

HALIFAX TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING
August 11, 2008

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Shearer called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Pledge to the flag followed.

ROLL CALL: Supervisors Shearer, Ruff, Eppley, Shultz and Hoover are present. David Getz, Solicitor is sitting in for Steve Dzurainin. Justin Kuhn is sitting in for Tom Wilson, Engineer. Dale Shoop Roadmaster and Carolyn Nye Secretary are present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: An executive session was held to discuss personnel matters from 5:30 p.m. to 6:55 p.m. Also, an executive session was held July 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:35 p.m. for an employee's meeting.

TAPING OF MEETING: Along with the Secretary, Dan Shearer is taping the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Melinda Warfel's concern had to do with the change of voting precinct #1 and concerns from citizens about the change of location. She asks the Board to vote on this to keep voting precinct #1 at the Township building and to notify the County Board of Elections. Mike Bistline presented a letter from his engineer and pictures of some stormwater issues at his property on 3652 Peters Mountain Road adjacent to Patton Tire Company and asks the Board to check into this. Corrine Gelnett thanked the Board on behalf of Raymond Jury for the hidden driveway sign. Rachel Adams voiced her complaint about a dirt pile obstructing visibility at the corner of Clover Lane and Million Dollar Road. Dale will check into this and report to the Board. Florence McGuire, Richard Lyter and Edna Koppenhaver concur with Melinda Warfel regarding voting precinct #1 change. Flo Mallonee stated family and friends are not in favor of changing the voting precinct to the Middle School. Flo asked about the July minutes under the Engineer's report about a June 11 public meeting. Chairman Shearer stated she did make an announcement at the last meeting why we did not have a public meeting. Flo asked about the \$6,000 plus awarded from the Kauffman case and is it going to the District Justice. Chairman stated she cannot answer this that perhaps the attorney will address this. Flo asked about the Halifax Volunteer Home Care request last year and Chairman Shearer stated there was a payment in 2007 and that this is on the agenda. Lorie Mauser has no comment. Jeremy Dobbins does not agree to have voting precinct #1 changed to the school because of parking issues, security and safety issues. Mike Decker has no comment at this time.

SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT: Bills – July 28 Interim Bills and August 11 Bills - Supervisor Eppley made a motion to approve the bills (\$23,445.29), seconded by Supervisor Shultz, under discussion Dale Shoop noted the Verizon bills are backwards, Supervisor Ruff asked about the water pressure Tank, Dale Shoop stated this is located in the lunch room and needed replaced, vote called, motion carried 5-0. Minutes of July 14, 2008 – Supervisor Ruff made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Supervisor Eppley seconded, the Solicitor stated a correction should be made on page 2 under Tom Wilson’s report about a public meeting –remove the word “public”, vote called, motion carried 5-0. Financial Report of July – Supervisor Ruff gave an update on the park loan via the M & T Bank Statement for the mortgage dated 7/14/08 to 7/29/08 which shows a balance of \$226,314.70 and the checking account statement balance for the additional money that was borrowed is \$97,149.03. This checking account earns the same amount of interest that is charged under the mortgage loan account and the YTD interest is \$956.53 on the checking account. She also stated we are anticipating receiving \$20,000 to be put on the account.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT: The August 4 meeting was cancelled because no business was pending.

ENGINEER REPORT: (see attached August 5, 2008 report) Justin Kuhn sitting in for Tom Wilson read the report dated August 5, 2008. Mountain Road Study – Discussion involved the results of K & W’s review of Mountain Road between SR 147 and SR 225 and the potential to restrict vehicles along that corridor due to the Horizontal alignment of the roadway through the tight S curve, just west of SR 225. Motion – Supervisor Ruff made a motion to authorize K & W to complete the study, seconded by Supervisor Eppley, under discussion Supervisor Hoover does not agree with the study and the money to be spent on this project, Supervisor Shultz stated after reviewing the initial study, it looks more favorable to continue, vote called, Supervisor Hoover opposed, motion carried 4-1. Supervisor Ruff stated she will deliver copies of study to Reed Township for their consideration. Act 537 Plan - Motion – Supervisor Hoover made a motion to authorize doing study to include Lenker Estates to the Act 537 Plan, seconded by Supervisor Shultz, under discussion Supervisor Ruff feels that the Act 537 Plan should serve older residences before a new development, Justin Kuhn stated it could be written into the plan that after knowing how many EDU’s are left, the Authority could consider connecting Lenker Estates up to those units and a proposed expansion could take place to include all of Lenker Estates, vote called, motion carried 5-0. This will change the task activity report.

SOLICITOR REPORT: (see attached August 8, 2008 report) Flight Source – The Solicitor stated the land development plan will terminate in August 2009 and the letter of credit is about to expire per a letter from Mid Penn Bank. Motion – Supervisor Ruff made a motion to authorize the Solicitor’s letter to Mid Penn Bank regarding the expiration of the letter of credit, seconded by Supervisor Eppley, vote called, motion carried 5-0.

