

**Halifax Township  
Board of Supervisors' Meeting  
July 14, 2014**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Bechtel called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Supervisors Bechtel, Bruner, Paul, Schreffler and McBurney are present. Solicitor Bruce Warshawsky, Engineer Tom Wilson, Roadmaster Corey Stazewski and Secretary Carolyn Nye are present.

**RECORDING MEETING:** The Secretary is the only individual recording the meeting tonight.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** **Fred Thompson** went over the incident on Shammos School Road which involved a cement block being placed on the road. The Solicitor stated there is a 33 foot right-of-way on that road and the cement block was placed within that right-of-way. **Norma Shearer** commented about the beautiful fireworks that were held at the park. She also brought to the Board's attention the water problem pertaining to Quail Commons. She stated there is erosion at the storm water detention pond which is clogging drains. **Frank Wilmarth** stated a flag was stolen from the park. He commented about the fireworks at the park and how successful this showing was for the community. **Brook Lenker** spoke about the Susquehanna River Trail Association wanting to promote a river trail campsite at the park. She stated a more formal proposal will be provided in August for the Board to consider. **Beth Hogan** is present with her son Christopher Hogan who will present his project under Old Business.

**SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT:** **Paid Interim Bills** – Supervisor Paul made a motion to approve the interim bills, seconded by Supervisor Bruner, vote called, motion carried 5-0. **Current Unpaid Bills** – Supervisor Schreffler made a motion to authorize payment of the bills, seconded by Supervisor McBurney, vote called, motion carried 5-0. **Minutes** – Supervisor Paul made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Supervisor Schreffler, vote called, motion carried 5-0. **Financial Report** – The Board reviewed the report and had no comment.

**EMC REPORT:** None

**PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT:** Fred Ford gave a report for the July 7 meeting. He indicated the only business discussed was the Kristen Rode side lot issue. Kristen provided a sketch plan which the Board went over and discussed various issues which she will take into consideration.

**ENGINEER REPORT:** Tom Wilson gave his July 3 report. No action was taken.

**SOLICITOR REPORT:** Bruce Warshawsky presented his report of July 10. **UPDATE DONCO-SWEIGARD** – Judge Lewis granted an order permitting Mr. Sweigard to intervene in the DONCO Appeal. Judge Lewis vacated a prior order he issued dismissing Mr. Sweigard's appeal filed in 2013. Both matters are before the judge and a hearing is scheduled for August 22. The Solicitor stated he spent hours going through the township files to

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supplement the record for the appeal which was completed two week ago and submitted to the court. As of Friday a new motion is pending by Mr. Sweigard to dismiss the request by DONCO and the Township to confirm the agreement reached in October and has asked the court to grant a hearing for further development of the record. The agreement was presented to the court for confirmation and has been on hold since then. The Solicitor hopes to provide an update for the August meeting. **DCNR and PA Conservancy** – A meeting has been scheduled for September 4 with DCNR and the PA Conservancy. This meeting is to discuss the restrictions and potential proposal regarding DCNR purchasing the Borough property located near the Ibberson Conservation Area and how the expected purchase of this property might serve as an area to transfer some or all of the conservation rights that are currently imposed on the park. Supervisors Paul and McBurney will be meeting with the Solicitor to go over items for discussion for the September meeting.

