

PULASKI TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LAWRENCE COUNTY
1172 STATE ROUTE 208
PULASKI, PENNSYLVANIA 16143
PHONE: 724-964-8891 FAX: 724-964-1028

December 5, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Pulaski Township Board of Supervisors was held on December 2, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Municipal Building 1172 State Route 208, Pulaski, PA 16143.

Members present were Keith Stowe, Kelly Smith and Virginia Zinza.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and called to order by Keith Stowe.

This meeting is being recorded for the purpose of transcribing minutes.

Public comment regarding items listed on the agenda. None.

A motion was made by Kelly Smith and second by Virginia Zinza to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on November 4, 2024, with all Board members present, and as presented to the Board on November 7, 2024. The Board voted all in favor; motion carried.

A motion was made by Virginia Zinza and second by Kelly Smith to approve the payment of bills: General Fund – \$16,571.42; State Fund – \$8,228.78; Fire Fund – \$1,879.17 and Light Fund – \$408.62. The Board voted all in favor; motion carried.

A motion was made by Virginia Zinza and second by Keith Stowe to set and advertise the end of the year meeting to adopt the 2025 budget and take care of any other business brought before the Board on December 23, 2024 at 6:00 p.m., the Board of Supervisors Re-organizational and regular monthly meeting for January 6, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. and the Elected Board of Auditors Re-Organizational meeting for January 7, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. The Board voted all in favor; motion carried.

A motion was made by Kelly Smith and second by Virginia Zinza to approve payment for the Fire Department's pay per call covering November 29, 2023 through November 30, 2024 in the amount of \$2,984 (for both Fire and EMS calls). Payment to be made from the Fire Fund. Keith Stowe abstained from voting. The remaining Board members voted in favor; motion carried.

Supervisor Zinza advised the Park Committee received several bids for the playground upgrades and installation at the Township Park. Given that the Township will be applying for grants to help pay for the upgrades the Township must confirm that bidding requirements have been met. The Board tabled review of the bids received. A motion was made by Virginia Zinza and second by Kelly Smith to advertise to receive bids for the playground equipment to be opened at the December 23, 2024 meeting. All voted in favor; motion carried. Sam Varano asked what kind of playground equipment is being considered? The Board showed him a drawing that was submitted. Mr. Varano asked if the old equipment would be removed? Supervisor Zinza stated yes, it is not up to safety standards. Mr. Varano asked who is claiming that it's not up to safety standards? Supervisor Zinza stated the gentlemen who came out to provide a quote stated that the current equipment is not up to code. Mr. Varano stated that was purchased through COSTARS for public use and you should check with COSTARS to confirm it's not safe for public use. If it's not safe then fine but if it's deemed safe it's a waste of money to tear it out if there's nothing wrong with it. Why can't it be incorporated into what you want to add?

The Board tabled Resolution No. 17-2024 approving allocation of funds from the American Rescue Plan Fund.

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Sale of Road Grader - Megan advised there have been a few people stop and ask questions about it. Sandy Creek Township stopped to look at it and said they'd possibly make an offer however it needed to be discussed at their public meeting which was also this evening. A motion was made by Kelly Smith and second by Virginia Zinza to table sale of the road grader, this will be added to the December 23, 2024 agenda to review any offers received. The Board voted all in favor; motion carried.

The Board discussed sale of the old Vermeer wood chipper. We did get it back, it doesn't run. The machine would be sold as is. Vice Chairman Smith advised he may have someone interested in making an offer to purchase the machine for parts. A motion was made by Kelly Smith and second by Virginia Zinza to advertise the old Vermeer wood chipper to be sold as-is. The Board voted all in favor; motion carried.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION: None.

*Fire Department Report for the month of November, 2024: Structure Fires – 1, MVA – 4, Service Calls – 1, Trees/Lines down – 1, brush fires - 2, Mutual Aid – 5, Totals Fire calls – 14, Truck hours for Fire – 12.5, man hours for fire - 68. EMS Calls - 14 Truck hours for EMS - 10; Man hours for EMS - 10.1.

