

MINUTES FOR MEETING OF OCTOBER 14, 2020

The meeting of the Pine Grove Township Supervisors was held on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall. Supervisors present were Carmen Ferranto, Douglas Smith and Linda Farnsworth. Others present were Greg Senyo, Brian Hagberg, Patricia Mack, Jason Wensel, Dave McJunkin and Julie Parmenter.

Carmen Ferranto opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting opened with the pledge to the flag.

Carmen Ferranto read over the agenda and asked if there were any comments from visitors or residents.

Greg Senyo inquired about a weight limit on the Reynold's Run bridge. It was noted that the bridges are inspected yearly and a report is received from the engineering company. After some discussion on this subject, the Supervisor's advised that they would have to check into this further.

Mr. Senyo also asked if the Township had a policy on logging. He wondered if loading on the road was allowable. The Supervisor's would prefer a log deck be constructed unless they are only hauling out one or two loads. Any logging should be approved by the road foreman in advance to be sure the road condition is adequate for that activity.

Jason Wensel spoke to the Supervisor's about the property he has recently acquired in the Township and that he hopes to develop it in the near future. He wondered about the sewer at the property he purchased in Akeley. Currently the sewer charge is only for the house that is rented. If he develops the building then there would be charges for the sewer on that.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2020, meeting by Linda Farnsworth. Douglas Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the October 9, 2020, meeting by Douglas Smith. Carmen Ferranto seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Douglas Smith made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report dated October 14, 2020. Linda Farnsworth seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Linda Farnsworth made a motion to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$126,626.77 for the general fund, \$24,366.39 for the sewer fund, \$7,682.97 for the sewer II fund, \$18,149.93 for the state fund and \$27,847.20 for the water fund. Also, approval for payment of any utilities that may come due before the next regular scheduled meeting. The motion was seconded by Carmen Ferranto. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Dave reported that they have done some work on Howard, Norberg, Cottage, Perkins and Hultberg roads. He noted that they are pretty much ready for winter with the exception of some ditching on Hultberg Road. The Supervisor's spoke with Dave about a tree that had fallen into the creek and it would need to be removed. Doug Smith commended the road crew for the exceptional work they have been doing.

The next order of business was the issue of property maintenance and blight. The Supervisors have a list of properties that need to be addressed and the Niver property will be first on the list. The solicitor will be contacted as to how to proceed with this piece of property. The Peterson property on Egypt Hollow Road was another one identified to fall into this category. A letter was sent to the property owners, to which they replied with their intentions on the issues. The Supervisor's will continue to look into the Kellogg and Ohmer property along with a questionable piece on South Main Street. They also deliberated on how far to go and how to handle it.

There was talk on the budget and the uncertainty of revenues. They Supervisors noted that the State has already cut liquid fuels disbursements and that health care costs have increased considerably. The Supervisors are currently reviewing health care plans for the employees with a tentative change in the cost to employees for their health care. It was discussed that each employee pays the first \$500 of the deductible and the Township would pick up after that until the insurance coverage kicks in. There are no plans for capital investments for the 2021 budget.

Next was some review of the fall tasks for the road crew. Linda asked if the entrance to the church parking lot had been completed. There are a few holes and it needs a temporary fix until next year. Dave advised that they are working on the other items on the list. It was mentioned that there are a few road signs that need to be ordered, Dave with check to see what is at the garage and order what they don't have.

The Supervisor's reviewed **Ordinance #10-14-20** repealing Ordinance #2-06 known as the ATV and Snowmobile Ordinance. This Ordinance will repeal in its entirety the permitting of ATV's and snowmobiles to use Reynolds Run Road and Hultberg Road. Douglas Smith made a motion to adopt **Ordinance #10-14-20** and it was seconded by Carmen Ferranto. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

The insurance renewal was evaluated and tabled until the next budget meeting. The Supervisor's would like to get some clarification on the renewal before making any decisions.

Next was a discussion on the sewer rates. After analysis of the current maintenance costs related to the sewer system it was determined to raise the rates in the amount of \$3.00 per month. Linda Farnsworth made a motion to increase the sewer rates on Phase I and Phase II sewer in the amount of \$3.00. The motion was seconded by Douglas Smith. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

It was mentioned that there is a considerable number of water meters that are not working. A letter will be sent to customer's who have non-working meters to set up a time to have them inspected and possibly replaced. Also, the delinquent sewer customers were discussed and, if necessary, they will be sent to the District Justice to file civil charges for non-payment of charges.

The Supervisors commented on some items they would like to complete in 2021. They mentioned various roads that will need work, an upgrade to Larimer Park and a decision on the Big Four Road. It was noted that R.O.A.R. is working on projects within the village and the Supervisors are in agreement with this.

It was brought up that Mr. Citro inquired as to whether the Township would be interested in taking back the piece of property which used to house the old township building. The Supervisor's tabled this item until more information can be acquired.

Carmen Ferranto suggested that a meeting be set up with Rich Barrett to update the Emergency Operations Plan. The secretary will contact Rich to set up a time to go over the EOP.

The radio's in the trucks and the office should be in working condition. These should be checked and, if necessary, find a company to get them working.

Some discussion on grants available for commercial property improvements. Carmen Ferranto mentioned there is a program called Main Street grants and R.O.A.R. may also be able to help anyone with commercial property that may need financial assistance.

Douglas Smith made a motion for adjournment at 8:40 pm. Carmen Ferranto seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie Parmenter". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Secretary