

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
UPPER BURRELL SUPERVISORS
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2021
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**
 Kenneth R. Slahtovsky, Supervisor

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

OPENING OF BIDS – None

OPEN TO THE FLOOR –

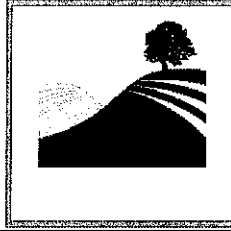
Melvin Bortz, 230 Mosaic Blvd., complained about a neighboring property bringing in outside building material and burning. Bortz stated that the fire goes at least 60' in the air. Walker stated this is not allowed the only burning allowed is for recreational use and burning of leaves, limbs. Walker stated next time this happen to call 911 immediately.

Dan Myers, 200 Barnview Drive, stated the rules say that entry to the new proposed Dollar General store must be on least traveled road. Myers asked if a legal variance is needed to change this. Solicitor Yakopec stated that under the Municipality Code the Board has the ability to waive this. Engineer Kerchner stated he did see this in the review of the proposed plans and he did recommend this change be done so entry to the proposed site would be from Route 780 and this will be a stipulation of the plan approval.

Clint Craft, 1520 Menk Road, asked about the new public supply permit location that is being submitted by the Municipal Authority of New Kensington. Kerchner stated these are 4 lines that New Kensington Authority are either making bigger or replacing. Permits would be needed from PA DEP. The new areas in question are Bethesda Road, Guyer Road, White Cloud Road and Oak Lake Road.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion made by Walker, second by Slahtovsky to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2021, Organizational and regular meeting. Motion passed 2-0.



CORRESPONDENCE

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

ROAD REPORT – Supervisor Slahtovsky reported that most of the time spent was on snow removal getting anti-skid and salt distributed and maintenance of the vehicles.

POLICE REPORT – None

EMC REPORT –

ENGINEERS REPORT – Dave Kerchner reported the following:

Kerchner stated the Lincoln Beach Paving material used was the same design as what was used on Whitten Hollow and Turkey Ridge Road. This mix design has some issues so the company has agreed to come back and place 1 ½" asphalt on top making this a better road at no cost to the Township. The Contractor stated this will be his first project of the season.

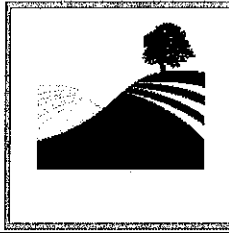
Motion made by Walker second by Slahtovsky to have the Engineer prepare and advertise the 2021 Road Material Bid. Motion passed 2 – 0.

PLANNING COMMISSION -

Shane Miller presented a revised subdivision plan for a two lot subdivision along Willyard Lane. The plan was initially presented in June 2020 and required plan revisions by the Commission and Bankson Engineers was outlined in the June 2020 meeting minutes. Mr. Miller indicated that those plan changes have been made and are shown on the revised plans he presented at this meeting. The Commission indicated he needs to send in a formal resubmission to the township secretary. Mr. Miller indicated that since the June 2020 meeting the house on Lot 2R has been relocated to Lot 1R and a septic system has been constructed on Lot 1R. Since the Commission approved the plan conditionally at the June 2020 meeting no further action is required, however the plan needs to be revised to show the new location of the house prior to a resubmission to the township.

Future Event Center along Route 780

Engineer Ed Patton presented a preliminary site plan for a proposed event center to hold events such as weddings. The center would be on a 5 acre parcel across Route 780 from Woodpeckers. The parcel is in the CC zone which he indicated the proposed use is allowable. An existing 5402 s.f. barn would be converted into the event center building. No food preparations would be done on site. They plan on submitting formal detail site plans in the near future. After the meeting, reviewing the Zoning Ordinance for the CC zone it was not obvious what Principal Use or Accessory Use for this zone the proposed development falls under.