*Road Department Report for the month of November, 2024 given by Vice Chairman Smith: Tree cleanup on Topper Hill, Pine Glenn, Evergreen Road, Villa Maria Road, Coffee Run Road, Deer Creek, Nashua Road, Shady Lane Road, Meadowmist Road and Ambrosia; Patching on North and South Valley View; Ditch work on S. Valley View, Cotton Road, Garner Road and Nashua; Sign work on Cotton Road; Check/clean catch basins and bridge decks before rain; Prep trucks for winter maintenance; Side mowing completed, some boom mowing needs done; General Maintenance and repair on equipment.

*Police Department Report - No police report provided prior to the meeting.

*Park Committee Report - The Park Committee convened for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, November 25th. The primary focus of the meeting was the review of proposals received for the playground renovation project. The committee carefully examined all submitted quotes, considering factors such as size, age range, play amenities, and materials. After thorough discussion, the committee narrowed the options down to the top three proposals that align with the scope and goals of the project. The committee also discussed several other ongoing and upcoming park improvement projects i.e. upgrading park lighting and security cameras. The goal is to enhance safety and security for park visitors, especially during evening hours. The committee is considering energy-efficient lighting solutions and strategically placed cameras to improve surveillance and deter vandalism. The committee discussed the growing need for restroom facilities at the park, particularly considering the expected increase in visitors following the installation of the new playground. The proposed solution is a standalone, two-stall cinderblock building, with separate men's and women's restrooms. This addition is intended to improve convenience, sanitation, and overall visitor experience by providing accessible restroom facilities for park-goers. The committee has been in contact with Adriene Smoczek, Recreation and Conservation Advisor at the Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), for guidance on DCNR grant applications. The committee has also been in communication with Debbie Kennedy to gather information on available county grants. Grant writing will begin once the project is approved at the upcoming supervisor meeting. Several committee members either attended the virtual DCNR grant writing workshop or viewed the playback videos. The next Park Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 30th, 2024, at 6:00 PM.

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Following is the report of taxes collected during the month of November, 2024:

Elected Tax Collector, Bradley Marshall:	Berkheimer:
Real Estate Taxes: \$2,174.07	Per Capita Tax : \$657.10
Fire Taxes: \$2,174.07	
Light Taxes: \$187.75	
Wage Taxes received from Berkheimer November, 2024:	\$56,065.47
Local Services Tax received from Berkheimer November, 2024 :	\$3,854.42

Following is the report of zoning permits issued by the Zoning Administrator, Mourice Waltz and building permits issued by the Building Code Official, Pennsylvania Construction Inspection, Inc. during November, 2024:

	<u>COST OF CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>COST OF PERMITS</u>
Cattle Barn	\$100,000.00	\$200.00
Residential Addition	\$50,000.00	\$304.90
Total Cost of Construction	\$150,000.00	
Total Cost of Permits:	\$504.90	
Total Amount Collected:	\$504.90	

Following is the Treasurer's Report. All balances are as of December 2, 2024.

	<u>Checking Accts.</u>	<u>Savings Accts.</u>	<u>PLGIT Accts.</u>	<u>CD's</u>
General Fund	\$109,220.79	\$299,916.62	\$163,794.39	\$117,415.90
State Fund	\$156,928.60			
Fire Fund	\$7,134.58	\$633,872.79		
Light Fund	\$21,055.96			
Equipment Fund		\$31,405.44	\$31,406.85	
Gas Lease Funds		\$526,130.23	\$416,078.16	
Park Fund	\$1,580.14			
Police Fund	\$1,050.87			
ARPA Fund		\$149,002.58		

NOTE: Balances do not reflect taxes collected from elected tax collector as they have not yet been deposited.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dick Osborne - He heard a rumor online about eliminating our Police Department is there any truth to that? Chairman Stowe responded no. Mr. Osborne stated we need to add to our Department instead of having just one officer. The State police numbers are also shrinking we cannot count on the State Police. We need to have our own Police Department. If you think we don't need police here you don't know what's going on.

