

HALIFAX TOWNSHIP
102 Fisher Street
Halifax, PA 17032
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
Monday, December 11th, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

ANY ITEM LISTED ON THE AGENDA AND/OR REPORT MAY BE AN ACTION ITEM

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Bechtel called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Supervisors Bechtel, Bruner, Paul, Schreffler, and McBurney were present along with Solicitor Warshawsky, HRG, Inc. Engineer Alex Greenly, Secretary Sara Glace, and Roadmaster Matt Roland.

RECORDING MEETING:

Halifax Township secretary is the only person reportedly recording the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There were no executive sessions held in the last month.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

James Stetler: A shared driveway seems to be the issue. Mr. James Stetler attended the Board of Supervisors to ask if he was able to put up a retaining wall on one side of his driveway since the first twenty feet is a shared driveway with Mr. Matthew Richie. He feels that Mr. Matthew Richie is destroying the shared driveway. Mr. James Stetler was advised that since this was a shared driveway, this is a private issue.

SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT:

Camp Hebron Culvert Bid Results: A **Motion** was made by Supervisor Schreffler and seconded by Supervisor Paul to accept Farhat Excavation bid of \$93,705.60 for the Camp Hebron Culvert. Vote called. **Motion** carries 5-0.

Paid Interim Bills: A **Motion** was made by Supervisor McBurney and seconded by Supervisor Paul to approve the paid interim bills through December 11th, 2023. Vote called. **Motion** carries 5-0.

Current Unpaid Bills: A **Motion** was made by Supervisor Paul and seconded by Supervisor McBurney to approve the unpaid bills through December 11th, 2023. Vote called. **Motion** carries 5-0.

Meeting Minutes:

Monday, November 13th, 2023, Meeting Minutes: A **Motion** was made by Supervisor Schreffler and seconded by Supervisor Paul to approve the November 13th, 2023, Meeting Minutes. Vote called. **Motion** carries 4-0-1. Supervisor McBurney was absent November 13th, 2023, Board of Supervisors Meeting.

Financial Report: Board of Supervisors called a Special Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 26th, 2023, to do a Supplemental Appropriations Resolution to balance budget. Placed on file for audit later.

EMC REPORT:

Chief Tim Neiter was present and did submit a report for November 2023.

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:

The Planning Commission Meeting was held on Monday, December 4th, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. There were three plans accepted for review: Billow Subdivision, Anderson Land Development (Solar Panel Farm), and Tobias Family Trust.

ENGINEER REPORT:

HRG, Inc. Engineer Alex Greenly was present to cover his report dated December 8th, 2023, for services during November 2023.

SOLICITOR REPORT:

Solicitor Warshawsky submitted his report dated December 7th, 2023, services during November 2023. The report will be placed on record. Bold text items are on the agenda.

ROADMASTER REPORT:

A report was submitted for November 2023 by Matt Roland, Ryan Malone, and Colton Warfel.

SEO REPORT:

No report was submitted for the work that was done in the month of November 2023.

FRIENDS OF FORT HALIFAX REPORT: Vicki Vitolo, replacing Norma Shearer as president starting January 2024, member of Friends of Fort Halifax, was present and submitted a report for November 2023.

NUISANCE REPORT:

No discussion or action taken.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Local Agencies Prohibited from Adding Non-Emergency/Non-De Minimis Items to Agendas During

Meetings: This means that the Commonwealth Court ruled that local agencies may not add non-emergency and non-de minimis items to agendas during meetings, rejecting interpretations that Section 712.1(e) of the Sunshine Act could be used to add any item to the agenda by majority vote during the meeting. The court held that Section 712.1 of the Sunshine Act offers only “three exceptions to the general prohibition that allow agency action on matters not previously listed in the meeting agenda: in cases of (1) emergency business; (2) de minimis business not involving fund expenditure or entering into a contract that arises within the 24 hours preceding the meeting, and (3) de minimis business raised by a resident/taxpayer during the meeting that does not involve fund expenditure or entering into a contract.” The dissenting opinion argued legislators intended that Section 712.1(e) of the Sunshine Act is a “standalone, remedial exception that permits the agency to correct whatever caused an item of business to be omitted from the agenda published in accordance with Section 709(c)(1)” or they would not have included it. The decision is being appealed to the Supreme Court. Unless and until the Pennsylvania Supreme Court reverses this decision, townships should ensure that the only items that are added to their agendas during public meetings are those that fall within Section 712.1(b), (c), and (d) of the Sunshine Act.

