

February 14, 2018
Clinton Township Board of Supervisors Meeting

The regular February meeting of the Clinton Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Ken Coles on February 14, 2018 at 7:00 PM at the Clinton Township municipal building. Chairman Kenneth Coles, Vice Chair Brian Non and Supervisor Russell Curtis were present.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. Hearing Check / Meeting is audio and visual recorded - Noted

C. Public Comment – Items on the Agenda Only –

D. Minutes of Reorganization Meeting January 2, 2018 - Chair Coles made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Non to accept the minutes of the January 2, 2018 Reorganization meeting. All voted yes. The motion carried.

E. Minutes of Regular Meeting January 2, 2018- Chair Coles made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Non to accept the minutes of the regular January 2, 2018 meeting. All voted yes. The motion carried.

F. Clarification of Tax Collector's Salary – Chair Coles took issue with the 200% raise that was voted on at the Reorganization meeting for the tax collector salary on several levels. While noting that Marianne Thorpe did an excellent job, he noted that it was an \$11,000.00 difference over last year and that a raise of that significance had not been budgeted for. He also noted that Berkheimer collects taxes for 3%. Chair Coles made a motion for a raise to \$3,000 and to keep the 90% of the verification fees, while Supervisor Curtis disagreed. Chair Coles noted that the salary had to be set at tonight's meeting; otherwise she gets the salary for the next six years. Vice Chair Non suggested calling Tax Collector Marianne Thorpe and have her attend the meeting, and to table the issue in an attempt to give her time to get here. Towards the end of the meeting, during the time of public comment the issue was readdressed, even though Tax Collector Thorpe was not able to be present. Chair Coles shared his thoughts that Marianne does a great job, she deserves a raise but a raise to the amount of 5% of taxes collected over the 2017 salary of \$600 a quarter plus 90% of the verification fees is too much. He felt that by voting for a raise of that magnitude did not serve the best interest of the citizens of Clinton Township. He asked for a show of hands from those in the audience to see public support. Chair Coles suggested a 3% raise. When pressed, Vice Chair Non made a motion for the tax collector to get a three per cent raise, seconded by Chair Coles. Supervisor Curtis voted no. The motion carried.

G. Remainder of bill for Yarnes Road work from Bill Pykus – Road master Brian Non brought up the issue of Yarnes Road and the Dirt & Gravel grant and noted that though it was a shame, they would not make good on the outstanding \$6,870.55. He noted that the township got denied for both new projects. Don Sallak spoke up and said that he knew for a fact that the project paperwork was not done in a timely way and that was why the township didn't get the money. Matt Curtis spoke up and said that \$2,260.00 from each Supervisor would take care of the problem, admonishing that all of the Supervisors have to work together. Chair Coles noted that one cannot do the magnitude of the road master job while working a full time job. Road Master Non admitted disappointment that it happened but that ultimately the price tag was small change for the size of the job that was done. Matt Curtis noted that the road was eroding on one end already.

H. Treasurer's Report Including Bills for Payment – Chair Coles stated that we need better reports on the back of the cards. Man power cost is up 20% to 30% over previous years and during those years we used to plow all of the township roads. Don Salak spoke up and said that the Supervisors were wasting tax payers' money. Chair Coles made a motion to pay bills as presented, seconded by Vice Chair Non. All voted yes. The motion carried.

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I. Road Master Report – Road Master Non reported that the township truck has two broken springs, and the truck Ronnie (Poska) uses blew a hose. Chair Coles updated the citizens on the bridge on Rte. 170. He showed gratitude to John Fritz for seeking to get it fixed as soon as possible. He explained that there is emergency finding of \$1,000,000 and plans for berm on one side as well as elevating the whole road. There is hope to see this done by the end of April. Ray Vogt asked if the Army Corp. of Engineers was involved, to which Chair Coles explained that the EPA, Dept. of Environmental Resources, Army Corp. of Engineers, Penn Dot and many others are all involved. It was discussed that all of the work must be done inside the right-of-way or it will take over two years. He went on to say that grants are available for another building like the cider shed. It would require that the township pay \$1,250 to the same grant writer who obtained the grant for our cinder shed. This proposed shed would be for salt. Should the grant not be obtained, Chris Martin would resubmit until successful. It was noted that Clinton Twp. citizen Gwen Poltanis is currently taking a class in grant writing. Vice Chair Non noted that the township is on its third load of salt this winter season and the price continues to rise. Having a salt shed that would allow the township to buy quantities of salt at a low price would save the township money. Vice Chair Non made a motion, seconded by Chair Coles to allow Chris Martin to start the grant writing process for a salt shed at the cost of \$1,250.00. All voted yes. The motion carried. It was noted that the township had previously sought a grant through DCNR for a township playground. Supervisor Curtis said he thought we should wait, to which Vice Chair Non agreed.

