

Board Approved: April 27, 2015 with revision as noted.

Union Township Board of Supervisors
Regular Board Meeting
April 13, 2015

The Board of Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Larry Spahr at 7:00 p.m. 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 Stephen Parish, Larry Spahr, Charles Trax, Paul Chasko, Edward Frye. Also in attendance, Dennis Makel—Solicitor, Judy Taylor—Treasurer, Debra Nigon—Secretary, and Peter Grieb—Code Enforcement Officer, Harold Ivery—Building Code Official, also did not attend. Due to a reorganization at Chester Engineers, the Township engineer did not attend.

Public Comment

A group of residents from Elrama attended in regard to the Elrama Sewerage Billing. Not all attending spoke; however, Ms. Terri Hoffman, 13 Circle Avenue, Ms. Stark, 11 Circle Avenue, and Mr. Tennant, 20 Circle Avenue, explained to the Board their concerns and issues with the billing service.

Ms. Hoffman inquired as to whether any grant funding or any other funds could be used to defray the cost of Elrama sewage bills which are a base of \$62 per month based on 4200 gallons with overages assessed over that usage level. She said her bill can often be around \$100 which would be difficult for anyone on a fixed income.

Ms. Hoffman also complained that service fees and interest fees, both overdue penalty fees, are being charged by the current collector, Jordan Tax Service (JTS). She reported that, according to a conversation she had with the collector, these fees are in agreement with the contract signed by the Township. Ms. Hoffman complained that she has been overdue on sewage and has been trying to catch up by adding another \$100 to \$150 over the \$62 due monthly, but that her bill is only reduced by \$18 each month, making it very difficult to ever become current. Also, Ms. Hoffman said that her neighbor is completely paid up and still is being charged a service fee and interest fee every month.

Ms. Hoffman also made complaint about the short three-week collection cycle, from the 1st to the 21st, after which time any payment submitted is considered late, and fees assessed. She said the three-week cycle and the fact that the payment is considered late after the 21st is not indicated anywhere on the invoice and most residents are not even aware of this fact. Also, residents who had an arrearage when PA American was doing the invoicing are receiving notices from JTS requesting payment on that arrearage amount which is continuing to accrue interest. Ms. Hoffman was informed by JTS that the arrearage amount cannot be consolidated into the regular monthly Jordan Tax Service invoice. However, this causes a problem for customers in that, if a payment is paid to the arrearage and the resident cannot afford to also make their regular monthly sewer payment, then they will become delinquent and be assessed penalties on the regular monthly sewer bill.

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Mr. Tennant and Ms. Stark, complained about late deposits of their payments. Tim Tennant said that he writes a check at the beginning of the month and it is not deposited until the end of the month and a late fee is assessed. Mrs. Stark said that she had telephoned Jordan Tax Service about a check that was not deposited and was informed that her payment was discovered in someone's drawer.

Mr. Spahr said that a meeting was held with Jordan Tax Service to determine what fees are assessed and how payments are applied. At that time, the Board requested documentation from Jordan Tax Service further explaining their billing procedures. Some documentation has been received for review.

In regard to grant funding, Mr. Spahr responded that the financing for the Elrama Sewerage System was a combination of a one million dollar grant combined with financing through PennVest, which was considered one of the best situations in terms of financing that you could find at the time. Representative Murtha had located grant monies for the Township but the grant monies alone were not sufficient to fund the entire project. About \$32 of the \$62 base is for debt service on the Penn Vest loans. Once the loan was finalized, it cannot be renegotiated.

The residents were informed that Jordan tax service has been collecting for the Township for four years. A three year contract had been signed with Jordan Tax Service which automatically renews for one year for each year after that. It is required that ninety days notice be given if the contract is not to be renewed. The Board last received a list of arrearages totaling \$40,000 for the Elrama sewerage customers.

The solicitor requested the name, address and phone number of all residents attending having similar issues.

Sherry Ronko, who is running for Prothonotary, requested to speak to inform the public of the tasks performed by the Prothonotary's office as well as to present her qualifications for that position. She explained how the Prothonotary handles the civil side of the courts in regard to issues involving divorce, mortgage foreclosures, etc. She also noted that many people are unaware that they also store old records in a limestone mine and that Washington County residents may be able to find records of their family history if anything came in through Washington County. She stated that she has been working at the Prothonotary's office and has experience in many of the positions there. She requested the support of the public.

