

**LOWHILL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
APRIL 14, 2016
MEETING MINUTES**

The Lowhill Township Board of Supervisors meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Chairman Richard Hughes. Also in attendance was George Wessner, Jr., Vice Chairman; Robb Werley, Member; Brian Carl, Administrator; Charles Waters, Esq., Solicitor; Chris Noll, Engineer and Secretary Jill Seymour.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Robb Werley made a motion to approve the March 3, 2016 meeting minutes, as written. George Wessner, Jr. seconded the motion. Richard Hughes made a motion to approve the monthly bills, as submitted. Robb Werley seconded the motion.

Richard Hughes opened the floor for public comment. Stephanie Brown, who used to live in the township with Mr. Kristofek on Weidasville Road was present. She said that she used to pay bills, etc. at the said property and is looking to see if the solicitor can give her any advice on how to get her property back that is still on the property on Weidasville Road. Charles Waters stated that it is a private matter and she could attend the magistrate meeting on Wednesday at 11 AM at Magistrate Becks office in Slatington.

Steve Boone, Lehigh County consultant; Richard Molchany, Lehigh County Director of General Services were present to discuss the Bitner's Corner Bridge replacement over the Jordan Creek. The bridge will be a single arch, stamped concrete structure. It will remain a two way, one lane structure. Lehigh County is covering the cost. It is a County owned bridge and Township owned roadway. The Bridge will be closed during construction. They realize that school children cross this bridge on foot to reach the bus stop. The contractor will only work during the summer. The approximate time frame will be July 2016 and will take 4-6 weeks from start to finish. Could possibly take up to 6-8 weeks. This bridge will have no weight limit. They are proposing a detour from Bitner's Corner Road onto Route 100 with no left turn onto Route 100 during construction, due to safety concerns and not being able to see traffic coming down the hill north on route 100. You would make a right onto Route 10, right onto Sell Road and U turn back to Route 100 to go left. Residents were present who are affected by the bridge closure and don't feel safe pulling out onto Route 100 from Bitner's Corner Road. They cannot see what is coming down the hill. The County and Lowhill will draft a letter to Gary Day about slowing traffic on Route 100 during construction. One resident suggested a bug eye mirror across Route 100. Brian Carl said there is no perfect solution to slowing the traffic on Route 100, George Wessner, Jr. agrees. Brian will contact the State and see what options we have, possibly flashing lights at the top of the hill. The County has worked with PennDot and they have denied every option the County has offered to slow traffic, other than a lighted sign at the top of the hill and several signs leading to the construction area with flashing beacon lights. The bridge will not last another winter and

must be fixed this summer or it will have to be closed until the following summer when it can be replaced. Resident Bob Cappacino stated that more people would prefer to turn left than right coming out from Bitner's Corner Road onto Route 100. Mr. Boone said he is only proposing turning right, but it is not carved in stone, they can go which way they choose. There will be a lighted sign at the top of the hill and three others before the intersection with blinking lights warning of construction ahead and to slow down. Lt. Jonathan Nederostek of the Fogelsville State Police was also in attendance and said he will make sure more police are patrolling the area during the construction as well. Jill Seymour will keep Lt. Nederostek informed of the progress. The County will notify Jill and Jill will then notify the residents when construction is set to begin.

Carole Dorsh, Chairperson of the auditors was present to give her auditor report. Bob Martin completed payroll auditing and found no problems. He is pleased that the payroll program makes it easier for checking accuracy. Liquid Fuels is in order. Sewer Fund is in order. They will monitor how money is moved to the proper accounts upon release to the Lehigh County Authority. The Paver Fund is in order. However, they recommend closing this account, as this fund has no transactions and the paver is barely used by other townships. Recreation Fund is in order. The new Equipment and Building Funds are also in order. The petty cash fund is in order, however, they recommend closing this fund. It is used primarily for postage and there are other ways to handle postage. The money is a small amount and a postage program from Staples or the post office would eliminate having to have this fund at all. The General Fund is in order. They reviewed the vendors to look for missing paperwork or other errors and found no problems. They are happy to find that direct deposit is going to be implemented. They are concerned with the high cost of health care. Bob Martin proposed an in depth study for a better option. The annual audit and financial report was submitted to the DCED and advertised in the Times News and Press papers.

Brian Carl said there is a resident on Windy Road that would like a speed study, Weisenberg and Lowhill would do it together. The Supervisors are fine with that and Brian will conduct the study.

Joseph Kalusky: In March, the road crew trimmed trees, removed some trees. Repaired the guide rails on Windy and Narris Roads. Changed the brooms on the sweepers, blew out gutters and washed bridges. April: they started anti skid clean up, preparing for oil and chip and have pipes to replace on Gruber Road.

Charles Waters: the LCA and UMTA have signed an agreement. They are looking at a target date after the June meeting. Ridgeview: Keystone inspected the roads to see what still needs to be done. Charles got road maintenance numbers from Jill from October 2015 through April 2016 and will add to the costs in which they still owe the Township. Richard Hughes signed the verification. Mr. Kristofek has been served with papers to appear at the Magistrate at the Bethlehem address.

Brian Carl said there is a preliminary FEMA meeting on May 5 for the storm reimbursement.

There is a special meeting that has been advertised that will take place at the Pointe West subdivision on Saturday April 16, 2016 at 8:00 am at the intersection of Overlook Lane and Overlook Court.

Four Township CRS Oil Bid Opening:

Asphalt Maintenance Solutions: \$1.83/gallon, total of \$311,100

Midland Asphalt: \$1.41/gallon, total of \$239,700

Weisenberg: 50,000 gallons

Heidelberg: 30,000 gallons

Lowhill: 35,000 gallons

Lynn: 55,000 gallons

Richard Hughes made a motion to accept Midland Asphalt's bid of \$1.41/gallon. George Wessner, Jr. seconded the motion. Roll Call: RH: yes; GW: yes; RW: yes. Motion carried.

Resolution 2016-5: FEMA Winter Storm Jonas Reimbursement: Richard Hughes made a motion to approve Resolution 2016-5. George Wessner, Jr. seconded the motion.

Richard Hughes is looking to meeting with the Fire Chiefs of all 5 volunteer fire companies to discuss timely billing of fire calls. He is looking at May 23 or 24th. Brian Carl will get in contact with the chiefs and see what date is best for all.

Penn State Extension will be spraying for mosquitos this spring as well as putting up moth traps. The information for these will be posted on the door of the Township building as well as be available on the Township website.

Richard Hughes opened the floor for public comment, hearing none, Robb Werley made a motion to adjourn, seconded by George Wessner, Jr.

The Lowhill Township Board of Supervisors meeting was adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,