APRIL 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Branch Township Supervisors was held on Monday. April 19, 2021, 6:00 P.M. at the Branch Township Memorial Building, Llewellyn, PA.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, masks were worn and social distancing was practiced. Attending were Laine Gehres, Robert Houser, David M. Schultz, Supervisors, Sue Ellen Holley, Secretary/Treasurer, Gino DiNicola, Solicitor ,Dave Bell of the Planning Commission, Joanne Bingaman,of the Zoning Board, Theresa Brensinger, Auditor. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the March meeting were available for inspection. A motion to approve the minutes was made by David Schultz, seconded by Robert Houser all Supervisors in favor.

The bills were then read. A motion to approve the bills as read was made by David Schultz, seconded by Robert Houser, all Supervisors in favor.

GENERAL FUND DISBURSEMENTS:

Net Payroll 3/15/21--4/19/21 21,035.15 Federal Tax Deposit 1,379.20

USPS 110.00 Nationwide 457B 480.00

Federal Tax Deposit 67.40 PA Withholding 34.39

PA Withholding 338.16 Federal Tax Deposit 1,402.66

Federal Tax Deposit 1,348.28 PA Withholding 340.32

Federal Tax Deposit 1,321.62 Federal Tax Deposit 1,264.00

Berkheimer LST Quarterly 91.00 Berkheimer EIT Quarterly 658.00

PA UC Quarterly 3, 393.03 Gail Bedford (commission) 2,692.51

Capital One 116.57 Wex Bank 313.54

Highmark 42.80 Capital Blue 11, 264.97

PPL 200.37 Minersville Auto 18.29

Robert E. Reedy 477.61 SWIF 880.00

Quandel Concrete 1060.00 BTMA (Building) 90.00

BTMA (Hydrants) 1,250.00 Laudeman Pets Control 46.00

County Waste 13, 348.36 Shawn Donohue (Paper Alley Survey) 1,000.00

SCMA 75.15 H.A. Thomson 169.00

Verizon 492.12 Mark’s service Center 43.00

Comcast 248.29 United Concordia 556.92

Law Library 5.00 Hadesty’s 51.43

Kens Tire 135.00

Gail Bedford (printing (reimbursement) 626.38

Rosenburger Plumbing 349.00

Phoenix Park Hose 5,000.00

Branch Reily Police Department 341.02

Berkheimer DLT 50.00

PIRMA 15,475.00

Sands Ford 915.45

David M. Schultz 73.57

Laine Gehres 73.57

Robert Houser 73.57

John Andruchek 100.27

Gino DiNicola 180.00

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS: United States Treasury 10.20

Penn Street Pizza 815.05 Berkheimer 815.64

Berkheimer 2,401.75 Don Summers 148.50

Reilly Township 2,833.70 Berkheimer 1,275.66

Christopher Keiser 75.00 Ed Purcell 75.00

Berkheimer 648.79 Berkheimer 434.06

Berkheimer 2,408.93 Schuylkill County 470.24

Anthony Rodriguez 220.00 Joseph Vuksta 56.50

Schuylkill County 968.74 Schuylkill County 1,480.53

Gail Bedford 22,045.74 Gail Bedford 25,085.90

Gail Bedford 2,948.00 Gail Bedford 22,947.50

Gail Bed ford 220.00 Gail Bedford 1,617.00

Robert Houser 400.00 Schuylkill County 18.30

District Court 968.74 Berkheimer 1, 180.54

LIQUID FUELS DISBURSEMENTS: Pottsville Materials 1,685.26

Plasterer Equipment 282.61 PPL 3,044.75

LIQUID FUELS RECIEPTS : PA Invest Transfer 10,000.00

BRANCH REILLY POLICE DEPARTMENT DISBURSEMENTS:

Wex Bank 604.73 Capital One 44.68

Comcast 96.58 Trail Towing 56.14

Verizon 120.00

BRANCH REILLY POLICE DEPARTMENT RECEIPTS:

