

**Union Township Board of Supervisors  
Public Meeting  
July 27, 2022 5:30pm**

The Union Township Board of Supervisors meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Heather Daerr at 5:30 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Moment of Prayer:** Pastor Ken

**Roll Call:**

Attendees were: Heather Daerr, Chairperson; Charles Trax, Vice Chairman/Roadmaster; Richard Lawson, Supervisor/Treasurer; Michael Barna, Supervisor; Michalle Dupree, Supervisor

Also, in attendance were: Roberta Singer, Secretary/Ass't Treasurer; Terri Gladus, Project Manager; Colin Chung, Municipal/GIS Intern; Gary Sweat, Solicitor, Sweat Law Offices; Sean O'Dell, Engineer, Harshman CE Group, LLC; Sarah Scott, Esq. Sweat Law Offices,

**Proof of Publication Confirmed**

**Public Comment:**

Darla Savko - 68 Aber Road – asked a question about CDL licensure of new road crew employee. Gladus said she would follow up. Asked if Supervisor Barna could introduce himself

Linda Evans-Boren – 22 Parkvue Drive – expressed concern about Colin Chung's internship extension due to budget concerns. Commented on attorney involvement in the Right to Know the process and engineers doing secretarial work.

Lori Kenavey – 6088 Brownsville Road Ext – asked Supervisor Barna for introduction and about his intentions as Supervisor. Asked the solicitor if there are any issues with the lawsuits that Barna is involved in with the Township. Commented on engineering bills.

Pete Guido – Tuscany Estates – asked for updates on the engineer meeting regarding Tuscany Estates.

Kevin Daerr – 6187 Route 88 – asked about Board of Auditor's meeting and a right to know request that occurred. Supervisor Dupree responded.

**Supervisor/Staff Comments:**

Supervisor Barna provided background information on himself, his prior Board appointments, the lawsuits he was involved in, and the sewage issue on his property and that he is on public sewage.

Project Manager, Terri Gladus responded to the conflict of interest accusation made against her at a prior meeting

Supervisor Dupree presented a binder containing Right to Know requests and associated correspondence that she found in the office, including an email between Secretary and Solicitor's office about sending documents to a "wrong address" and other correspondence regarding . She stated that she was charged for transcribing transcripts for herself and the Township to keep. She asked the Board if they were aware of this.

Chairwoman Daerr asked if in any of those emails any supervisors were cc'd  
Secretary Singer stated she created the binder to keep track of Right to Know requests  
Chairwoman Daerr clarified that stenographer's work is not transcribed unless requested. She stated that she did a RTK and paid a large sum to have a hearing transcribed because no one had asked for it prior to herself.

Dupree stated it was very atypical and stated what Supervisor Daerr asked for was a court proceeding

Daerr asked her to repeat that

Dupree stated that Daerr stated in a public meeting was a court proceeding

Daerr asked what court repeating she said she requested

Dupree said she asked for a court proceeding in an open meeting

Daerr stated that did not happen

Dupree stated she did not say she requested that she asked, "wasn't yours a court proceeding"

Dupree commented that she cannot find Resolutions from the 70's and 80's in the resolution book that is in the file room.

Daerr asked Dupree to clarify if she was asking the current board where the resolution book is from the 1970s and 80s.

Gladus addressed public comment regarding Intern Chung not being budgeted for and that this is during a time when she will be on unpaid leave. She addressed Savko's CDL question and said she would follow up with her.

**Executive Sessions:**

Wednesday, July 13, 2022 (Personnel and Litigation)

**Department Reports:**

**Engineers Report-** noted that he has found resolutions in minute books from the past, DEP pre-application meeting for the Mingo Sewage project, the Coal Bluff bid, Elrama Park construction, and responded to the Tuscany Estates engineering meeting question

**Financial Report-** Chairwoman commented that the report is in the packet but Mr. Palermo could not make it tonight

**Treasurer's Report-** commented on escrow accounts,

**Project Manager Report-** in packet and will comment as items come up

**Intern Report/Presentation-** Introduced himself and presented on the items he completed for the Township over the summer, including MS4 permitting, mapping, AV research, and created a snowplow tracking application. Gladus stated how impressed she has been with him, how thankful she was to have him as an intern and that he truly undersold himself in his presentation.

**Chairwoman's Report:** Supervisor Daerr reiterated Colin's summer accomplishments. Supervisor Daerr stated that Chung assisted with MS4 permitting and completing all of the outfall inspections needed for this permit cycle, researched and developed a snowplow tracker application, improved the GIS zoning maps so they are up to date and added descriptions of common setbacks for administrative ease, updated manhole inspection maps, sanitary sewer base maps and created an interactive map application for same, created ESRI Story Map to educate the public on FEMA flood map zones, digitized the Township complaint form for ease of citizen submittal and researched and implemented AV solutions for improved sound quality of meeting live streams and a wired microphone solution.

