

PULASKI TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

March 7, 2025

The regular monthly meeting of the Pulaski Township Board of Supervisors was held on March 3, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in 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 at a later date.

Public comment regarding items listed on the agenda: Dan Abramson - question about motion to rescind Jeff Wiesen's hiring and why we're paying the Solicitor to attend meetings he's supposed to be here to protect the Township and the Supervisors. Shane Santiago - He brought up something at the last meeting and he felt having the Solicitor here was extremely efficient. Sister Barb from the Villa and Annie Maloney from the Foundation for Sustainable Forests went over the Villa's proposal to have a conservancy steward their 600+ acres of land around the main campus. They provided a letter and pamphlet with more information on this project.

*Note: On March 3, 2025 the Township received the Road Turnback Annual Maintenance payment from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the amount of \$26,160.00.

A motion was made by Kelly Smith and second by Virginia Zinza to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 3, 2025, with all Board members present, and as presented to the Board on February 7, 2025. 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 – \$18,342.53; State Fund -\$18,804.63; Fire Fund -\$4,381.36; Light Fund -\$467.65. The Board voted all in favor; motion carried.

A motion was made by Kelly Smith and second by Keith Stowe to advertise seeking letters of interest for a position on the Zoning Hearing Board for a 3-year term. Scott Phillips term ended in February and he advised he is moving out of the area. The Board voted all in favor; motion carried.

As advertised in the New Castle News on February 19, 2025 Ordinance No. 01-2025 an Ordinance providing for compensation for elected Township Supervisors, providing for the method and timing of such compensation and providing for an effective date. Sam Varano asked what the new rate would be? Supervisor Zinza stated it is \$3,145 or \$262.08 and this will not go into effect for any of the current Supervisors unless they run for another term. A motion was made by Keith Stowe and second by Virginia Zinza to adopt Ordinance No. 01-2025 The Board voted all in favor; motion carried.

The Board reviewed and considered information on repair of the 2016 Ford F-550 truck. Terry Johnson submitted a quote of \$3,997.71 to repair the truck less bed repair. The insurance company advised the truck is totaled and their settlement offer is \$46,500 which is \$59,000 less \$12,000 salvage and \$500 deductible for a total settlement value of \$46,500. Kelly talked to a couple different places and they said to put a reserve on the sale of \$30,000. In order to get the settlement from the insurance company we would need to get an R-title for the truck and send it to the insurance company and then they'd send us the settlement check. Sam Varano asked if there was a police report filed? No. Both drivers were drug tested (negative) and completed accident forms which were filed with PennDOT. Mr. Abramson asked where the accident occurred? Tanglewood and State Route 208. Mr. Varano

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asked how the accident occurred? The Peterbilt was coming up from Tanglewood on to 208 and the Ford F550 was coming down 208 toward the Township Building and the Peterbilt turned right onto 208 the plows hit. The Solicitor recommended tabling until you get the quote on the bed repair. The Board advised they aren't going to repair the bed. A motion was made by Kelly Smith and second by Virginia Zinza to buy back the 2016 Ford F-550 truck and accept the settlement from the insurance company of \$46,500 (less salvage price and deductible) after we get an R-title. Once that is all completed we will advertise to accept sealed bids for the sale of the 2016 Ford F-550 with a reserve price. Getting the R-title may take some time so we won't be able to advertise it for sale until we get that back from the State. The Board voted all in favor; motion carried.

A motion was made by Virginia Zinza and second by Kelly Smith to advertise to accept sealed bids for the following materials (all quantities are more or less):

1,500 ton #8 stone	250 ton Wearing Asphalt	5,000 gallon CRS-2P
100 ton 2A stone	250 ton Binder Asphalt	10,000 gallon off-road dyed diesel
100 ton #3 stone	35,000 gallon CRS-2	4,000 gallon unleaded gas
100 ton R4 Rip Rap	5,000 gallon CRS-2 (FOB)	

Sealed bids will be opened at the April 7, 2025 regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. The Board voted all in favor; motion carried.

A motion was made by Virginia Zinza and second by Keith Stowe to rescind the August 5, 2024 motion and vote to hire officer Jeff Wiesen as a full-time Police Officer at \$26.10 per hour. The Board voted all in favor; motion carried.

A motion was made by Virginia Zinza and second by Keith Stowe to table the Escrow Agreement for a proposed solar project with the Villa Maria. Under the solar ordinance they need to provide a financial security for decommissioning of the system and the Villa had their attorney draft an Escrow Agreement and the Solicitor reviewed it and had a few comments which were sent back to the Villa's attorney for review. This will be added to next month's agenda for consideration. The Board voted all in favor; motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Villa Maria Subdivision as previously reviewed by the Planning Commission which gave an unfavorable review due to lack of a narrative in the paperwork explaining what they are planning to do otherwise they didn't see any issues. They are wanting to subdivide the campus from the remaining property including the cemetery and the lot where the solar panels are proposed to be installed. A motion was made by Keith Stowe and second by Virginia Zinza to approve the Villa Maria Subdivision with non-building waivers. The Board voted all in favor; motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Final Plan Subdivision for David P. and Ruth Emig Shields and Joseph D. and Amanda A. Hostetler as previously reviewed by the Planning Commission which gave a favorable review. A motion was made by Kelly Smith and Virginia Zinza to approve the Final Plan Subdivision for David P. and Ruth Emig Shields and Joseph D. and Amanda A. Hostetler with non-building waiver. The Board voted all in favor; motion carried.