OLD BUSINESS:

Keiffer Road: No discussion or action taken.

EMS/Ambulance Coverage & UD COG: No discussion or action taken.

Lenker Estates/Smith Homes: The Board of Supervisors advised sending Engineering bills to homeowners.

NEW BUSINESS:

Halifax Township EOP Resolution 23-06-2023: A **Motion** was made by Supervisor McBurney and seconded by Supervisor Paul to adopt the Halifax Township EOP Resolution 23-06-2023. Vote called. **Motion** carries 5-0.

2024 Tax Resolution 23-07-2023: A Motion was made by Supervisor Bruner and seconded by Paul to dispense with the reading of the 2024 Tax Resolution 23-07-2023. Vote called. Motion carries 5-0. A Motion was made by Supervisor Bruner and seconded by Paul to approve the 2024 Tax Resolution 23-07-2023. Vote called. Motion carries 5-0.

Lee Lepka-Building Permit & Variance: Board of Supervisors requested that the variance letter be notarized.

HAWASA (Sewer Extension)/OLDS Abandonment Info.: Jeff Enders (Mayor) and Justin Mendinsky from HRG, Inc. gave an update to Halifax Township Board of Supervisors about the Sewer Extension Project. They advised that residents need to contact Brian McFeaters (SEO for Halifax Township) about the OLDS Abandonment Info. There are two upcoming Sewer Extension Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Halifax Area High School Auditorium and Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Halifax Area High School Auditorium. For more information, please visit our website: www.halifaxtownship.net.

PennDOT Renewal Letter-Municipal Snow Removal Contract: A **Motion** was made by Supervisor Bruner and seconded by Supervisor Paul to approve the Municipal Snow Removal Contract with PennDOT. Vote called. **Motion** carries 5-0.

Public Railroad Crossing: The Board of Supervisors for Halifax Township asked Engineer Alex Greenly of HRG, Inc. to work on gathering paperwork for a Deed of Dedication at Fort Halifax Park.

Wagner, Dreese, Elsasser, & Associates, Inc. Contract: No discussion or action taken.

2024 Budget Adoption: A **Motion** was made by Supervisor McBurney and seconded by Supervisor Paul to edit an administrative error. Vote called. **Motion** carries 5-0. A **Motion** was made by Supervisor Schreffler and seconded by Supervisor Paul to approve the 2024 Budget. Vote called. **Motion** carries 5-0.

M5 Companies LLC. (Messick's LDP): Max Stoner from Glace Associates representing M5 Companies LLC. requested a final inspection to release the Financial Security.

Flight source: A **Motion** was made by Supervisor Paul and seconded by Supervisor McBurney to release the remaining Financial Security of \$12,400.00. Vote called. **Motion** carries 5-0.

Rockstart Daycare Letter of Credit: A **Motion** was made by Supervisor Bruner and seconded by Supervisor Paul to release \$34,742.00 of the Financial Security, leaving a remaining \$2,310.00 in Financial Security for the vegetation to stabilize and as built plans. Vote called. **Motion** carries 5-0.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

Keiffer Road

EMS/Ambulance Coverage & UD COG/MOU

Public Railroad Crossing

Wagner, Dreese, Elsasser, & Associates, Inc. Contract

Costa Stormwater Management Plan

Sycamore Ridge HOPS Application

Supplemental Appropriations Resolution

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

December 25th, 2023-Halifax Township Office will be closed to observe Christmas Day.

December 26th, 2023-Special Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

January 1st, 2024-Halifax Township Office will be closed to observe New Year's Day.

January 2nd, 2024-Board of Supervisors Re-Org. Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

January 3rd, 2024-Auditors Re-Org. Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

January 3rd, 2024-Planning Commission Re-Org./Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

January 8th, 2024-Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

A **Motion** was made by Supervisor Bruner and seconded by Supervisor Paul to adjourn at 9:46 p.m. Vote called. Motion carries 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara M. Glace
Secretary/Treasurer