Shawn Costa, 121 Cinque Terra, inquired about the developer's bond on Tuscan Estates. Mr. Makel said that the bond was reinstated in the amount of repairs remaining in the sum of \$138,000. He said a meeting is needed to work on a developer's agreement so that there isn't a need to litigate and that the solicitors were communicating towards a meeting date. Mr. Spahr said that the Township gave Mr. Danielson another thirty days since he indicated he wanted to continue developing the property and was trying to work that out but whatever was in the works did not come into fruition.

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A resident of Grosetto Drive expressed concern that \$138,000 would be sufficient to surface the road. Ms. JoEllen Meek, 124 Viareggio Way, expressed concern that children are playing on the ~~propane~~-diesel tank and no one knows whether anything is still in that tank.

In regard to comments on vehicles ~~and a propane~~the diesel tank and other items still remaining on site, Mr. Makel requested Mr. Grieb to start citing the developer.

The road crew was instructed to remove two plastic horses where the guard rail had been installed because they are being blown down over the hill. Also, a street sign that the road crew had stored for spring from a breakaway pole damaged during winter plowing will be put back up. The road superintendent was instructed to check to see if any fluid remains in the propane tank.

Mr. Makel will talk to the Tuscany residents tomorrow.

Mr. Hoey, Finleyville-Elrama Road did not get to comment until later in the meeting. However, he reported that he moved one of the trucks on his property and that the other one is licensed. All debris has been cleaned up. He also said that renovation is almost complete and Mr. Ivery is due to do an inspection when he returns from vacation.

Departmental Reports

Police Report.

Officer Loughner read the statistics. Mr. Trax complimented SWRPD for slowing traffic at Mineral Beach on Saturday.

Road Report:

Mr. Tom Mellor, Road Superintendent, provided his report on the activities of the Road Department. A written report was also provided to the Board. He noted that there were some plumbing leaks that had to be repaired and a back flow device which had to be replaced at Brownsville Park due to the severe winter. Also, he noted that a warning has to be given to the Soccer Association in regard to gravel being thrown on the roof of the concession stand, most likely by children. Jason Jaki of the Recreation Board who was in attendance, will notify the Soccer Association.

Mr. Mellor also said that the Township was requested to absorb half of the Pumpkin Center Slide repair cost. He said that Enterprise already removed the bottom half of the hill, which cost \$50,000. They would like to remove the top; however roof drains and water is flowing down continuing to cause issues.

The pipe repair/replacement at 5100 College Street was started. Mr. Mellor reported that the new pipe will be going in on Wednesday.

Mr. Mellor said that a roof of a building at the Nike Site which is used to store their mowers, has a bad roof which needs to be replaced. Trees were laying on the roof and had to be cut

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back. The main building also has a roof which needs to be replaced and is leaking badly. The underlying block structure is still okay if they desire to keep the building.

More mulch is required at Jason Park and Brownsville Park. Mr. Mellor reported that it doesn't appear that many people use Jason Park; however, the people residing there were thankful that it was cleaned up. The sink hole which was found last year is still covered by a metal plate with poles sticking up which the Road Superintendent would like to see replaced with something else if it is to be left much longer. He was requested by the Board to fill the sink hole with 2B stone. It was also discussed that there is park equipment which should be removed from people certified to remove playground equipment. It was also noted that a certified playground inspection should be done. Mr. Mellor said that he has to replace shingles from the concession stand because about 12 caps fell off the roof. He has the shingles and will perform the repair.

The under drains on Garvin Road and the drain on Lobbs Run need to be cleared.

Albert Banahasky commented on the roads which were micropaved last year. In regard to the road he lives on, he believes the road held out very well demonstrating that the micropaving was effective.

Golden Eagle requested to store some materials during the PennDot paving project which will pave Finleyville-Elrama out to Thomas Church. Mr. Parish will contact Mike Adams.

Mr. Parish said that at the annual Penn Dot outreach meeting, it was discussed that the Venetia Bridge project will begin in June 2016. Also, he said that he inquired at the Penn Dot meeting in regard to the issue where the light is not tripping at Brownsville Road and Rt. 88. Someone will be out to look at it and will research whether another plan could be instituted, though it may be a while until it can be fit into the schedule. The gentleman will call the Supervisors to notify them before he comes out to review the area.