Fellowship Drive Deed of Dedication – The Township is in receipt of a letter from the Word of Life Chapel regarding the dedication of this roadway. Motion – Supervisor Ruff made a motion to authorize the Solicitor to send a letter of response to Word of Life Chapel and include Steve Dzurinin’s letter of June 4, 2008 to Attorney Radebaugh, seconded by Supervisor Eppley, vote called, motion carried.

Kauffman Litigation – The fine is to the benefit of the Township.

Manning Lease – The lease has been signed by the Mannings and the Township and needs the Secretary to attest by the end of the meeting.

Worker's Compensation/Wayne Township – Motion – Supervisor Shultz made a motion to authorize the Solicitor to send a letter to Wayne Township regarding the Worker's Compensation Pro-Rata Share, seconded by Supervisor Ruff, vote called, motion carried 5-0.

Casner Property – Chairman Shearer called on Mike Decker who stated he thinks Mr. Casner is living with his mother in Enola. Melinda Warfel asks if the Township locates an address, please let her know for tax purpose notification.

Patton Tire Nuisance – The timeline is by the September board meeting. Dale Shoop was called on and reported he received a call from Patton Tire who said this problem is being worked on as money is available to pay for removing the tires.

Bistline Stormwater Complaint – This is regarding the stormwater issue coming onto his property. Dale will look into this and report to the Board.

ROADMASTER REPORT: Casner House – Dale reported the house has completely collapsed.
Building Permit Applications – Motion – Supervisor Hoover made a motion to approve the application for Karen Kahler for a shed and an application for Robert Reese for a poll barn, seconded by Supervisor Ruff, vote called, motion carried 5-0.

Liquid Fuel Money for Oil and Chip on Matamoras and Price Road – Eastern Industries was initially awarded the bid for this project. Dale stated after the additional cost incurred for the paving this year and looking at the conditions of these road, he recommends postponing this project until maybe next year and he sent a letter to Eastern Industries explaining this and they signed off on the letter in agreement. Dale also contacted residents along these roads and informed them of the situation.

Insulation of the Farm House - Two estimates have been received. One is from S & T Insulation and the other is from American Aluminum. Motion – Supervisor Hoover made a motion to authorize Dale to proceed with the insulation job based on receiving lowest cost, seconded by Supervisor Shultz, vote called, motion carried 5-0.

Sycamore Allee Sign – Dale received an estimate of \$1,166. Someone from the Board should look at the picture of this sign and if ok, a deposit is needed to make the sign. Motion – Supervisor Ruff made a motion to authorize Dale to go ahead with the sign, seconded by Supervisor Eppley, vote called, Supervisor Hoover opposed, motion carried 4-1.

Dumpster for Tenant House - Dale stated before the house can be insulated, it needs cleaned out. There are things left in the house from the niece of the Mannings' and from the previous tenant and this needs to be sorted out. The cost of the dumpster is \$175 for a small one plus we will have to pay for any tonnage.

Motion – Supervisor Eppley made a motion to authorize renting the dumpster, seconded by Supervisor Shultz, vote called, motion carried 5-0.

Gypsy Moth Program – Dale had a meeting with Eric from the Dauphin County Soil Conservation District. Anyone who wants to request spraying for Gypsy Moths next year has to have the application in by August 15. Dale's role in working with the Gypsy Moth Program is not so much to go out and find damage but to coordinate spray blocks and more or less be the intermediary between the resident and the County. Dale said he did sign up the park property because of Gypsy Moth problems there.

Jay Bohn Stormwater Inlet Box Complaint with PennDOT - PennDOT responded that this is the Township's responsibility. Dale stated a catch basin needs replaced which will cost \$480.00 and the Township cannot do this with its equipment plus a flagger will be needed. Dale will check into PennDOT's policy and inform the Board.

Music Festival at Park – Chairman Shearer stated the County wanted to thank Dale for his help with the festival preparation and stated it was a very nice festival.

SEO REPORT: No Comments.

OLD BUSINESS: Electricity at Park – Supervisor Shultz gave an update by stating a couple more estimates will be solicited. The service will be underground which will eliminate hazards. The Township will be digging the ditches which will be cost effective. Chairman Shearer stated there has been discussion about the fact that the Township has used electricity at the park for functions in May and July which comes from the Manning's service. Motion – Supervisor Hoover made a motion for the township to pay for the total cost of the May and July bills which amounts to \$176.20, seconded by Supervisor Ruff, under discussion Mike Decker suggested the Mannings look at their electric bill from last year to compare the usage and determine the difference in cost, Supervisor Ruff stated the Mannings were advised if they filed a claim with the PUC that they would not have to pay those two bills because of the circumstances surrounding the usage, vote called, Supervisor Shultz opposed, motion carried 4-1.

Insulation at Park – previously discussed.

Melinda Warfel - Melinda stated some of her questions from last month have been answered in the Solicitor's report. She thanked Linda Ruff for reporting the park mortgage and checking account balances which clarifies the amount owed. Supervisor Shultz stated the garage doors will be painted in the future weather permitting. Melinda asked for the Board's backing in contacting the Borough and County to encourage them to upgrade the entrance at Deppen Park where the recycle center is located. Lorie Mauser stated individual residents can call the County and voice a complaint. Chairman Shearer feels this is a demand being placed on the Board. Supervisor Ruff suggested a letter be sent to the Borough to address this concern. The Solicitor does not have a figure for the Kauffman litigation at this time because he is filling in for Steve Dzurainin at the last minute. Chairman Shearer suggested Melinda put a request into the Township under the Right To Know for the Kauffman Litigation cost.

