

**Union Township Board of Supervisors Special Meeting
February 6, 2020
8:00 am**

The Union Township Board of Supervisors meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Heather Daerr at 8:00 am. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Board Members in attendance by roll call were Richard Lawson, Charles Trax, and Heather Daerr.

Also, in attendance, Michael Cruny, Solicitor, Ms. Roach Roach – Code/Zoning Official, and James Donahoe- Project Manager.

Public Comment on Agenda items: No comments.

Solicitor's Report: Solicitor Cruny explained that at the 2-3-2020 Special Meeting the board voted to appoint Eric Lawson to vacant unexpired supervisor position. At the first vote, Supervisor Lawson abstained and a second vote was held. After the meeting, it was determined that there were four supervisors eligible to vote so the portion of the law which was cited at the advice of the solicitor's office was erroneous. The first order of business is to rescind the appointment of Eric Lawson.

Project Manager Comments: None

New Business:

Motion to rescind the appointment of Eric Lawson to the board of supervisors for the unexpired term.

Motion by Heather Daerr, Second by Charles Trax.

Roll Call Vote: Richard Lawson-YES, Charles Trax-YES, Heather Daerr-YES. Motion Carried.

Supervisor Lawson presented an application from Mr. Ralph Opferman.

Motion to appoint Mr. Ralph Opferman for the supervisor position.

Motion by Charles Trax, Second by Heather Daerr.

Roll Call Vote: Richard Lawson-YES, Charles Trax-YES, Heather Daerr-YES. Motion Carried.

Motion to accept Supervisor Chasko's resignation.

Motion by Heather Daerr, Second by Richard Lawson.

Roll Call Vote: Richard Lawson-YES, Charles Trax-YES, Heather Daerr-YES. Motion Carried.

Solicitor Sweat asked if he submitted a letter to resign. Project Manager James Donahoe said he did and his reasons were personal. Supervisor Chasko said he would communicate these reasons privately to his supporters. Supervisor Daerr said he told her verbally that he was resigning. Project Manager James Donahoe said he has turned in any township property.

Supervisor Daerr asked for any other business before the board.

Solicitor Sweat said they had voted to advertise the chicken ordinance and under the code the board needs to have a hearing. The board agreed to advertise at 4:45 and vote on it at their regular meeting.

Public Comment: None

Remarks from Supervisors:

Supervisor Lawson said he would like Mr. Puglisi to contact WESA and get all the specs for the pump. Supervisor Lawson said the pump only lasted for 1 ½ years and he would like to check these specs. Mr. Puglisi said Al Giralico is handling replacing the pump. Mr. Giralico removed it and said it cannot be rebuilt. Supervisor Lawson reiterated that he wants the exact specs of the pump that was removed.

Supervisor Lawson addressed the slide in Elrama on Short Street. Supervisor Lawson and Mr. Puglisi were there with Washington County Conservation District. The dirt that slid is on lots that Union Township owns. Washington County said it is the landowner's responsibility to clean this. Supervisor Lawson wants to know if there is a procedure to stop the dumping that is happening. A cease and desist was sent to the parties identified but the dumping has not stopped. Mr. Puglisi said there is some question about the ownership on the property. The owner turned the deed over but it was not officially transferred into Union Township name. Supervisor Daerr asked Project Manager James Donahoe to look up the parcel history. Mr. Cruny said, in the meantime, the township can get permission from the landowner to put up barricades to stop the dumping. He also said that the Washington Conservation District will go after Union Township for these violations. Mr. Puglisi said he thinks the township should be proactive to prevent the dumping. Mr. Cruny said they can also put up signs if it is in the township right away and said the township can do it as an emergency if necessary. Mr. Cruny said they cannot block someone's access to their property but if they are doing something illegal, they have other forms of recourse they can take. Mr. Puglisi said the police are aware of the situation. Mr. Cruny said they need to document this issue with pictures. Mr. Puglisi said there is a sewer in there and they need to inspect these pipes and manholes.

Supervisor Lawson said he spoke to Engineer Stiner about Cardox Road and he does not think the township can complete the project on this road. He would like to ask Engineer Stiner to put it out for bid. Mr. Puglisi will have his numbers for next meeting.

Supervisor Daerr asked Mr. Puglisi if he is going to discuss paving project. Mr. Puglisi said they are paving four roads - Trax Road, Cardox Road, Pleasantview Road, and Coal Bluff Road. Harshman put out for a bid on Coal Bluff. Supervisor Lawson said if the township gets a grant, they can do the work. Mr. Cruny explained that if the township is going to hire someone, they have to put it out to bid.