The Board reviewed and considered the Resolution to consider DCNR grant for the Pulaski Park playground project. Supervisor Zinza explained that as part of the DCNR grant one of the requirements is a Resolution to be signed by the Chairman and it authorizes Keith to e-sign for the grant. A motion was made by Virginia Zinza and second by Kelly Smith to adopt Resolution No. 05-2025 authorizing Robert K. Stowe to electronically execute the Grant Application Electronic Authorization. The Board voted all in favor; motion carried.

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The Board reviewed and considered language drafted by the Solicitor for a farmstand/produce stand zoning ordinance amendment. The Solicitor explained the draft Ordinance would require a conditional use approval on a case by case basis for farmstands/produce stands in the R-1 Residential Zoning District. The Board would be able to impose conditions on the conditional use approval i.e. size of the stand, parking areas, etc. Language was also included to limits it to properties that are 5 acres or larger as the Ordinance is currently drafted. Mr. Santiago, who is the individual who raised this issue at last month's meeting, is concerned because he can do it for free by going to the Attorney General in Pennsylvania and having them sue the Township because it's at odds with the State. There was a lengthy discussion about the proposed Ordinance. This was drafted by the Solicitor as a recommendation, the Board has different options to consider for the Ordinance. A motion was made by Virginia Zinza and second by Keith Stowe to advertise notice of intent to adopt Ordinance No. 02-2025 and schedule a public hearing on April 7, 2025 at 6:45 p.m. Mr. Santiago asked what this accomplished that wasn't already in the Ordinance? The Ordinance as it stands now does not permit farmstands or produce stands in the R-1 Residential Zoning at all it's only permitted in the Agricultural District and this is proposing to amend the ordinance to allow for conditional use approval in the R-1. Mr. Santiago encouraged the Board to review the Right to Farm Act and Acre Act. A motion was made by Virginia Zinza and second by Keith Stowe to rescind the previous motion to advertise notice of intent to adopt the Ordinance. The Board voted all in favor; motion carried. A motion was made by Virginia Zinza and second by Keith Stowe to table this for further research and review. The Board voted all in favor; motion carried.

A motion was made by Kelly Smith and second by Virginia Zinza to schedule street sweeping with Everbrite, Inc. at the rate of \$175/hour for 24 hours (3 days) to be paid from the State Fund. The Board voted all in favor; motion carried.

The Board reviewed and considered purchase of a copy machine for the Township office. The copy machine is 15 years old and Direct Image charges an annual fee to service the machine and provide toner and parts and this year it's going to cost \$1,100 for the maintenance contract and they are concerned that the age of the machine is going to make parts harder to get. Direct Image sent over information on a new machine and it cost \$2,395 and \$300 annually. A motion was made by Virginia Zinza and second by Kelly Smith to purchase a new machine from Direct Image for \$2,395 and annual fee of \$300 to be paid from the General Fund. The Board voted all in favor; motion carried.

A motion was made by Keith Stowe and second by Kelly Smith to approve park rentals for February 8th (received after February meeting), April 12th, May 31st and June 14th. The Board voted all in favor; motion carried.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

Salt/Material Storage Building - We received pamphlets for hoop buildings for salt storage. Supervisor Zinza would like to start looking at pricing for one so she can see what grants are available. If the price is over the threshold then it would need to be advertised to accept bids.

Park Grants - Rich Suders reached out to several organizations regarding Arbor Day tree planting for 2025, including the New Bedford Garden Club, the Boy Scouts, and the Lawrence County Conservation District. On February 10, 2025, Mr. Suders and Virginia Zinza met with Fred Smith at the park for a tour and discussion about developing a walking/nature trail. Following this, Fred Smith arranged a Zoom meeting with Adriene Smocheck, the regional director from DCNR, and during the meeting, Fred presented ideas for the nature/walking trail and proposed converting a portion of the lawn into a meadow, which piqued the interest of the Conservation District. Adriene addressed some confusion regarding the different types of grants available. She clarified the process and gave an update on the progress of the playground grant application, outlining what still needs to be completed. Since we are applying for the small community grant for populations under 5,000

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residents, she explained that the required match amount is lower than for other types of grants. Specifically, the first \$30,000 does not need to be matched, but the remainder of the grant is dollar-for-dollar. Adriene also informed us that submitting two separate grant applications for the projects would not be feasible, as they would compete against each other. She recommended bundling the playground and walking trail projects into a single application for this round of funding. The Park Committee agreed that due to the scope of the project and the approaching deadline for the grant application, it would be best to use the rest of this year to plan and submit for next year's grant cycle for the walking trail. So the Township will be required to submit a letter of commitment with the grant application committing to the \$30,032.50 of which the Township already committed the American Rescue Funds to and the remaining balance could be paid from the Gas Fund which lists parks and recreation as an allowable expense. A motion was made by Keith Stowe and second by Virginia Zinza to prepare the commitment letter for the DCNR application. The Board voted all in favor; motion carried.