Mr. Parish announced that the road inspection will be at 7:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 14, if any available Supervisor would like to attend. Otherwise, he, the engineer and the road superintendent will perform the inspection.

There was a correction on the total of salt purchased and stock pile used. It was estimated that \$77,000 of salt was used last year.

It was mentioned that EQT had given the Township a heads up that they would like to have a well up and running on property owned by Mr. Abel and will be wanting to bore underneath McClelland Road to supply water.

Motion to approve general fund bills in the sum of \$63,998.90, as of April 13, 2015 as presented by the Treasurer, subject to being true and correct.

Motion by Steve Parish, Second by Ed Frye

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, abstaining from anything having to do with Finleyville Airport, Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Frye-yes. Motion carried.

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The park cleaning contract was discussed. From those who responded to the advertisement, only one gentleman appeared to be interviewed. He was the same individual as had picked up the job from Mr. Cushey at the end of last fall. He was requested to obtain clearances.

Motion to appoint Troy Pauley to clean Brownsville Park facilities for 2015, subject to clearances being returned and clear.

Motion by Ed Frye, Second by Paul Chasko

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Frye-yes. Motion carried.

Motion to adopt the Resolution for the Emergency Operations Plan.

Motion by Ed Frye, Second by Steve Parish

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Frye-yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Chasko reported that the PennDot Aviation Bureau inspected Finleyville Airport and he copied excerpts from their report for the Board. According to the report, the gas well head and tank as well as the trees at the end of Runway 32 are still an issue. The tree project was the project being started this month. Whether the well head was grandfathered or not was discussed. Also whether or not a permit was required from the Aviation Bureau for the gas well was mentioned. The concern was that an airplane would hit the well site. Mr. Makel will call John Logan from the PennDot Aviation Bureau and get back to the Board in writing as to what the Aviation Bureau wants. Mr. Makel will inquire about the permit when he speaks with the Bureau of Aviation.

A representative from Finleyville Airport inquired about Mr. Brizzi not signing the contracts prepared by Mr. Makel for tree removal. He was informed that this will be discussed in executive session and will be a legal issue.

In regard to the Overlook Street sewage issue, Ms. Taylor said that she had asked for the response from Bethel Park which had been sent to Carl DeiCas at Chester Engineers who now might be working for KLH. However, though she has asked twice, she has not yet received anything back. Mr. Makel will call Chester Engineers about the release of Union Township documents. The Treasurer noted that Chester Engineers would like to appoint another engineer to handle the Township's engineering needs. The Board will need to consider whether they want to switch engineering firms or not.

No motion was necessary.

Ms. Taylor said she received two PSI invoices but that the final water and noise studies were not yet received. It was suggested that all reports be in before the invoices are paid.

Mr. Ivery and Mr. Grieb were asked to give a report. They said that they met with Chad Wissinger, the solicitor for Tomko. Tomko will be starting on the crushing. He has invited zoning and supervisors to hear the rock crusher which has not yet been delivered to the site and set up. He has eight high pressure water hoses and will be continuously watering down so that the issues from last year with dust will not be repeated.

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Municipal Consulting Services reported that Tomko was required to turn in a packet on Tuesday regarding the building construction which will have to go to the Planning Commission. He said the packet included information on the expansion of the site. Tomko has sent MCS the drawings and they are in process of getting DEP permits. Mr. Grieb said that, in terms of noise, if the noise comes in under a certain decibel level, then it will conform to Ordinance requirements.

Mr. Breinig, 44 Finley Avenue, commented on not being included in the meeting. And Mr. LaTorre, 7 Boyka Drive, had questions about the measurement of the noise. Also there were concerns about the dust and where the water would flow into when the crushed stone was hosed down and whether that was an environmental issue.

Mr. Breinig also mentioned a car which was being chopped up on McChain Road and asked about the junk yard on Stone Church Road.

The appointment of an engineer was held in abeyance for further inquiry by Mr. Makel.

In regard to the garage addition interior, Mr. Frye mentioned that some work is still needed on the floor and for further support of the kitchenette counter. Mr. Spahr explained that the work could not fully be covered since the costs were being contained, but that the ambulance service agreed to complete any remaining work.