NEW BUSINESS: Voting District Change – Supervisor Ruff’s Comments - the supervisors have nothing to do with the voting district change, the County anticipates in the next election a heavy voter turnout, other voting districts are changing in other municipalities south of Halifax as well, the concern here is one handicap parking spot and standing 10 feet from the door as a poll worker which is in the street, no place to put signs, Steve Chiavetta visited the voting location and expressed concern over the size of the room and lack of handicap parking, this decision is made by the Bureau of Elections which is comprised of the three County Commissioners and if they feel there is some reason to make the change just as they have done in other parts of the County, that is what will happen, voting is not a Halifax Township matter nor is it any other municipality matter, it is purely a County matter. **Melinda Warfel’s Comments** - she talked to Mr. Chiavetta today and he said the request to change came from Norma Shearer and Linda Ruff and this was not his idea, he said the Board can take a vote to keep the voting district at the township building based on public input in favor of this and then communicate this to the County Commissioners. **Jim Jones’ Comments** - suggested temporary handicap parking be designated at the Township, suggested closing the alley for that day, open up the garage area for people during inclement weather and he feels the school is not a good place to have this. **Carol Eppley’s Comments** – she helped at the polls during the primary and this was in the works then and Loretta Prouse knew about this. **Dan Shearer’s Comments** – his impression is that most of the people desire to vote in this building, if handicap spots are designated and traffic is organized properly, the township supervisors can by vote request to maintain the elections at the township building and if this suggestion is ignored, it is the County Commissioner’s fault. **Township Secretary’s Comments** – Mr. Chiavetta called the Township and stated he wants the people to know that he did not initiate this change that it was done by some board members, he asked was there a public meeting held to discuss this in any way, Dale and I looked back thru the minutes and could not find any discussion, he sent Pat Kauffman a petition and people would have to sign this for it to be considered by the Commissioners to change it back to the Township. **Ken Hoover’s Comment** - this was done by only two supervisors. **Supervisor Ruff** stated Mr. Chiavetta stated there is a procedure and this is thru a petition and she is not going to be any part of any vote because we have no say in this, the voters have the say. **Motion** – Supervisor Hoover made a motion to send a letter to the Commissioners to express that the voting precinct be changed back to the Township building, seconded by Supervisor Shultz, under discussion Supervisor Eppley would like to see a petition circulated with ten signatures, Supervisor Ruff stated it is totally inappropriate for the Board to do this, vote called, Supervisor Ruff opposed, motion carried 4-1.

Mike Decker – EMC Report – Mike gave an EMC activity report which included the Notification and Resource Manual for 2008 which the Board should review and make any comment if necessary. Mike asked for mileage reimbursement for an EMC Training class. **Motion** – Supervisor Ruff made a motion to authorize mileage reimbursement to Mike Decker for an EMC training class, seconded by Supervisor Hoover, vote called, motion carried 5-0. **Condemnation Ordinance** – Mike requested the Board look into this due to the fact that there are a number of buildings in the Township that are a problem such as the Casner property. Chairman Shearer asked the Solicitor if he can comment on this and the Solicitor stated he will make a note to inquire to Steve Dzurainin about any previous conversations regarding this issue. **Utility Maintenance** – Mike said there is a lot of overgrowth on the lines. Dale stated the phone company will not maintain unless the line breaks. Supervisor Shultz stated cable and phone companies are lacking in maintaining the lines and it seems that the definition for maintenance has changed and the Public Utility Company could be contacted about this. Supervisor Ruff stated she will contact Jeff Piccola and Sue Helm about this problem.

Donation Requests from Halifax Volunteer Home Care/SUN Home Health & Hospice – Motion – Supervisor Ruff made a motion to authorize payment of \$200 to the Halifax Volunteer Home Care and table a donation to SUN Home Health until more information is received, seconded by Supervisor Hoover, vote called, motion carried 5-0.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: Ag Security Workshop September 23 at 7:00 p.m. Supervisor Ruff has an article from the internet about tax credits for farmers. It is a program that will provide as much as 10 million dollars in tax credits to farmers who promote sustainable farming practices. Lorie Mauser stated Halifax Boy Scouts got the sponsorship for the Lykens Valley Minstrels November 22 and 23 at the Williams Valley High School and tickets are \$5. The Boy Scouts are trying to pay off a trailer. Chairman Shearer stated the farm lease discussed at the last meeting will not be pursued because access to this parcel of land will not be authorized by the land owner. Solicitor advised that by announcing the reason for not pursuing the farm lease, nothing additional has to be done.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: Nothing mentioned.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Planning Commission Meeting September 3 at 7:00 p.m., Township Meeting September 8 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Supervisor Hoover made a motion to adjourn at 9:30 p.m., seconded by Supervisor Eppley, vote called, motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Nye, Secretary