

Union Township Board of Supervisors Public Meeting

September 14, 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 was recited

Roll Call:

Attendees were Heather Daerr, Chairperson; Richard Lawson, Supervisor/Treasurer; Michael Barna, Supervisor; Michalle Dupree, Supervisor

Vice Chairman, Charles Trax was absent.

Also, in attendance were Terri Gladus, Project Manager; Gary Sweat, Solicitor, Sweat Law Offices; Sean O'Dell, Engineer, Harshman CE Group, LLC; Sarah Scott, Esq. Sweat Law Offices; Alyssa Beachy, Municipal Intern

Proof of publication Confirmed

Public Comment:

Charles Wilson – 316 Stone Church Rd. – Addressed WTAE news story and wants to know where the money is going

Moment of Prayer: by Paster Ken

Public Comment (continued):

Tom Hart – 11 Lake Dr. – Addressed SEREMS contract, expressed concern for the waterline going into Veterans Memorial Park, and WTAE news story

Larry Spahr – 181 McChain Rd. – Commented that he will wait to comment until he sees how the Board addresses the Water Bill/WTAE story

Linda Evans Boren – 22 Parkview Drive– Addressed WTAE news story and she is concerned that the law firm bills are too high

Sandy Dupree – State Route 88 - Addressed WTAE news story and advised citizens to vote in the upcoming election

Lori Kenavey – 6088 Brownsville Rd. EXT. – Addressed WTAE news story and accused the township of misappropriating money

Supervisor Comment:

Supervisor/Treasurer Lawson addressed a public comment about PCSA, and audits being conducted in the past and there was no suspicious activity reported

Supervisor Dupree agreed with the public that a forensic audit should be conducted

Supervisor Daerr advised Dupree to put a forensic audit on the agenda and addressed social media smear campaign against the supervisors when a former lawsuit was filed

Department Reports:

Engineers Report – will comment as needed on upcoming agenda items

Chairmans Report – thanked administration, Sweat Law offices, and Sarah Scott for their work and advised citizens to look at new resources being put on the Townships website and see where the tax money is going to

Dupree stated that she has a solicitor bill and stated the discount was due to the Puglisi settlement amount. She also commented on some bills on the bill pay list being over a year old.

Daerr commented that Dupree has not been approving bill pays except for 1 in 9 months. Dupree stated that she has a good reason why.

Project Manager Report – a potential project concerning tree limbs on a state road should be added to the next agenda to discuss and will comment as items arise.

Police Report – Reported all violations and incidents that happened in the township

Solicitor's Report – will comment as needed on upcoming agenda items and reminded board to save all matters of personnel for an upcoming executive session.

Bank Account Balances – Dupree asked question regarding differences in Monday bill pay beginning balance and current bill pay beginning balance. Singer to follow up with clarifying email.

Unfinished Business:

Vacancies – Parks & Recreation board position, board of auditor's position, planning department alternate, board of supervisor's position

Action Items:

Motion to move agenda item number nineteen (19) to be agenda item number one (1) as there are representatives from Tractor Supply present to answer questions, but they cannot stay the whole time

Motion: Daerr

Second: Lawson

Deliberation: none

Roll Call: Barna – yes Lawson – yes Daerr – yes Dupree – yes

Motion Carried

Motion to approve Sea Mountain Ventures (Tractor Supply) request for Temporary Building Permit Agreement and Sewer Pipeline Agreement

Motion: Lawson

Second: Barna

Deliberation: none

Roll Call: Dupree – Abstain Daerr – yes Lawson – yes Barna – yes

Motion Carried

Dupree abstained due to lack of information on the project

Discussion regarding to WTAE coverage. WTAE reported that Union Twp. has a delinquent water bill, and the fire hydrants will be shut off. Additionally, they reported that the water bill was paid with grant money. Barna discussed how the media arrived at his house and Lawson explained how the media showed up to his office. Gladus explained how she talked to Pennsylvania American Water, and they would not shut off water to fire hydrants. Additionally, grant money was not used to pay the water bill. Gladus also explained that the Secretary/Treasurer was able to diminish the late fee(s) involved with the bill, and they are investigating why they never received an actual paper document explaining the shut off notice.

Motion to approve official Township media response or press release

Motion: Barna

Second: Daerr

Deliberation: Dupree mentioned discussing late fee of late water bills in an executive session. Daerr clarified that she wants this to be a press release and additional interview if possible.

Roll Call: Daerr – yes Lawson – yes Barna – yes Dupree – no

Motion carried

Daerr stated “this was a stunt and an exhausted attempt to generate elevated attention and negative publicity to Union Township. It was far-fetched and designed to potentially harm Union Township’s ability to receive grants, thus harming its residents” and asked for it to be included in the minutes.

