

December 19th 2022

The Branch Township Supervisors monthly meeting was held at 6:00pm on December 19th, 2022, at the Branch Township Memorial Building. In Attendance was Robert Houser, David Schultz, Joseph Carvajal (Supervisors)Gino DiNicola(Solicitor) John Andruchek (BCO)Sue Ellen Holley (secretary/Treasurer)William Kattner (Police).

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and followed with a moment of silence for the Community Fire Company of New Tripoli Assistant Chief/Frederick County Division of Fire and Rescue Services, MD Firefighter Zachary Paris, and The Community Fire Company of New Tripoli Firefighter Marvin Gruber.

A motion to approve the minutes from November was made by Supervisor Schultz, seconded by Supervisor Carvajal, the motion carried.

The current months bills were then read into the record. A motion to approve the bills was made by Supervisor Schultz, seconded by Supervisor Carvajal, the motion carried.

General Fund

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|----------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|----------|
| Net payroll 11/22-12/19/22 | 18,145.35 | Federal Tax Deposit | 87.40 |
| Federal Tax Deposit | 1,598.62 | Nationwide 457B | 160.00 |
| PA Withholding | 400.98 | Federal Tax Deposit | 1,484.44 |
| Federal Tax Deposit | 1,292.34 | PA Withholding | 508.47 |
| Phoenix Park Fire Co | 1,500.00 | Good Intent Hose Co. #1 | 1,500.00 |
| Capital One | 175.55 | Lowes | 857.77 |
| Robert E Reedy's | 1,440.10 | Wex Bank | 1,522.06 |
| Capital Blue Cross | 8,353.31 | Hess Auction | 436.80 |
| Highmark Blue Shield | 37.34 | Brian Smith | 900.00 |
| Brian Smith | 900.00 | John Wank | 915.00 |
| John Wank | 915.00 | Comcast | 300.05 |
| GFL | 13,748.36 | Gino DiNicola | 180.00 |
| HA Thomson | 550.00 | Joseph Carvajal | 20.00 |
| Ken's Tire | 25.00 | Mike Franko Plumbing | 240.00 |
| Minersville Auto Parts | 176.59 | PSATS | 1,009.00 |
| Republican Herald | 52.02 | SCMA | 78.00 |
| State workers Ins Fund | 1,361.00 | Steel & Metal Service Center | 10.79 |
| United Concordia | 497.93 | United States Post Office | 66.00 |
| Verizon | 385.01 | PPL | 255.53 |
| Storks Plow | 890.00 | | |

Liquid Fuels

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----------|----------------------|----------|
| Miller Municipal Supply | 105.00 | Pottsville Materials | 2,703.02 |
| PPL | 3,357.94 | Reading Precast | 655.00 |
| Storks Plow | 1,587.00 | | |

Police Expenses

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|----------|--------|-------------|--------|
| Wex Bank | 747.86 | Verizon | 120.03 |
| Comcast | 95.54 | Capital One | 29.30 |

Income

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|----------------------|----------|-----------------------|----------|
| Berkheimer | 71.50 | Berkheimer | 3,268.76 |
| Berkheimer | 607.82 | Berkheimer | 2,826.86 |
| Berkheimer | 557.19 | Berkheimer | 1,223.33 |
| Berkheimer | 3,482.25 | Berkheimer | 1,594.20 |
| Berkheimer | 4,611.28 | Berkheimer | 1,059.28 |
| Cass Township | 250.00 | Commonwealth Of PA | 617.62 |
| County Of Schuylkill | 2,897.78 | County of Schuylkill | 1,298.50 |
| County Of Schuylkill | 1,017.23 | Delinquent Sanitation | 1,313.50 |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|----------|
| District Justice Court | 303.27 | Foster Township | 250.00 |
| Gail Bedford | 1,650.00 | Gail Bedford | 1,348.31 |
| Reilly Township | 2,988.07 | Reilly Township | 510.40 |
| Trinity Solar (building permit) | 67.22 | Trinity Solar (building permit) | 103.07 |

Account Balances

| | | | |
|--------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| General Fund | 44,388.99 | PA Invest | 187,825.72 |
| ARP | 169,804.47 | | |
| Liquid Fuels | 443.83 | PA Invest | 22,923.13 |

Public Participation

Resident Tom Witmer made complaints about his neighbor’s pool issue that he has been coming to the meetings about for 2 years and wants to know what will be done? He also has an issue with another neighbor having large fires that he spoke to the police about. Supervisor Houser asked John what was next? John said he will send another letter. Officer Katter then told him that when the fires are taking place to call the calm center and if the neighbor is in violation, he will be cited.

Property owner of Stine Mill area Jackie Curran had questions regarding the next step for her property for variance or conditional use? John Andruchek explained that she needs to get a NPDES permit before she can submit any plans. After a lengthy discussion Solicitor DiNicola explained that the Board can not direct her on what to do with her property. She will have to have her engineer direct her in the proper steps.

Agenda

Engagement Letter- No action was taken

A motion by Supervisor Schultz was made to adopt the 2023 budget, seconded by Supervisor Carvajal, the motion carried.

Resolution to purchase 619 Rear Pine Hill Street Minersville- A motion was made by Supervisor Schultz, seconded by Supervisor Carvajal. The motion carried.

Standing Reports

The Building Code Official Report was then read into the record by John Andruchek. A motion to approve the report was made by Supervisor Schultz, seconded by Supervisor Carvajal, the motion carried. A complete report will be kept on file at the Township office.

Solicitor DiNicola asked for an executive session before the meeting is adjourned. He then reported looking at subdivision maps for the walking trail issue. He found some reference to the trail, but no actual data on it. Supervisor Schultz believes the resident has signed paperwork to acknowledge the walking trail. John Andruchek stated the Trail has never been an issue for maintenance before and it has only started being an issue the past couple years. Solicitor DiNicola said it is his understand that the resident does recognize the walking trail. He also told the Board that an option is to condemn a portion of the property. The resident would be eligible for compensation if it would be condemned. Supervisor Shultz suggest letter be sent to the resident’s attorney to get clarification about the acknowledgment of the walking trail. A motion to approve the report was made by Supervisor Schultz, seconded by Supervisor Carvajal, the motion carried.

Road Masters report- The Township workers have been doing cold patch on various roads in the township, tree removal, catch basin repairs, equipment repairs, building repairs. Installing a Christmas tree that was donated by Mike & Peggy Schultz. Hanging a Christmas banner that was donated by Joyce Beach & Supervisor Schultz. Supervisor Schultz also met with PennDOT with the culvert issues on Dowdowntown Rd. They cannot make changes to those due to residents run off pipes going into the culvert. They did put up delineators to help with the issue. A motion to approve the report was made by Supervisor Carvajal, seconded by Supervisor Houser, the motion carried. A complete report will be kept on file at the Township Office.

The Police report was then read into the record by William Kattner. A motion to approve the report was made by

Supervisor Carvajal, seconded by Supervisor Schultz, the motion carried. A complete report will be kept on file at the Township office.

Blythe Water is applying for a grant for a water line between Main St & Ramtown Rd. They are requesting a letter of Support from the Township. A motion to approve was made by Supervisor Schultz, seconded by Supervisor Houser, the motion carried.

Executive session 6:42-7:20

Meeting Adjourned 7:20

Respectfully Submitted By
Sue Ellen Holley
Secretary/ Treasurer