

HICKORY TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MONTHLY MEETING  
June 1, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Hickory Township Board of Supervisors held at the Hickory Township Municipal Building was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Kathleen Abranovich.

Supervisors Present: Kathleen Abranovich - Chairperson  
William Dean  
Michael Hall

Staff Present: Jason Medure, Esquire – Solicitor  
Lisa Schlemmer - Secretary/Treasurer  
Randall A. Cook, Jr., & Ronald Bongivengo – Hickory Twp. Police Dept.

Other Attendees:

Gary Finley	Tom McCormick
Gerald A. Lombardo, Sr.	Michelle R. Lombardo
Elaine Lombardo	Justin Petro
Robert Petro	Levi Griffin
Mike Dillow	Jennifer Miller
Tom Houston	Dennis Bevan

Motion made by Supervisor Dean and seconded by Supervisor Hall to accept the minutes from the May 11<sup>th</sup> regular meeting without correction. All in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report for May was given. Motion made by Supervisor Dean, seconded by Supervisor Hall to pay current bills, payroll and all incoming regular bills. All in favor. Motion carried.

The May police report was read by Chief Cook: 21 traffic stops; 15 administrative; 1 animal complaint; 1 assist other police; 1 burglar alarm; 2 medical assists; 1 ATV complaint; 1 disturbance; 1 escort; 1 harassment; 1 narcotics arrest (sell); 1 ordinance violation; 5 property checks; 1 shots fired; 3 suspicious activity; and 2 thefts.

**Building Permits**

Applicant	Address	Proposed Improvement
Debbie DiCerbo	233 Fairground Road	install roof mounted solar panels
Debbie & Joseph Haney	832 Lakewood-Neshannock Falls Rd.	install 40 ground mount solar panels
Kevin Mahoney	825 Moffatt Road	30' round above ground pool with deck
David & Tara Price	1888 LaClair Drive	24' round above ground pool
Kevin Mahoney	825 Moffatt Road	Gazebo on a cement pad

**Public Comments:** Tom Houston stated that he saw on the news that Hempfield Township expected to lose over 1 million dollars in annual revenue. He feels that the Township needs to look at making some budgetary cuts. He stated that years ago the Supervisors came to the VFD asking that the roster be trimmed down to save on workmans' compensation premiums. He said that the Township should cut back the police department roster. He also wants to see cut backs on the road crew since the roads are the same condition as they have always been. He put the township on notice that should there be a tax increase come budget time in the Fall, that he will be extremely upset. In reply, Supervisor Abranovich stated that the road crew had been laid off in March and April and only working on an emergency basis during the lay off period. Supervisor Dean added that the road crew was only working as needed for required maintenance.

Mike Dillow said that he feels that the Township is selectively issuing building permits and enforcing ordinances. He said that there are signs up and down Harlansburg Road such as Copper Lumber, JDS Fitness, the car lot on S.R. 388 and the bakery/fresh food place on the corner and wondered if they had sign permits. He also stated that he does not think that many businesses, such as the Hickory Township VFD, JDS Fitness and others, have secured proper highway permitting for their commercial ingress/egress from state roads. He wanted to know why he is being required to adhere to the ordinances when others are not. In reply, Tom Houston stated that the VFD had permission since the 1970s for their ingress/egress areas. Dillow refuted that point stating that the VFD driveway was not regulation.

Dillow inquired about how to get building permit records from the Township. Solicitor Medure instructed him to file a right-to-know request. Supervisor Abranovich refuted his claim that he is being singled out for enforcement stating that the Township is looking into or has begun enforcement on a bevy of properties in the Township.

Gerald Lombardo voiced his continuing disgust at the condition of the Dillow property neighboring his and his anger at the Township for failing to mitigate. He complained about junk, unregistered cars, water drainage, etc. Elaine Lombardo stated that Dillow was creating a junk yard area. There was a heated exchange about lot lines, a survey, true ownership of the Dillow property, cutting of trees, moving drains and buildings encroaching lot lines. Dillow stated that all of the cars on his property were licensed and insured. Officer Bongivengo intervened in the interest of tempering the situation. Solicitor Medure advised the Lombardos and Dillow that the majority of their complaints were civil in nature and advised them to seek personal counsel for legal advisement. Supervisor Abranovich stated that a new zoning officer was named May 11<sup>th</sup> and that zoning enforcement changes are imminent.

**Announcements:** The 2020 Census is looking for workers. Please see the 2020 Census announcement on the township bulletin board or go to the Census website to apply for open positions.

**Old Business:** Motion was made by Supervisor Abranovich and seconded by Supervisor Hall to terminate the emergency disaster declaration now that Lawrence County has been moved to the Green Phase. All in favor. Motion carried.

The amendment to the Hickory Township Zoning Ordinance to provide availability for marijuana growing, manufacturing and dispensary zones for companies seeking to open medical marijuana facilities within Hickory Township remains pending and was tabled for later consideration.

The request of Sarah Bollinger to have a police escort for a Paws for Cause benefit motorcycle ride on July 12, 2020 was denied. The route is predominantly outside the boundaries of Hickory Township. If the ride will take place and if the Township is contacted by Ms. Bollinger in advance, the Township will offer assistance at the S.R. 108 and S.R. 388 intersection only.

**New Business:** Motion was made by Supervisor Dean to pass Resolution 2020-13 wherein Hickory Township will to enter into an agreement with Pa One Call System, Inc. to respond to tickets generated from dig requests within the township. Said Resolution also permits Chairman Abranovich to sign the Agreements and any and all documents required to effectuate the process with Pa One Call System, Inc. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Abranovich. All in favor. Motion carried. Supervisor Abranovich offered an explanation for the need to sign a new agreement stating that the previous Agreement was jointly held with the Lawrence Hickory Municipal Authority (LHMA) resulting in only one ticket being generated for both LHMA and the Township, requiring a joint reply. As of 2020 the PUC took over the system and instituted a \$1,000.00 fine for any untimely or unanswered tickets. The parties felt it wise to split the account and have tickets sent to each party independently to ensure that neither Hickory Township nor LHMA would be held responsible for replying on infrastructure of which they have no knowledge.

Motion was made by Supervisor Dean to pass Resolution 2020-14 terminating the American Funds Pension Plan. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Hall. All in favor. Motion carried. Supervisor Abranovich offered further explanation about the termination of the pension plan stating that the plan was costing the Township more than the State Aid it was receiving annually to fund the accounts of two (2) vested employees, which did not make fiscal sense. Further, in order to receive State Aid a person must be either full time or deemed full time which is incongruent with Hickory Township because the road crew works as needed.

Bill Dean added that the road crew will be berming in advance of the seal coating projects that are slated for McCaslin Road, Patton Road, LaClair Drive, Michael Lane and Justin Lane. Youngblood Paving advised that they will likely tar and chip said roads in June.

A motion was made by Supervisor Dean, seconded by Supervisor Hall to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 P.M. Motion carried.