



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
UPPER BURRELL SUPERVISORS
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 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, Supervisor

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

OPENING OF BIDS – None

OPEN TO THE FLOOR –

Diane Chabal, 134 Dewey Drive, asked who the Supervisor's believed would be the best person to turn the signed petitions for the non-support of the proposed Dollar General Store. Solicitor Yakopec recommended they turn them over the Dan Hewitt, Avolio Law Group, the represent the Dollar General. Supervisor Conley and Chairman Walker also recommended sending copies to Senator Joel Pittman and also Representative Bob Brooks, also Chairman Walker urged her to supply copies and bring copies to the Planning Commission meeting to be held on Tuesday, November 17, 2020.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

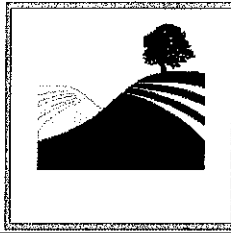
Motion made by Walker, second by Conley to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2020 regular meeting and the October 16, 2020 Budget Workshop Meeting.

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 October time was spent patching on in the Ross Plan and Hunter Hill Road and cleaning the leaves out of the culverts.



POLICE REPORT –

Sgt. Speer reported there were 170 calls for the month. Sgt. Speer reminded residents to be on the look-out for all the deer.

EMC REPORT – None

ENGINEERS REPORT – Dave Kerchner reported the following:

Last month Turkey Ridge and Whitten Hollow scratch coat was authorized to be done which is outside of the agreement, this needs to be approved.

A motion was made by Walker second by Conley to the change order for the Turkey Ridge and Whitten Hollow Road paving project. Motion passed 3 – 0. No comments on the floor.

Engineer Kerchner please reminded the residents that if they know of any residents who reside on Lower Drennen Road to please complete the income survey that has been mailed out. It is imperative that the surveys get turned in to be able to receive the CDBG funds. Dan Myers stated how about reaching out to a neighbor and seeing if they would be interested in trying to obtain these surveys.

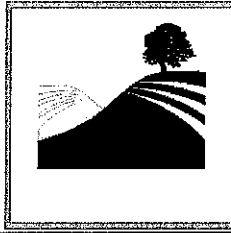
Engineer Kerchner stated that there is a problem with the work done on Turkey Ridge Road. Tresco has agreed to apply a 1” top on the existing material and also a consent of surety is still needed. Conley asked if this still as a 1 year guarantee. Kerchner replied yes. Dan Myers asked will this additional work be completed this year. Kerchner replied it is scheduled to be done on Saturday, November 7, 2020.

A motion was made by Walker second by Slahtovsky to approve payment to Tresco Paving Corporation in the amount of \$224,504.64 for the Turkey Ridge & Whitten Hollow Road Paving Project, contingent upon Engineer approval that the additional 1” topping has been completed and approved by the Engineer and also the consent of surety has been received. Motion passed 3 – 0. No public comment.

PLANNING COMMISSION -

Xodus Medical Building Expansion Site Plan

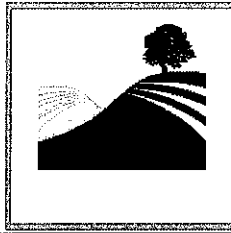
The Land Development Plan for the Xodus Medical Building Expansion was revised by Young and Associates on October 6, 2020, to respond to Bankson Engineers August 17, 2020, comment letter. Bankson reviewed the revised plans through their October 16, 2020, letter and indicated that the engineer adequately addressed their concerns previously set forth on August 17, 2020. They recommended Preliminary/Final Approval of the Land Development Plans contingent upon satisfactory receipt of the itemized documents outlined in Bankson’s October 16, 2020 letter. Also in an October 13, 2020 email, Scott Chermak had no issues with the revised Land Development Plans. After a discussion, George Richard moved to approve the plan contingent on the itemized items in the Bankson letter being addressed. The motion was seconded by Chester Lockwood and all were in favor. These items included an agreement with Forest Hills Storage for grading on their property, the deed for the purchase of Lot 49, and approved E & S control plan.



