July 2021

The Supervisors monthly meeting was held on July 19, 2021 at 6:00 pm at the Branch Township Memorial Building Llewellyn, Pa.  
Attend were Laine Gehres, Robert Houser, David Schultz(Supervisors), Sue Ellen Holley(Secretary /Treasurer)Gino Dinicola(Solicitor), Joe Carvajal(Zoning Board) John Andruchek (Building Code Official)  
Joanne Bingaman(Zoning Board)David Bell (Planning Commision)Theresa Brensinger(Auditor) Desiree Smith (Auditor) Edward Siminitus (Planning Commision).  
Minutes of the June 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 Robert Houser, seconded by David Schultz, all Supervisors in favor.  
Federal Tax Deposit 2,345.06 Federal Tax Deposit 1,531.36  
Federal Tax Deposit 1,319.78 Federal Tax Deposit 1,387.20  
Nationwide 457B 60.00 PA Withholding 461.19  
Berkheimer 40.00 Wex Bank 539.04  
Lowes 511.09 Gracie University 895.00  
PSATS UC 1,714.90 PA UC 42.80  
John Andruchek (postage) 35.00 Blythe Township 1,340.00   
Branch Reilly Police Dept. 692.17 Comcast 229.26  
County Waste 13,612.16 Eastern Press 175.35  
Gino Dinicola 180.00 Hadesty’s 73.82  
Highmark Blue Shield 42.80 Jones & Co 5,500.00  
Kramers Power Equipment 168.15 Laudemans Pest Control 46.00  
Minersville Auto 126.46 Moyers Body Shop 3,436.69   
PPL 115.65 Pfeiffer, Brown ,DiNicola 1,462.50  
Pottsville Materials 90.50 Quandel Concrete 735.00  
Republican Herald 246.49 Robert E Reedy 354.10  
SCMA 75.15 Steel & Metal Services 82.23  
Suburban Propane 97.25 The Play Ground Guy 295.00  
United Concordia 476.68 Verizon 486.13  
Capital Blue Cross 10,604.09 Net Pay roll (6/22-7/19/21) 17,944.57  
  
Liquid Fuels   
Seal Master 166.97 PPL 3,099.58  
  
Branch Reilly Police Disbursements:   
Comcast 94.78 Wex Bank 610.18  
Capital One 24.17 Galls 529.20  
  
Permits:  
James Dube (Building) 76.50 William Shappell (Zoning) 75.00  
  
Alfred Smith had a complaint regarding an alleged assault against Anthony Sylvester regarding a property dispute. In which the charges were dismissed. Officer Kattner once again advised Mr. Smith this is a civil matter but did offer to speak with him after the meeting.  
 Brian Campion complained his neighbor is burning wood or garbage near his home that the smoke fills his house and he cannot have his window open due to the smoke and smell. Supervisor Gehres will check in it and the township will provide Mr. Campion copy of outdoor burning ordinance.   
 Jean Homa had questions about recycling in the Township. She was informed by Supervisor Gehres that she could drop her recycling off at the township recycling dumpster and that it is for Branch Township residents only. The fee for recycling has been waived for this year and the fee will be minimal for 2022.

Mrs. Viola complained about high grass and weeds at several properties in the 600 block of Pine Hill Street. Supervisor Schultz said township for insurance purposes Township workers are not allowed on private property to mow unless the home is vacant. If there are people living in the home, the owner must be cited. John Andruchek, Building Code Official, commented he has recently sent out (7) certified letters to property owners concerning high grass.   
 Dolores Novack has concerns about high grass on a vacant lot on Hill Terrace Drive.  
John Andruchek will look into this.

A motion to approve PSATS classes for Secretary/ Treasurer and Supervisors was made by Supervisor Gehres , seconded by Supervisor Schultz all Supervisors in favor.  
 A motion to approve the American Rescue Plan 2021-7 authorizing the Township to make supplemental appropriations to the 2021 budget that was adopted 11-16-20. Was made by Supervisor Schultz, seconded by Supervisor Houser,all Supervisors in favor. The Township received 91,062.21 which is the first half of the allotted amount. This money is to be in a separate account and there is restrictions on how the money can be spent. The Township has four years to spend the money.  
 A motion to approve required combat training classes for Officer Kattner was made by Supervisor Schultz, seconded by Supervisor Houser, All Supervisors in favor.  
A motion to approve resolution 2021-8 for closing of the escrow checking account and transfer the money to the general fund was made by Supervisor Schultz, seconded by Supervisor Houser, all Supervisors in favor. These funds are now coded to their category.  
 Many residents were present and emails were read complaining of a residence located at 16 West West Ave being rented by the day from Air BnB. Complaints were loud music, trash, to many cars, fireworks, and an odor of drugs coming from this property. Neither the owner nor a representative was present at the meeting. The Building Code Offical will investigate and make a determination of use. Gino DiNicola will also look into this issue. Desiree Smith commented that Air BnB has a webite that residents can submit complaints to.  
 A motion was made by Supervisor Schultz, seconded by Supervisor Houser all Supervisors in favor to put the old 1996 Chevy Dump Truck out for bid. With no reserve and any or all bids can be rejected.  
 A Motion was made by Supervisor Schultz, seconded by Supervisor Houser, all Supervisors infavor. To extend Selkirks Timbering permit until August for a 300.00 Fee.  
 A Motion was made by Supervisor Schultz, seconded by Supervisor Houser to Adopt an Amendment to Ordinance 91-4 Prohibiting parking on both sides of Silverton Road. From Willing Street to the steel bridge.A roll call vote was taken . Supervisor Schultz voted (YES) Supervisor Houser voted( YES) Supervisor Gehres voted (NO).Motion Carried.  
On Going Old Business, Branch Township Health Care Resolution. This Resolution establishes a policy that will only apply to new Supervisors not the current Board. Which states full time working supervisors can be covered in full . Spouses and dependents will have a 30% premium share. No coverage will be provided for non-working /part time Supervisors.  
Chairman Gehres expressed his opposition to this Resolution. A motion to approve was made by Supervisor Schultz, Seconded by Supervisor Houser. A roll call vote was taken. Supervisor Schultz(YES) Supervisor Houser(YES) Supervisor Gehres (NO). The motion carried  
 Building Code Offical report was read into the record by John Andruchek. Supervisor Schultz made a motion to approve, seconded by Supervisor Houser, All Supervisors in favor.  
Solicitor DiNicola did present a formal report. He offered opinions and advice throughout the meeting.  
The Road Master reported Township workers have been cleaning storm drains, patching potholes on Dowdentown Rd, trimming weeds and brush throughout the township,and putting a new catch basin in on the Willing Street project. Also preparing West Pine Street for paving.Motion to approve by Supervisor Houser, seconded by Supervisor Schultz ,All Supervisors in favor.  
After a lengthy discussion concerning recycling, the details have not been finalized at this time. No action was taken.  
The Police report was then read into the record by Deputy Chief Kattner. A motion was made to approve by Supervisor Schutz, seconded by Supervisor Houser, All Supervisors in favor.

Chairman Gehres adjourned the meeting at 7:35pm

Respectfully submitted by  
 Sue Ellen Holley  
 (Secretary/Treasurer)