



Allen Township Board of Supervisors

Meeting Minutes May 12, 2020 7:00 P.M.

A General Meeting of the Allen Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at 7:00 P.M. held by teleconference due to the Disaster Emergency (Resolution 2020-10 & Resolution 2020-11 – with a sunset clause of June 14, 2020) created by the COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Chairman Dale Hassler.

1. **Roll Call:** Present: Carl Edwards; Gary Behler; Bruce Frack; Dale Hassler; Gerald Montanari, Sr.; B. Lincoln Treadwell, Jr., Esq.; Stan Wojciechowski, PE, CME.; Ilene Eckhart, Manager.
2. **Public to be Heard:** No comments from the public.
3. **Public Hearings:** No Public Hearings.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Behler made a motion to approve the minutes of April 14th and April 28th, 2020; seconded by Mr. Montanari. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.
5. **Reports – All Reports with exception of the Treasurers Report noted as “on file”.**
 - A. **Treasurer:** Mr. Behler made a motion to approve the Treasurers Report and Pay the bills; seconded by Mr. Frack. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.
 - B. **Solicitor:** On file.
 - C. **Engineer:** On file.
 - D. **Planning/Zoning/Code Enforcement:** On file.
 - E. **Road Superintendent/Public Works Leader:** On file.
 - F. **Fire Company:** On file.
 - G. **Emergency Management Coordinator:** No report.
 - H. **Parks:** On file.
 - J. **Nazareth Council of Government:** No meeting since last report
 - K. **First Regional Compost Authority:** No report.

L. **Stormwater:** On file.

6. **Unfinished Business**

A. Burn Ban: Mr. Behler requested some discussion regarding why the ban was instituted this time. Mr. Hassler indicated the ban was put in-place due to the permit issue and the office being closed to the public during the pandemic emergency. Mr. Hassler further noted it was also during the dry season. Mr. Hassler recommended that the ban could be lifted as things are now well vegetated. Mr. Montanari questioned how people would get a permit with the office being closed. Ms. Eckhart indicated she was looking into a fillable, e-mailable form to cover the notification part of the issue. Mr. Hassler indicated the most important thing is the notification of the Northampton County Control Center. The Fire Company receives an email when a controlled burn is taking place. This allows for the Fire Company not to respond unnecessarily. Mr. Hassler noted also, the problem is the burning at night, because a passerby or neighbor sees a glow. Mr. Hassler felt the most important rules are the no burning at night, on Sundays and that the burns are called into the Northampton County 911 Center as a controlled burn. Mr. Behler voiced concern regarding the individual fire pits and the frustration in the regulation. Mr. Hassler stated these are a problem because they are used primarily in the evenings. Mr. Behler understood but felt this was an unduly restriction because the fire pits units are purchased for the primary purpose of nighttime use.

Mr. Edwards questioned if all the information is available on the Township website. Ms. Eckhart explained the information is available as well as the form and procedure. Mr. Hassler stated he did not have a problem with the burning – but he was concern with the unnecessary dispatches which was a burden on resources. Mr. Montanari suggested the people could specify that the burning would be planned in the evenings. Mr. Behler requested that the burning regulations be revisited for further consideration and discussion on a future agenda to discuss especially the regulation of burning in the evening hours and on weekends. He felt that the regulation was too stringent as currently written. Mr. Behler made a motion to lift the burn ban currently in effect; seconded by Mr. Montanari. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.

B. Salt Shed Payment Release #3 (\$23,965.75) and Time Extension (June 30, 2020): Mr. Montanari made a motion to release the payment #3 in the amount of \$23,965.75 and grant the time extension change order for completion of the project until June 30, 2020; seconded by Mr. Edwards. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.

7. **New Business**

A. Park Update: Ms. Eckhart provided an update on the usage of the parks since reopened. She indicated people appear to be keeping their distances.

B. Spring Hill Road Request for Speed Limit Reduction and Children at Play Signage: Ms. Eckhart reviewed the request of a resident of Spring Hill Road requesting speed limit and Children at Play signage. Mr. Hassler had no issues with installing the signage. Mr. Edwards indicated he felt it would be a good idea to control the speed based on his observation. Mr. Behler was concerned that speeding was a problem everywhere and if the Board granted one request, it would open the floodgates for all the Township roads. Mr. Behler was agreeable with the speed limit signs. Mr.

Montanari was unsure if 25MPH was correct but he felt there should be some sort of speed limit so that it is not assumed to be 55MPH. Mr. Behler questioned if an engineering study was required. Mr. Wojciechowski felt it might qualify as a residential district or a study to determine the correct rate of speed. Mr. Hassler felt the section was less than ¼ mile in length and there was a small residential section. Mr. Wojciechowski felt if the speed reduction was just limited to the area in question, there should be a problem meeting the criteria. Mr. Wojciechowski indicated his letter would require minimal time to prepare. The Board agreed by consensus. Mr. Montanari commented that the speed limit should be sufficient due to the setback of the houses. Mr. Wojciechowski will prepare the letter and Mr. Treadwell will draft an ordinance if necessary. This matter will be returned to the Board.

8. Public to be Heard: Bruce Frack, thanked the Public Works for the recent work on Savage and Willowbrook Road work and noted many people provided positive comments to him.

Carl Edwards voiced a request for the consideration of resolution regarding the PA COVID-19 death toll (currently 3,200) being 67% in nursing homes with an average age of 79 years of age. He stated the Governor was breaking the law and that the Township should consider opening everything that the Township is in control of. He thanked the Board for allowing him to get this off his chest.

Mike Tift questioned the status of the Planning Commission meetings. Currently there is no plan to do so.

There being no further comments or business the meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ilene M. Eckhart