

MINUTES FOR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 11, 2020

The meeting of the Pine Grove Township Supervisors was held on Wednesday, November 11, 2020 at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall. Supervisors present were Carmen Ferranto, Douglas Smith and Linda Farnsworth. Others present were Brian Hagberg, Jim Seder, Ken Larsen, Joan Larsen, 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.

Ken Larsen inquired about the Howard Road and what the plans are for it. He noted that it is not in the best condition, although some work has been done on it. The Supervisor's advised Mr. Larsen that is on the schedule for next year to be graded and sealed. They mentioned that the new road crew is learning about road maintenance through classes being offered. Mr. Larsen asked about the possibility of paving that road but the Supervisor's said that the cost to do that is just too high. Mr. Larsen also questioned the weight limit on that road. It was discussed that an engineering study had been done on that road and that was the suggested weight limit from the study.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the October 30, 2020, meeting by Douglas Smith. Linda Farnsworth seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Next was the Treasurer's Report and Carmen Ferranto mentioned the possibility of a reduction in revenues due to COVID. Douglas Smith made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report dated November 11, 2020. Linda Farnsworth seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Douglas Smith made a motion to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$19,779.40 for the general fund, \$22,791.28 for the sewer fund, \$6,701.62 for the sewer II fund and \$45,148.38 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 been working on Hultberg and Cottage. They tried flushing drains but it didn't work as well as he expected. He will try to keep the traps cleaned and see if that helps alleviate some of the problems. He also advised that the banners have been changed and the pipe on Smith Hill Road will be installed by Cable Excavating.

Jim Seder inquired as to whether his road could be plowed at a different time this winter. He noted that last winter the plow trucks came through extremely early. Dave advised that he is not sure what time plowing will be done on Big Four Road yet as it will be his first winter to schedule plowing.

Dave advised the Supervisor's that the valve is out of the truck and a repair company is stopping by to pick it up.

Next was the removal of dead ash trees in Larimer Park and the service agreement for this. Nathan Welker offered to remove the trees for the Township and a service agreement has been drawn up. Carmen Ferranto mentioned that the agreement is requiring a certificate of insurance from Mr. Welker naming the Township as an additional insured. Mr. Ferranto would like to go over this with Mr. Welker as he believes it is not necessary. A motion to pass the services agreement, contingent on a discussion with Mr. Welker, was made by Linda Farnsworth and seconded by Douglas Smith. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

The Supervisor's brought up the Emergency Operations Plan. They have spoken with Rich Barrett about this and he will take the lead on this project.

A discussion on the Hazard Mitigation Plan was next. A consulting firm is working on this plan for the county with the help of each municipality. A recent meeting was held and the consulting firm requested that each municipality fill out the Hazard Mitigation Project Opportunity Form. After some discussion on a project, the Supervisor's thought it best to submit a plan for upgrading our communications during an emergency. They would like to submit for an upgrade to the radio's in the trucks and office and one handheld unit for use by the Emergency Operations Coordinator.

The LERTA was next, noting that there has been some confusion on the LERTA that the Township adopted a short time ago. It was discussed that usually this pertains to commercial and industrial development, not residential. If the Township adopts the LERTA that was previously adopted by the county it would create a tax exemption of 100% from county, school district and township taxes for a period of five (5) years. The Supervisor's tabled this issue until they have some more time to review the information.

Carmen Ferranto advised the other Supervisors that he had spoken recently with Al Fox, Supervisor for Mead Township. Mr. Fox will be traveling to PSATS and offered to take any issues that we may have down and present them. The Supervisor's do not have anything at the present time to be brought up to PSATS.

There was some discussion on credit card control. The Supervisor's would like to have a sign out sheet for any credit cards being taken out of the office.

Next was the Big Four Road survey. The survey has been completed and the Supervisor's will have to make a decision on how they would like to proceed with the possible closure of this road.

The Supervisor's asked Dave about the water valve at the end of State Street that was supposed to be shut off. He noted that it appears to still be connected to the water line as he let the water run for about 30 minutes and it didn't seem to slow down. The secretary will contact Joel or Rusty to see why that line is still in service.

There was some discussion on the asphalt zipper that is owned by Sugar Grove. The Supervisor's wondered if they could talk with the representatives from Sugar Grove to see if they would be willing to share use of this zipper if we could provide the necessary equipment to utilize it. Doug Smith suggested that we check into the specifics on the unit to see if it is compatible with our equipment.

Carmen Ferranto brought up the bridge reports that are received every year from the engineering firm. He noted that in each report there are recommendations, which are prioritized, on the bridges. These should be reviewed when they are received.

Linda Farnsworth referenced a call she received from Gary Lester who was instrumental in orchestrating the front porch day in Warren. He inquired as to whether or not something like this could be done in Russell. He would like to get this designated as a national holiday. He will be attending a ROAR meeting to discuss this.

Dave McJunkin mentioned that the Township will not be plowing Priest Hollow and Valentine Run Road this winter. Should something be posted about this so that residents know it will now be maintained by PennDOT.

There was a short conversation regarding the new utility poles going up along Market Street Ext. Ken Larsen asked if these are going in to support the substation in Akeley. The Supervisor's noted that is correct, in hopes of cutting down on the outages.

Brian Hagberg inquired as to the time frame on the tree removal in Larimer Park. The services agreement goes until March 31, 2021.

Douglas Smith made a motion for adjournment at 8:10 pm. Carmen Ferranto seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Sincerely,


Secretary