Reilly Township Supervisors 461.11 Branch Township Supervisors 341.02

PERMITS:

Ed Purcell (Zoning) 75.00 Penn Street Pizza (Building) 815.50

Don Sommers (Building) 148.50 Joseph Vuksta (Building) 56.50

Anthony Rodriguez (Building) 220.00 Chris Keiser (Zoning) 75.00

David Strausser has concerns with people parking in no parking zones by the Baseball fields during games. Will Yourey would like to know if the Township has regulations on Reading Outdoors and if the Township has a ATV ordinance in place. Supervisor Laine Gehres will see to it that Mr. Yourey gets a copy of the ATV Stand Alone Ordinance.

Theresa Brensinger expressed concerns about garbage left behind after County Waste empties the trash cans. She has not been able to reach them. Laine Gehres will try to contact County Waste concerning this matter.

Tom Witmer asked why the Branch Township Cemetery was surveyed. Dave Schultz explained that the survey was done to clarify boundaries line for Clay Street & paper street next to the church.

He also inquired about the Boy Scouts putting a container to recycle aluminum cans at the Township building. Laine Gehres said that the Supervisors will need time to discuss this.

A motion to approve Jonathan Pfeil’s request for property tax exemption was made by David Schultz, seconded by Robert Houser, all Supervisors in favor. This request has already been approved by Schuylkill County and By Minersville School District.

Brittany Doyle submitted a letter requesting permission to have a 5k run in the Township in memory of Jessica Andruchek on June 27, 2021. The run will start at New Minersville Hose Company. And Branch Township will be added to the waiver. Minersville Borough had already approved the request. The roads involved will remain open and the Branch Township Police will be notified. A Motion was made by David Schultz and Seconded by Robert Houser, all in favor.

Gino DiNicola reported that Branch Township has in place a comprehensive Stand Alone Sludge Ordinance adopted in 2008.That does not need to be updated at this time.

At the request of Chief Wenner, William Kattner was promoted to Deputy Chief. With No Changes in Wages or any new cost to the township. Chief will provided the necessary paperwork. Officer Kattner will be able to stand in for classes that Chief Wenner is unable to attend. A motion to approve the request was made by David Schultz and seconded by Robert Houser, All in Favor.

Several verbal requests have been made by Mr. Rutecki to vacate a road adjoining his property. Mr. Rutcecki has not filed a formal request nor a plan. Mr. Rutecki should submit a formal application with a plan showing what he wants to do. Someone from the Township will contact him.

Sue Ellen Holly read the Building Code Official report into the record. There was a discussion concerning who should be cited and how often. The Supervisors would like John Andruchek to cite on a monthly basis in particular owners of dilapidated properties and high grass. A motion to accept this report was made by Laine Gehres, seconded by Robert Houser, all Supervisors in favor.

Gino DiNicola reported that Joe Zerbe will serve as the Zoning/ Hearing Attorney for Branch Township at the meeting scheduled on May 6, 2021 at 6:30 P.M. A motion was made to appoint Joe Zerbe as the Zoning /Hearing Attorney for the remainder of the year. A motion was made by Dave Schultz and seconded by Robert Houser, all in favor.

Mr. Jones has petitioned the court to reconsider the order of April 6,2021 denying retroactive extension.

The flood plan ordinance was uploaded to FEMA successfully.

In regards to the ongoing neighbor dispute on King St. Attorney DiNicola spoke to both residence lawyers and told them they should attempt to come to an agreement on their own.

David Shultz , road master ,reported township workers have been cutting grass, patching roads, doing routine work on equipment . Jacobi Zigorski was hired at 15.00 dollars’ hourly rate, as a part time employee. Motion to approve Laine Gehres and seconded by Robert Houser.

The Police report was read into the record and a motion to approve was made by David Schultz , Seconded by Robert Houser.

The meeting was adjurned to an executive session at 7:08pm. The meeting was reconvened and 7:25.

A motion to adjourn was made by David Schultz , seconded by Robert Houser, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sue Ellen Holley

Secretary/ Treasurer