Conditional Use Request for Calliope Well

A detailed submission for a conditional use request for the Calliope Well pad was submitted by CEC on behalf of Olympus Energy. The pad is located at 812 White Cloud Road on Arconic Property. No action is taken by the Commission until formal review comments are received.

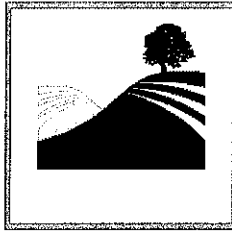
SOLICITORS REPORT –None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. A motion was made by Walker second by Slahtovsky to accept with regrets the resignation of Part Time Patrolman Ronald Wolfgang. Motion passed 2 – 0.
- B. A motion was made by Walker second by Slahtovsky to hire Ryan Krause as a Part-Time Patrolman. Motion passed 2 – 0.
- C. A motion was made by Walker second by Slahtovsky to enter into the Agreement with New Kensington (Milligantown) DPP, LLC (Dollar General) for a Highway Occupancy Permit. Motion passed 2 – 0.
- D. A motion was made by Walker second by Slahtovsky to sign and execute the Highway Occupancy Permit Application. Motion passed 2 – 0.
- E. A motion was made by Walker second by Slahtovsky to accept with regrets the notification of Sgt. Cole Speer’s last day of work with the Township said day being March 16, 2021. Motion passed 2 – 0.
- F. A motion was made by Walker second by Slahtovsky to table the Land Development Application for the proposed Dollar General Store pending resolution of the items outlined in the letter dated February 26, 2021, from Bankson Engineers. Motion passed 2 – 0.
- G. A motion was made by Walker second by Slahtovsky to pay and ratify all the bills and accept the financial report for the month of February 2021. Motion passed 2 – 0.

OPEN TO THE FLOOR –

Dan Hosac, 1301 Menk Road, stated that Consol Energy stopped by his residence stating that they are planning to run a pipeline for discharge from the old Renton Mine in Plum Borough to the Puckety Creek area in the Township. Hosac asked if the Township has received any information on this. Kerchner replied he has not been notified any project and if such a project were to commence several notifications would go out and numerous permits would be needed. Kerchner stated that they must meet the discharge requirements.



Dan Myers, 200 Barnview Drive, asked about the status of the proposed tax increase to purchase a new fire truck. Myers stated have you been provided any costs associated with the new truck, such as insurance, maintenance and has any kind of financial plan been supplied to show just how the Fire Department plans to pay for this purchase? Myers also stated that before any kind of decision is made on raising taxes, is there any kind of organization that could come in and determine the need of this new truck. Is this too much of a truck or not enough of a truck. Yakopec stated he will call around tomorrow to see if there is any kind of agency out there. Myers also stated that any meeting pertaining to this purchase and use of tax dollars should be advertised in the paper. Solicitor Yakopec agreed and stated said advertisement will be in the Valley New Dispatch, posted on the Township Building along with the Township website.

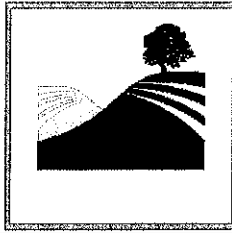
Dan Myers also stated that at last month's meeting the Supervisors said they were going to allow for project completion time to go up until September in the bid package they would be putting together. Myers stated could you change the completion time so that maybe the new road could be enjoyed during the summer time. Kerchner replied you can certainly tighten up the deadline. Kerchner stated they did so that you could get more contractors to bid and possibly a better price. Myers also stated that there are areas along Turkey Ridge and Whitten Hollow Road that have 2' drop offs. Myers asked if they could address this and instead of always having to run back to the Township Building to load materials could the materials be delivered to the site. Myers also asked how it came about the Tree Service using the parking lot behind the Township Building.

Dan Myers also asked how the hours at the Police Department are being covered with Sgt. Speer leaving the department. Myers also asked are they looking into his replacement.

