

**LOWHILL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
APRIL 12, 2018
MEETING MINUTES**

Richard Hughes opened the Zoning Ordinance hearing at 7:00 pm. This meeting is to discuss public comment on changes to the zoning ordinance. Richard Hughes opened the floor for public comment. Hearing none, the meeting was closed at 7:05 pm.

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

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Richard Hughes opened the floor to resident Diane Marshall. She introduced Terry Schettini of Fair Districts PA. Fair Districts PA is a company that is non-partisan, citizen led, statewide coalition that works to create a process for redistricting that is impartial and fair. Mr. Schettini's presentation was about gerrymandering and why it is a problem and how to prevent it from happening. Ms. Marshall and Mr. Schettini are asking the township to pass a resolution to prevent gerrymandering in our township. Gerrymandering is a practice intended to establish a political advantage for a particular party or group by manipulating district boundaries. There was a short break while Mr. Schettini broke down his equipment from his presentation.

Richard Hughes made a motion to approve the March 1, 2018 meeting minutes, as written. Robb Werley seconded the motion. Robb Werley made a motion to pay the monthly bills, as submitted. George Wessner, Jr. seconded the motion.

Carole Dorsch, Chairperson of the Township Auditors was present to give the auditor's report. She reported that all funds are in order. The only issue they found was in 2016 a contract for services was not completed in 2016 and rolled over into 2017 and went over budget, this was not the Township's fault, this was a contractor issue. She made note that the Township is in order and that money is spent wisely. The Board thanked the auditors for their time. George Wessner, Jr. made mention that we have a certain amount of money in liquid fuels for our roads and we use it. If we don't use all of it, we use it the following year.

Leroy Sorenson, Final plan dated 3/2/18 for 2883 Windy Road was present, along with Dean Zimmerman to present the final plan. Richard Hughes made a motion to accept the final plan for review. Robb Werley seconded the motion. Mr. Sorenson just received his paperwork from the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. Ryan Christman noted that they have met the technical comments on the Keystone Consulting Engineers letter dated 3/23/18. The planning module has been taken care of as well. Brian Carl said the setback was taken care of, since PennDot took more right of way. Mr. Sorenson gave the Township \$20,000 for escrow and also has an additional \$13,500 for escrow as well. Charles Waters said that

essentially, a CO will not be given unless everything is done to code and he doesn't feel that we need an improvement securement. Brian Carl said that there is a storm water agreement on file. Brian would like a recorded easement on the drawing that gives the Township the right to come on the property to maintain the swales, basins, etc. in the event the owner does not maintain. George Wessner, Jr. made a motion to conditionally approve the final plan, contingent upon the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission approval, storm water easement and right of way to drainage swale and pond. Robb Werley seconded the motion.

Charles Waters tabled the employee handbook update until May.

Ryan Christman is trying to contact the DEP about the MS4. He received an e mail back in February of 2018 and believes we will be approved. Ryan is meeting with Conservation at Cottage Gates to go over some issues with them.

Brian Carl: The multi municipal plan is being sent around to all the Townships to be signed. It is currently at Lynn Township, Lowhill will get it last. Robb Werley made a motion to adopt resolution 18-3, Intermunicipal planning agreement. George Wessner, Jr. seconded the motion.

PennDot is asking to use Weidasville Road, Highland Road, Rheuton Hill Road to Game Preserve Road for their detour while to install pipe. No trucks will be allowed. Richard Hughes made a motion to allow PennDot to use the above route for their detour. Robb Werley seconded the motion.

There is nothing new on Winchester Road.

Brian received a request from a resident to have a stop signed installed at Farrier and Orchard. It seems that more residents live back in that area now and having only one-way stop is not enough. Richard Hughes would like to have a stop sign put in. Brian will check to see what must be done to install a stop sign.

Joe Kalusky said that in March they had 13 days of winter maintenance and three days of storm clean up and they performed maintenance on the vehicles. In April they will clean up anti-skid, crack seal and do more vehicle maintenance.

There is nothing new with Kristofik enforcement at this time. There is also nothing new from the Wassum enforcement. Lowhill was awarded judgement and nothing has been heard from Mr. Wassum. Charles Waters said we will start fining him the \$500 per day and we can also recoup legal fees.

Ryan Christman and Robb Werley met with Rick Molchany of the County to discuss our options with Bear Bridge. One option is to bundle our bridge with other projects the County has going and get on the TIP grant program. Rick said our best option would most likely be to wait until the County adopts a \$5.00 registration fee. There would be funds available to us to

fix the bridge through that program. They are looking to adopt at their next meeting, then it would take another month of two to go through.

The State performed a surprise inspection on Bittners Corner Bridge and it failed. The State then closed the bridge and did not notify the County, Township or the School District. Brian met with the State and County on site at the bridge on Monday April 9, 2018 and decided to open the bridge one way going towards Sell Road so that our residents could get out onto Route 100 safely. The County will do some temporary work on the bridge until they can install the temporary bridge. There is one resident that has not agreed to give right of way for the temporary bridge. They are working with him now and it's looking like he will be giving right of way to the County soon. Michelle Schock, who is a resident wants to thank Brian and the road crew for working on getting the bridge open one way. No notification was given when the bridge was closed and when she contacted Brian, he put forth great effort to come to a solution that would benefit the residents, County and Township. Rick Hughes wants it on the record that we have been very proactive with this bridge. It has been on the agenda since the beginning. We were not notified of the bridge being closed either. He apologized. We can only update when we are updated by the County.

We are still waiting to hear from Steve Lear of the Planning Commission on the ATV ordinance.

George Wessner, Jr. made a motion to adopt ordinance # 18-1, Updated Zoning Ordinance. Robb Werley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Spring Clean-up will be held at the Township Building on Saturday April 14, 2018 from 8:00 am to Noon.

Richard Hughes made a motion to accept the bid of \$3400 from Donald Greathouse for our 1982 Ford single axle dump truck with plow. George Wessner, Jr. seconded the motion.

We received two bids to seal coat 76,020 sy in the township.

Shiffer Bituminous: \$1.37/sy

Asphalt Maintenance Solutions: \$1.35/sy

Richard Hughes made a motion to award the seal coat bid to Asphalt Maintenance Solutions to seal coat 76,020 sy for \$1.35/sy. George Wessner, Jr. seconded the motion.

Richard Hughes opened the floor for public comment. Diane Matthews Gehringer was present to discuss preserving farm land in Lowhill Township. She said she could help preserve farmland in Lowhill with the funding help of the Township. Rick Hughes said he is for preserving farmland, however we are not in position to use tax payer funds to do so and we do not have the extra money to donate at this time. Rick would like to sit with her and discuss preservation.

Mae Plaksa noticed on our new website that the 24-hour emergency number is correct at the top of the page, but incorrect at the bottom of the page. Jill will contact our web master to have it corrected.

Rick asked if anyone was interested in taking photos of the Township for the website, they may do so and e mail them to Jill Seymour.

Harold Handwerk of North Lane Estates was present to ask if he could top seal the roads in North Lane Estates. The final property sold, everything major has been completed. The Supervisors are good with Mr. Handwerk having the top seal put on the roads. Brian would like to be notified when the top seal is taking place so he can be present. Ryan and Brian will go look at North Lane before they go meet with Conservation at Cottage Gates. Mr. Handwerk can ask for a reduction of his escrow when he comes in to request his maintenance period.

Hearing no more public comment, Robb Werley made a motion to adjourn. George Wessner, Jr. seconded the motion.

The Lowhill Township Board of Supervisors meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,