

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
UPPER BURRELL SUPERVISORS
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 2024
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: Michael Moore, Engineer
Melissa A. Cortileso, Secretary
Stephen Yakopec, Solicitor

OPENING OF BIDS –

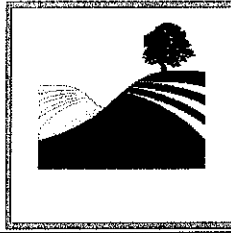
Separate and sealed bids were received for the sale of the Lincoln Beach properties, until 4:00 pm, Wednesday, June 5, 2024, and will be opened and read aloud at 7:00 pm, at the June 5, 2024 regular meeting, sold together as 1 unit with the minimum bid starting at \$6,000.00.

Bid #1 – Keitha White, 282 Mosaic Blvd.	\$ 7,000.00
Bid #2 – Brock White, 282 Mosaic Blvd.	\$ 14,101.01
Bid #3 – Milton Pitts, Lincoln Beach Group	\$ 20,000.00
Bid #4 – Eric VanDeVenne, Murrysville, PA	\$ 8,700.00 contingent upon the property being zoned R2, and accessible by vehicle

Back the Blue Organization presented a donation check to the Police Department. The Committee thanked the police department for everything they do and the Chief thanked the Committee for all the good they are doing. Both the Committee and the Chief recognized all the hard that David Magill “Mogie” did for the organization and stated his memory will live on.

OPEN TO THE FLOOR –

Dan Myers, 200 Barnview Drive, asked if the bids for the Lincoln Beach property will be awarded. Walker stated under new business. Myers asked why the property is being sold. Walker replied the township is not using it, give it someone who would use it and benefit. Myers asked about the Milligantown Road property. Walker stated the township may also sale that.



APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES -

Motion made by Walker, seconded by Slahtovsky to approve the minutes of the May regular meeting. Motion passed 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE -

Chairman Walker asked Mrs. Cortilesio, to review the correspondence from the month.

ROAD REPORT -

Supervisor Slahtovsky reported the time was spent patching potholes, cleaning up road debris and mowing has started.

POLICE REPORT -

Chief Pate reported there were 92 calls for the month of May. Chief Pate reported that he and Officer Beaver has just completed a 10 hour online Zoom training on suicidal people. Chief stated he will continue to push for this kind of training.

Keitha White asked about the stop sign coming from Keibler Beach Drive to Lincoln Beach by the bridge. White stated there is not stop sign just stop painted on the road. White is worried about the little ones playing in the area. The Chief replied in order to have a stop sign installed the township would need to reach out to PennDot and have a traffic study done along with some other information that would be needed from the Police Department. Chief stated the department will do more enforcement down there.

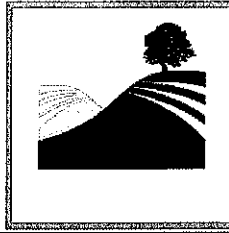
Dan Myers asked has there been any update on the police regionalization. Myers stated this has been going on now for 15 months. Walker replied they do not like what Washington Township is offering. Washington Township is not interested in any regionalization, they just want to absorb Upper Burrell Township. Supervisor Conley stated he would like to work on rebuilding the police department. After discussion about the regionalization it was stated that come budget time the township will then determine what is needed to move forward with the department.

Diane Kadunce, 2295 Turkey Ridge Road, asked if anyone from the Police Department has made a visit to the police academy prior to graduation to recruit new officers. It was also asked if the township could pay to send someone to the academy and then get reimbursed once the officer started to work.

Marcella Moore, Lincoln Beach, stated she believed that she read where Washington Township wants to absorb Upper Burrell Township and that is not something she would want. Chief stated that Plan A with regionalization has not worked out so now they will move onto Plan B and/or Plan C if needed.

Milton Pitts, asked what the controversy is about. Walker stated to get more manpower, pull resources together and regionalization would be best.

Scott Brown, 4419 – 7th Street, asked how much taxes would need to go up to get more officers and get a good pay rate. Chief Pate stated they will address this at budget time.



