

MINUTES OF THE MARTIC TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DATE: July 3, 2023

PLACE: Township Building, 370 Steinman Farm Road, Pequea, Pa. 17565

ATTENDANCE: Beth Birchall, Duane Sellers, Carl Drexel, Charles Stouff and Jay Kreider were present.

CALL TO ORDER: Duane Sellers called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and led with the Pledge to the Flag and a prayer was said.

MINUTES & TREASURER'S REPORT

Beth Birchall made a motion, which was seconded by Jay Kreider, to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2023, Supervisors Meeting. The motion passed 5-0.

Beth Birchall presented the Treasurer's Report for the period ending June 30, 2023. A motion was made by Carl Drexel and seconded by Jay Kreider, to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion passed 5-0.

Charles Stouff made a motion which was seconded by Duane Sellers, to approve the bills for payment totaling \$98,974.03. The motion passed 4-0 with Carl Drexel abstaining in accordance with Section 1103(j) of the Ethics Act and noted that his public disclosure memorandum is on file in the township office. Comment was heard from Victor Ressler, 817 Susquehannock Drive.

A motion was made by Beth Birchall, which was seconded by Carl Drexel to transfer Ginnie Mae General funds, \$66,800.80 to the PLGIT General Fund. The motion passed 5-0.

A motion was made by Beth Birchall, which was seconded by Carl Drexel to transfer Ginnie Mae Capital funds, \$7,991.35 to the PLGIT Capital fund. The motion passed 5-0.

A motion was made by Beth Birchall, which was seconded by Carl Drexel to transfer Ginnie Mae State funds, \$3,000.63 to the PLGIT State fund. The motion passed 5-0.

A motion was made by Beth Birchall, which was seconded by Carl Drexel to transfer Ginnie Mae Trestle funds, \$1,215.94 to the PLGIT Trestle fund. The motion passed 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Victor Ressler with Rawlinsville Fire Company, commented on their resent Boot Drive and Chicken Bar B Que and thanked everyone for their support. Also, the next Public Safety Committee meeting will be on July 17th at 7:00 pm. He will be sending out email reminder notices.

Melissa and Brad Anderson, 43 Deerfield Drive, commented on the area along the roadway in front of their house and how it erodes and washes into the road, during rain events. Their neighbor has built a stone wall, which was discussed at previous meetings. Dave Williams is aware of the situation and as discussed before, he is monitoring the location. The neighbor is going out and cleaning up the road, after it washes out. Dave Williams has nothing planned for now but will continue to keep an eye on it.

Charles Stouff, Supervisor, apologized to everyone for what he stated at the June meeting, with regards to a new municipal facility.

RAIL TRAIL & 324 CROSSOVER

Susquehanna Mini-Grant for Parking expansion – Jim Hearn stated that he met with Jim Caldwell on site to discuss the drawing that needs to accompany the grant application. We will be adding 40 additional parking spaces at the Rail Trail parking lot. The grant is an 'in kind work' grant which requires a 50% match.

4-way Stop: Jay Kreider stated that he would like to remind people that this is a 4-way Stop. People constantly are blowing through the Stop signs on route 324. There are already red blinkers on top of the Stop signs to get people's attention. We have had the Pa State Police monitor this location and they were kept busy. Jim Hearn commented that the long term plan is a pedestrian bridge over the roadway, which is a safer option for rail walkers and bikers. Comments were also heard from Melissa and Brad Anderson, along with Bill Birchall, 303 Tucquan Glen Road.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Road Department: Dave Williams read the report for June

Week of June 4th

Grind stumps along Nissley, Steinman Farm and Pencroft North. Toke Ford 6600 mowing tractor to shop. Pick up repaired steering pump and install on 6610 mowing tractor. Install 6 new delineators on Pennsy. Trim bushes on Fox Hollow. Change oil in backhoe. Weed spray around shop area. Pressure wash trucks.

Week of June 11th

Pressure wash remaining trucks and backhoe, loader and John Deere tractor. Mowing on multiple roads. Pick up T-84 from shop. Clean gutters on Clark Hill. State Police call out for tree down. Road check after storm. Clean shop.

Week of June 18th

Sweep loose stone on Pencroft South, Crystal and Old Pinnacle. Grease backhoe. Mark roads for paving project. Meet with paving contractor to review paving project. Cut trees with loader on Clark Hill. Clean gutters on Douts Hill. Mowing on multiple roads. Repair mower. Repair flashing light on stop sign at 324 and Red Hill. Mark roads for sealcoat project.

Week of June 25th

Road check. Meet with contractor to review sealcoat project. Install new stop ahead sign at Hilldale and Drytown. Mowing multiple roads. Cut trees and limbs blocking signs. Repair mower. Spread 2A on Clearview. Cut downed trees caused by storm. Sweep multiple roads and perform additional storm cleanup. Repair power broom. Sealcoat project on multiple roads. Mowing on Rail Trail. Repair mower. Clean gutters on Creamery. Clean out catch basin on Douts Hill.

