

VALLEY TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS' MINUTES

October 11, 2017

Attendance:

Chairman Gary Derr, Vice-Chairman Walt Rupert, Supervisor Mike Kull, Zoning Officer, Suzanne Kuziak & Secretary, Judy Achy. Public was represented by David Fox, John Fenstermacher, Barry Ashenfelder, Jerry Ward and Danville News Reporter Karen Blackledge.

Call to Order:

Chairman Gary Derr called the meeting to order @ 7:00 p.m. with all in attendance reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion to approve the minutes of September 13, 2017 as well as the financial statement made by Mike, 2nd by Walt and motion approved unanimously.

Citizens' Comments: Barry Ashenfelder of 22 Old Quarry Road who has resided there since 1985 came to the Supervisors to report that he has never seen such flooding coming down from the little run at the Kuziak Farm that he had back in July, of which he had pictures to share. The rain water automatically comes down thru the field but Barry indicated that the water runoff is becoming increasingly worse. Suzanne Kuziak reported that her husband, Mike, had tried clearing out the small run but then got into trouble with DEP. The supervisors told Mr. Ashenfelder that they would check into this but they also asked him to contact Tyler Servose at the Montour County Conservation Office @ 570-271-1140 to ask if he had any suggestions.

Jerry Ward came to the township to report about a recently purchased property at 75 Litterer Road that is being used as a group home where there are currently two people living there as well as having a caregiver that changes after their work shift. He feels that the verbiage was changed "to make it fly within the RI zoning district". Mike reported that this was addressed with the township solicitor, Bob Buehner, and Bob reportedly stated that this did not qualify as a group home under the state's regulations. Jerry stated "that when we start not obeying our own ordinances, we are in jeopardy". According to our ordinance, a group home can be in the R2 district. Back on March 8, 2017 when this was discussed at the Supervisors' Meeting, the supervisors took no action other than to request that our solicitor send a letter notifying them that no occupancy permit could be granted and there was no occupancy permit issued for this property. The supervisors told Jerry that this was the legal opinion handed down from Bob Buehner, Valley Township Solicitor and Jerry Ward asked the supervisors to re-address this issue with Mr. Buehner.

Jerry also had a 2nd issue which he indicated was his concern about the township's ongoing reluctance to do anything about a nuisance ordinance. Again, Jerry was told that our township solicitor did not feel it was enforceable in our community. He also wanted the supervisors to consider updating their comprehensive plan which was adopted in 1990 as well as keep an agricultural security area in mind.

Reports:

(1)

Fire Department – Chief Mike Kull reported that there were a total of 13 incidents in September including 10 vehicle accidents, 1 malicious false alarm, 1 smoke scare and 1 unintentional transmission of alarm.

(2)

Planning Commission – Mike reported that Glen Simington has now resigned from the Commission after donating many years to the township as he and his family will be moving away from the area.

(3)

Solicitor – Bob Buehner was absent due to illness.

(4)

Zoning Officer – Suzanne Kuziak submitted her activity log for September, 2017 at which time she reported that she did an inspection on a non-permitted apartment above a garage and she found the apartment and trailers vacant on 9/25/17. She also had received a complaint from a resident referring to the “group home” @ 75 Litterer Road.

(5)

Municipal Authority – Walt Rupert spoke of a billing issue complaint with a 30,000 gallon discrepancy from a resident in Mausdale. Walt indicated that he would be in attendance at the Authority Meeting on Monday evening to iron this out. John Fenstermacher reported that Jamie Shrawder submitted paperwork for a grant to replace the “Continental Bridge” and John felt that this grant should also involve the Valley Township expenses of moving the sewer line and not just the Danville Expenses.

(6)

Road Foreman/Equipment Report – Gary Derr returned to work from his fractured foot as of Monday, October 9, 2017. Mike Kull reported that the private lane signs have been installed and the drainage was fixed at the end of Landau Road and some mowing has been done. Judy indicated her appreciation to the Road Crew for clearing the end of Indian Run Road with McCracken Road as it really took care of the obstruction intersecting with McCracken. New Enterprise will be coming on Tuesday, October 17 to complete the Welliver Road Project where a great deal of prep work had to be taken care of by the Valley Township Road Crew initially.

(7)

SEO – There has been no word from Jim Sanders.

New Business: Walt feels something needs to be done to the old (Days Inn) depilated hotel as it is a real public health issue. The building could be condemned by the building code official who is John Hudak of BIU. If BIU was in agreement that condemnation was indicated, a letter would then be sent to the owner of the Days Inn. ***Motion by Walt, 2nd by Mike to authorize Suzanne Kuziak as our Zoning Officer to contact BIU and motion passed unanimously.***

Motion to approve Resolution #5 of 2017 for the township’s quarterly contribution for our two full-time employees to be increased to \$650 per member per quarter effective January, 2018 to be paid to PMRS made by Mike, 2nd by Walt and motion passed with

Gary abstaining from voting as Gary is a participant in the township retirement plan and motion passed.

Walt mentioned that he is somewhat concerned about the road renaming project particularly the roads Little Cherokee vs Iron Mountain Road. After discussion it was decided to delay any action at this point hopeful that the Montour County Commissioners would take care of the problem.

Motion by Walt, 2nd by Gary to donate \$100 to the Danville Parade Committee (the same amount donated in prior years) and motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Bills: *Motion by Walt to pay the bills, 2nd by Mike and motion passed unanimously.*

Adjournment:

Motion by Walt to adjourn @ 8:00, 2nd by Mike and motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Achy, Valley Township Secretary