Clint Craft, 1520 Menk Road, stated could a stipulation be put on the officer to reimburse the township if they were to leave the job if the township paid for them to go to the academy. Chief Pate stated his concern would be what kind of service he would get out of them if they wanted to leave and had to stay due to having pay back.

Dan Hosac, 1301 Menk Road, stated he asked the previous 2 part time officers why they were leaving, they replied no excitement here.

Allen Uhler, 2213 Turkey Ridge Road, asked about overtime in all of this. Chief Pate replied only put in for overtime if needed.

Dan Myers, 200 Barnview Drive, stated the current budget can handle 2 Full Time Officers and 6 Part Time Officers.

Cari Armstrong, 260 Upper Drennen Road, stated the budget for the Police Department is \$415,000 and out of that \$130,000 is for Part Time Officers, since we do not have any part time officers how is that money being spent. Walker stated all of the line items are there and manpower is there. Walker stated come to a budget meeting.

Crystal Beam, 300 Whitten Hollow Road, stated there was an increase in the police from 2023 to 2024 and the department was not fully staffed. Beam stated there should have been a chunk of change carried over. Beam asked does this usually increase every year.

EMC REPORT – None

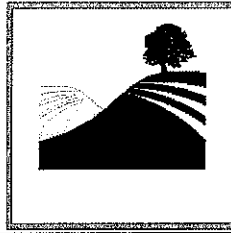
ENGINEERS REPORT –

Mike Moore stated the township has received the agreement from the Westmoreland Conservation District for the Turkey Ridge Road Project and the design will be ready soon. Moore stated he expects this to come in under the threshold and will not have to be bid out just receive 3 quotes. Moore stated that Tresco Paving Co. will need to come back to seal and do some shoulder repairs.

PLANNING COMMISSION –

Gary Schoepke Zone Reclassification Request

Attorney Frank Kasin and property owner Gary Schoepke were present to request changing 20.81 acres, adjacent to Oak Lake Road that is a portion of the previous Oak Lake Golf Course from RA to I. Mr. Schoepke is currently storing equipment including trucks and paving equipment on the 20.81 acre property. Mr. Schoepke provided letters from three local property owners that had no objection to the zone changed from RA to I. (Robert and Joyce Stimel, Scott Brouwer and Jodi Conley). However, there were a number of local residents that were at the meeting that spoke negatively regarding this zoning change. Since the April meeting, the Commission members conducted a field review of the area in question along Oak Lake Road. From the Zoning Map and the plan of the site in question provided by Mr. Kasin, it indicates that an area adjacent to the 20.81 acres and along Oak Lake Road is part of the



Schoepke property and is currently zoned Industrial. This area includes a portion of the old golf course and a wooded area that could be used to store his equipment. After additional discussion, Chester Lockwood moved to deny the zoning change, seconded by Dennis Matto and all were in favor.

ZONING HEARING BOARD – Hearing for 1520 Menk Road will be on Thursday, June 13, 2024, at 7:00 pm

SOLICITORS REPORT –

Solicitor Yakopec stated that he will review the Lincoln Beach Property bids to make certain they meet the ad requirements.

Reverend Moore, stated how is it you can first donate a property, then agree to lease the property and sale it to a non-profit and now just sale it and not include the mineral rights.

Diane Kadunce, 2295 Turkey Ridge Road, asked how the sale of the property came about. Walker stated the gentleman who originally bought the property and laid out the Lincoln Beach plan was not able to sale those remaining parcels which were passed into the hands of the township.

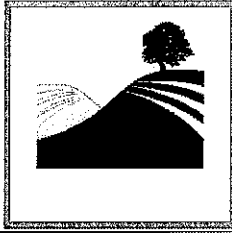
George Richard, 350 Hunter Hill Road, asked about item E under new business. Richard asked if the Board was not considering the action the Planning Commission took on the Oak Lake Road Reclassification request. Solicitor Yakopec stated the hearing is part of the process under the Municipalities Planning Code, it's to give residents the opportunity to speak. Yakopec stated that it is the Board of Supervisors who will make the decision to change the reclassification request. It was stated that not 1 person who attended the reclassification request at the Planning Commission meeting were in favor. There was discussion as to who sold the property and whether there would be any conflict of interest and also stated that Mr. Schoepke stated that on several occasions that he was told by the seller of the property that he could do what he wanted with the property.

