

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
UPPER BURRELL SUPERVISORS
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2020
MEETING ROOM, 3735 - 7TH STREET ROAD

Board of Supervisors, Chairman, Ross Walker, called the regular meeting of the Upper Burrell Township Supervisors to order at 7:00 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: The following members of Council responded to roll call:

Present: **Ross G. Walker, III, Chairman**
 Michael P. Conley, Vice Chairman
 Kenneth R. Slahtovsky , Present

Also present: David Kerchner, Engineer
 Melissa A. Cortileso, Secretary
 Stephen Yakopec, Solicitor

OPENING OF BIDS – None

OPEN TO THE FLOOR – None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion made by Walker, second by Slahtovsky to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2020 regular meeting.

Motion passed 3-0.

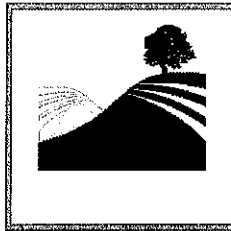
CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Walker asked Mrs. Cortileso, to review the correspondence from the month. Mrs. Cortileso reviewed the items that were listed on the agenda.

ROAD REPORT – Supervisor Slahtovsky reported that for the month of August time was spent mowing, trimming and a lot of tree cutting due to the storms. Next week they will finish up Menk Road and Rich Hill Road patching.

POLICE REPORT –

Chief Pate reported there were 143 calls for the month of August. Chief Pate reported that a lot of burglary calls and accidents. There were also 33 traffic stops. Scam calls are still being placed. They also attended 2 DUI checkpoints last month and a lot of recertification for the officers going on.



George Richard, 350 Hunter Hill Road, asked if the new police cruiser would be able to tow the trailer. Chief Pate replied, "Yes". Chief Pate stated the old Durango SUV is gone, and yes he had used the trailer, the purchase of the trailer did not cost the township a dime, purchased with grant funding. The trailer is rated for under 10,000 pounds.

EMC REPORT – None

ENGINEERS REPORT – Dave Kerchner reported the following:

The Whitten Hollow and Turkey Ridge Road paving prep work - two options to have this prep work done, which is getting the ruts and low spots fixed.

Option 1 – have the township do it, which would take about 2 week time period to complete.

Option 2 – have the contractor do it, which would consist of a scratch coat and use of machinery.

The Engineer did recommend having the contractor do the work.

A motion was made by Walker second by Slahtovsky to have the contractor do the additional prep work. Motion passed 3 – 0.

Supervisor Conley stated it is cheaper for the contractor to do the work.

Chapeldale Drive work is to start the week of September 14, the deadline is September 30, 2020, to have the work completed. Kerchner does not see why this cannot be finished by then.

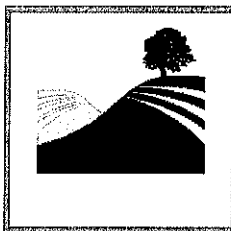
Lincoln Beach Paving Project the notice to proceed was mailed out on 8/21/2020 and the deadline completion is end of October 2020.

Kerchner stated last month the Supervisors gave permission to prepare the application for the CDBG Project for the Lower Drennen Slide Repair. Part of this process must state in the minutes that Township will contribute 15% of project cost for the project. Kerchner stated this should be around \$8700.00.

A motion was made by Walker second Conley to commit the 15% of the cost of the 2021-2023 CDBG Lower Drennen Road Slide Repair.

Motion passed 3 – 0.

Kerchner reported that to date only 5 income surveys have been sent back to the Township for the Lower Drennen Road Slide Repair, out of 25 mailed out. Kerchner stated you need to either mail them out again certified mail or go door to door, all surveys need to be returned by the end of October.



PLANNING COMMISSION

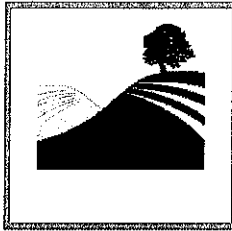
Discussion of Proposed Dollar General Store

Betty Beestrice, Amy Beestrice-Cromie, Michelle McCracken and Phylis McCracken attended the meeting to discuss the Commissions knowledge on the proposed Dollar General store along Route 780. They are all Upper Burrell residents. They were concerned about the location of the proposed building to their adjacent property along Dewey Drive. After a discussion the residents were told the Commission had not as yet received a formal submission of the proposed store and that a public hearing would need to be held to discuss a zoning revision to include such a store in the Commercial zone. The Commission suggested checking in the with the township secretary occasionally to see if there has been any submission from Dollar General.

SOLICITORS REPORT - None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. A motion was made by Walker second by Slahtovsky to end the employment of Travis Warden.
Motion passed 2 – 0. Conley abstained
- B. A motion was made by Walker second by Conley to grant permission to the Westmoreland County Election Warehouse Manager to use the Township Building as the polling location for the November 3, 2020, General Primary.
Motion passed 3 – 0.
- C. A motion was made by Walker second by Slahtovsky to approve Resolution #8-2020, defining the contribution to the Municipal Pension Plan for the year 2021.
Motion passed 3 – 0.
- D. A motion was made by Walker second by Conley to approve Resolution #9-2020, defining the contribution to the Police Pension Plan for the year 2021.
Motion passed 3 – 0.
- E. A motion was made by Walker second by Slahtovsky to terminate Dennis Lynch as a Part Time Patrolman.
Motion passed 3 – 0.
- F. A motion was made by Walker second by Conley to hire Connor Dobransky as a Part Time Patrolman.
Motion passed 3 – 0.