Beth Birchall asked about the status of the new mower. Dave Williams did check, and the dealer is saying it should be ready by July or August.

Dave Williams noted that Pennsy Road is scheduled to be paved the week of July 10, 2023.

Drytown Road & Hilldale Road Intersection: Dave Williams had considered a 2nd Stop sign on Hilldale Road, heading south, which would have been placed on the left side. However, it would be obstructed. There are already in place, Stop Ahead signs going in both directions. Jay Kreider asked about rumble strips. Dave Williams stated that there is a machine that would cut them in, but care must be taken so that you do not cut too deep. Also, speed bumps are not good for snow plowing. Comment was heard from Tina Virgil, 178 Fox Hollow Road.

Martic Forge Parking / River Road: Dave Williams commented on the parking issues along River Road at Martic Forge. No Parking signs are up and in place. Duane Sellers commented that meetings have taken place with the Lanc Conservancy (property owner), PA Game Commission, PA Fish & Boat Commission and private property owners, regarding this issue. Tina Virgil commented that she sent an email to PennDOT, as River Road and 324 are both State roadways. She stated that she is calling the PA State Police when cars are parked at the No Parking signs, but they will not do anything. She would like to see delineators put up, just like Lanc City has done, to prevent parking. Comments were heard from Kevin Boyer, 10 Ridge View Dr, make PennDOT put up the delineators, its their roadway. Victor Ressler, RVFC, she should be contacting Bryan Cutler's office. Martic Township has done everything they are allowed to do by placing the No Parking signs. Dave Williams will call his PennDOT contact about the situation. She will also reach out, again to PennDOT.

Zoning Officer Report: 9 building, 6 zoning permits were issued.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None was heard

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 07-03-23: Workers Compensation Authorization for Operational Support Volunteers. This is done annually for the insurance company. The Resolution passed by Roll Call vote: 5-0.

Insurance - Property & Casualty for 2023/2024: Beth Birchall commented that she and Karen Sellers met with our current broker, Element Insurance, along with two other brokers to discuss insurance options and rates for the upcoming year. After much discussion, a motion was made by Beth Birchall and seconded by Carl Drexel to change brokers to the BCF Group Insurance and choose Selective Insurance, which includes coverage for the Trestle Bridge. The motion passed 5-0.

1146 Marticville Road – Donald Hess, property owner, has continued to bring unregistered and unlicensed vehicles and trailers to his property, along with various sorts of other junk metals. In the past several years, the Lanc County courts has issued a permanent injunction against Mr. Hess to allow such action. After discussion, a motion was made by Duane Sellers and seconded by Beth Birchall to have the Township's attorney file a petition for contempt, requesting that the Court enter an order requiring Mr. Hess to comply with the permanent injunction from 2018. The motion passed 5-0.

413 Hilldale Road - Melissa & Frank Ralph, ongoing violations of the Zoning Ordinance. Last year, Magisterial District Judge Mylin entered a judgment in favor of the Township and against Mr. and Mrs. Ralph. They have done nothing to stop the violations, therefore a motion was made by Charles Stouff and seconded by Beth Birchall to have the Township's attorney send them a letter, giving them 45 days to bring the property into compliance with the Zoning Ordinance and if that does not happen, to begin the process of a Sheriff Sale. The motion passed 5-0. Comment was heard from Jim Hearn and Victor Ressler

Short-Term Rental Ordinance update: The Township's Zoning Hearing Board has been meeting monthly with multiple hearings for Short-Term Rentals. Most of these hearings are the result of people purchasing property, for the purpose of running them as STR businesses. The Zoning Hearing Board has asked the Board of Supervisors to consider strengthening our current ordinance, which has been in place since 2019. The Township's solicitor has drafted an amended Short-Term Rental Ordinance to address and strengthen their concerns. Charles Stouff stated he is not in favor of the Short-Term Rental Ordinance. Comments were heard from Bill Birchall, Abe Stoltzfoos, 164 Martic Heights Dr. Henry Beiler, 217 Martic Heights Dr., Scott Sellers, 306 Steinman Farm Rd and Frank Peiffer, 59 Creamery Road. After discussion, a motion was made by Carl Drexel and seconded by Beth Birchall to leave the current zoning districts alone in the Ordinance but make the changes that our solicitor recommended and to advertise the ordinance amendment accordingly. The motion passed 4-1 with Charles Stouff voting no.

The next meeting of the Martic Township Board of Supervisors is scheduled for August 7, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen D. Sellers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "K".

Karen D. Sellers

Martic Township Manager