J. Open Issues

- a. **Bids for Ford F-550** – Vice Chair Non explained that the F550 that the township currently owns will take anywhere from \$6,000 to \$8,000 to fix and he also noted that the truck is at the five year mark. He stated that the truck hasn't been abused, but that components are worn out. Bids were received from New Holland, Hondru, and Wayne County Ford. The differences in the bids made it hard to compare, but it was noted that Wayne County Ford gave more for the trade in than the others. Matt Curtis said that he didn't see a vehicle as a line item in the budget. Chair Coles explained that, as per PSATS recommendation, since the township gets such a low interest rate from the state, it's better to go that route. Joe Gillott concurred and noted that when you are getting a good rate, you should definitely leverage someone else's money. Chair Coles made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Curtis to table the bids for the Ford F550 and see what offers you get at the PSATS convention in Hershey, PA. All voted yes. The motion carried.
- b. **Prices for dumpster on township property** – Secretary Jill Droppa is going to verify that the current charge is still \$80 each time the township calls to have it dumped, since that agreement was with the former company of Franceski Waste, which has been bought out by a new company. "Freddie's", a competitive waste removal company charges \$80.00 a month for the same size dumpster. Chair Coles state that if its \$80 every time it's dumped, he prefers to stay with the current company.

K. New Business

- a. **March meeting date** – The March meeting date has been changed from the second Wednesday, March 14, to the following Monday, March 19.
- b. **Disperse \$14,481.69 Foreign Fire Tax Monies** – Supervisor Curtis suggested giving \$1,000 each to Prompton and Waymart fire companies and giving the remainder to Browndale Fire Company. Chair Coles suggested giving each \$4,800. Chief Debevec spoke up and said that he would appreciate as much as the township can give. He noted that the money goes towards equipment, not fuel. Vice Chair commented that he wished we had \$15,000 to give to each of the companies. Chief Debevec said that he had five new guys wanting to serve and he had to tell

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them that he couldn't afford boots for them. Chair Coles affirmed that Browndale Fire Company gave top notch service. Brian Acler, a representative from Prompton Fire Company commented that Prompton is a really financially responsible fire department, which is not a manned station, as they serve a smaller area. Supervisor Curtis made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Non to give \$1,000 to Prompton Fire Company, \$1,000 to Waymart Fire Company, and the remaining \$12,481.69 to Browndale Fire Company. All voted yes. The motion carried.

- c. **Joe Gillott regarding Waymart Baseball Field** – Mr. Gillott explained that Western Wayne Little League serves forty-five miles of school district. He explained that Lake Township has no lights; Sterling Township cannot have lights, due to being near an airport and that left the Waymart Borough field which was seeking lighting for the purpose of doubling the available game time to two games per night. He explained that the field was near the elementary school, but was borough owned, served the Waymart area, Canaan Twp., and Clinton Twp., down to Lake Ariel. Furthermore, Little League is an organization for children from the ages of four to twelve. Currently they have obtained a grant to cover 50% of the cost, but that they needed to raise a 50% match. The plan was to put in six light towers. The cost of \$120,000 was just to have the light package delivered to Waymart and that, including installation costs; the entire project had a projected cost of \$380,000. Of the \$190,000 that the Little League Organization is seeking to raise, they already have \$150,000 promised to them. They were seeking contributions of money, supplies, and in kind services. Additionally, the grant stipulated that they needed commitment letters by the end of March. Chair Coles said that the supervisors would have to ponder and see what the township could legally do. According to PSATS it is frowned upon to donate tax money, because if tax payers wanted to donate, they should do it on their own accord. Don Salak noted that township donations of that kind were a slippery slope, because then other organizations could come seeking contributions as well. Chair Coles said that his personal business will donate an excavator, dump trucks or whatever is needed. Vice Chair Non closed the subject by saying that PSATS should be called.
- d. **Cynthia Matthews of Wayne Tomorrow Agricultural review** – Cynthia Matthews explained that they were interested in connecting with anyone who earns \$1,000 or more per year as income who is looking to help expand production and create new producers for local products. Long-time Clinton Township citizens and farmers Ron Poska and Don Salak were enlisted to help accurately update the information.
- e. **Put Township mowing out for bid** – Vice Chair Non suggested putting out a bid on a per hour basis. Supervisor Curtis suggested limiting the bid to fifty hours. Township Engineer Weinberger suggested bidding it out as a "mowing event". Chair Coles agreed as an hourly bid promotes lagging. Vice Chair Non made a motion, seconded by Chair Coles to put out a bid for both mowing and to put out a bid for grading, stone, and rolling, by replicating last year's bid, but being specific that the stone has to be tail-gated. All voted yes. The motion carried.
- f. **Windmill Project** – Chair Coles made room in the agenda to inform the citizens that, by the end of 2019, ten more windmills will be added, going towards Pleasant Mt. Each windmill requires its own permit, drawings, and engineering. Currently, Clinton Township receives roughly \$30,000 from the windmills and we can expect that to continue. While the contacts could not commit to a firm price, they did say that they like to keep townships happy. The windmills were started by Florida Power and Electric but were sold out to a different company.