Motion to approve payment to Swede Construction for the addition interior in the sum of \$23,200.00

Motion by Steve Parish, Second by Paul Chasko

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Frye-yes. Motion carried.

It was noted that the ambulance service will be informed to apply for an occupancy permit. Mr. Gibson has informed the Township that he will purchase two auto garage openers because none was supplied with the garage doors. Ms. Taylor said that fire extinguishers are required and will be ordered. Mr. Mellor commented that the ambulance service is completing installation of communications equipment.

Discussion of the Natural Gas lease was tabled.

The summer bids for superpave were discussed. There was a dollar increase over the cost last year with Hanson as the low bidder.

Motion to accept Washington County Joint Municipal Purchasing Council bids for superpave from Hanson Aggregates at \$61 for ID2, \$55 for binder, and \$53 for 25mm binder.

Motion by Ed Frye, Second by Paul Chasko

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Frye-yes. Motion carried.

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Motion to approve Golden Eagle as alternate supplier of superpave.

Motion by Paul Chasko, Second by Ed Frye

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Frye-yes. Motion carried.

Motion to advertise for gasoline and diesel bids with bids to be opened bids on May 25, 2015, at the second monthly meeting.

Motion by Steve Parish, Second by Paul Chasko

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Frye-yes. Motion carried.

The Southwest Training Summer Youth Program was discussed. Mr. Frye said he spoke with the organization which is trying to place youth in businesses in the Township. The youth will work for 6-8 weeks at no cost to the Township with their worker's comp being covered. Workers will be ages 16 to 18. Mr. Frye will attend any meetings planned on the subject. There is a meeting in May. Mr. Trax also commented that he has had a good experience with this program which has been used at Trax Farms.

Motion to obtain three workers from the Southwest Training Summer Youth Program.

Motion by Ed Frye, Second by Paul Chasko

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Frye-yes. Motion carried.

Motion to approve a fireworks display planned by Finleyville Volunteer Fire Department for Friday, July 24, 2015 with proof of insurance being supplied.

Motion by Steve Parish, Second by Paul Chasko

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Frye-yes. Motion carried.

Jason Jaki, representing the Recreation Board, presented quotes for two picnic tables under the new pavilion and requested to obtain quotes for pressure washing of the concession stand.

The Board questioned whether there were any special requirements on assembly of the picnic tables as is required with playground equipment. In regard to the playground, the Board agreed that they must get the inspection done. In regard to removal of equipment from Jason Street Park, whenever grant monies are used for playground equipment – there are requirements from thence forth, and before it is moved, DCNR should be contacted.

Motion to have the Treasurer contact a certified playground inspector and to obtain a proposal and to contact the DCNR about transfer of the Jason Street park equipment from one area to another.

Motion by Steve Parish, Second by Paul Chasko

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Frye-yes. Motion carried.

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Motion to purchase two picnic tables and get quotes for pressure washing of the concession stand.

Motion by Steve Parish, Second by Paul Chasko

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Frye-yes. Motion carried.

In regard to spraying to eliminate overgrowth on the right-of-way at Brownsville Park, the Treasurer was instructed to inform Columbia Gas that they can cut the growth down but not spray.

Three recycling events were announced.

- Hard to Recycle Event, May 9, Washington Mall, May 9, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Tire Collection Event, Washington Mall, May 30, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- PRC Collection Events in various locations, visit www.prc.org or call PRC at 412-488-7452

Mr. Snee inquired about the issue involving flooding on Courtney Hill Road which was discussed at the last meeting. Mr. Mellor said that he spoke to the daughter of Mr. Canestrone, who recently passed away, and she is continuing to run the pumps which controlled flooding.

Motion to go to Executive Session at 9:23p.m.

Motion by Paul Chasko, Second by Ed Frye

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Frye-yes. Motion carried.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 9:48 p.m.

The solicitor said that they discussed matters involving personnel issues and possible litigation involving the airport and sewage issues on Finleyville-Elrama Road.

Motion to adjourn at 9:55 p.m.

Motion by Steve Parish, Second by Ed Frye

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-yes, Frye-yes. Motion carried.


Debra A. Nigon, Secretary