**Elrama Pump Station Report-** Lawson stated his concerns about water infiltration and that he is working on it

**Solicitors Report-** commented that Tomko is requesting a year extension on their grading permit, concerns, and plan of action for the Veterans Memorial Park Project, that Supervisor Barna is absolutely able to serve, and that Supervisors maintain personal and property rights as a Supervisor but regardless, his cases are closed.

Stated the Township insurance carrier settled the Guess case and are preparing a settlement. Responded to the right to know request comment and commended Bobbi for keeping records as they are often required should they get repealed, show up in pleadings, etc. Commented on discounts on legal fees.

Dupree commented on the right to know requests and money spent. Not that the money was not deserved but questioning how much the Township uses them.

Daerr commented on the mess, including wretched sewer conditions and the costs associated with having to face them.

**Unfinished Business:**

Vacancies:

Road Master

Parks and Recreation Board

Board of Auditors

Planning Department Alternate

**Action Items:**

Motion to approve recognizing the existing Township Employee Handbook, especially as it pertains to overtime, and that Chairwoman Heather Daerr was elected to be the Supervisor/Department Head of the Township Administration staff by majority vote during the 2022 Reorganization Meeting.

Motion: Lawson

Second: Daerr

Deliberation: Dupree commented she was confused by what the motion was. Gladus clarified. Dupree stated concern with having one Supervisor approving expenditures.

Sweat noted that it was proper to delegate one Supervisor in this way, as it was done by a Board vote. Lawson stated he had to approve overtime for the Road Crew as they had 911 calls over the weekend.

Roll Call: Daerr- yes Lawson- yes Barna- yes Dupree- no Trax- yes

Motion Carried

Motion to table key bank status

Motion: Daerr

Second: Lawson

Deliberation: Daerr stated this was her error, and her intent was for this item to be a discuss not an action item.

Roll Call: Trax- yes Daerr- yes Lawson- yes Barna- yes Dupree- yes

Motion Tabled

Motion to approve Terri Gladus, Project Manager as Township Planning Director

Motion: Daerr

Second: Lawson

Deliberation: Dupree commented that she had concerns with Gladus' experience in planning. Gladus stated she absolutely intends on working with Sean for a smooth transition, learning experience, and that she also has a master's degree in planning.

Roll Call: Dupree- no Trax- yes Daerr- yes Lawson- yes Barna- yes

Motion Carried

Motion to approve Project Manager, Terri Gladus, and Supervisor Dupree to serve as the liaisons for the Police Department Contract negotiations

Motion: Daerr

Second: Barna

Deliberation: none

Roll Call: Dupree- Abstain Trax- yes Daerr- yes Lawson- yes Barna- yes

Motion Carried

Dupree abstained because the motion was about her.

Motion to approve privately owned deduct meter policy

Motion: Lawson

Second: Daerr

Deliberation: Dupree stated that she did not get a copy of the policy, email correspondence was discussed, Gladus stated she could not contribute as this was Ms. Singer's project primarily so she recommended that the item be tabled until Ms. Singer can speak on it.

Motion to rescind motion to approve the privately owned deduct meter policy

Motion: Lawson

Second: Daerr

Deliberation: none

Roll Call: Lawson- yes Barna- yes Dupree- yes Trax- yes Daerr- yes

Motion to Rescind Carried

Motion to table privately owned deduct meter policy

Motion: Daerr

Second: Lawson

Deliberation: none

Roll Call: Trax- yes Barna- yes Dupree- yes Daerr- yes Lawson- yes

Motion Tabled

Motion to approve the Project Manager to submit an ARC Grant Pre-application for Mingo Circle Sewage Project – Initial request being \$750,000.00

Motion: Daerr

Second: Lawson

Deliberation: Sweat asked if there was a match, Gladus responded.

Roll Call: Daerr- yes Lawson- yes Barna- yes Dupree- yes Trax- yes

Motion Carried

Motion to approve the contract with Ms. Alyssa Beachy for a fall 2022 internship. Note: This is an unpaid internship for experience and course credit through Penn State University World System.

Motion: Daerr

Second: Lawson

Deliberation: none

Roll Call: Trax- yes Daerr- yes Lawson- yes Barna- yes Dupree- yes

Motion Carried

Motion to approve Colin Chung's internship to extend from 300 hours to 400 hours so that he may serve in an administrative capacity temporarily

Motion: Lawson

Second: Trax

Deliberation: none

Roll Call: Dupree- yes Trax- yes Daerr- yes Lawson- yes Barna- yes

Motion Carried

Motion to approve the purchase of tires for Side boom Mower from Valley Tire Co. At a cost of \$1,497.58. Received 2<sup>nd</sup> bid from Briggs Tire for a cost of \$1,625.00.

Motion: Lawson

Second: Trax

Deliberation: Lawson stated that he wanted three bids but this was all the road crew could obtain

Roll Call: Dupree- yes Trax- yes Daerr- yes Lawson- yes Barna- yes

Motion Carried

Motion to approve meeting minutes from May 25, 2022, with revisions requested

Motion: Daerr

Second: Lawson

Deliberation: Dupree stated that the minutes have selective redaction, misinformation and are inaccurate in her opinion.

