

MINUTES FOR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 17, 2023

The meeting of the Pine Grove Township Supervisors was held on Friday, November 17, 2023 at 8:30 AM at the Town Hall. Supervisors present were Doug Smith, Linda Farnsworth and Robert Nelson. Others present were Mike English and Julie Parmenter.

Doug Smith opened the meeting at 8:45 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.

Mike English attended to advise the Supervisors of the current ambulance service requirements. He informed them that the ambulance is currently running at 82% - 84%. The Commonwealth would like to have that number at 95%. Mike briefed them that in order to accomplish this the ambulance would have to be taken out of service for a period of time each day. Mike has run some figures to determine what would be the best time for this to take place and he noted that they would also need to find a service that will cover for them. He mentioned that the Fire Department has not voted on this yet but wanted to keep the Supervisor's informed about what they are considering.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the November 8, 2023 meeting by Bob Nelson. Linda Farnsworth seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

The zoom meeting was cancelled, due to unavailability of the consultant.

The Supervisors reviewed the draft ad received from the Coalition Against Bigger Trucks. This pertains to the legislative proposals under consideration that would raise the allowable weight limits for big trucks. The Supervisor's suggested that we consult our solicitor regarding this before they approve this for advertising.

Doug mentioned that the Town of Carroll has been fighting against the expansion of a landfill. He noted that they are looking into the effects this will have on the water supply. This water runs into our township. Doug would like to ask our water operator to review the report from the Town of Carroll. If anything seems questionable, they would like to contact the DCNR to have samples taken. They would also like some comment from the solicitor to see if the Coalition Against Bigger Trucks would be helpful with this cause. They will table this until further information can be obtained.

Next was a discussion on information received from the PA DEP Radon Division and the American Lung Assoc. regarding radon testing. They are offering a program for residents to receive free test kits. They are asking for this information to be put into our newsletter. It was suggested that it could be posted on the website and also added to the Spring newsletter. The Supervisors said to go ahead and put it on the website and in the next newsletter. The secretary will advise PA DEP Radon Division of this.

The sewer rate increase was discussed. The rates will be raised \$3.00 for both Phase 1 and Phase II sewers. Resolution #11-17-23 indicates the sewage rate increase of \$3.00 for both sewers. A motion was made by Linda Farnsworth to approve Resolution #11-17-23 to raise sewer rates. Bob Nelson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Doug Smith noted that Bob had made some revisions on the budget in order to show a smaller deficit. Due to revenues remaining the same and increasing expenses, they decided that taxes will have to be raised. They have done some research and it was determined that 1 mill would generate approximately \$40,000.00, which would cover the budget deficit. The average increase would be approximately \$40.00 per property, with some being more and some being less.

The budget was reviewed and the supervisors agreed to advertise that the budget is available for public inspection with the 1 mil tax increase.

Bob Nelson made a motion for adjournment at 9:35 am. Doug Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Sincerely,

Julie Parmenter

Secretary