SOLICITORS REPORT – None

NEW BUSINESS

- A.** A motion was made by Walker second by Slahtovsky to authorize the advertisement of the 2021 General Budget and that the Budget is available for inspection. Motion passed 3 – 0.
- B.** A motion was made by Walker second by Conley to pass Resolution #10-2020, to apply for the Multimodal Transportation Fund grant for the 2020 Guiderail Project. Motion passed 3 – 0.
- C.** A motion was made by Walker second by Slahtovsky to approve and ratify the hiring of Jeff Anzovino, CPA, to audit the Fire Department. Motion passed 3 – 0.
- D.** A motion was made by Walker second by Slahtovsky to pay Tresco Paving Corporation in the amount of \$224,504.64 for the Turkey Ridge Road and Whitten Hollow Road Paving Project contingent upon the additional 1” topping being competed and approved by the Engineer and also receiving the consent of surety. Motion passed 3 – 0. No Public Comment
- E.** A motion was made by Walker second by Conley to grant Land Development Approval to Xodus Medical contingent upon the itemized items outlined in Bankson Engineering’s letter dated October 16, 2020 are addressed. Motion passed 3 – 0.
Dan Hosac asked if currently any of the items have been addressed. Kerchner replied to date he does not believe his office has received anything.
- F.** A motion was made by Walker second by Slahtovsky to pay M.L. Schrock Construction in the amount of \$3,100.00 for the replacement of the Police Car Garage Roof. Motion passed 3 – 0.
- G.** 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 October 2020.
- H.** A motion was made by Walker second by Conley to ratify and approve the CPA contract with DeBlasio & DeBlasio Associates for the 2018-2019 audit of financial statement of the Upper Burrell Tax Collector. Motion passed 3 – 0.



OPEN TO THE FLOOR –

Dan Myers, 200 Barnview Drive asked about the agenda item under new business, section B, asking if this was for the year 2020. Kerchner replied yes but does not expect to hear of the grant being awarded until spring 2021.

George Richard, 350 Hunter Hill Road, commended the Road Department on the outstanding job they did patching on Hunter Hill Road. Mr. Richard stated the work has not been completed. Conley replied they did get pulled away to complete another job but they will be back to finish as long as the weather is good. Mr. Richard also asked if they could try to find some kind of material that will hold and patch the large pothole on the top of Lower Drennen Road. Conley and Slahtovsky stated they will try to come up with something that will hold.

Dan Hosac, 1301 Menk Road, asked when they expect to haul the millings down to Menk Road and get that fixed. Conley replied as soon as they have a chance they will get to it.

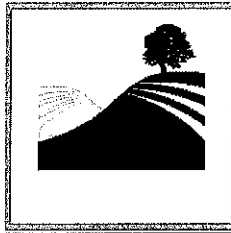
Chairman Walker announced at this time the Township will be moving forward with a 2 mill Safety Tax to help with the purchase of new fire truck for the Upper Burrell Township Volunteer Fire Department, contingent upon completion of the Audit. Walker stated that Solicitor Yakopec will work on drafting a Resolution for the proposed tax.

Jeff Ewing, 201 Stoney Hill Road, asked how the Supervisors came about this decision. Mr. Ewing stated at one of the previous monthly meetings Chairman Walker did say a committee would be appointed between some residents and members of the fire department to discuss this tax. This meeting has never taken place. Mr. Ewing stated how did you make a decision without the committee meeting. Walker stated he is just now announcing it. Ewing stated your making a decision without consulting the people you appointed to discuss the issue. Walker stated the purpose of the committee was for the truck specifications. Ewing stated it was also to discuss the tax.

Joyce Ewing, 201 Stoney Hill Road, stated do you even know if the residents can afford this tax. Ewing stated she does not agree with this decision. Ewing asked how are you planning to collect this tax, they have not even asked her.

Dan Myers, 200 Barnview Drive, stated that was Jeff Ewing stated was true. The committee was to be formed to not only determine what kind of truck was needed but to also evaluate the cost of the truck and why the tax is needed to pay for it. Myers stated you should sit down with the people and also wait on the findings of the audit, don't get ahead of yourselves. Mrs. Ewing stated also this issue should have been on the agenda.

Walker stated that he believed that some of the old and new members of the fire department won't come and meet together. Mr. Ewing stated they should not be acting this way, this is a business and



should be treated as such. It was stated that new equipment is needed but maybe there are alternate ways to get it. The committee was formed but never had any discussions.

Kevin Hogan, 4370 – 7th Street Road, stated that the information requested from the department in regards to the audit has been given and complied with.

