

*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 February 1, 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 25 people in attendance.

Chairperson 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**

Chief Madden, Tinicum Township Police Dept., introduced Officer Daniel Baxter, the latest addition to the police department. The Board welcomed him to the Township.

#### **B. Public Comment**

##### PennDOT Work on Headquarters Road

Kathryn Auerbach, Center Road, said PennDOT was filling along the Headquarters Road near Tinicum Creek. She expressed concern that the stone would wash into the exceptional value creek. She asked the Township to consider working with the DEP and PennDOT to utilize vegetative stream bank restoration and shoulder stabilization methods similar to Bridgeton Township. Vladimir Salamun, Headquarters Road, also expressed concerns about how the filling would affect his property.

Lewis said PennDOT is preparing to resurface Headquarters Road and must fill in the ditches washed out and damaged from Hurricane Ida in advance. She said she would contact Bridgeton and PennDOT to inquire about any alternative shoulder repair methods. Lewis noted that Red Hill, Stover Park, and Geigel Roads were also scheduled for resurfacing.

##### Local Traffic Advisory Committee (LTAC)

Cindi Gasparre, River Road, asked the Board to consider establishing an LTAC to work with PennDOT. Rosamilia said the Board had discussed the LTAC but wanted to get input from Chief Madden.

#### **C. Announcements**

##### Tinicum Conservancy Amphibian Crossing

Breslin announced the following:

Tinicum is dedicated to preserving its natural resources. Every year starting in Mid-March, spotted salamanders, wood frogs, and spring peepers migrate from their winter burrows to their ancestral pools to breed. Unfortunately, the trek across busy roads can be treacherous. The Tinicum Conservancy and Pennsylvania Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) are looking for volunteers to help these amphibians to safely cross Perry Auger Road. Information can be found on their websites [www.tinicumconservancy.org](http://www.tinicumconservancy.org) and [www.dcnr.pa.gov](http://www.dcnr.pa.gov).

#### D. Old Business

##### Environmental Advisory Ad Hoc Committee (EAC)

Rosamilia said that the Board is currently interviewing candidates for the EAC and would have more information regarding appointees at the February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Motion:** to establish an Environmental Advisory Ad Hoc Committee.

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

**Motion:** to pre-register places for future EAC appointees at the February 26<sup>th</sup> EAC training webinar.

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

##### Preliminary Report on Livestream versus Zoon

Lewis said the main difference was that Livestream broadcasts the meeting in real-time on the internet but does not allow for participation. She said Zoom allows for participation and is less expensive.

Lewis reviewed her findings as follows:

- Very few local municipalities used Livestream. Hatfield Township tried Livestream, but cancelled it after finding that residents would watch the live broadcast, get angry, and then decide to drive down to the meeting to demand that the board reopen a topic and retract their decision and/or motion.
- Bedminster holds in-person meetings only --- no remote meetings.
- Springfield holds in-person meetings only and a more regimented meeting policy where participants are allotted 3 minutes of speaking time.
- Plumstead held remote meetings during the pandemic lock-down but has returned to in-person meetings.
- Nockamixon holds a hybrid of in-person and Zoom meetings. Their equipment includes a large screen TV, multiple microphones (one for each supervisor, the manager and the solicitor), and a movable camera/microphone that responds to who is speaking in the audience. Participants must register at least 24 - 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Lewis asked Harris if the Board may end the Zoom meeting when the Board breaks for an executive session and then report any decisions made at the next meeting. Harris said, in his opinion, the Board must restart the video and report on any decisions on the same night.

Helms asked Harris how public comment participation would work depending on which platform is used. Harris stated the following:

- if Livestream is used: under the Sunshine laws the Board must ask for any public comment prior to the motion, so anyone wishing to comment must do so in person.
- if Zoom is used: anyone wishing to participate would be required to sign up in advance to enter their comments in a chat window. A chatroom host (some townships use a professional to handle the chat window) responsible for running the Zoom meeting would go through the chat window comments.

