

HALIFAX TOWNSHIP
102 Fisher Street
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
May 10, 2021 7:00 p.m.
Public Meeting and by Virtual Conference

CALL TO ORDER - Chairman Bechtel called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL - Supervisors Bechtel, Bruner, Schreffler and McBurney are present along with Secretary Wendy Wentzel, and Roadmaster Tim Belk. Also present were Solicitor Bruce Warshawsky and Engineer Marc Kurowski. Supervisor Randy Paul was absent.

MEETING RECORDING – The Secretary is the only person reportedly recording the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

BID OPENING – Bids received for 2021 Base Repairs are as follows:

Meckley’s Limestone Products, Inc. - \$38,128.40
New Enterprise Stone & Lime Company, Inc. - \$31,930.14

Motion was made by Supervisor Bruner and second by Supervisor McBurney to award the contract for the 2021 Base Repairs for the Township to New Enterprise Stone & Lime Company, Inc. in the amount of \$31,930.14. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0.

Bids received for 2021 Tar and Chipping are as follows:

Martin Paving, Inc. - \$112,359.06
Midland Asphalt Materials, Inc. - \$107,535.78
Russell Standard Corporation - \$97,060.92

Motion was made by Supervisor McBurney and second by Supervisor Schreffler to award the contract for the 2021 Tar and Chipping for the Township to Russell Standard Corporation in the amount of \$97,060.92. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0.

Bids received for 2021 Paving are as follows:

Meckley’s Limestone Products, Inc. - \$67,510.00
New Enterprise Stone & Lime Company, Inc. - \$58,639.55

Motion was made by Supervisor Schreffler and second by Supervisor Bruner to award the contract for the 2021 Paving for the Township to New Enterprise Stone & Lime Company, Inc. in the amount of \$58,639.55. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0.

Total for the 2021 Road Projects comes to \$187,630.61 and will be paid from the Liquid Fuels Account.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – None

SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT

Paid Interim Bills – **Motion** was made by Supervisor McBurney and second by Supervisor Schreffler to approve the paid interim bills thru May 10, 2021. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0. **Current Unpaid Bills** – **Motion** was made by Supervisor Schreffler and second by Supervisor McBurney to pay the unpaid bills through May 10, 2021 except for the bill for LandPro in the amount of \$376.83. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0. **April 12, 2021 Minutes** – **Motion** was

made by Supervisor McBurney and second by Supervisor Bruner to approve the Minutes of the April 12, 2021 meeting. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0. **Financial Report** – Placed on file for audit at a later period.

EMC REPORT – EMC Tim Neiter provided a written monthly report for his EMC Activities the month of April. Tim reported on the mock exercise and the meeting that took place prior to the mock exercise. The Halifax Township roadcrew assisted the Fire Department in removing debris at the North River Road decommissioned boat launch to provide access for water supply/boat operations in the event of an emergency. EMC Neiter mentioned that they may need to go back to the launch once the river levels recede to clean up any additional debris. EMA meeting held in preparation for the mock exercise that took place on April 17th which is a large-scale exercise held every two years. The mock exercise included a tornado in the former Strohecker Trailer Park and an event at Lake Tobias. A follow-up review of the exercise will take place on May 18, 2021. On behalf of the Fire Department, he reported call numbers for the month of April at 15 with one structure fire in Fisherville which was a shed. Halifax Ambulance received a rebate check because of their Workers Comp audit and asked how the Township would prefer to receive the check. The Township preferred that the check be deposited and write a check to the Township in the amount of \$1,126.00.

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS – Hornung’s Land Development – Motion was made by Supervisor Bruner and second by Supervisor McBurney to grant the five waiver requests which the Planning Commission recommends approving on Engineer Cathy Lee’s comment letter dated April 26, 2021 for Hornung’s True Value. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0.

Motion was made by Supervisor Schreffler and second by Supervisor Bruner to conditionally approve the submitted plans with conditions #1, #2 and #9 be met as outlined in Engineer Cathy Lee’s comment letter dated April 26, 2021. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0.