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- G.** A motion was made by Walker second by Slahtovsky to grant the request of Supervisor Michael Conley to participate in the employee benefit package.
Motion passed 2 – 0. Conley abstained.
Dan Myers asked if this position needed to be advertised. Walker replied no.
- H.** A motion was made by Conley second by Walker to pay and ratify all the bills and accept the financial report for the month of August 2020.
Motion passed 3 - 0

OPEN TO THE FLOOR –

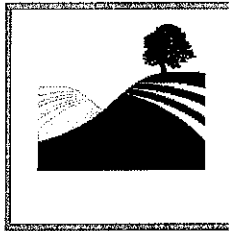
Bryan Fitch, Fire Chief, Upper Burrell Volunteer Fire Department, asked Supervisor Walker what is the word on the proposed fire tax. Walker replied how nice of presentation they put on Monday at the fire hall. Walker stated he would like for the audit to be completed first before any tax is put into place. Walker stated he does know there is a need for a new truck. Walker stated he was really not certain about the truck the fire department presented was needed, but after seeing the presentation on the truck he now realizes the all the different jobs this truck can do. Not only can it go below 0' it can also extend out to reach two stories. Walker stated he is doing the best he can as being the steward of the financials for the community.

Allen Uhler, 2213 Turkey Ridge Road, asked if there was a loaner truck at the fire hall from Renton. It was stated that the current fire department ladder truck is now back in service.

Paula Gregg, 2153 Greensburg Road, also stated what a nice presentation the fire department had on the new ladder truck. Mrs. Gregg asked if any grants have been applied for. She stated that all of her questions on the concern of this purchase of the truck and what the truck can do were answered at the presentation. Mrs. Gregg stated she does support the fire department and all volunteers, she supports the new equipment, who wants a tax, but with today's crisis you have to keep up, an audit does make sense. Mrs. Gregg asked why the cost of the truck keep goes up monthly. Fitch replied that's how it is does. Mrs. Gregg asked will this affect the term of the loan. Walker replied the township has never spent this kind of money before and they are being very cautious.

Allen Uhler, 2213 Turkey Ridge Road, asked what the life expectancy of the truck is. Fitch replied according to NFPA – replace or refurbish 25 years or replace 20 years.

Supervisor Conley stated he talked with the fire department treasurer and if the department were to drain all accounts the building could be paid off, however that would not be the smart thing to do. Conley asked Kevin Hogan, is that correct that the building will not be paid off for another 16-17 years. Hogan replied that would be correct. Conley stated he believed that \$366,000 was owed on the balance of the building loan. Conley asked Fitch will the truck last that long, Fitch replied no. Fitch stated they have been following Jeff Ewing's guidelines.



James Drane, 130 Lower Drennen Road, asked why it is taking so long for this decision on the new piece of equipment to be made. It has been over 2 years, why the delay? Mr. Drane asked why this has not been an ongoing discussion over the last 2 years. Conley stated he has been a member of this fire department for the last 31 years, it is just not that easy to spend tax payer's money. Conley stated they still have to answer resident's questions and to justify this. Supervisor Slahtovsky stated he does not think it's too much to ask to have this audit completed.

Tom Baker, 544 Upper Drennen Road, stated that the fire department has operated for 75 years without the tax payer's money. Baker stated they built a truck, traded a truck for a ladder and heavy rescue which are not needed. There are 5 communities within 5 minutes of the township with aerial trucks. Baker asked why they bought someone else's garbage. Baker stated if they want taxpayer money then board of supervisors should have oversight.

Paul Schwann, 831 Merwin Road, asked how old the truck is. Schwann stated that when this truck falls below qualifications your insurance rates will go up.

Chad Clark, 205 Rock Lane, President, Fire Department, asked is it possible to only have the tax be in place just for the business owners. Clark stated the township residents have always supported the fire department and this does not go unrecognized. Mr. Clark asked if the solicitor could please find out about taxing the business owners only. Walker replied he believes that this cannot be done you have to everyone. A business owner stated she has lived in other communities that when the fire department is dispatched the homeowner is billed for the service, has this been considered? She stated as a business owner and resident she has used the fire department service several times and they respond so quickly. She stated she is not willing to risk a child's life and this needs to be done, they need something reliable.

Dan Hosac, 1301 Menk Road, asked what the interest on the loan is, and who is on the hook for it? Fitch replied the length of the loan is 15 years and the fire department would be responsible. Fitch stated the fire department would be responsible for paying the maintenance and insurance on the new truck. Hosac asked if the tax passed, would this make the township liable for pay off.

Dan Myers, 200 Barnview Drive, stated he 100% supports the fire department. Myers stated last month it was discussed about the possible audit of the fire department. Get this audit done, this would be the first step, then possibly a financial person would be needed if afforded. Walker stated they are to meet with the auditor on 9/14/2020. Myers stated that it would cost an additional \$125,000 for 34' more feet of ladder. Myers also stated that this issue of a proposed 2 mill fire tax can also be put on a referendum ballot and let the residents decide. Yakopec stated only certain things can go on a referendum ballot.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Walker, second by Conley to adjourn, meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by: Melissa A. Cortileso,

Note*** Next monthly meeting, will be held on November 4, 2020, beginning at 7:00 p.m.