Lewis said she would be discussing it further with the Township IT consultant.

##### Work Sessions

Lewis said most townships that have work sessions have one business meeting and one work session a month. She said all meetings must be advertised regardless of whether they are regular meetings or work sessions. Lewis noted that the Board can always designate any scheduled meeting as a work session. She said that the Board could also "continue" a meeting to have a work session.

Helms said that he did not see the need to add a third meeting each month. He said many townships, even larger ones, hold only one meeting a month. Helms said Tinicum is one of the few that has two regular business meetings. He said he looked over past agendas and most could be condensed. Helms recommended the Board hold one regular meeting a month and make the second meeting a work session.

Harris recommended that all meetings be left as regular meetings, but the agenda would be set differently for work sessions – for example, a meeting with the Planning Commission or the Zoning Hearing Board. He said that way the Board could take action if they wanted.

Helms said they could really get down to actionable items in one monthly meeting and use the second for a work session. Helms noted that the difference between a work session and a regular meeting is that no decisions can be made in a work session.

Breslin stated that her preference was for a third meeting a month. She recommended they designate a regular work session meeting date, on the second Tuesday of the month from 4 to 5 pm, and then cancel it if they have nothing to discuss. Breslin said that taking away one of these meetings each month was not what the community wants.

Rosamilia said he would like to think about it further. He suggested that discussion be tabled until the February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### Ad Hoc Communications Committee

Rosamilia asked Lewis to advertise for volunteers.

#### Proposed Volunteer Policy and Application Form

Rosamilia presented a volunteer application to the other Board members for their review. He said the application would include name, address, contact info, opportunity for applicants to score which committees were of interest and why, and list any skills or experience. Rosamilia said the form would enable the Board to have a better idea of the candidates prior to interviewing them.

In reference to the procedure policy Breslin had previously submitted to the Board, Rosamilia said he did not want to be held to the 10 days response timeframe and that a Board liaison was not necessary. He said all the Board members should interview the candidates.

Breslin reviewed the proposed volunteer process policy, the potential role of a volunteer liaison, keeping a record of volunteers and developing ways to show appreciation for the volunteer contributions.

### **E. New Business**

#### Land Preservation Committee Appointment

**Motion:** to appoint Luke Sorenson to the Land Preservation Committee.

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

#### PennDOT Notice and Consulting Party Application for the Golden Pheasant Bridge

Lewis said she had received a PennDOT Notice and Consulting Party Section 106 Application Form for the Golden Pheasant Bridge. She noted that the bridge had undergone interim emergency repairs that had been completed in December of 2018. Lewis read the following:

- PennDOT is evaluating six alternatives: total avoidance, no build, rehabilitation, widening of the existing bridge, replacement on existing alignment, and replacement on southern alignment.
- The bridge is a contributing resource to the National Register eligible Erwinna Historic District.

She said that PennDOT had requested one designated representative for the Township. The Board asked Lewis to be the designated representative.

### **F. Regular Business**

#### 1. Minutes

**Motion:** to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2022 meeting as written.

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

2. Budget Recap and Treasurer's Report

The Budget Recap and Treasurer's Reports for December 2021 were provided to the Board and posted on the bulletin board in the meeting room.

3. Payroll Reports

**Motion:** to accept the Payroll Report for the period ending January 14, 2022 in the \$31,073.65 and January 28, 2022 in the amount of \$30,766.85.