Dan Hosac, 1301 Menk Road, asked about the proposed Union Barn project along Route 780. Hosac stated this barn is old and would the Fire Department be involved or put on notice about this project. Kevin Hogan, UBVFD, stated that he works closely with Scott Chermak, Professional Code Services and the Building Official and will reach out to Scott about this project.

Amy Cromie, Dewey Drive, asked about the letter from Bankson Engineers dated February 26, 2021 pertaining to the proposed Dollar General Store. Cromie asked if she could obtain a copy of the letter along with a copy of the revised drawings that were submitted to comply with the revisions that were needed in comment letters received by Professional Code Services and Bankson Engineers. Kerchner stated that yes all Bankson's revision were met except for what was outlined in the February 26, 2021 letter. Cromie also asked if the Township was aware of a meeting with the PA DEP that was to take place at the proposed site on 3/2021. Kerchner stated that he was not aware of any meeting, but stated said meeting was probably about the on-lot sewage system.

Amy Cromie, asked about the retention pond that was proposed for the Dollar General project. Kerchner stated that originally it was noted as a rain garden and this how now changed and they plan to pipe directly into the inlet.



Kevin Hogan, UBVFD, stated he will look into the burning issue down on Mosaic Boulevard and he will get with Professional Code Services in regards to the Union Barn.

George Richard, 350 Hunter Hill Road, stated the configuration for the discharge on Route 780 has been changed and nothing will now stop this from running down Lower Drennen Road. Richard stated that the Conservation District did state this needs fixed. Kerchner stated that water also comes from the Fire Department. Kerchner stated he will reach out to the Conservation District to come back and take another look at this and will also let the Planning Commission know.

Chester Lockwood, 4425 – 7th Street Road, stated that the pipe does cross over Route 780 and in two locations the ground is eroding from this discharge.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Walker, second by Slahtovsky to adjourn, meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by: Melissa A. Cortilesio,

Note*** Next monthly meeting, will be held on Wednesday, May 5, 2021, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

**SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE UPPER BURRELL TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021
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: Melissa A. Cortilesio, Secretary
 Stephen Yakopec, Solicitor

Solicitor Yakopec opened the meeting up by stating that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the purchase of new fire truck. Yakopec stated the Supervisors cannot do anything until the outcome of the Arconic Tax Appeal Hearing has been settled. Yakopec stated that not only will the Township taxes be increased but also the County and School Taxes will also go up if Arconic gets the settlement they are proposing. Yakopec stated in the interim there are other things could still be getting done.

Yakopec asked if the Fire Department was still planning to secure the \$300,000 PEMA Loan. Kevin Hogan from the Fire Department stated that it may be a better idea to lump it all together at a rate of 3.17% being the highest. Yakopec stated if the PEMA loan is only at 2% why you would not go with the lowest rate. Walker stated he wants them to apply for the PEMA loan. Yakopec asked what is the current interest rate is on the building loan. Hogan replied the PNC building loan is at 5.4%. Yakopec stated maybe they should explore getting a better rate and that could free up extra monies for the truck loan. Hogan stated he believed that current mortgage rate with PNC is 5.4% and then there is an additional 2% PEMA Loan. Hogan stated that Pierce wanted them to consolidate into 1 loan at 3.1%. Hogan stated the current balance on the PNC building loan is \$358,141 ending 7/15/2032.

Yakopec asked if it were decided to pass the fire tax, how the department plans to pay the difference in the loan payment if said tax could not generate enough. Some discussion took place as to suggesting that the fire department should pay the \$300,000 down payment and the

Township would only be paying the balance of the loan once the down payment has been applied. It was also asked how the fire department will be able to make the truck payment along with paying insurance, repairs, etc. Hogan quoted several different truck quotes ranging from truck size and cost of purchase.

Bill Hazlett, 304 Delberta Road, asked what would happen if the businesses in the Township were to take the same action as Arconic and Siemen's and appeal their taxes. Walker stated it would reduce the Townships tax assessment value.