Roll Call: Lawson- yes Barna- abstain Dupree- no Trax- yes Daerr- yes

Motion Carried

Barna abstained due to not yet being on the board during the time of the meeting

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, Board of Supervisors public meeting minutes

Motion: Daerr

Second: none

Motion Died

Motion to approve the meeting minutes from the July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Board of Supervisors public meeting

Motion: Lawson

Second: Trax

Deliberation: Dupree stated that the minutes have selective redaction, misinformation and are inaccurate in her opinion.

Roll Call: Trax- yes Daerr- yes Lawson- yes Barna- abstain Dupree- no

Motion Carried

Barna abstained due to not yet being on the board during the time of the meeting

### **Discussion Items:**

Discussion regarding legal updates on very lawsuits within the Township. Solicitor Sweat provided updates on the current status.

Mader Federal Lawsuit: on appeal to the 3<sup>rd</sup> circle court of appeals and waiting of scheduling of an argument. The two decisions by Judge Emery in state court were both appealed.

PCSA regarding Finleyville Elrama Road Sewage: mediation was attended and PCSA made a motion to enforce what they perceive to be a settlement at the mediation level, and we identified clear case law that identified there is no settlement at mediation.

Briefs have been filed and we are waiting for a decision from the judge.

Puglisi for Contract Payments: outstanding

Discussion regarding Clairton Municipal Authority. Lawson wants the Board to direct Sweat to contact PCSA for a formal update. Board agreed to ask Gladus to submit a RTK request and investigate the Allegheny County open records to find out as much as possible before it goes to the solicitors.

Discussion regarding the purchase of 5 abandoned lots from repository for citizen immediate repurchase

Discussion regarding the donation of a window air conditioner for the Road Crew lunchroom

Discussion regarding refunding Mr. Sever Personal Days/Hours for activities relating to obtaining his CDL license which cannot be performed outside of normal work hours

Discuss key access to 13 Mingo Circle home owned by the Township and PSATS recommendation for unrestricted key access to the internal Township file room.

Discussion regarding Veteran' Park construction status, engineer and solicitor recommendations, and waterline installation

**Bill Pay List Approvals:**

Motion to approve payroll dated July 22, 2022, in the amount of \$13,658.72 for 2 administration, 1 intern, 3 road crew, and 1 tax collector

Motion: Trax

Second: Lawson

Deliberation: none

Roll Call: Daerr- yes Lawson- yes Barna- abstain Dupree- no Trax- yes

Motion Carried

Barna abstained due to not being on the board during this bill pay period

Motion to approve the bill pay list for the Brentwood Bank General Account in the amount of \$15,524.65

Motion: Lawson

Second: Trax

Deliberation: Dupree commented that this includes Gallagher solicitor bills and that bills are in this list that are over a year old. Daerr commented on the ongoing litigation that leads to these bills.

Roll Call: Trax- yes Daerr- yes Lawson- yes Barna- abstain Dupree- no

Motion Carried

Barna abstained due to not being on the board during this bill pay period

Motion to approve the bill pay list for the Brentwood Bank Elrama Sewage account in the amount of \$6,672.63

Motion: Lawson

Second: Daerr

Deliberation: none

Roll Call: Dupree- no Trax- yes Daerr- yes Lawson- yes Barna- abstain

Motion Carried

Barna abstained due to not being on the board during this bill pay period



**Correspondence:** none

Motion to enter executive session at 7:54 PM regarding personnel

Motion: Daerr

Second: Trax

Deliberation: none

Roll Call: Dupree- yes Trax- yes Daerr- yes Lawson- yes Barna- abstain

Motion Carried

Returned from executive session at 9:25PM

**Public Comment**

Charles Wilson – 316 Stone Church Road – stated that Gary and the Board must take responsibility for anything that comes out of their offices. Commented on attorney bills and how they are being accounted for in accounting.

Darla Savko – 68 Aber Road – commented on accounting and delayed bills. Asked about code of conduct that employees should sign off on and the email/binder issue needs to be addressed.

Linda Evans-Boren – Parkvue Drive – commented on the response to her right-to-know requests, she feels she was criticized, and solicitor bill charges

Kevin Daerr - 6187 State Route 88 – commented on employee rights and that the board should be careful with their employees.

**Remarks and / or comments by Supervisors and / or Staff- none**

**Motion to Adjourn** meeting at 9:38 PM

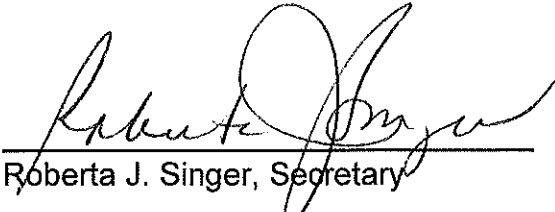
Motion: Daerr

Second: Trax

Deliberation: none

Roll Call: Daerr- yes Lawson- yes Barna- yes Dupree- yes Trax- yes

Motion Carried



Roberta J. Singer, Secretary