

FORKS TOWNSHIP - BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Northampton County, Pennsylvania

REGULAR MEETING
September 20, 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
Ed Moore, Supervisor
Robert Egolf, Secretary/Treasurer

Others Present:

John V. Cornell, Township Manager
Steve Kramer, Public Works Director
James Farley, Finance Director
Rachel Sulzbach, Parks & Recreation Director
Wendy Nicolosi, Solicitor
Sean Policelli, Township Engineer
Chuck Gallagher, Fire Chief
Greg Dorney, Police Chief

Absent:

Barb Bartek, Human Resource Manager

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.

Supervisor comments:

Mr. O'Neil thanked everyone who participated in the Forks Community Days and special thank you to Rachel Sulzbach who was the Chair of the event, the committee and the township workers for all the work they did.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS BOARD MEETINGS:

Minutes of August 16, 2018 Regular Meeting – Corrections

- The top of Page 3 the sentence - ***Do you want to see what this stuff looks, there's*** – the word ***like*** should be added so it reads - ***Do you want to see what this stuff looks like, there's.***
- Page 4 – middle of page – Sentence - ***Additional discussion.....*** - take out the word ***we*** before the word measure.
- Page 5 - the 1st paragraph, line starting with ***deficiencies*** after engineer it should be ***has***, not ***as*** and continuing in the same sentence, the part of the sentence - ***in that failed to comply*** should be replaced with ***if that failed to comply.***
- Page 5 – sentence after the 1st paragraph should read – ***Hearing the 3 options, Mr. O'Neil made a motion for the 1st option as stated on Page 4, and it was seconded by Mr. Moore.***
- Page 5 – the word(s) ***swell/swells*** – should be ***swale/swales***
- Page 5 – last sentence is incomplete.

- Page 4 – 3rd sentence states Mr. Backenstoe gave 3 options for the Board, but only 2 are listed, however on Page 5 all 3 options are recapped. There is no need to have the 2 listed when the 3 are listed later in the minutes.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS BOARD MEETINGS:

Minutes of August 16, 2018 Regular Meeting – Corrections (cont.)

- Page 6 – Department Reports – Solicitor, Wendy Nicolosi – the sentence should read – ***There was an article Wendy saw on Facebook, that Forks Township had one of the highest safety records in the state and was in the top 20 in the state.***

Vote called: 5-0

Any public comments for non-agenda items: None

INVITED GUESTS

- **Planning Commission:** Dean Turner – 1) Thanked the Board of Supervisors for a productive discussion at the BOS Work Shop. 2) Only one development on the horizon, which is a warehouse in the Petrucci development on Uhler Road, in the preliminary stages. 3) There will be discussions at the Work Shop on Sept 25th, about the Comprehensive Plan and what suggestions there would be on how to approach updating all or part of the existing plan.
- **Recreation Board:** Rachel Sulzbach – The Board met on Monday, Sept 17th and discussed the budgets which were approved.
- **Forks Business Association (FBA):** Township Manager John Cornell – Last meeting was held was Sept 12th. Talked about the website that will be turned over to another entity, due to the problems and struggles with the website. Talked about the upcoming events.
- **Erick Chuss** – Attended ribbon cutting at Braden’s Airport for 2 new businesses in the township 1) Pro Flight Aero and 2) Spirit Wings Aviation

Treasurer’s Report:

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

	<u>9/5/2018</u>	<u>9/20/2018</u>
General Fund	198,252.30	137,427.00
Real state Tax	20,681.38	
Recreational Capital \$	7,038.87	7,240.00
Capital Improvement ..\$		
State Liquid Fuels	8,172.95	219,761.82
Sewer Tap-in		
Escrow Fund		37,508.59
Utility Fund	70,533.99	82,601.10

Supervisor Bob Egolf made a motion to approve the **9/5/2018** payments; seconded by Erik Chuss

Vote Called: 5-0

Supervisor Bob Egolf made a motion to approve the **9/20/2018** payments; seconded by Erik Chuss

Vote Called: 5-0

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OLD BUSINESS

1 Knollwood Preliminary Approval consideration

David Backenstoe, Atty reviewed what was on the agenda for this approval, the options and that the expiration for this consideration expires September 30, 2018. There was no discussion from the Board.

Mr. O'Neil -looking for the approval for Knollwood Preliminary Approval Consideration with the stipulations laid out in the Gilmore & Associates' letter dated May 4, 2018, May 24, 2018 and August 10, 2018.

Do we have a motion - so moved by Mr. Martyak and was seconded.

Mr. Martyak – asked to amend the current motion to include that there be no bottom of a foundation below the flood plan. Seconded by Mr. Moore

Public Comments

John Geiser, 2716 Wagonwheel Drive – Discussed the water issues on his property and those in the area after there is a good amount of rainfall. This development will make the water issue worse.

Mr. Martyak responded that the water issue has been debated with the developer and engineer for a year. We have been assured by the engineer doing flood plan studies, water run off studies and provided the detail stats and statistics that everything is in compliance to not make it worse, where the flood plan is for the 100-year flood.

Mr. Geiser stated he is familiar with 100-year flood plans and he is a degree Chemical Engineer with some understanding of these things. With the weather as it has changed over the last 20 years, 100-year flood levels are probably not 100, but probably 10- or 15-year flood levels. The development will take away grass, trees, plant and bush and replace it with asphalt and concrete. The water will not get absorbed in the ground and instead will run off.

Mr. Moore mentioned Benjohn Rd will be enlarged and may help the drainage issue, taking the water into some sort of storm water collection system. He told Mr. Geiser he can drop off the map of the indicated area to his home.