Dan Myers, 200 Barnview Drive, asked about interest rates. Myers also asked what that meant that the Township will pay the first \$500,000. Myers stated this would only be if the tax goes thru. Myers stated refinance the building but still wait until the outcome of the tax appeal hearings.

A resident asked what is wrong with the vehicles the Fire Department has now. Do any of the neighboring communities have a ladder truck? Someone replied yes, several communities. How many times is it necessary to use this kind of truck? Someone replied hopefully never. Why would the Township spend money it does not have. Walker stated that yes before a decision is made they will wait the outcome of the Arconic tax appeal hearing.

Amy, Amy Lane, stated she lives where the fire was the other day. She stated she does know the fireman socially and has taken them for granted. Amy stated she is interested in getting involved. Amy stated the fireman are all volunteers and she is very grateful.

Joyce Ewing, 201 Stoney Hill Road, asked again what the 2 loan balances were on the Fire Department building loans. Hogan replied, \$358,000 PNC Loan and \$108,000 PEMA Loan.

Dan Myers, 200 Barnview Drive, stated instead of picking a truck and consolidating loans, they should look at what they can afford. Myers stated you're working backwards. Myers stated the Fire Department did not mail out support letters due to residents still hurting from COVID. The government is giving out relief checks, table this issue until the COVID is all done. Yakopec stated cannot do anything until the Arconic situation is worked out they were just trying to work on thing in the interim. Myers stated put it on a referendum and let the taxpayers decide if they want a new truck or not. Yakopec stated he can't guarantee that can go on a referendum.

Dan Hosac, Menk Road, asked about the vehicle that cost \$947,000. Hogan replied that comes fully loaded, no build time, and does have warranties. Hogan quoted insurance costs would depend on the total cost of the truck purchased. A resident asked how old in the current ladder truck. Hogan replied it's a 1997. Miles, 13,000, new motor in it and it is nickel and dimes them. Hogan stated the Fire Department did receive a COVID grant which was used to help pay for the new engine installed.

Dan Hosac stated there is a place in Homer City that refurbishes fire equipment. Would it be any more cost effective to do this than purchase a brand new one?

Bill Hazlett, stated they bought a 20 year old truck that was someone else's truck first. This truck was at Clyde's Auto Repair to have transmission work done, and they would not give a warranty on this work because the Fire Department would not allow Clyde's to pull the motor. Hogan replied it would have been twice the cost to pull the motor. Hazlett also stated that Lower Burrell did send a truck to be refurbished and it is like brand new with a warranty.

Rick Jones, Merwin Road, stated the common thread is looking to purchase a new truck that cannot be afforded. If the refinance the building and still use Township funds, how does the Fire Department plan to fill in the gap? Look at a solution and do what can be afforded especially during COVID.

Dan Myers, stated look at all avenues, need assessment, have a Plan B. The need to follow the rules like the Township to get out of debt.

Curt Britton, Rustic Lane, stated you have to be careful when getting a vehicle refurbished, there are other aspects of the vehicle you have to look at, such as the ladder, etc.

Bill Hazlett, stated several surrounding communities have ladder trucks. Hazlett stated that he is sending under the RTK Act, for all calls pertaining to the Fire Department. Hazlett stated that this will be a certified document for the years 2017 – 2020. Hazlett stated this will show what calls are actually in the Township vs. other communities. Hogan replied the Fire Department can provide this information and has in the past. Joyce Ewing stated can any resident get this report.

Mike Zanella, stated he was just watching the news and saw that a ladder truck went up and used the truck to put out the flames. Zanella stated he would rather use the vehicle then send anyone into a burning building.

Jeff Ewing, 201 Stoney Hill Road, stated he was appointed to this committee back in July of 2020, to come up with a plan. Ewing stated that only 1 meeting has taken place. Ewing stated he is removing himself from this committee. Rick Jones stated you asked for them, why you don't use them.

Dan Myers, stated you paid for an audit of the Fire Department, you should build on this and get a financial advisor to help consider the need of the new truck.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Walker, second by Conley to adjourn, meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.