

Union Township Board of Supervisors
Emergency Meeting
February 19, 2018
3:30 pm

The Union Township Board of Supervisors emergency meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Heather Daerr at 3:30 pm. The meeting was held at the Union Township Municipal Building, 3904 Finleyville-Elrama Road, Finleyville, PA. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Board members in attendance by roll call were Richard Lawson, Charles Trax, and Heather Daerr. Deborah Sargent and Paul Chasko were absent.

Also in attendance, Robert Balogh-Manager/Asst. Treasurer, Andrew Sweat-Attorney, Nicole Dooly-Secretary/Treasurer.

Public Comment on Agenda Items:

No public comment was made.

New Business:

Agenda items discussed under new business.

- A. Public meeting for the declaration of a state of emergency in Union Township due to widespread flooding and landslides.

Chairperson, Heather Daerr spoke to that of the recent storm event in Union Township. Many areas of Union Township suffered flooding as well as landslides and slips. Mrs. Daerr noted the recent storm was the third major rain event of this year alone, with record amounts of accumulation. She stated on Friday, February 16, 2018, Mr. Lawson and herself spent a lot of time canvassing Union Township looking at a lot of the problem areas. Mr. Lawson and Mrs. Daerr were also accompanied by Manager, Robert Balogh and Engineer Lars MacAulay from Harashman CE Group, LLC. Mrs. Daerr publicly thanked Jeff Lawrence, from Finleyville Volunteer Fire Department who was present at the meeting. Mrs. Daerr also publicly thanked Lenny Bailey, and Elrama Volunteer Fire Company. Mrs. Daerr noted both fire departments are an important asset to the community.

Supervisor, Richard Lawson stated he has completed extensive research regarding the riparian water rights and our local watershed. It is Mr. Lawson's opinion various retention ponds upstream of Union Township are not performing properly. It is his opinion the retention ponds maybe releasing the water too quickly. Mr. Lawson feels further investigation should be done to ensure the holding ponds are operating properly. Mr. Lawson reported he also investigated the area of Bob's Tavern and Route 88. He noted large number of trees and debris are choking off the creek in that area. It is his opinion equipment should be brought to this area to clean and relieve the area of debris. Mr. Lawson stated various contractors within Union Township have offered man power, equipment free of charge to aid in the process. Mr. Lawson feels the aid is owed to residents of Union Township. Supervisor Lawson also spoke to that of landslide and collapsed building that occurred on Rankintown Road on Friday, February 16, 2018. His investigation of that area concluded the creek below the slide area is choked off with large amounts of debris. Mr. Lawson stated that debris is what caused the folks on Linden Street to sustain over three feet of water flooding their properties. Supervisor, Charles Trax and Heather Daerr asked attorney, Andrew Sweat what are the liability issues resulting in clearing the waterways of debris. Mr. Sweat briefed the Board of Supervisors on the theories surround the Riparian Water Rights. Mr. Sweat stated the state of Pennsylvania is under the Natural Flow of Theory. He states you cannot alter, unreasonably diminish its

quantity, quality or velocity. Mr. Sweat stated the rules also pertain to the drainage of water. He stated regarding the retention ponds, under the Natural Flow of Theory they cannot be release the natural flow of water where they are supposed to collect in the retention ponds. Mr. Lawson interjected and stated he is most concerned about blockages in the creeks. Mr. Sweat stated debris can be removed by equipment from the stream banks without formal notice to the DEP. If it is necessary for equipment to enter the stream to facilitate removal of debris the DEP must authorize the activity verbally or in writing. Mr. Trax voiced his concerns regarding liabilities surrounding entering and exiting private properties. He has concerns regarding removing debris from the creek on Rankintown Road for fear of causing more of a slide. Discussion ensued amongst the Board of Supervisors, Attorney, Manager, and audience attendees. The Board of Supervisors concluded to first declare Union Township of Washington County, a disaster and/or emergency with the Township pursuant to the provision of section 7501 of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Services code, 35 C.S.A. §7101 ET SEQ. Mr. Sweat will contact the DEP and make them aware Township workers will be working from the streambanks to clear the creeks of debris clogging the waterways. It is also in the plan for Engineers from Harshman CE Group, LLC and Pete Overcashier-Acting Road Superintendent to examine the most notable areas of concern.

Motion to declare Union Township a state of emergency due to widespread flooding and landslides.
 Motion by Heather Daerr, Second by Charles Trax
 Roll Call Vote: Richard Lawson-YES, Charles Trax-YES, Heather Daerr-YES. Motion Carried.

Public Comment:

Lisa Reeder: 6060 State Route 88, Finleyville, PA. Ms. Reeder expressed her concerns regarding the completion of the Jack Street bridge replacement project. She is concerned why is it taking so long.

Don Snee: 93 Courtney Hill Road, Finleyville, PA. Mr. Snee expressed his concerns regarding the collapsing bridge on Ridge Avenue.

Supervisor Comments:

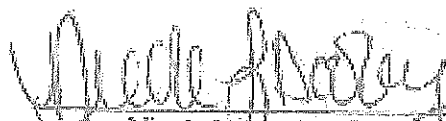
Supervisor, Heather Daerr noted back in the 1990's a hydrological study was performed in Union Township. No remediation steps were taken on any of the recommendations that would help to rectify the areas of concern within the Township. Mrs. Daerr assured the residents the current Board of Supervisors is working to help mitigate these issues.

Supervisor, Richard Lawson asked if the walking bridge at the Pleasant Stream Park has been shut down? Mr. Lawson would like something put across the bridge restricting access.

Motion to adjourn at 4:55 pm.

Motion by Heather Daerr, Second by Charles Trax

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


 Nicole L. Donley, Secretary