**ROADMASTER REPORT:** Corey provided his June report. **L9000 Truck** – Corey stated there is a buyer for the truck for \$6,650.00. **Motion:** Supervisor Bruner made a motion to accept the bid on the truck for \$6,650.00, seconded by Supervisor McBurney, vote called, motion carried 5-0. **V Plow Township Crew Cab** – Corey got a price for the plow thru Co-Stars at \$5,608 installed. The Board feels this could be budgeted for the new year. Further discussion is tabled until the August meeting. **Roads for Repair** – Corey stated he received a phone bid from Craig Morgan for North 5<sup>th</sup> Street at \$4,950.00, Kinsinger Road at \$2,925.00. **Motion:** Supervisor McBurney made a motion to accept the bids as stated and move forward, seconded by Supervisor Paul, vote called, motion carried 5-0. **Maple Avenue and Sycamore** – These streets do not yet have stop signs. A traffic study is needed. Tom Wilson provided an estimate of \$500.00. **Motion:** Supervisor McBurney made a motion to authorize the Engineer to consult with Corey, provide the study for \$500.00 and report to the Board, seconded by Supervisor Bruner, vote called, motion carried 5-0. **2014 Paving** - Corey and Supervisor Paul did a road inspection. **Motion:** Supervisor Paul made a motion for Corey to get a proposal from PennDOT-Scott Lehman for Lehman Road, Ebenezer Road, McClelland Road and Parmer Drive, seconded by Supervisor Schreffler, vote called, motion carried 5-0. **Debris on Fifth Street** – Raymond Maus and Tim Meyers had a discussion with Mr. Eyster and Mr. Blosser regarding the grass debris being put on Fifth Street and tree trimming along that street. **Motion:** Supervisor Schreffler made a motion to authorize the Secretary to send letters to both residents regarding regulations pertaining to this type of activity, seconded by Supervisor Bruner, vote called, motion carried 5-0.

**PARK COMMITTEE:** Supervisor McBurney provided the report. **Motion:** Supervisor Bruner made a motion to approve item 6. Reconstruction of Milkhouse door jam/lintel and 7. Whitewashing of Granary and Corncrib, seconded by Supervisor McBurney, vote called, motion carried 5-0. **Motion:** Supervisor Bruner made a motion to approve Item 10. Plowing and discing for completion of CSC, seconded by Supervisor Paul, vote called, motion carried 5-0. **Scout Project** – Chris Hogan gave a presentation and proposal regarding a scout project to build a gazebo at the park. Chris stated from August to November fund raising will take place. Materials will be purchased December to March. He estimates the project will be completed in April of 2015. **Motion:** Supervisor Schreffler made a motion to approve the project, seconded by Supervisor Paul, the Board complimented Chris on his presentation, vote called, motion carried 5-0. **Park Rules** – to be scheduled on next month's agenda.

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**ADMINISTRATIVE:** Chairman Bechtel announced a demonstration for a non-heated crack sealing material to be held at the Elizabethville Fire House July 15 at 10:00 a.m. He also mentioned Dauphin County is discussing the regional police situation.

**SEO REPORT:** The Board is in receipt of a July 10, 2014 report from Matt Williard. Matt will be preparing a response regarding the 1059 North River Road property. Charges were filed against Revelation Realty who owns the property currently.

**OLD BUSINESS: Christopher Hogan Troop 85 Project** – Previously discussed. **Laudenslager Lane Street Sign – Motion:** Supervisor Schreffler made a motion to approve the lane name “Rode-Laudenslager Lane”, seconded by Supervisor Paul, vote called, motion carried 4-1. **Motion:** Supervisor Paul made a motion to have the Township order the sign and be reimbursed by the Laudenslagers, seconded by Supervisor Bruner, vote called, motion carried 5-0. **Alternative Funding Committee** – The Solicitor was authorized by the Board to research the amusement tax law and ordinances. The Solicitor stated he found the collection of this type of tax is through a tax collector. There is a limit of 10% on the tax. There are limits on the use of the tax. Supervisor Schreffler commented about the tax as a supplemental resource. He acknowledges the Tobias’ letter to the township opposing the tax and feels there needs to be more discussion via the committee. Supervisor Bruner spoke about the LST which is benefitting the Township. He indicated there needs to be more time to look into the amusement tax and discuss this thoroughly. Chairman Bechtel feels the Township revenue needs to increase to meet the ongoing increased expenses and his big concern is the roads in the township. The Township is responsible for about 32 miles of blacktop roads. The cost for paving is currently about \$80,000.00 a mile for resurfacing. The lifespan of a road is approximately ten years. The Township is continuously falling behind on road repairs/resurfacing. PennDOT Liquid Fuels allotment is approximately \$135,000.00. He drew attention to the limited amount of road surface Liquid Fuels covers and the fact that not just local people use the Township roads and some township roads are heavily traveled. He feels that an amusement tax which taxes the admissions only (as stated by a Tobias family member the majority of admissions to their park is from out of the area) would not be as burdensome as a raised real estate tax which would affect all land owners and could burden individuals with fixed incomes such as retired and elderly individuals. The Tobias’ expressed their opposition to this tax and Ern Tobias suggested a business tax which would affect all businesses. Chairman Bechtel stated this type of tax is called a Gross Receipts Tax which municipalities do have the option of imposing. However, this type of tax for example would tax not only the admissions but the souvenirs and concession stands as well. The Board agreed to invite a Tobias family member to attend a future committee meeting to discuss the tax. **Tobias Pond Issue** – The Solicitor stated it was his understanding that the Township was waiting on a proposal from the Tobias’. Corey stated that no permit is needed and we can abandon anything formal. The Tobias’ will do their part and the Township can put in two additional drains to take care of any future water problems. Ern Tobias agreed to this idea. **Hornung Stormwater Issue** – Previously there was a question about the sheds that are displayed for sale and if these would be subject to the township stormwater regulations. Corey indicated he did not yet get to this but will have information for next month. **Audit Report** – Supervisor McBurney gave a report of the meeting consisting of himself, Carolyn and Supervisor Bruner along with Robb Wentzel one of the auditors. It was agreed that the Secretary reconcile bills no later than 60 days out. It was again suggested by the auditors to have the Street Light Fund put under an interest bearing account. The Board will take this under advisement.