Motion to approve minutes from January 26, 2022, Public Meeting

Motion: Daerr

Second: Lawson

Deliberation: none

Roll Call: Dupree – no Daerr – yes Lawson – yes Barna – abstain

Barna Abstained due to not being present for that meeting

Motion failed

Motion to minutes from February 9, 2022, Public Meeting

Motion: Daerr

Second: Lawson

Deliberation: Dupree stated that the meeting minutes were already approved

Roll Call: Dupree – no Daerr – yes Lawson – yes Barna – abstain

Barna Abstained due to not being present for that meeting

Motion to table failed

Motion to table the Minutes from April 13, 2022, Public Meeting

Motion: Lawson

Second: Daerr

Deliberation: Dupree stated minutes were passed on June 22 meeting

Motion to rescind the motion to approve Minutes from April 13, 2022, Public meeting

Motion: Lawson

Second: Daerr

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

Barna Abstained due to not being present for that meeting

Motion Carried

Motion to table the minutes from April 13, 2022, Public Meeting

Motion: Daerr

Second: Lawson

Deliberation: Dupree stated minutes were passed on June 22 meeting

Roll Call: Lawson – yes Barna – abstained Dupree – no Daerr – yes

Motion failed

Barna Abstained due to not being present for that meeting

Motion to approve Minutes from August 10, 2022, Public Meeting

Motion: Lawson

Second: Barna

Deliberation: Daerr stated to correct typo errors

Roll Call: Daerr – yes Lawson – yes Barna – yes Dupree – abstain

Dupree abstained due to not reading over the minutes

Motion carried

Motion to approve Minutes from August 24, 2022, Public Meeting

Motion: Lawson

Second: Daerr

Deliberation: Daerr stated to correct typo errors

Roll Call: Dupree – abstain Daerr – yes Lawson – yes Barna – yes

Dupree abstained due to not reading over the minutes

Motion to approve Resolution No. 14 of 2022 acknowledging Jerry R. M. Mease on becoming an Eagle Scout for Boy Scout

Motion: Daerr

Second: Lawson

Deliberation: none

Roll Call: Dupree – yes Daerr – yes Lawson – yes Barna – yes

Motion carried

Motion to approve reimbursing the General Fund Account \$174,367.35 from Overlook Sewage Account for initial start-up costs

Motion: Lawson
Second: Daerr
Deliberation: Dupree motioned to table due to the asst. treasurer and Palermo not being present to ask questions. No seconds. Motion to table died
Roll Call: Lawson – yes Barna – yes Dupree – no Daerr – yes
Motion carried

Motion to approve reimbursing General Fund Account in the amount of \$166,394.29 for the Overlook Sewer Engineering work

Motion: Lawson
Second: Barna
Deliberation: Dupree motioned to table due to the asst. treasurer and Palermo not being present to ask questions. No seconds. Motion to table died
Roll Call: Daerr – yes Lawson – yes Barna – yes Dupree – no
Motion carried

Motion to table reimbursing Frank Server two days off for the days he had to take off to complete his CDL certification. Per the 7/27/2022 BOS discussion, these were the testing times he could not complete after hours. This will be contingent upon Mr. Server providing documentation that he attended these two days of classes

Motion: Daerr
Second: Barna
Deliberation: none
Roll Call: Daerr – yes Lawson – yes Barna – yes Dupree – yes
Motion tabled

Discuss Resolution 15 of 2022 which sets the fee for Road Entry Permits

Motion to approve Resolution 15 of 2022 which sets the fee for Road Entry Permits at \$400.00 (fee) and \$500.00 (escrow)

Motion: Daerr
Second: Lawson
Deliberation: Dupree wanted justification of high cost in comparison of other towns
Roll Call: Dupree – no Daerr – yes Lawson – yes Barna – yes
Motion carried

Discuss VMP waterline project

Motion to approve purchase of supplies to install a waterline at Veterans Memorial Park. Road Crew will complete work and cost of supplies not to exceed \$3,300.00 per the quote received from Cox Piping Supply

Motion: Lawson
Second: Barna
Deliberation: none
Roll Call: Daerr – yes Lawson – yes Barna – yes Dupree – yes
Motion carried

Motion to approve the Parks and Rec Board to use the Board room to host a cookie decorating event on October 15, 2022. The event begins at 1PM and ends at 4PM. Supervisor Dupree will open and close the building for the event

Motion: Daerr

Second: Lawson

Deliberation: Dupree offered to attend the event instead of the Project Manager

Roll Call: Daerr – yes Barna – yes Dupree – yes Lawson – yes

Motion carried

Motion to approve dates for Halloween (Trick or Treat) which will be scheduled for Monday, October 31, 2022, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Motion: Daerr

Second: Barna

Deliberation: none

Roll Call: Dupree – yes Daerr – yes Lawson – yes Barna – yes

Motion carried

Discussion Items:

Discussion regarding the update on Mingo Sewage Project. Gladus provided updated timeline for project. Graphic created by Beachy to be attached to minutes and distributed on social media/website

Discussion regarding accidental hedge damage refund for a residential home. Estimate of damages provided to Board. To be on next agenda for approval.

