sherman Road primarily serves the residents of Sherman Road, unlike other roads.

Helms said he was in favor of reducing the speed limit to 25 mph, based on Sherman Road being found to be a “residence district.”

Motion to adopt Ordinance 258 establishing Sherman Road as a “Residence District” and authorizing a 25-MPH speed limit.

Motion by: Helms. Second by Breslin. Rosamilia voted no. Motion passed 2 to 1.

Headquarters Road Update

The Board announced that Rosamilia, Breslin and Lewis met with Township Engineer Steve Baluh, Damon Aherne, Mark Gallagher of Princeton Hydro last week to discuss the feasibility of a temporary bridge and what can be done to expedite rehabilitation of the existing bridge. No decisions were made. The feasibility review continues. The engineer did receive some clarity from the DEP regarding permits that would be needed for both a temporary bridge and a rehabilitated bridge. More information is anticipated early in the new year.

D. New Business

Advertised Hearing for 2023 Budget

Cindi Gasparee asked if the 2023 budget included the Pandemic Relief Funds. The Board previously made the motion to use the funds to reimburse salaries and expenses paid during the pandemic and doing so allowed for excess funds for 2023. The Board stated that part of the funds has been earmarked for a

modest addition to the township building, including an ADA accessible bathroom, instituting eCode – a search app that would enable easy access to the Zoning Ordinance, and \$10,000 for the Delaware Valley Fire Company rescue equipment.

Gasparee asked if there was going to be a survey for the community to comment on fund allocation and asked how much of the \$400,000 remained. The Board stated that there had been five budget meetings held in the fall, all of which had been advertised in the paper, online, and announced at the public meetings and open to the public, as would be the case for future budget discussions. The Board stated that approximately \$200,000 remained and no decisions or discussions had been made regarding those funds.

Motion to approve the Tincicum Township 2023 Budget.

Motion by: Breslin. Second by Helms. Voted upon and approved.

Discussion of Groundwater Ordinance and Changes of Use.

Lewis requested authorization to have Harris review the ordinance for suggested language to require a water study review process for any existing well change of use that may deplete resources, as well as for new wells. The Board recommended that Steve Harris, the Tincicum Ground Water representatives and Water Planning Consultant Matt Mulhall of M2 Associates review the ordinance.

Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic 2023 Mini-Grant Application

Breslin said she is drafting a grant application to plant a wetlands buffer in the Tincicum Township Community Park to protect the wetland area and improve the wildlife habitat. The grant amount is up to \$5,000. Breslin said she is working with Kind Earth Growers in Ottsville for a list of plants and costs.

Motion to authorize Tincicum Township to apply for a mini-grant to plant a wetlands buffer at Tincicum Township Community Park.

Motion by Breslin. Second by Rosamilia. Voted upon and approved.

Communication Ad Hoc Committee Appointees

Motion to appoint Andre Becker and Raymond Albergotti to the Communications Ad Hoc Committee.

Motion by Rosamilia. Second by Helms. Voted upon and approved.

The Communication Ad Hoc Committee is working on a township newsletter. The Board invited the community to contribute articles or article suggestions via a link on the township website www.tincumbucks.org.

E. Regular Business

Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2022 Board of Supervisors meeting as written.

Motion by: Helms. Second by: Breslin. Voted upon and passed.

Budget Recap and Treasurer's Report

The Budget Recap and Treasurer's Reports for November 2022 will be presented at the next meeting.

Payroll Reports

Motion to accept the Payroll Report for the periods ending November 18, 2022 in the amount of \$32,425.35 and December 2, 2022 in the amount of \$ 41,556.07

Motion by: Rosamilia. Second by: Breslin. Voted upon and passed.

Disbursements

Motion to approve the following disbursements as written.

Motion by: Helms. Second by: Breslin. Voted upon and passed.

