

MINUTES FOR MEETING OF DECEMBER 2, 2022

The meeting of the Pine Grove Township Supervisors was held on Friday, December 2, 2022 at 8:30 AM at the Town Hall. Supervisors present were Douglas Smith, Robert Nelson and Linda Farnsworth. Others present were Amanda Hummel and Julie Parmenter.

Doug Smith opened the meeting at 8:44 a.m.

The meeting opened with the pledge to the flag.

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

Amanda Hummel attended the meeting to inquire about any local restrictions the Township may have with respect to her operating her restaurant as a BYOB. The solicitor advised that since we have no restrictions on bottle clubs, nothing would prevent her from operating as such. The Supervisors all agreed that there is no policy in place against this and she may operate the restaurant this way.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2022 meeting by Linda Farnsworth. Bob Nelson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Next was some discussion on possible equipment purchases. The road grader is in need of repairs and there was deliberation on what the cost might be. The road foreman advised he feels that the repairs will be costly. Dave received a quote from Five Star Equipment and the turnaround time would be approximately May. He also met with a representative from Case and the estimate was much higher and the turnaround time would be about 1 year. The secretary received some information from the PennDOT rep that there is used equipment on Municibid if they would like to see what is available. There was much dialogue on financing for a new or used grader. Also, what to do with the current one. Bob Nelson suggested we investigate this purchase further and see what all of our options are. The other Supervisors agreed that is the right direction to go.

Doug Smith mentioned the consultation regarding the road tracking software. After a short discussion, it was determined that the Township is not large enough to support this type of software. The road foreman advised that he does not think he would get much benefit from it.

The nuisance properties were debated. The N. Main Street property was analyzed and it was deliberated on how far to proceed with this. Because of the possible contamination there are questions on the financial costs to clean up the property. This property, being located in the center of town, makes it a priority. It was determined that there are many other properties in the Township that are in need to repairs that also constitute violations of the nuisance ordinance. They advised the secretary to see what information could be obtained on funding for cleaning up contaminated land. The Land Bank is in the process of being developed, maybe they will be able to help once it is operational.

The secretary advised that the Cunningham property owners have been notified of the violations and now it will be forwarded on to the Blighted Property Committee for review.

The condition of the old grange building in Akeley was mentioned. The Supervisors feel that a letter should be sent to the owners advising them that they are in violation of the nuisance ordinance.

The garage heater has been repaired and is being installed now.

The sewer system repairs were discussed and the Supervisor's would like a quote from Warren Webster on how much the Townships costs would be. They would like to start fixing leaks that are the Township's liability before sending letters out to the property owners advising them of their responsibility for repairs to their service lines. They would like to know if a time frame for starting this work could be determined.

A request came in from a resident about the possibility of the property located at 107 Muddy Lane being able to connect to the sewer system. Warren Webster looked into this and advised that the main line does go by the property and that there is a tap in the line in the area. The resident would be responsible for the tap in fee and the cost to run the line to the building.

The request for the directional sign for the Martz Observatory was determined to be an unsuitable expense for the Township. Due to the cost of the sign and the fact that this is a tourist attraction in New York State, it is not something that the Supervisors feel that they can support financially.

A resident called in about a tree located at the intersection of Greenbriar Circle and Warner Drive. The Supervisors and road foreman investigate the complaint and determined that the tree itself is in not within the right of way. Although, some of the branches are so they will have the road crew trim those branches.

There was more flooding from the North Branch of Akeley Run and a resident called in to report this. The Supervisors noted that this is something that the residents need to move forward with, it is not a matter that can be acted on by the Supervisors. They Supervisors have already spoken with the Conservation District and the Department of Environmental Protection regarding this. There is concern that even if the resident filled out the forms, there may not be enough damage to constitute any help with this.

Next was the Hometown Christmas update from Linda. She advised that all went well and it was very well attended. Linda brought up considering the possibility of installing lighting inside the pavilions. Linda mentioned that maybe this could be a collaborative effort in the cost and be split up between the interested parties.

Bob Nelson made a motion for adjournment at 10:30 am. Doug Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Sincerely,


Secretary