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- g. **Maps - Rinker Subdivision** – It was explained that Rinker has multiple lots. They are seeking twelve lot additions resulting in six combined lot consolidations. Vice Chair Non made a motion, seconded by Chair Coles to accept the subdivision and sign the maps. All voted yes. The motion carried.
 - h. **Maps – White Subdivision** – It was explained that the lot owners of this Elk Lake property were seeking to take off a parcel of land for their daughter. Chair Coles made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Non to accept the subdivision and sign the maps. All voted yes. The motion carried.
 - i. **PennDOT Secretary Leslie S. Richards invites you to attend a two-hour Municipal Outreach Session to discuss her priority PennDOT Connects initiative. The two places and dates local to our area are Honesdale, Mar 26 and Dunmore, Mar 26.** – No interest was indicated.
 - j. **2018 Township Road Plan** – Township Engineer introduced the road plan that he put together. Paper copies had been distributed and he announced that he was willing to email PDF formatted copies upon request. He gave a detailed explanation of a one to two year chipping program, particularly for Browndale roads. Trimming tree canopies will go a long way in preserving roads. Ditches need to be cleaned or created and the township needs to be replacing metal with plastic culverts. He would be willing to help assign dollar amounts to individual projects. Matt Curtis expressed compliments to the township for getting a road plan together.
 - k. **Wayne County Emergency Management Agency quarterly training meeting is on February 21, 2018 at 6:30 pm in the EOC Room on Volunteer Drive, Honesdale, PA** – Kerry Henderson will attend.
- L. **Browndale Fire Department** – Chief Debevic reported training hours for the month and noted that all apparatus and equipment was ready for service. He explained that the department ran 100% on volunteers and that a new fire truck would soon be needed, the cost of which would fall to volunteer fund raising to the tune of five hundred thousand dollars for a new truck. He explained that only 10% of the citizens of Clinton Township donate in the fund drives. Up to this point they have always existed without the support of tax money, but it is getting harder and harder to do so. Chair Coles suggested that the fire department make up a ten year plan and present it to the supervisors so that a prospective tax would be planned for and would not be a shock to the citizens.

Public Comment – It was noted that the snow fence on Smith Road really helped. Matt Curtis suggested that the Supervisors take a closer look at the hiring price for CDL drivers as everyone else starts at \$19, \$22, or \$25 dollars an hour. He looked at the supervisors and implored them for fiscal responsibility. Chair Coles said that the township has a trailer that is never used and that South Canaan has offered \$2,500 for it. Chair Coles made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Non to sell the trailer for \$2,500. All voted yes. The motion carried. Supervisor Curtis stated that he'd like to use the money garnered from that sale for an 18" bucket as the old one is 30" and takes up half the road. Chair Coles noted that the township had credit with Medico which could be used for an 18" bucket. Vice Chair Non made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Curtis to hire Walt Mosier to load trucks and such. All voted yes. The motion carried. At this point in the meeting the salary of the tax collector was revisited. Please refer to section F. Clarification of Tax Collector's Salary. Don Salak asked about an engineer study, stating that now they want to drain Lake Belmont, just as they had White Oak Pond. He expressed that he wished more people would get involved in these ponds and dams. Joe Gillott explained about Act 89, High Hazard Dams. He said that the entire project is funded. While his own company was not selected for the work and had been notified of that back in October of 2017, the winner of the project has yet to be announced. At the time that White Oak was being drained the state committee promised to dig out ponds for fire company use. They have since changed their stance and now say that it is the responsibility and cost of townships and fire companies. He then publicly commended the road plan,

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calling it a “great start”. Kerri Henderson asked how the website was going and wanted to know if the Supervisors would ask for house numbers to be put on mail boxes to make it easier for EMTs to locate those in need. Chair Coles asked if she had a draft ordinance. He said for Ms. Henderson to get him the information and it would be brought up at the next meeting. Russ Curtis noted that the twentieth anniversary of Bobby’s death was coming up. Bobby was a township employee who was killed while mowing for the township. Supervisor Curtis would like to buy a tree to be planted on township property Bobby’s memory. Some thought that the cost of the tree should be purchased with township funds.

- M. **Adjournment** – Chair Coles made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Non, to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 p.m. All voted yes. The motion carried.