



MILLCREEK TOWNSHIP

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 8, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 P.M. by Chairman, Dan K. Hogeland commencing with the Pledge to the Flag.

Present: Dan K. Hogeland, Chairman
Eric J. Weidman, V. Chairman
Scott J. Moyer, Supervisor
John D. Enck, Solicitor
Lorie J. Kupp, Sec./Treas.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Amy Hehnley, 43 W. Main St. was present regarding feral cats in her neighborhood. Her neighbor at 41 W. Main St, and 5 W. Main continue to feed the cats and they are taking shelter in the Constable's house at 35 W. Main St. We need an ordinance eliminating the feeding or limit the number of animals you can keep by ordinance. The amount of feces in the yards is a disgusting health hazard, as well as the fleas in everyone's yards. The neighborhood can't enjoy their yards because of the cats. Mrs. Hehnley presented the Board with pictures as well as sample ordinances for the Board to consider. Secretary will make copies for the Board to further review. Residents present asked the Board to please do something. Chief Hostetter will again contact No Nonsense Neutering to see how they could help and make other phone calls. Solicitor commented on legal challenges that could be a problem.

John DeSantis, Newmanstown Volunteer Fire Co. – DeSantis informed the Board that the ambulance service is now going to be covered by a paid crew from Wellspan Ephrata five days per week – 8 hours per day. He also said the Fire Company is further researching the Volunteer tax relief that was previously discussed.

REPORTS OF ORGANIZATIONS:

Planning Commission – Jan. & Feb. minutes were received. Hogeland minor subdivision was reviewed and signed. *Hogeland abstained.*

Recreation Board minutes were received.

Newmanstown Water Authority – minutes were received.

Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority – minutes received.

Auditor's report was received.

NVFC – annual reports were received.

Western Berks Ambulance Assoc. Dec & Jan. reports received.

Police Activity report and Annual Report was received.

ENGINEER: Steckbeck Engineering. Alex Kauffman was present with a sketch plan of the Newburg Recreation area. The detention pond is an issue with the walking path. Alex will check in with DEP about it.

MINUTES: Motion by Hogeland to approve the minutes as printed. Seconded by Moyer. All aye, motion carried.

SOLICITOR:

Comcast franchise renewal – Solicitor reported that he has still had no response from Comcast to his Oct. correspondence, or emails, so he left a voice mail again yesterday.

Police Policies & Procedures – Solicitor reported that he and the Chief are continuing to work on the Use of Force Taser policy. Policy should be ready for next months meeting. Chief Hostetter also informed the Board that since the CLEAN audit there are five more policies that need to be worked on.

Refund of Realty Transfer Tax “qualified beginning farmer” Solicitor reported that the Raeu Eberly Estate to Mr. & Mrs. Rambacher (\$5,000) was still unclear as to who paid the tax, and who should be issued the refund. Luther & Eva Bennetch estate to buyers Jeremy & Linda Horst (\$7,530) were both supposed to have each paid half the tax at settlement so maybe we could refund the Horst’s half (\$3,765). Solicitor will propose this to their Attorney.

Tax Collector certification fee draft ordinance was discussed. The Board authorized Solicitor to proceed with advertising the ordinance for consideration at the March meeting.

Police contract 2024-2028 was discussed. Current contract expires at the end of this year. Solicitor explained under Act 111 the Board has until June 30th to commence negotiations. If an agreement has not been reached by Sept. 12th and the Police Department has not demanded arbitration, they will lose their right to demand arbitration.

Rissler property – 807 Weavertown Rd. – phone call from Greg Hetrick and emails from David Siminitus, Sewage Enforcement officer were discussed. Risslers’ had begun work on installing a new septic system without a permit, but are now working with Siminitus.

ACTION: *none*

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Housing Rehabilitation program update – Moyer reported that there are currently two households who have applied for grant funding to replaces their roofs.

NEW BUSINESS:

Zoning ordinance Sec. 16.21 Solar Energy Systems was discussed. Lebanon Co. Planning Dept. phoned with concerns on this section of the ordinance. Solar farms are also becoming an issue. Solicitor again recommended that this should be looked at. Secretary instructed to ask the Planning Commission to start looking at this.

Newmanstown Water Authority – John Kantner & Scott Sweigart discussed an addressing issue with their building on Avenue “A”. Secretary will check with the assessment office. They also complained about issues with Penn Dot work on W. Main St.

Rec Board resignation from Beth Garrison was read. **Motion by Hogeland to accept the resignation from Beth Garrison from the Recreation Board. Seconded by Weidman. All aye, motion carried.** Secretary to send thank you letter. Hogeland reported that the Rec board is recommending the appointment of Dan Long to fill the vacancy. **Motion by Hogeland to appoint Dan Long to replace Beth Garrison on the Recreation Board. Seconded by Moyer, all aye motion carried.**

Annual state reports - were acknowledged and reviewed by the Board: MS-965 Liquid Fuels Actual Use Report; DCED Officials List; Tax information form; AG- 385 Municipal Pension form. All reported were submitted on-line as required.

Tax error – correspondence from Lebanon Co. Assessment office regarding refund to Wilson & Darlene Hoover in the amount of \$23.80 was reviewed. **Motion by Weidman to refund Wilson & Darlene Hoover a tax error in the amount of \$23.80. Seconded by Moyer. All aye, motion carried.**

NVFC annual list of activities for 2023 was reviewed. **Motion by Hogeland to allow the Fire Co. and its auxiliaries to attend the 18 things they want to do. Seconded by Weidman. All aye, motion carried.**

Assistant EMA Coordinator was discussed. Jeffrey Warner is supposed to be sending a resignation letter, and Brad Shanaman is interested in being appointed.

Newmanstown Water Authority appointment – Carl Kreiner passed away. His term expires 2024. The authority recommended John Tschudy to be appointed. **Motion by Weidman to appoint John Tschudy to the Newmanstown Water Authority to fill the unexpired term of Carl Kreiner expiring 2024. Seconded by Moyer. All aye, motion carried.**

Street Sweeping discussed. **Motion by Moyer to have the street sweeping performed on April 24th & 25th. Seconded by Weidman. All aye, motion carried.**

Dept. of General Services participation for 2023/2024 salt purchasing was discussed. Secretary will put on the agenda for March's meeting since the form only needs to be submitted by March 15th.

Hazard Mitigation 2023 plan update planning meeting correspondence was discussed. Dan will attend the planning meeting.

ROADMASTER: Risser reported on the recent work.

BILLS/TREASURERS REPORT: **Motion by Hogeland to accept the Treasurers Report and pay the bills as money is available. Seconded by Weidman. All aye, motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT: **Motion by Weidman to adjourn meeting at 9:23 P.M. Seconded by Moyer. All aye, motion carried.**

WITNESS:

Lorie J. Kupp, Sec./Treas.

Dan K. Hogeland, Chairman