Randy Courson - He retired in April and you knew I was retiring before that and as far as he knows there has never been an attempt to hire another officer other than Jeff Wiesen and he wonders why? He worked here for 14 years and dedicated

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a good portion of his life as a police officer and the last 4-6 years of it was worse. There are many reasons why he left but one of the reasons was because of the way that the police department was not proceeding and instead was declining. He saved the Township probably \$14,000 annually because he didn't take health benefits. He doesn't understand why there hasn't been a full-time police officer already hired and as far as he knows there is no talk of hiring one. He hopes you'd never do away with the Police Department, the State Police can't provide the service out here they are not meant respond to Township calls. Mr. Courson asked why there hasn't been another full-time officer hired? The Board explained they attempted to and they can't speak on it because it's an open issue. Mr. Courson continued that he doesn't understand why you'd even try to do that, that person has been brought up and told to you all how he was not even acceptable for the job and yet it still went forward in ways that it shouldn't have happened. The Board explained they are currently in negotiations with the Police Department and hoping once everything is rectified with that we can hire more officers. Mr. Courson continued that this was brought up back when Sam and them were here and then when Keith came in that kind of was put on hold. The Department wanted a third full-time officer and were never given that opportunity. It is unacceptable to only have one full-time officer out here the police are needed here and it should never be doubted.

Dan Abramson - The so called rumor, you sat right there last meeting and you said there was consideration about eliminating the police department. Chairman Stowe responded that he said there was a discussion. Mr. Abramson asked when the discussion took place? Chairman Stowe responded after Hickory Township disbanded their Department. Mr. Abramson asked at what Township meeting did that take place? That's a violation of the Sunshine Law. Chairman Stowe stated it wasn't brought up by anyone sitting at this podium it was brought up by the Solicitor. Mr. Abramson continued you said there was a discussion about eliminating the Police Department because you couldn't find people those were your exact words because he wrote it down when you said it. Chairman Stowe stated he said there was a discussion and he believed it was at the budget meeting. Supervisor Zinza stated it was not at the budget meeting it was during an executive session with the Solicitor while going over police negotiations she asked a question about what Hickory Township has just done disbanding their police department.

Bill Beck - He appreciates all the Board does and the strain it is. Keith made the statement at a public meeting and that was not a rumor it came from the horse's mouth so how do we discount that? The rumor came from the statement made at the meeting last month. Chairman Stowe stated he misspoke and he shouldn't have even brought it up. Mr. Beck continued he heard someone say they don't like coming to the meetings and if that's the case maybe you should resign from being a Supervisor because that's your responsibility over 6 years. Supervisor Zinza stated it's hard when you're trying to do good and it's constantly being attacked, nothing prepared me for this job. She loves the job and she likes progress and seeing things being done and moving forward. She could do without the negativity, it's hard to come here and be attacked by people when you're just trying to do a good job. Mr. Abramson said you have an attorney sitting there, follow the rules. Mr. Courson stated if we want to go forward let's go forward with the Police Department and if he can help in any way he will he was here when things were going on and he still knows what's going on and enough is enough. Supervisor Zinza stated if she can speak on behalf of the Board that's what we all want, is what's best for Pulaski. Mr. Courson stated he doesn't believe all three of you do, maybe two. Mr. Abramson stated he agreed with that.

Mr. Franko - He was here last year with a tax issue and he went through invoices for legal fees that cost the Township over \$4,000 for the back and forth over a \$4 tax and \$56 penalty. Mr. Franko continued maybe we could hire another police officer if we weren't fighting with residents over something that could have been solved with a phone call.

Gwen Albers - She is working with the Lions Club on starting a Hometown Heroes program in Pulaski to hang banners from the power poles. They'd like to do this in New Bedford and Pulaski she's been in contact with Penn Power and they wanted to make sure the Municipality is okay with it. She is also here to see if they could get some help hanging the banners if maybe the Township or Fire Department could assist? They are hoping to have this done in the Spring and have a get together to present the banners to the families. The Solicitor asked if Penn Power needed any official

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Resolution from the Township? Mrs. Albers advised because it's a club project it's her understanding they do not. A motion was made by Kelly Smith and second by Virginia Zinza to give the Municipality's blessing on moving forward with the Lions Club's project to hang the banners. The Board voted all in favor; motion carried. The Solicitor advised if Penn Power needs anything official please let us know.

Supervisor Zinza stated we were contacted by some additional residents who do not have internet service and we received an email from Michelle Brooks office about a broadband expansion grant of over \$1 billion dollars. We are gathering information on that grant but we need to request a cost study from Comcast on the cost. A motion was made by Virginia Zinza and second by Kelly Smith to request Comcast to conduct a cost study. The Board voted all in favor; motion carried.

Next meeting is scheduled for December 23, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Kelly Smith and second by Virginia Zinza to adjourn the meeting. The Board voted all in favor; motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.



Megan Allison, Secretary