Supervisor Lawson said on Meadow Road they have to look at either putting sewers in or curbs. Mr. Puglisi said they could do the catch basin and the pipework and sub out all the asphalt work. Mr. Puglisi said he is talking to Monongahela about sharing a paver. He does not have an answer on sharing the paver yet. Supervisor Daerr would like Project Manager James Donahoe to look into partnering with Nottingham, North Strabane, or Peters Township for paving the roads.

Supervisor Daerr asked if the boards approved the Drip Waste Water Irrigation. She said she will check if it has been approved.

Supervisor Daerr said that Mr. Puglisi has offered to reconfiguring the desks in the board room to be more work friendly for everyone to see each other better. Supervisor Daerr asked Project Manager James Donahoe to check for items on Craig's list for furniture. Mr. Cruny said to keep in mind in a situation of an active shooter, he suggested not removing all of the cover. Project Manager James Donahoe will incorporate the furniture with the other security issues he is working on. Supervisor Lawson is going to try to get a few ideas.

Supervisor Lawson asked Mr. Puglisi if he has vacation schedules for his men. He asked if Mr. Puglisi is doing reviews and Mr. Puglisi said he just got the approval to do through the union.

Supervisor Lawson asked Mr. Puglisi if he got the air compressor for the shop. Mr. Puglisi said it is hooked up and working.

Supervisor Lawson asked Mr. Puglisi if he has done any catch basins. Mr. Puglisi said he is doing one today.

Supervisor Daerr asked Mr. Puglisi if he got the handbooks signed off by the road crew. Mr. Puglisi said he turned them into Nicole.

Supervisor Daerr asked Mr. Cruny to update the handbook to prorate on the hire date. Mr. Cruny said he could do it today and all administrative staff will have to sign off on the handbook. Supervisor Daerr asked Project Manager James Donahoe to get new signatures when this is done.

Supervisor Lawson asked why the township needs to do reviews with the union in place. Mr. Cruny said he would need to check the contract to see if the union is required to do the reviews.

Supervisor Lawson also restated that the road crew is not permitted to buy anything without a purchase order. They bought soap, and Mr. Puglisi, who is their supervisor, was not even aware of the purchase. Mr. Cruny said to document the issues. Supervisor Daerr stated that this item should be discussed at the regular meeting.

Ms. Roach said that she sent everything about McChain Road to Supervisor Lawson, Supervisor Daerr, Supervisor Trax and Mr. Cruny. Ms. Roach said there has been a cease and desist letter sent. Ms. Roach said he is making his property look like a business. Ms. Roach asked for direction on how to proceed and if Sweat Law Offices can send him a letter advising him that he is in violation. Mr. Cruny said the Ms. Roach is able to do that as the zoning official. She needs to notify him that she has received multiple complaints and he should contact her to discuss the matter. She can tell him that the board is willing to work with him but he needs to move quickly to show he intends to fix the issue. He owns 45 and 48 McChain. Mr. Cruny said Ms. Roach should explain to him that his trucks need to be in a garage. Ms. Roach asked how long she can give him to fix the issue. The time table has to be reasonable based on what the activity is. Mr. Cruny suggested to give him 30 days. He is permitted to have private garages and storage buildings but he cannot have signage. Ms. Roach said she will call him and bring him in to discuss. Supervisor Daerr said this item can be removed from the agenda. This man brought a letter to Ms. Roach about all the other businesses that are also McChain Street. Mr. Cruny said if he brings up the other businesses again, she should tell him that he can file a formal complaint about these other businesses on that road. Mr. Cruny said that Ms. Roach should follow the same procedure if he files these complaints.

Supervisor Daerr asked Ms. Roach for an update regarding the Massari subdivision.


Project Manager James Donahoe asked about the discussion on the credit card. Project Manager James Donahoe said that money would have to transfer for Mr. Puglisi to get the materials discussed at this meeting. Supervisor Daerr and Supervisor Lawson suggested they need to establish accounts to get these materials. They also said Mr. Puglisi needs to pre-plan to buy these materials and job costing in advance.

Ms. Roach asked when the new employee is starting and Supervisor Daerr said they are still waiting for a start date.

Motion to move to Executive Session.

Motion by Heather Daerr, Second by Charles Trax.

Roll Call Vote: Richard Lawson-YES, Charles Trax-YES, Heather Daerr-YES. Motion Carried.


SWEAT LAW OFFICES