

**LOWHILL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SEPTEMBER 3, 2020
MEETING MINUTES**

**COVID19 STAY AT HOME ORDER ISSUED BY GOVERNOR WOLF HELD USING
ZOOM MEETING APP PER ACT 15**

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

Robb Werley made a motion to approve the August 6, 2020 meeting minutes, as written. George Wessner, Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried. Richard Hughes made a motion to approve the monthly bills, as submitted. George Wessner, Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Solicitor comments: None at this time.

Ryan Christman provided an update on what has been done over the years on Bear Road Bridge. We have had issues for many years. This last storm triggered an underwater inspection by PennDot. This bridge has been on PennDot's watch list for scour for quite some time. The underwater inspection showed even more damage to the scour. We have been out to bid for a scour replacement. We stopped the bid project until after the inspection and will have to add more to the bid, if this is the way we decide to go with the repair. Richard Hughes thinks it is in the best interest of the Township and residents if we replace the bridge as opposed to doing the repair. We were confident that the bridge was safe before the storm, we are not now. Robb Werley reported that we have \$1.336 million in the general fund money market account and \$195 thousand in the general fund checking account. \$405 thousand in the asset account. Robb asked Ryan if there is an estimate to fix Bear Bridge prior to the storm. Ryan said it would have been at around \$30 thousand before the storm. His best guess would be around \$40-50 thousand now to repair, but there is no way of knowing until the bid goes out. There is also concrete that needs to be replaced under the wing wall and also guide rail. Richard Hughes said we have the funds to repair or replace the bridge, hopefully we will get

disaster funds. Ryan said we have the option to put up a precast beam bridge, which would be good for at least 80 years. He can also get an emergency permit on the spot for much less money than going through the application process. The bid would go out and we would be ready to replace or repair by the spring and it should be completed by summer, but this is a rough estimate. He will have a better time frame once everything is in place. Ryan will have a cost estimate by the October meeting for construction and engineering costs. Richard Hughes made a motion to get pricing, design, construction and replacement to go to bid on Bear Road Bridge. George Wessner, Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried. Brian Carl mentioned that as soon as the storm hit, the fire departments, EMS and school were notified immediately that the bridge was closed and an alternate route was given. Richard Hughes opened the floor for public comment. Alex Masetti, a resident of the Manor was present and said he is appreciative of how expeditious the Township is being with this bridge and asked if construction would start in the spring. Ryan said it would be in late spring, early summer and this is a conservative estimate. Worst case would be the end of summer. Kay Krapf, a resident of the Manor was also present. She travels Kistler Road every morning and at the intersection of Kistler and Bear Road you have to pull into the intersection to see what's coming. Her suggestion is putting a stop sign on Kistler Road. Richard Hughes noted that Kistler Road is a State road, so we have no authority to put up a stop sign. Kay suggested possibly cutting the embankment back. Joe Kalusky will take a look to see what can be done. Kay will call PennDot to see if they will come cut the brush back as well. Rick has the same issue at the intersection of Windy Road and Route 100. He will also contact the State about both intersections.

Valley Road Bridge: A scour needs to be done. George Wessner, Jr. is in favor of closing the bridge. Richard Hughes is also in favor of closing this bridge. Robb Werley mentioned that we just did a scour on this bridge a few years ago. Brian Carl said that the residents would have to agree to close this bridge if we want it closed indefinitely. Keith Strohl said that it would be the same as vacating a road. Send letters to the resident, have a hearing, pass an ordinance. George Wessner, Jr. noted that we have to close the bridge, as it is not safe due to the scour needing to be done. George Wessner, Jr. made a motion to close Valley Road Bridge due to storm damage and no funds to repair at this time. Richard

Hughes seconded the motion. Motion carried. We will revisit this bridge once funds become available to repair. Joe Kalusky will put up bridge closed signs.

Narris Road Bridge: The State has recommended an underwater inspection, as a scour may need to be done. There are cracks in the road and it also needs to be built up. We are hoping for Pema disaster money to repair. Bill McFadden from Dirt and Gravel is our right now, when he comes back we can apply for funding.

Hollenbach Road: There has been a request to have a speed limit put on this road. Brian Carl will do a traffic study, then we would need to pass an ordinance and put up a few speed limit signs. Richard Hughes does not have a problem with doing the study. Robb Werley and George Wessner, Jr. agree. Richard Hughes made a motion to do a traffic study on Hollenbach Road and set a speed limit. Robb Werley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Richard Hughes made a motion to appoint Kraft Code from Reading, Pa as alternate building inspector, when Barry Isett & Associates is unavailable. George Wessner, Jr. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Road Master Report: The 2007 International is at Lowe & Moyer. They have been doing storm damage repair, and mowing. Lowhill Church Road: The pipes are in, putting the rip rap in, it's graded and the DSA will be delivered the week of September 21. Next month, they will complete storm repair, mowing, have anti-skid delivered and look at Spooners Road and Schierer's Road.

There will be a special meeting held on Friday September 18, 2020 at noon to award the DSA and any other business.

Lowhill Township purchased a 2012 Ford F350 Utility truck with plow, 62,000 miles from Upper Macungie Township for \$18,000. A motion was made at the August meeting to purchase a truck for up to \$43,000.

Richard Hughes made a motion to hold a budget workshop at 5:00 pm on Thursday October 1, 2020, followed by the regular board meeting at the Weisenberg Township Building. Residents will be able to attend via the zoom app. Robb Werley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Lehigh County has not reached out about the covid-19 block grant yet, so Brian is unsure if we will receive any money yet.

The Sanctuary at Haafsville is asking for the cap to be removed and bill for all services provided. We will table this until the October meeting.

Richard Hughes opened the floor for public comment, hearing none, he moved on with the agenda.

Rick said the Veterans are asking each Township for \$15,000 or work in kind. Rick is in favor of work in kind since they need excavating done. Robb is also in favor of work in kind. We will table until the October meeting.

Jim Kuhns, who was on our Zoning Hearing Board has passed away. The Board sends condolences and will send flowers. We thank Jim for his service to the Township.

George Wessner, Jr. made a motion to move Glenroy Moyer from alternate on the Zoning Hearing Board to member to replace Jim Kuhns. Richard Hughes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Lowhill Township will hold trick or treat on Saturday October 31, 2020 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, rain or shine.

Richard Hughes made a motion to adjourn. Robb Werley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Lowhill Township Board of Supervisors meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,