Motion was made by Supervisor Schreffler and second by Supervisor McBurney to require the issuance of a sewage relocation permit by the Sewage Enforcement Officer prior to obtaining a Certificate of Occupancy. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0.

ENGINEER REPORT – Engineer covered his report dated May 4, 2021, for services during April and placed on record. **Quail Commons** contacted the Engineers to perform a final inspection of the roads in the Lenker Estate development. A report was generated with some items that need to be addressed before any financial security could be released and have the Township take ownership and maintenance of the roads.

SOLICITOR REPORT – Solicitor Warshawsky submitted his report dated May 6, 2021 for services during April 2021. The report will be placed on record. Bold text items are on the agenda. Regarding the sycamore trees, he has not heard a response from anyone. **Kissinger Nuisance** – Contact was made with the Township regarding cleanup days.

Supervisor McBurney asked about a nuisance complaint he received and the process of addressing the concern. A drive-by was done but it appeared to be cleaned up from the road viewpoint. The neighbor stated that everything was moved to the rear. The neighbor will have to send a complaint to the township if they feel it is still a nuisance since it cannot be viewed from the road.

ROADMASTER REPORT – Roadmaster Belk provided a recap of his report for the month of April. Hammaker called to let the Township know that they will be replacing the tar chip that was put down in 2020. They deemed it failing. This work was performed on Fellowship Drive, Galli Road, Lauren Lane, Sycamore Avenue, Oak Avenue and Elm Avenue. Three telephone bids will be sought for fog sealing the tar and chipping. Third Street and Fourth Street are getting prepped for the paving by repairing inlets and replacing storm pipes. Tim reported on the maintenance of the fleet and equipment. The Roadmaster met with Morgan Paving regarding paving around the Township building and noted that based upon his expertise, a total reclamation of everything would be needed, and costs would be more than \$100,000. The Morgan Paving Rep also recommended an Engineer come due to not knowing about the base looks like.

SEO REPORT – Report submitted for the record.

FRIENDS OF FORT HALIFAX – Report was submitted. There are no action items for the Board to act on.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Alternate TCC Delegate Appointment – Due to the resignation of Matt Ulmer as Business Manager of the Halifax School District, Halifax Township is required to appoint an alternate to replace Matt Ulmer. **Motion** was made by Supervisor McBurney and second by Supervisor Schreffler to appoint Tyler James, the new Halifax School District Business Manager, as the alternate TCC Delegate for Halifax Township. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0.

TCC Delegate Robb Wentzel provided an overview of the tax filing deadline of May 17th. This applies to the local EIT tax. It was recommended that the Township not have Keystone collect penalties and interest for filing. A sample Resolution will be sent to the Solicitor and the Township Secretary to follow and formalize at the next meeting. **Motion** was made by Bruner and second by Supervisor McBurney to follow the recommendation of the TCC which is to waive penalties and interest on late filings subject to the adoption of the appropriate resolution at the next meeting. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0.

American Rescue Plan – An update was provided to the Board regarding the American Rescue Plan monies that the municipality will be receiving. Half of the monies allocated to the Township will come in June. The Board agreed to place these monies in a separate banking account for auditing purposes. A webinar was scheduled for May 14th providing an update in the regulation and reporting of said monies for municipalities.

Ag Easement – The Mike Sweigard farm consisting of 64 acres was accepted into the Ag Easement program.

OLD BUSINESS

Boyer Street Parking Ordinance – **Motion** was made by Supervisor Schreffler and second by Supervisor McBurney to advertise the Boyer Street Parking Ordinance with the intent to adopt and erecting the signs as required. Justene Scott, a resident and owner of the parcel along the area of Boyer Street parking issue, spoke in opposition of the ordinance and stated that she is making efforts for better visibility at the intersection of Boyer and State Route 147. She stated that parking on State Route 147 would cause a visibility issue. She believes it should be a one-way street. Robb Wentzel, one of the residents who expressed the concern, mentioned that he has lived at the top of the hill for 20 years and brought this concern to the Board's attention five or six years ago. The concern was when turning right onto Boyer Street from Route 147. It turns to a one lane road and there is no room to pull off to the right due to unrestricted parking taking place. Such parking has been getting closer to Route 147 the last few years, thus creating a safety issue, and making it hard to avoid a collision. He also stated that there was not any site distance issues on Route 147 unless someone parks on Route 147. After further discussion, vote was called. Motion carries 3-1 with no vote coming from Supervisor McBurney.

