

LOWER FREDERICK TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Meeting Minutes
Workshop (As amended)

December 19, 2017

Lower Frederick Township
Municipal Building
53 Spring Mount Road

Bob Yoder, Chairman, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board of Supervisors Present:

Ron Kerwood-Vice Chm
Terry Sacks, Supervisor

Township Staff Present:

Kevin R. Tobias
Damien Brewster , Esquire
Carol Schuehler, PE

Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of November 28, 2017

Motion – Mr. Kerwood Seconded – Mr. Yoder Approved: 3-0

A motion to approve the Meeting minutes of December 5, 2017

Motion – Mr. Kerwood Seconded – Mr. Sacks Approved: 3-0

Correspondence

No Correspondence

Administrative Actions

No Administrative Actions

Public Comment

Marla Hexter (Minehill Road): Expressed concerns regarding the percentage of costs related to the police budget and long term spending. Supervisor Kerwood responded by saying that there are not anticipated any extra spending just what is budgeted at this time. The department recently hired a part time officer, however, the current 2018 budget does include numbers to make that officer full time. A new vehicle is anticipated to be purchased this year, with that cost in the budget. Supervisor Yoder stated his concerns regarding safety of the township police officers. In addition, he commented further about the opiate and drug related response and the effect on the officers.

Bryan Hill (Zeiglersville Road): Expressed his concerns also about the safety of officers and their response to the drug related calls.

Larry Cohen (Mine Hill Rd): Commented on the 2018 budget and the purchase of the police car and asked if the budget included purchase of new vehicle for Roadmaster. Supervisor Kerwood responded by saying that a new vehicle for Roadmaster is not budgeted, but that a new paver is contemplated being purchased. He further added, that a new vehicle for Public Works was purchased about three years ago.

Bob Burns (Zieglerville Road): Asked Supervisor Sacks about the possibility of the hiring of a full time Sewage Plant Operator. There is no amount budgeted in the sewer budget at this time. Supervisor Kerwood further added that many factors will influence the decision to hire someone full time. Mr. Burns further asked about the personnel who does the plumbing inspections. He further asked about the purchase of new paver. He further added his concerns regarding the costs involved for the hiring of the auditors.

Marla Hexter(Mine Hill Road): Had a question about the amended township code regarding the truck restrictions on Gerloff Road.

Reports

Solicitor: Solicitor Brewster announced that an Executive Session took place prior to the workshop meeting to discuss a personnel matter. Solicitor Brewster requested that a motion be made to settle a severance agreement with the Township and former Police Officer David Buckley. Motion was made by Supervisor Kerwood, Seconded by Supervisor Yoder. Motion was approved 3-0. Solicitor Brewster also announced that a Conditional Use application has been received from Sacks and Sons 9 Big Road and that a hearing to take place on February 6, 2018. A time extension was requested and received from Sacks and Sons. Solicitor Brewster asked for a motion to advertise and schedule the meeting for February 6, 2018. A motion was made by Supervisor Yoder, Seconded by Supervisor Kerwood. The motion was approved 2-0. Supervisor Sacks abstained from the vote.

Engineer: Presented by Ms. Schuehler. Montgomery County reopening the grant program to help fund the sidewalks for the Spring Mount Townhomes. Manager is requested to contact the homeowners to gauge their interest. A small match will be required and it is estimated at 20% at an estimate of approximately \$160,000.00. A previous study warranted sidewalk and curb. Mary Kay Miller (3 Village Drive): Commented on the sidewalks for Village Drive. Phil Smith (Gerloff Road): Requested that the Planning Commission receive information regarding the sidewalk grant application.

Police: No report

Public Works: No report

Ambulance:

Manager: Manager Tobias commented that general millage for the township will not be increasing. The manager asked for a motion to approve Resolution #2017-61 setting the tax rate for 2018. A motion made by Supervisor Kerwood, Seconded by Supervisor Yoder, and approved 3-0. A motion was requested on Resolution #2017-62 approving the 2018 General and Sewer Budget.

Motion: Mr. Yoder

Seconded: Mr. Kerwood

Approved: 3-0

Motion to approve Ordinance #2017-04 allowing for tax credit for township volunteer firefighters.

Motion: Mr. Kerwood

Seconded: Mr. Yoder

Approved: 3-0

Motion to advertise Ordinance #2018-01 restricting truck traffic on Gerloff Road

Motion: Mr. Yoder

Seconded: Mr. Kerwood

Approved: 3-0

Public Comment

Marla Hexter (Mine Hill Road): Ms. Hexter asked for a clarification between abstaining from a vote and a recusal. Solicitor Brewster responded by stating that a recusal is taking oneself out of the vote and an abstention is an absence of a vote on one particular item.

Larry Cohen (Mine Hill Road): Expressed his concern regarding the validity of the recently passed budget. He further commented on the passage of the budget and possible conflict of interest and the possibility of recusal vote being needed. Additional discussion took place regarding the validity of the 2018 budget with Solicitor Brewster asking for a motion to rescind the budget.

Motion: Mr. Kerwood

Seconded: Mr. Sacks

Approved: 2-0

Mr. Yoder abstained from the vote.

A further motion was called from Manager Tobias to approve the 2018 General and Sewer Budget

Motion: Mr. Sacks

Seconded: Mr. Kerwood

Approved: 2-0

Mr. Yoder recused himself from the vote.

Old Business

Bob Burns (Zieglersville Road): Asked about Mr. Manning about replacement of truck sign on Salford and Schwenk. Mr. Manning was unsure whether work was completed due his being on vacation, but did later state that the work was completed. He also commented about the riding of ATV vehicle on Schwank Road.

Gale Dodd (Village Drive): Inquired about the status of the \$175.00 quarterly sewer bill and whether the rates would remain the same. After brief discussion, she was informed that the rates would stay the same.

Phil Smith (Gerloff Road): Expressed concern regarding his correspondence to the board regarding the planting of buffer zones and protection on the Ragusa Tract. He referenced the development in Skippack and the Meadow Glenn development.

Motion to Adjourn:

Motion: Mr. Kerwood

Seconded: Mr. Yoder

Approved: 3-0

Respectfully Submitted:

Kevin R. Tobias
Township Secretary