Joyce Ewing, 201 Stoney Hill Road, asked if a date has been set for the hearing. Solicitor Yakopec stated nothing yet. Ewing stated there is a hearing on June 24, 2024, will the hearing with the township take place before the hearing at the Magistrate's office. Yakopec replied that would be up to the Board of Supervisors.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. A motion was made by Walker seconded by Slahtovsky to accept the grant from the Westmoreland Conservation District and sign the DGLVR grant agreement and accompanying Prevailing Wage Acknowledgement for the Turkey Ridge Road drainage improvements project. Motion passed 3 – 0.

- B. A motion was made by Walker seconded by Conley to adopt Resolution #7-2024, Adopting the AKICG, EMS crisis in Pennsylvania, White Paper. Motion passed 3 – 0.



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- C. A motion was made by Walker seconded by Slahtovsky to award the bid to the highest bidder for the sale of the Lincoln Beach Properties contingent upon meeting the ad requirements. Said high bid being Milton Pitts, who represents several residents in the Lincoln Beach area. Motion passed 3 – 0.
 - D. A motion was made by Walker seconded by Conley to enter into and sign the 5 year Winter Maintenance Services Agreement with Penn Dot. Motion passed 3 – 0.
 - E. A motion was made by Walker seconded by Slahtovsky to authorize the solicitor to advertise for a public hearing on the Gary Schoepke reclassification of the zoning for his property on Oak Lake Road. Motion passed 3 – 0.
 - F. A motion was made by Walker seconded by Slahtovsky to pay Tresco Paving Corporation for Payment #1 for Contract #24-2 in the amount of \$92,917.60, based on Bankson Engineers recommendation and contingent upon receipt of the items outlined in their letter dated June 3, 2024. 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 May 2024. Motion passed 3 – 0.

OPEN TO THE FLOOR

Clint Craft, 1520 Menk Road, stated that he just wanted it be known that he wants to right a wrong and that what he stated last month about the rezoning issue from years back was incorrect and after reading emails, etc. it was stated that after the motion was passed to rezone the township did come back to him and let him know he would have to pay for the rezoning.

George Richard, 350 Hunter Hill Road, stated due to Merwin Road being closed Lower Drennen Road is a disaster. Richard stated there are so many potholes and that large vehicles that need to get to Edgar Industries are using Lower Drennen Road. Conley stated they will patch the holes but due to Lower Drennen Road being a clay base it is really tough to get anything to hold.

Joyce Ewing, 201 Stoney Hill Road, asked about the road maintenance plan the Engineer prepared years ago and where on that list does Lower Drennen Road rank. Conley stated not certain you could just put down binder and seal coat.

Dan Myers, 200 Barnview Drive, asked about the 2 citations filed at the Magistrate's office. Walker replied both cases have been given a continuance.

Milton Pitts, Lincoln Beach, asked about the drain that was put in on the opposite side of the Masons Hotel. Pitts stated it's in the owners driveway. Engineer Moore stated that pipe was installed in the right of way and that the driveway extends out into the right of way.



Joyce Ewing, 201 Stoney Hill Road, was not certain if the residents in attendance knew that former Township Supervisor and Road Foreman, Pete Dombroski, passed away. Supervisor Walker praised Dombroski for all of his time and service he gave to the township and stated Pete will surely be missed and he was a wonderful man and loved in the community.

A moment of silence was taken in memory of Pete Dombroski.

Adjournment

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

Minutes Submitted by: Melissa A. Cortilesio,

Note*** Next monthly meeting, will be held on Wednesday, July 3, 2024, beginning at 7:00 p.m.