General Fund	Amount	Memo
Madden Mead	\$86.72	reimbursement vehicle gas
Barrington	\$10.81	reimbursement firearms cleaning supplies
WEX, Inc	\$2,104.75	Police Fuel
Merry Maids	\$115.00	Janitorial 11-28-22
Keystone Municipal Services Inc	\$1,769.00	Bldg. and Zoning
Verizon Wireless	\$207.46	Police Wireless
Hartford Insurance	\$530.66	Life and Disability Insurance Monthly
United Healthcare Insurance Company	\$12,333.90	2022 Monthly Health Insurance
Compressed Air Systems	\$178.39	Fire Ext Service
Cooper Mechanical	\$278.00	2023 Service Contract
Del Val Volunteer Fire Co.	\$45,411.37	2022 Distribution
Palisades Regional Fire and Rescue.	\$31,673.84	2022 Distribution
Upper Black Eddy Fire Company	\$4,052.63	2022 Distribution
Point Pleasant Fire Company	\$13,105.32	2022 Distribution
Davidhelser's	\$115.00	Calibration - Speed Timing Devices
Help Now	\$75.00	Police IT
J. Tanner	\$58.61	mileage reimbursement
Allied Administrators for Delta Dental	\$800.54	Allied Administrators for Delta Dental
Concours Automotive	\$219.49	Police Fleet Tracs Equip
WhenToWork, Inc.	\$110.00	Police -Annual Subscription
Uniform Gear	\$1,464.77	Uniform Supplies New Officer
Boyle Law Enforcement Consulting, LLC	\$396.00	Monthly Training Police
WEX (Sunoco)	2,901.32	Vehicle Fuel Police
Leaf	\$73.31	Police Copier
U>S. Bank Equipment Finance	\$235.00	Sharp Copier/Scanner Lease
Armitage Elec	\$185.00	Generator Service
AmeriGas	\$327.11	Propane
Keystone Municipal Services	\$1,521.50	Zoning and Bldg.
DelGuerico's Disposal	\$155.00	Trash
Staples Credit Plan	\$35.05	Police Supples
Met-Ed	454.29	Electricity
Met-Ed	251.90	Electricity
Met-Ed	15.73	Electricity
Met-Ed	61.36	Electricity
PennTeleData	\$382.63	Internet Modems
Service Electric Cable	\$23.96	PWD telephone
PA Fire and Emergency Service	\$745.06	Fire Communications Seminar
VISA	\$623.99	Bldg. Supplies/Accounting Software Renewal
Harris and Harris	\$3,556.50	Legal Services
Payroll Fund	Amount	Memo
Account Edge Payroll	\$32,229.19	Pay period end 11-18-22
Account Edge Payroll	\$41,309.42	Pay period end 12-2-22
State Fund	Amount	Memo
H & K Materials	\$2, 636.98	Asphalt
Plumstead Materials	\$2,926.65	Stone
Vanderlely's Truck Service	\$12,928.75	Repair ECM (1998 Plow Truck)
Plumstead Materials	\$388.89	Stone
Escrow Fund	Amount	Memo
Harris and Harris	\$1,758.75	Legal Services November
Open Space Fund	Amount	Memo
Del Val Regional Finance	\$11,073.68	Open Space Bond

F. Zoning Hearing Board

ZHB 2022-3: Variance and Special Exception of Hessol

921 River Road, Erwinna. TMP 44-015-090.

Requests removal and reconstruction of non-conforming accessory structure in the side yard setback and floodplain.

- Application received October 17.
- Planning Commission reviewed on October 25. No objections, but conditions were recommended.
- Board of Supervisors review on November 15.
- Solicitor Harris sent a letter to the ZHB Solicitor advising that the Board was taking no position provided conditions are met as agreed to by the applicant's attorney, William Benner.
- **Zoning Hearing December 8.**

G. Subdivision / Land Development / Conditional Use

LD 2022-3: Land Development of Tretton

CU 2022-1: Conditional Use of Tretton

31 Creamery Rd, Ottsville. TMP 44-001-022-002.

Proposes to renovate barn as a wedding venue.

Requests Conditional Use approval to construct stormwater management facilities in a steep slope area and permit substantial property improvement within the Tohickon Creek Watershed overlay.

- Applications received August 16. (60 Day Waiver Letter received for Conditional Use.)
- Planning Commission review on October 25.
- Waiver of the clock requested as applicant needs to provide further information.
- **Planning Commission review on December 13, but may be rescheduled/continued to January 3.**
- **Board of Supervisors review January 17, 2023.**

H. Public Comment Session

Golden Pheasant Bridge

Resident Cindi Gasparre asked if the Board had spoken to PennDOT about the Golden Pheasant Bridge. Breslin said that the Board sent a letter to PennDOT in November but had not received a reply regarding the public 106 meeting date.

Gasparre asked the Board again to consider a Local Traffic Advisory Committee (LTAC) staffed by residents to review road issues instead of the Planning Commission. Rosamilia said he preferred the Planning Commission review the road issues and was not in favor of the LTAC establishing the speed limits, etc. He said that was the role of the Board. Breslin said that the Board has heard concerns from residents regarding truck traffic and it might be beneficial if it was discussed in the future.

Resident Jim Grow asked how PennDOT would notify the public of the Golden Pheasant 106 meeting date and how far in advance. Rosamilia said that PennDOT would advertise the meeting, the Township would place the notification on the website, and announcements would be made at the Township meetings. He said it would probably be two weeks in advance of the meeting.

Resident Richard Balukas asked that the Board write to PennDOT requesting the date of public meeting, that the meeting be held in person, and that 90 minutes be provided for public comment and questions. Lewis said she would contact PennDOT and request more information.

Missing Keystone Marker Sign

Resident Luke Sorensen said that a historical road sign known as a Keystone Marker, previously located in Ottsville, had disappeared a few years ago and asked if anyone knew what had happened to it. Lewis said she would inquire about the sign.


J. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 PM.

Motion by: Helms. Second by: Breslin. Voted upon and passed.

The next meeting of the Board of Supervisors is scheduled for December 20, 2022 at 7:30 PM.

TINICUM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Richard Rosamilia, Chairperson



Jim Helms, Vice-Chairperson

Eleanor Breslin, Member