

September 18th, 2023

The Branch Township Board of Supervisors regular monthly meeting was held on September 18th at 6:00pm at the Branch Township Memorial Building Llewellyn PA. In attendance was Robert Houser, David Schultz Sr., Joseph Carvajal (Supervisors) Gino DiNicola (Solicitor) Sue Ellen Holley (Secretary /Treasurer) John Andruczek (Building Code Official) David Bell (Planning Commission) Laine Gehres (Planning Commission) Joanne Bingaman (Zoning Hearing Board) William Kattner , Joseph Wenner (Police)

A motion to approve the August meeting minute was made by Supervisor Schultz, Seconded by Supervisor Carvajal, all in favor.

A motion to approve the current month's bills was made by Supervisor Carvajal, seconded by Supervisor Schultz, all in favor.

General Fund

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Net Payroll 8/22-9/18/23 | 18,980.33 | Federal Tax Deposit | 87.34 |
| Federal Tax Deposit | 1,701.00 | Federal Tax Deposit | 1,309.56 |
| PA Withholding | 578.78 | Nationwide 457B | 100.00 |
| Berkheimer | 86.00 | Federal Tax Deposit | 1,479.40 |
| Federal Tax Deposit | 1,505.16 | James Pothering | 155.50 |
| John Andruczek | 5.00 | Capital One | 111.58 |
| Wex Bank | 791.74 | Shawn Shoener | 250.00 |
| HA Thomson | 110.00 | Arro Consulting | 964.03 |
| Capital Blue Cross | 8,353.31 | Comprehensive Inspection Agency | 300.00 |
| Comcast | 287.36 | Elan Financial | 692.97 |
| Fehr Supply | 718.00 | GFL | 13,748.36 |
| Gino DiNicola | 180.00 | Hadesty's | 30.95 |
| Ken's Tire | 15.00 | Kramer's Power Equipment | 387.52 |
| Minersville Auto Parts | 590.80 | No Sweat Service Group | 603.59 |
| PPL | 286.13 | Pennsylvania Municipal Pension | 200.00 |
| Pottsville Materials | 3,603.31 | Pozza Trucking | 500.00 |
| Republican Herald | 668.64 | Robert E Reedy's | 887.14 |
| Robert Houser | 20.00 | SCMA | 80.00 |
| Schuylkill County | 178.50 | Schuylkill County Township Officials | 75.00 |
| State Workers Ins Fund | 1,360.00 | Steel & Metal Service Center | 190.70 |
| Tropp Contracting | 2,000.00 | United Concordia | 417.69 |
| Verizon | 329.31 | Zerbe Law Office | 1,285.15 |

Liquid Fuels

| | | | |
|----------------------|----------|-----|----------|
| Pottsville Materials | 2,395.28 | PPL | 3,467.77 |
|----------------------|----------|-----|----------|

Income

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Berkheimer | 22,919.48 | Chris Michels | 953.79 |
| Cindy Saavedra (Building permit) | 156.50 | County of Schuylkill | 1,832.33 |
| Crown Castle (Building Permit) | 384.50 | Delinquent Sanitation | 8,828.00 |
| District Justice Court | 92.68 | Gail Bedford | 37,938.09 |
| Jim Eisenhart (Building Permit) | 164.50 | Reading Anthracite Company (zoning) | 6,800.00 |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|
| Reilly Township | 3,802.66 | Schuylkill County | 3,074.63 |
| Trinity Solar (Building Permit) | 377.42 | | |
| Account Balances | | | |
| General Fund | 28,100.53 | PA Invest | 261,179.09 |
| ARPA | 138,196.86 | | |
| Liquid Fuels | 453.00 | PA Invest | 65,603.90 |
| Police Checking | 4,907.26 | Cemetery Checking | 3,988.41 |

Public Participation

William Kattner was questioning why comments made by Supervisor Schultz were not in previous minutes. He wanted to go on record objecting the minutes.

Laine Gehres was questioning the minutes for the 60-day notice to Reilly Township. James Quinn, a Reilly Township Supervisor read emails from his solicitor. After a lengthy discussion about the agreement & coverage, Laine asked Supervisor Houser if the decision was unanimous and how he felt. Robert said he is pro cop. James Quinn and Supervisor Carvajal had a brief discussion over communication issues.

Solicitor DiNicola said the Board has options to reconsider, there was a good faith attempt. Solicitor DiNicola said he did not receive anything from Reilly Township. This is the first the Board is hearing objections from the Police or Reilly Township.

Micheal Quinn questioned what would happen with coverage. His house was hit last year by a car and due to the fast response, the guy was caught. He is concerned of the financial burden to provide coverage.

Solicitor DiNicola explained that the Township will still be providing coverage.

Joe Wenner explained he is having a had time filling the schedule with Minersville paying 6 an hour more than us.

Wenner explained how finding officers for the positions is hard. Harry Brown then said there are two officers who are cleared for work to fill the shifts. There was a brief discussion about regionalization. Quinn Said the townships went through that years ago and it would have cost more. Laine asked the chairman to make a motion to reconsider. Gino explained that it is not on the agenda.

Supervisor Houser then made a motion to discuss the agreement with Reilly Township, seconded by Supervisor Carvajal. Solicitor DiNicola will send a letter to readdress.

David Strausser questioned who put the agenda together. Laine Gehres said it is overseen by the Chairman.

Daivid Strausser asked when the last time parking ticket was were raised. William Kattner said the last time we ordered.

Agenda

Appointment of Zoning Hearing Board- A motion to approve Brandon Witmer was made by Supervisor Houser, seconded by Supervisor Carvajal, the motion carried.

Participation in Highway Safety Network- A motion to approve was made by Supervisor Carvajal, seconded by Supervisor Schultz, the motion carried.

55 Hill Terrace Drive variance- No action needed.

Approval to post 619 Rear Pine Hill Street for seal bids- A motion to approve was made by Supervisor Carvajal, seconded by Supervisor Schultz, the motion carried.

Old Backhoe- Supervisor Houser asked what we are doing with the old backhoe. Supervisor Schultz said he is still looking for parts.

Standing Reports

The Building Code Official Repot was then read into the record by John Andruchek. 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.

Solicitor DiNicola reported working on tax exemption for the 619 Rear Pine Hill Street. He did a site visit for the Spring Street issue. Solicitor DiNicola recommended that the Board get together with Minersville Council for a joint effort to resolve the issue.

Solicitor DiNicola will reach out To Reilly Township in regard to the agreement. Supervisor Schultz made a motion to approve the report, Supervisor Carvajal seconded, the motion carried.

Road Masters Report-The Township workers have been working on Black Diamond Road installing new pipe and catch basins. A curb was installed on Maple St. The workers have been doing tree removal, equipment repairs and grass cutting. The Road Master then Thanked the Both Fire Companies, Police officers, and Fire Police for their fast response during the power outages. The Branch Township Supervisors appreciate your lengthy time spent out working and directing traffic. A motion to approve the report was made by Supervisor Houser, seconded by Supervisor Carvajal, the motion carried. A complete report will be kept on file at the Township Office.

William Kattner read the Police Report into the record. A motion to approve the report was made by Supervisor Carvajal, seconded by Supervisor Schultz, the motion carried.

A motion to approve the Arro Consulting 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.

Old Business

Delinquent Sanitation- Nothing to report at this time

Walking Trail- Noting to report at this time

Spring St- was mentioned in the Solicitors report

Meeting adjourned 6:49pm

Respectfully Submitted by:
Sue Ellen Holley
Secretary/ Treasurer