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

4. Disbursements

**Motion:** to approve the following disbursements.

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

General Fund	Amount	Memo
Campbell Durrant Beatty Palombo & Miller PC	\$585.00	Legal Services
Uniform Gear	\$472.45	Clothing and Cleaning
Bucks County Assoc of Township Officials	\$300.00	Police Uniform Supplies
Merry Maids	\$115.00	Janitorial 1-24-22
B. Jeannie Kauffman	\$250.00	ZHB- Stenography
Service Electric Telephone	\$386.99	Telephone Service
VISA	\$5.53	Supplies
DelGuerico's Disposal Service	\$155.00	Trash Removal
Verizon Wireless	\$429.86	Police Wireless
Shammy Shine	\$80.00	Police Vehicle Maint
Police Chiefs Association of Bucks County	\$175.00	Membership
Harris and Harris	\$3,036.25	December Legal Services
Tackett Planning, Inc.	\$5,102.50	2021 Planning Codification and Zoning Services
Help Now	\$95.00	Police IT Services
Merry Maids	\$115.00	Janitorial Dec 27,2021
Commonwealth of Pa DEP	\$50.00	Storage Tank Annual Permit
Police Chiefs Association	\$175.00	2022 Membership
Michael Frankenfield	\$489.41	Michael Frankenfield
Payroll Fund	Amount	Memo
Account Edge Payroll Services	\$30,541.81	Pay period end 1-14-22
Account Edge Payroll Services	\$30,286.63	Pay period end 1-28-22

**G. Zoning:**

Proposed Fence Ordinance Amendment 254

The Bucks County Planning Commission (BCPC) and the Tincum Planning Commission has approved the draft ordinance. Rosamilia said the intent of the amendment was to require deer fencing be placed further back from the road to allow for a corridor alongside the road.

**Motion:** to advertise the Deer Fence Ordinance Amendment 254.

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

Minor Subdivision Ordinance Amendment 255

The Bucks County Planning Commission (BCPC) and the Tincum Planning Commission has approved the draft ordinance. Rosamilia said the intent of the amendment was to prevent properties from having a minor subdivision (dividing one lot into two) and then some years later subdividing again in order to avoid a major subdivision. He said water is the most precious resource in the Township. Rosamilia said a minor subdivision only requires a well permit application, but a major subdivision requires more extensive well requirements and water testing. Harris said that only one minor subdivision would be allowed and any future subdivision would be considered a major subdivision.

**Motion:** to advertise the Minor Subdivision Ordinance Amendment 255.

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

**H. Zoning Hearing Schedule:**

February 3, 2022: Zoning Hearing Board Appeal #2021-07 Continuance for Johnston Regarding Tretton

- The property is located at 31 Creamery Road, Ottsville and zoned Commercial.
- Tax Map Parcel #44-001-022-002.
- Applicant appeals the decision of the Zoning Officer relating to the Tretton wedding venue conforming use.

February 10, 2022: Zoning Hearing Board Appeal #2021-10 Wehrung/M&W Precast

- The property is located at 210 Durham Road, Ottsville and zoned Village Residential.
- Tax Map Parcel #44-001-041-007.
- Applicant seeks a variance to build a structure to house a crane that will exceed the 35-foot height limit.

The Tincum Planning Commission recommended that the Board not oppose the appeal.

**I. Public Comment**

ZHB 2021-09 Zimmerman/Hilltop Farm & Fence

John Cole, PC member, asked about the outcome of the variance appeal for a fence installed from the centerline of road instead of the edge of the right-of-way. Lewis stated that the Township has not yet received the written decision.

118 Hollow Horn

Mindy Friedman, Hollow Horn, said the previous owner of 118 Hollow Horn had passed away. She stated that unpermitted work, dumping and burying of materials were taking place and then a large, paved parking lot had been built over where the material was dumped. She was concerned that people were living in the house illegally because nothing had been settled with the estate.

Rosamilia said any illegal dumping should be immediately addressed. Harris said his understanding is that the estate is still under the control of the executor. He said he would follow-up with the attorney and update the Board.

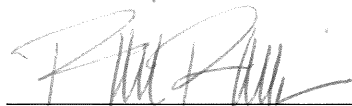
**J. Adjournment**


**Motion:** to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 PM.


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

*The next meeting of the Board of Supervisors is scheduled for February 15, 2022 at 7:30 PM.*

**TINICUM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Rosamilia, Chairperson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Helms, Vice-Chairperson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Eleanor Breslin, Member