

FORKS TOWNSHIP - BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Northampton County, Pennsylvania

REGULAR MEETING
October 18, 2018

MEETING GENERALITIES:

The Forks Township Board of Supervisors met in a Regular Meeting at the Municipal Building, 1606 Sullivan Trail, Easton, Pennsylvania on his date with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members present were:

John O'Neil, Chairman
Erik Chuss, Vice Chairman
Dan Martyak, Supervisor

Others Present:

John V. Cornell, Township Manager
Steve Kramer, Public Works Director
James Farley, Finance Director
Tim Weis, Building & Zoning Officer
Rachel Sulzbach, Parks & Recreation Director
Greg Dorney, Police Chief
Wendy Nicolosi, Solicitor
Engineer representing Mr. Policelli was present

Absent:

Ed Moore, Supervisor
Barb Bartek, Human Resource Manager
Robert Egolf, Secretary/Treasurer
Chuck Gallagher, Fire Chief
Sean Policelli, Township Engineer

Announcement – Due to the construction at the Forks Elementary School on Nov 6th, 2018, the Board of Election has moved the election polling for Forks Eastern District 2 to be held at the Township Municipal Building, 1606 Sullivan Trail.

Supervisor comments:

Mr. O'Neil welcomed the Boys Scouts that came out for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS BOARD MEETINGS:

Minutes of September 6, 2018 Work Session Meeting – Corrections

- The first page under Item 3 - Zoning Office Informal discussions - the 3rd paragraph it says ***the reason for phasing is to spread the financial security into 1 phase*** – it should be 2 phases.

Mr. O'Neil asked for a motion to approve; Motion made by Mr. Martyak to approve minutes; seconded by Mr. Chuss
All in favor

Approval of the minutes from the September 20, 2018 regular meeting will be tabled since they are not available.

Comments from non-agenda items

Mark Melrine, 2312 Wagon Wheel Drive – North of where I live is Newlins Road, behind me is Silo and Ben John and we have a swale behind there. Water comes down from Newlins Road, travels behind our houses and ends up at the Bushkill Creek. When the water comes down through the fields and gets to Zucksville just below Maple it floods there. At some point it will have to be corrected. Who will be responsible to correct the problem?

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Comments from non-agenda items (cont.)

Zucksville Road and Bushkill Drive are PennDot state highways and is PennDot's responsibility to fix the problem. We have tried to reach out to PennDot, they know there is a problem, they don't have the money to fix it.

Mr. Weiss added that the Knollwood development near there, the 2nd phase is being developed and the developer have agreed and offered to alleviate some of the problem. Their plan is to try and keep the water on the north side, put a trench and swale. Hopefully, we'll have some rectification to part of the problem.

INVITED GUESTS

- **Planning Commission:** Dean Turner – Nothing to report
- **Recreation Board:** Rachel Sulzbach – Nothing to report
- **Forks Business Association (FBA):** Mr. Tim Weis reported a very good Community Days event. Other special events - the Easton Phillipsburg Halloween Parade is October 28th; Annual Chamber meeting is November 8th; Christmas Tree lighting in Forks is December 2nd. Their website has been migrated to a new provider and upgraded. The website is www.forksbusiness.org. The Annual Casino Night Fundraiser will be April 12th.2019

Treasurer's Report: Mr. O'Neil will be filling in for Mr. Egolf in his absence

Total Outstanding Debt.....\$7,335,000.00

	<u>10/4/2018</u>	<u>10/18/2018</u>
General Fund	\$ 287,432.65	\$ 840,352.66
Real state Tax	\$ 27,992.24	
Recreational Capital \$		
Capital Improvement ..\$		
State Liquid Fuels	\$ 4,036.33	\$ 13,274.37
Sewer Tap-in		
Escrow Fund		
Utility Fund	\$ 37,066.70	\$ 586.453.00

Supervisor John O'Neil made a motion to approve the **10/4/2018** payments; seconded by Erik Chuss

Vote Called: 3-0

Supervisor John O'Neil made a motion to approve the **10/18/2018** payments; seconded by Erik Chuss

Vote Called: 3-0

OLD BUSINESS

1 Proposed Tenant Registration Ordinance Draft

Wendy Nicolosi, Solicitor – There is no draft I wanted to get a little more feedback and discuss it at the next Work Session. Ms. Nicolosi presented a few questions and suggestions for the Board to give her some feedback. A discussion developed giving feedback to Ms. Nicolosi.