Brenda Geiser, 2716 Wagonwheel Drive – asked if there was a Phase I Environmental Side assessment and a Wetland Delineation done on this property. If the Wetland delineation was done and wetlands were identified, will the wetlands be replaced, or will the wetland bank be paved?

Mr. Policelli, Township Engineer – All studies relative to state and local permitting were acquired. As part of the NPDS permit they have to submit wetland delineation. No housing will be built on the wetlands.

Donna Peterson 2321 Silo Drive – We understand the decisions the Board makes and respect the Board's position. Please make sure that all is being followed with respect to the development of the property. The "river" on our properties is getting bigger and will continue to get bigger and someone is going to be held responsible.

Mr. Chuss stated his issues of why he will be voting no on approval of this development.

Mr. O'Neil asked for vote – Mr. Moore, aye; Mr. Martyak, aye; Mr. Chuss, nay; Mr. Egolf, nay; Mr. O'Neil, aye

Vote Called: 3 to 2

Mr. Backenstoe – told Mr. Thompson that he will prepare a memorandum confirming the conditions in writing for his signature and for him to return the signed memorandum back to the Board to complete the process.

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2. 2019 MMO acknowledgement

Jim Farley, Finance Director - Required by law under Act 205, it's the responsibility of the officers of the organization to inform the Board of the future cost for pension of the upcoming year of 2019 for uniform and non-uniform staff. I prepared documentation including details for your review.

There were discussions of the documentation, costs, contributions, etc.

3. 2019 Budget Calendar

Jim Farley, Finance Director – Calendar was prepared and submitted for the Board to approve and change if needed.

Mr. O'Neil asked for a motion to adopt the 2019 Budget Calendar as laid out by Mr. Farley; Motion made by Mr. Moore; seconded Mr. Martyak

Calendar will be put on the township's website. For tentative vote, it must be advertised for 20 business days.

Mr. Moore withdrew his original motion.

Mr. O'Neil asked for a motion to amend the 2019 Budget Calendar to add November 29, 2018 for the proposed calendar from Mr. Farley, all else will remain in place; Motion made by Mr. Moore; seconded by Mr. Martyak

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

Vote called: 5-0

4. Bartolacci Zoning Challenge Hearing

Wendy Nicolosi, Solicitor – The applicant has asked for a continuance. They have taken the feedback from this Board and are contemplating some amendments. Continuing it to October 18, 2018

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Township Manager – John Cornell, - Report in packet. 1) Met with the USDA regarding the Spotted Lantern Fly. The USDA has been going throughout the numerous counties in the Lehigh Valley tracking the fly and identifying the type of trees they land in and are going after. The USDA presented Mr. Cornell and his group with an agreement, asking possibly sometime early next year, that the township take down trees on township property that they believe the fly is headed or living in. There is a release that indemnifies everybody and anybody but the township. Mr. Cornell gave agreement to Wendy Nicolosi to review. Mrs. Nicolosi said the agreement isn't remotely acceptable in any way, shape or form. 2) Mr. Cornell, some Planning Commissioners and Zoning Hearing Board member attended a session with the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission related to their efforts between the Lehigh and Northampton counties Comp Plan. It was a question and answer, brainstorming session with more more sessions in the future. Looking to conclude the process by the end 2019.

Finance Director - Jim Farley, - Just the agenda items tonight.

Human Resources – Barb Bartek, - Absent

Public Works – Steve Kramer, - Report on drive. 1) Kesslerville Road in Penns Ridge. Met with the paving contractor this week. First or second week of October will complete from Jeanette down to Bushkill Drive. Township doing some

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work also and should be done by October. Dave Bonzer an employee of the Public Works, is leaving for California in 2 weeks to compete in the World's Cycling Competitions. Everyone wished him the best of luck.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS (cont.)

Zoning Dept – Tim Weis, - Report on drive. Zoning Hearing Board approved the group home on Heather Lane. Home is for 4 elderly people and they also approved a swimming pool variance.

Recreation – Rachel Sulzbach, - Didn't get a chance to put report on drive. Wrapped up all their summer events. Will have a report on the Community Days event at next meeting.

Police Chief – Greg Dorney, - Absent

Fire Chief – Chuck Gallagher, - Report on drive. 1) Thank you to Mr. Kramer for going with me 3 weeks ago to Wisconsin to inspect the rescue truck prior to its delivery. Mr. Kramer found a couple of things they needed to address before the truck got here. The rescue truck arrived last Friday and is being held in the township's Public Works building until it's completed. What's left to be completed are the graphics application, tools need to be mounted and because of the size of the truck going through a separate driving training. 2) Had an industrial fire last week, received assistance from Palmer, Nazareth, Upper Nazareth and Plainfield. Fire was at Follett company.

Engineer – Sean Policelli, - I can present more information at your October Work Session on the grants for the MS4 Funding for your upcoming budget discussions or I can bring it to the next Board meeting.

Solicitor – Wendy Nicolosi – In the upcoming Work Session we were going to discuss the tenant registration ordinance. Mr. Chuss will not be at the meeting, so Ms. Nicolosi will try to get information to Mr. Chuss a week ahead of time for his comments.

Mr. Moore mentioned he made a mistake earlier and would like to correct it publicly. He stated he would get the plans of the Knollwood development to Mr. Geiser. My mistake is that the plans are copyrighted and is something I shouldn't do. I will reach out to him and mention that to him and that he can review them here in the office.

Meeting adjourned 8:05

Minutes transcribed 10/26/2019 L Nicasanti