Sycamore Trees – **Bob Swope** – Talked to the Board about the history of the sycamore trees in the Township and Reed Township that are a living memorial for seven men that died on duty in World War I. He also wanted to address the Board regarding the vines on the sycamore trees and stated that the vines are killing the trees. He reached out to Sue Helm's office and received a response stating that the Township had total responsibility for the sycamore trees since we have an ordinance for the trees. He would like to trim the vines and cut the suckers off. He is willing to cut the vines at no expense to the Township. The Township must speak to PennDOT before anything can be done.

A to Z Construction – Tabled until next month.

North Country Unlimited – DEP Permit – Mr. Decker is planning on removing the structures on this property and sell the property so there will be no more obstructions. Mr. Decker asked if he could keep the carport and just remove the cement pads. The engineers will review the carport and get back to the Board. The Board will proceed with an agreement between the Township and Mr. Decker providing a period to remove the structures. The agreement will be prepared by Solicitor for action at the next meeting.

Kieffer Road Ordinance – Administrative corrections have been made. Re-recordings were not necessary. The Recorder's office was able to make the changes that flows through the Department of Revenue and the Tax

Assessment office. Solicitor will talk to K & W's surveyor about getting the remaining lands to the Shoops and will have to do another vacating of the remainder of the road which can be done next month. The Fetterhoff and Bixler lot consolidations are moving forward and should have that ready for next month. The Funk and the Fetterhoff road vacating should also be moving forward to do the same time as Fetterhoff and Bixler.

Railroad Crossing – Another email was sent prior to the meeting. Waiting for a response.

Fort Halifax Barn and Farmhouse – Supervisor McBurney noted that Bruce Henry had sent an email stating that the Friends were willing to pay the bill, but Supervisor McBurney had missed that email. The Township had already agreed to pay it. A meeting will be held on June 23rd with the Conservancy, representatives from the Board of Supervisors, Representatives from the Friends of Fort Halifax and Carl Dixon.

Portal Enterprises Stormwater Management Application – On agenda for June. Question arose regarding a secondary septic site.

Fireworks Violation Letter – Changes made to the violation letter and the letter can be sent to those violating the Fireworks Ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS

Cub Scout Camping Request – Motion was made by Supervisor Bruner and second by Supervisor Schreffler to allow the Cub Scout Troop 1165 to camp at the designated campsite along the River at Fort Halifax the weekend of May 21st through May 23rd. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0.

Enders Ag Security Resolution – Motion was made by Supervisor Bruner and second by Supervisor McBurney to dispense with the reading of the Resolution. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0. **Motion** was made by Supervisor Bruner and second by Supervisor McBurney to accept the Ritchie Enders, Jr. farm to be accepted into the Halifax Township's existing Ag Security Area. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0.

Herb Stormwater Management Exemption Request – Motion was made by Supervisor Bruner and second by Supervisor Schreffler to grant the Stormwater Management exemption request for Rick and Susan Herb for their parcel at the rear of 1743 N. River Road. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

A to Z Construction, Fort Halifax, North Country Unlimited, Portal Enterprises, Boyer Street Parking Ordinance, Sycamore Trees, Fort Halifax Railroad Crossing, Kieffer Road, Fort Halifax Barn and Farmhouse, TCC Resolution

ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 14th and 15th – Cleanup Days

May 18, 2021 – Primary Election Day

June 7, 2021 – Planning Commission Meeting – 7:00 pm

June 14, 2021 – Board of Supervisor Regular Monthly Meeting – 7:00 pm

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Supervisor Bruner and second by Supervisor McBurney to adjourn at 10:00 pm. Vote called. Motion carries 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy M. Wentzel
Secretary