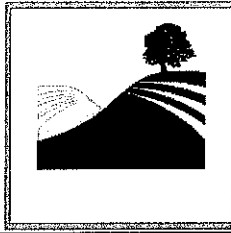
Dan Myers, 200 Barnview Drive, stated you should put this decision on a referendum ballot and the residents decide if they want a tax.

Kurt Britton, 108 Rustic Lane, stated there has been talk of a fire tax for 25 years, but has never been needed in the past. Currently the funds are not as they once were and a couple of the trucks are pretty old. Britton stated a lot of communities have fire taxes for the purpose of purchasing equipment. The departments training has been better than he has ever seen and membership is at an all-time high. The department is crewing at 95% and has no dropped calls. The department has never asked for help before.

Jeff Ewing, 201 Stoney Hill Road, asked why the department was in the situation it is now. Why did they spend \$100,000 on a 17 year old truck that had problems? Ewing stated that the current rescue truck is now owned by the Relief Association. Some discussion took place as to who and how this truck is owned and could be sold.

Kevin Hogan stated the department is more than willing to keep working with the Supervisors on this issue. Hogan stated why is outside help needed. Joyce Ewing asked why is fundraising down? Ewing stated the fund drive letter has not been mailed out in the last 2 years. Hogan stated the 2018 & 2019 reminder notice was not mailed out along with the 2020 never being done. Dan Hosac asked about the age of the truck and if this aging equipment could affect insurance coverage and it would be cheaper to purchase 2 new trucks that are needed than just this 1 big truck. Hogan stated they are planning to purchase a Quint Truck which is a 5 in 1 truck. Britton also replied that the truck is a pre-engineered truck so there is quite a savings on not having to pay engineering fees to design a truck. Britton stated that he believed about 75% of the township has hydrants, however if there is a call where there is not a hydrant a tanker alarm will be notified and the tanker truck will follow. Britton stated he would like to see the tax continue that way the aging equipment can continue to be replaced.

Chairman Walker stated he is no expert on technology of what is needed in the township he will leave that up to the experts who use the equipment. Walker stated the 3 Supervisors did try and educate themselves on the fire trucks. Mr. Ewing asked if the Supervisors have since met with the fire department since September. Walker replied yes. Ewing stated this is very disappointing, you put a committee together to discuss this issue and they were not even notified. Ewing stated that back in April on 2019 he provided to the Supervisor's proof of lying going on. Conley stated that yes they did have an informational meeting with Kevin Hogan, Bryan Fitch and Kurt Britton. Ewing asked again why the department is in the situation there are in. Conley stated the township did hire a forensic auditor, the District Attorney uses this auditor. Ewing asked if this information on the audit will be made public. Conley and Solicitor Yakopec replied yes. Conley stated the audit is being done due to Mr. Ewing's concerns. Supervisor Slahtovsky stated it makes sense to do this audit when spending tax payer's



money. Ewing stated he disagrees with the meeting being held especially when a committee had been appointed.

Joyce Ewing, 201 Stoney Hill Road, asked why has the one truck that has been sitting outside, has been moved to the rear of the building. With more bays opened in the building the truck should be inside. Hogan replied because previously they had been bouncing back and forth with a truck and that also they are cleaning out the bays to make room.

Dan Myers, 200 Barnview Drive, stated just call the meeting. Conley stated if needed he will attend the meeting and if it were to turn into a screaming match he will call the police. Conley stated get the audit completed first before the meeting. A question was asked if once the truck is paid for, will the tax will go away. Walker replied he can't read the future and that other municipalities hardly ever remove the tax.

Chairman Walker stated that he is sorry this has to be done but he feels a new truck is needed for safety reasons. Someone stated the squandered the money away buying old equipment. Mrs. Ewing asked if the tax is passed will the LST monies the fire department and the donation money they receive from the Township go away? Walker stated no. Dan Myers again stated will the fire department meet. Kevin Hogan stated he will speak with Fire Chief, Bryan Fitch, but will not meet until the audit is completed.

George Richard, 350 Hunter Hill Road, asked who will own this new truck. Conley stated the truck will go in the fire department's name and the township will handle the funds. The fire department will need to request and supply proof of payment in order for the payment to be made. Yakopec stated if for some reason there is not enough money to cover the payment the fire department would be responsible to come up this difference if the truck in the fire department's name.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Walker, second by Conley to adjourn, meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by: Melissa A. Cortileo,

Note*** Next monthly meeting, will be held on January 4, 2021, beginning at 7:00 p.m.