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It was also suggested the Township meet with the Fire Company regarding the various issues presented by the auditors pertaining to their record keeping and financial software used. Robb brought up about contacting the school regarding the use of the same County system as the Tax Collector uses. This system proves to be a more efficient process in recordkeeping and auditing. Chairman Bechtel suggested either the auditors or someone from the audit committee contact the school board and new superintendent about this. Melinda Warfel reaffirmed how efficient this system operates. Supervisor McBurney said he would contact Jim Markel and one of the auditors to try to get a meeting together with the school. Supervisor McBurney brought up about the auditor's suggestion to use CPA's to do the audit. Chairman Bechtel stated if the Board wants to do this, contacts should be made to see how much it would cost and this issue if considered should be budgeted.

**Quail Commons Pilot** – The Solicitor provided the information regarding the meeting that was held at the Township June 10<sup>th</sup> consisting of himself, Supervisors Bechtel and Schreffler along with Hara Frank School Board President, Stan Laskowski attorney for the school, Mr. Yoder and his council. The original proposal which the county endorsed was a 22.78% on full assessed value. The Township countered that proposal at 50% full assessed value. Supervisor Schreffler stated he feels it was a good meeting and feels Mr. Yoder will respond with some type of compromise. **Halifax Area School District Plan** – Allen Whitteker, Facilities Director for the school provided information on the plan. He indicated there will be no additional school taxes needed because of this plan. The square footage decreased and the impervious coverage is less impacted due to a reduction of 7,000 square feet of impervious coverage. Tom Wilson stated the Township is in need of the Conservation District's review of the plan along with a plan showing the actual footprint since there has been a change. This does not have to go back to the Planning Commission. Tom will assess the plan when received.

**NEW BUSINESS: Chris Clark** – Not in Attendance. **Bonita Freeman Request** – Bonnie stated she had given money to the Friends of Ft. Halifax in memory of her deceased husband toward planting of trees in the memorial garden at the park. She asked for approval to do this. **Motion:** Supervisor Schreffler made a motion to authorize Jim Eppley to stake out the area and present this to the Board for approval, seconded by Supervisor McBurney, vote called, motion carried 5-0. **Camp Hebron Concern** – Chairman Bechtel commented on his concern regarding kids playing on Camp Hebron Road at the camp and apparently unsupervised. He stressed this is not only a dangerous situation for the kids but the motorist as well. The Secretary was instructed to send a letter to Camp Hebron expressing this concern.

**AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:** Plow, Park Rules and Proposed Tree Planting at Park.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Planning Commission Meeting August 4 at 7 p.m. and Township Meeting August 11 at 7 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Supervisor Bruner made a motion to adjourn at 9:40 p.m., seconded by Supervisor Schreffler, vote called, motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted by

Carolyn Nye, Secretary