2. Recycling contamination discussion

John V. Cornell, Township Manager – This was at the request of Mr. Martyak that we put this discussion on for our Work Session, but we didn't have a Work Session. Mr. Martyak was contacted by a township residence concerning the contamination issue of recycling items. Mr. Cornell suggested putting an in-depth article in the Newsletter. Discussion of articles in the newspapers and what all the township is doing with regards to recycling. Suggestions were brought up, of what to put in the Newsletter.

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3. Planning Commission Comprehensive Plan update discussion

Kent Baird of Gilmore & Associates Inc gave a presentation on the Comprehensive Plan process to the Planning Commission. He is planning to attend the Board's next Work Session to give the same presentation about the process of the Comp Plan and discuss the numerous grant opportunities that would be available.

4. Lehigh Valley 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan approval consideration

John V. Cornell, Township Manager – Lehigh Valley Planning Commission has been working for about a year putting together and updating their hazard mitigation plan. The Planning Commission has completed their update and review. The plan was forwarded to our EMA coordinator Chuck Chapman. You have in your packet a resolution at Mr. Chapman's recommendation and I'm sure Mr. Weis would agree, recommending approval of this as our official plan for the township. All municipalities within the joint Lehigh Valley, which is Northampton and Lehigh counties. will be adopting this resolution. So, it is here for your consideration. Mr. Weis recommended adopting this plan.

Mr. O'Neil asked for approval of Resolution #2018-10-15 which is the Lehigh Valley 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan update. Mr. Chuss made motion to approve the resolution; seconded by Mr. Martyak.

Further discussion:

Mr. Martyak - when he read the resolution it states there are some items assigned to Forks. He hasn't seen the plan and is wondering if there are things we are committing to do or just identifying things.

Mr. Weis said it identifies the problems and makes it available for federal grant money. Hazards are where infrastructure or personal property would be damaged from a natural disaster, floods or plagues that we would be covered for, for reimbursement.

Mr. Martyak, aye; Mr. Chuss, aye, Mr. O'Neil, aye

Vote called. 3 -0

5. Bartolacci Zoning Challenge Hearing

Wendy Nicolosi, Solicitor – Hearing has been postponed until next month. Following comments of the public and supervisors, Mr. Bartolacci has had his professionals put together a much lesser plan. I'd say they scaled it back 20 to 25 percent.

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DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Township Manager – John Cornell, - Report in packet. 1) We will be placing a very extensive article in the newsletter highlighting the Spotted Lantern Fly.

Question and discussion regarding the absence of Mr. Egolf the township Treasurer and the signing of checks in his absence.

Mr. O’Neil made a motion to appoint Mr. Chuss as temporary Treasurer until such time Mr. Egolf returns; seconded by Mr. Martyak. Unanimously agreed, Mr. O’Neil, Mr. Chuss and Mr. Martyak.

Mr. Chuss questioned why the Multimodal PennDot grant was rejected.

Mr. Cornell - There were 177 applications and we didn’t make it high on the list. Basically, you keep reapplying to stay on the list. We have reapplied and are still on the list to be considered.

Finance Director - Jim Farley, - The September report is on the drive and website.

Human Resources – Barb Bartek, - Report is on the drive - Absent

Public Works – Steve Kramer, - Report on drive. 1) Leaf season this year, we have made a map of collection areas, with days of pick up. The map is on the website under Public Works and Facebook residence page.

Mr. O’Neil asked if it was possible you can give a method of how the township plows the roads when it snows.

Mr. Kramer mentioned that Nixel can get messages out to the residence when there is a problem. He also said he could come up with something of how the plowing is done.

Zoning Dept – Tim Weis, - Report on drive. Nothing additional

Recreation – Rachel Sulzbach, - Report on drive. Reminder that the info is due Nov 8th for the Newsletter.

Police Chief – Greg Dorney, - Report on drive.

Fire Chief – Chuck Gallagher, - Report on drive. Absent

Engineer – Sean Policelli, - Report on drive. Mr. Policelli was absent, the engineer representing Mr. Policelli was present.

Solicitor – Wendy Nicolosi – Nothing additional, but there is a brief Executive Session.

Meeting adjourned 8:00

Minutes transcribed 10/29/2019 L Nicasanti