Amending Zoning Ordinance - The Zoning Officer advised this would likely take a year or so to have meetings to go over changes and get it submitted to County Planning and the Township Planning Commission for their review. There would be several rounds of hearings for people to comment on the changes. The Solicitor advised that the first step would be to get something drafted the Planning Commission could draft it or the Solicitor or you can hire a zoning consultant at around \$20,000 to \$30,000. A motion was made by Kelly Smith and second by Virginia Zinza to look into hiring a consultant to start the process. The Board voted all in favor; motion carried.

Police Department Body Cam Policy - The Police Department is looking into getting body cameras and they applied for a grant and part of the grant application is having a body cam policy. Lt. Adams drafted a policy and it was provided to the Solicitor for review and comment and the Solicitor had a few minor comments and changes. The Board can approve the policy contingent on review of the proposed changes. A motion was made by Virginia Zinza and second by Keith Stowe to approve the body cam policy pending changes per the Solicitor. The Board voted all in favor; motion carried.

Fire Department Report for February, 2025: Structure Fires – 2, MVA – 4, Auto alarms – 1, Service calls – 0, Trees/Lines down – 1, brush fires - 0, Mutual Aid – 2, Totals Fire calls – 10, man power hours for Fire was 53.5, Truck hours for Fire was 32. The Department is looking at starting the process to spec out a new fire engine.

Road Department Report for February, 2025: Treated roads; Ordered Salt and Mixed Material; Patching on Marr Road, Cherriwood Road, Evergreen Road, Pine Glenn Road, Nashua Road, Deer Creek and Garner Road; Ditch work on Heather Heights Road, Maple Lane and Deer Creek; Tree cleanup on Woodland Drive, Maple Lane, Topper Hill, Marr Road and Stateline Road; Clean catch basins on Oak Ridge; General Maintenance and repair on equipment. The tree complaint we received on Marr Road is being cut back on Friday morning. Vice Chairman Smith reported some problems areas he noticed on State Roads to PennDOT.

Police Department Report for February, 2025 - Theft - 1; Fraud - 1; Traffic Offenses - 1; Twp Ordinance - 1; Suspicious Auto - 1; Suspicious Person - 1; Dumping - 2; Assist Fire Department - 1; Follow-up Information - 1; Administrative Duty - 3; Training - 2; 911 Hangup - 1; Animal Complaint - 2; Citation (traffic) - 2; Court Hearings - 2; Erratic Driver - 1; Crash Hit & Run - 1; Meeting - 1; Subpoena Service - 1; Terroristic Threats - 2; Traffic Warning - 2; Twp Business - 1.

Following is the report of taxes collected during the month of February, 2025:

Per Capita Taxes received from Berkheimer February, 2025:	\$92.90
Wage Taxes received from Berkheimer February, 2025:	\$85,435.34
Local Services Tax received from Berkheimer February, 2025 :	\$4,961.24

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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 February, 2025:

	<u>COST OF CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>COST OF PERMITS</u>
Residential Addition (2)	\$12,000.00	\$149.50
Residential Addition	\$155,000.00	\$147.50 (UCC Only)
Mobile Home Installation (2)	\$30,000.00	\$549.00
Total Cost of Construction	\$197,000.00	
Total Cost of Permits:	\$846.00	
Total Amount Collected:	\$1,190.70	

*Difference in total cost of permits and total amount collected is two (2) permits were issued in January, 2025 and not picked up and paid for until February, 2025.

Following is the Treasurer's Report. All balances are as of March 3, 2025.

	<u>Checking Accts.</u>	<u>Savings Accts.</u>	<u>PLGIT Accts.</u>	<u>CD's</u>
General Fund	\$104,643.13	\$323,531.14	\$165,646.24	\$118,657.94
State Fund	\$124,002.16			
Fire Fund	\$916.50	\$626,888.68		
Light Fund	\$20,791.71			
Equipment Fund		\$32,506.28	\$31,661.05	
Gas Lease Funds		\$406,739.46	\$420,783.90	
Park Fund	\$1,582.44			
Police Fund	\$1,050.87			
ARPA Fund		\$99,909.59		

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Rick Suders - Recreational vehicles being proposed at the trailer park. They are making a lot of progress/improvements at Heritage Hills.


Dan Abramson - What is the Fire Department doing with the ambulance? Chairman Stowe advised it needs a new battery and the starter needs repaired but it is listed for sale.

Bill Beck - Brought up concern over ambulance service.

Vern Eppinger - The ambulance shortage isn't the Township's fault it's the State mandates.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2025 at 7:00 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 8:46 p.m.


Megan Allison, Secretary