Discussion regarding proposed contract received from SEREMS. Sweat Law provided a memo outlining their recommendations. Board to review those recommendations and come to next meeting with ideas.

Discussion regarding stop/yield sign recommendation from Township Engineer.

John Warner – 200 McChain Rd. – Discussed hazard visibility issues involving Chevy Chase Dr. and McChain Rd. and does not agree with recommendations given by the Township Engineer

Discussion regarding MS4 status update. Gladus provided update on permitting status and what is outstanding.

Discussion regarding project tracker timeline. Daerr mentioned these to be added to minutes and website/Facebook page.

Discussion regarding digitizing records and grants. Memo provided by Beachy. Board in agreeance that the staff can continue investigating and formulate a recommendation.

Discussion regarding Union Township Sewage Billing Policy. Gladus outlined issues that have been identified and asked Board if she could present a draft policy at the next meeting.

Discussion regarding Union Township Computer Use & E-mail Policy/Electronic Resource. Dupree stated she wanted this rolled over to next agenda and it was to serve as a launching point.

Bill Pay List Approvals:

Motion to approve payroll dated September 16, 2022, in the amount of \$9,753.73 for 2 Administrative and 3 Road Crew. (Overtime for 1 Road Crew for being called out after hours.)

Motion: Lawson

Second: Daerr

Deliberation: none

Roll Call: Daerr – yes Lawson – yes Barna – yes Dupree – abstain

Dupree abstained due to not being presented the payroll for review

Motion carried

Motion to approve Bill Pay List for the Brentwood Bank General Account in the amount of \$169,976.91

Motion: Lawson

Second: Daerr

Deliberation: Lawson asked Dupree why she does not approve payroll for 5 township employees, and Dupree stated she does not have to answer to him

Roll Call: Lawson – yes Barna – yes Dupree – no Daerr – yes

Motion carried

Motion to approve Bill Pay List for Brentwood Overlook Account in the amount of \$950.00

Motion: Lawson

Second: Barna

Deliberation: none

Roll Call: Dupree – no Daerr – yes Lawson – yes Barna – yes

Motion carried

Motion to approve Bill Pay List for the Brentwood Elrama Sewage Account in the amount of \$118.99

Motion: Lawson

Second: Daerr

Deliberation: none

Roll Call: Dupree – no Daerr – yes Lawson – yes Barna – yes

Motion carried

Correspondence:

Letter from Washington Financial re: Online Security Best Practices

E-mail from Stephanie Paluda at EQT regarding her last day with EQT was Sept. 9, 2022

E-mail from resident regarding executive session

Public Comment:

Karen Stroop - She recommended that the township should invite Jerry R. M. Mease and his family to recognize his accomplishment on becoming an Eagle Scout at the next public meeting and present him with a plaque. She also expressed unhappiness with the board and inquired about her right-to-know that she submitted.

Lori Kenavey – 6088 Brownsville Rd. EXT. – Expressed concern regarding right-to-know requests

Larry Spahr – 181 McChain Rd – Expressed his unhappiness with the board and WTAE media

Charles Wilson – 316 Stone Church Rd. – Expressed unhappiness concerning the amendment of meeting minutes that have been passed, and Tractor Supply building permit

Kevin Daerr – 687 St. Rt. 88 – Addressed public comments concerning bills and WTAE. Asked Dupree about addressing his earlier comment at the beginning of the meeting.

Linda Evans Boren – 22 Parkuve Dr. – Addressed bills and wants monthly budget summaries to be considered

Michalle left the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

Maureen Ott – 510 Oxlee Ct. – Thanked Supervisor Lawson for saving money on the waterline project. She also stated that she sees the board is trying to do what is best for the Township, and some of the public clearly has an agenda.

Darla Savko – Aber Road – Addressed billing issues and issues concerning supervisors
Susan Bahnam – Patterson Rd. – Expressed unhappiness concerning quarrelling supervisors

Kevin Daerr – 687 St. Rt. 88 – Addressed public comment concerning quarrelling supervisors and personal issues

John Wernett – McChain Rd. – Expressed unhappiness concerning the board members relationship and the need to resolve personal issues among themselves

Remarks and / or Comments by Supervisors and / or Staff

Motion to adjourn meeting

Motion: Daerr

Second: Barna

Deliberation: none

Roll Call: Barna – yes Daerr – yes Lawson – yes Dupree – abstain

Dupree abstained due to leaving the meeting

Motion Carried

Adjourn meeting at 9:46 p.m.



Roberta J. Singer, Secretary