

HICKORY TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MONTHLY MEETING
August 5, 2019

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 immediately followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisors Present: Kathleen Abranovich - Chairperson
William Dean
Michael Hall

Staff Present: Joseph Sager – Hickory Twp. Police Dept.
Lisa L. Schlemmer – Secretary/Treasurer

Other Attendees: Keith Hall Thomas McCormick, Sr.
Tom Houston Jim Allshouse
Rich Alley Kurt Shingledecker
Chris Fabian Jon Sweet
Thomas “Ed” McConnell

Motion made by Supervisor Abranovich and seconded by Supervisor Hall to accept the minutes from the July 1, 2019 regular meeting without correction. All in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s report for the month of July was given. Motion made by Supervisor Abranovich, seconded by Supervisor Hall to pay current bills, payroll and all incoming regular bills. All in favor. Motion carried.

The July police report was offered by Officer Joe Sager: 54 traffic stops; 1 burglary; 1 crash; 1 public drunkenness; 20 property checks; 1 burglar alarm; 1 animal complaint; 1 medical assist; 1 welfare check; 1 mental health call; 23 miscellaneous calls for service

Building Permits – June

Applicant	Address	Proposed Improvement	Fee
Joshua & Tammy Proch	1034 W. Moffatt Road	18’ x 21’ roof over existing deck	\$143.00
Edwin & Patty Moore	2003 Harlansburg Road	24’ x 36’ addition & garage	\$379.50
Gerald & Diane Downing	2383 Eastbrook Road	16’ x 17’ addition	\$302.50

Public Comments: Jim Allshouse of Shenango China Hunting and Fishing Club stated that the bylaws of the organization state that they are to be “good neighbors”, however, they are contesting the issuance of the zoning violation for using their property as a campground. He offered that the campers are members of the Club, that no fees are charged, that the waste water is connected to the Club’s sanitary sewer system and there is no ill effect in his opinion. Mr. Allshouse asked to go on record as having filed an appeal of the zoning violation by having been present at the meeting. Supervisor Abranovich instructed Mr. Allshouse to have his lawyer contact Solicitor Medure for any further discussion on the matter.

Tom Houston stated that he knows that the Hickory Township Police Department has a certified VASCAR unit and wants it to be used from 7:00 AM – 9:00 AM every morning in Eastbrook. He states that there are a number of children riding bicycles on Eastbrook Road and there are far too many speeders. Mr. Houston also requested that the township purchase a speed limit sign that calculates the speed of anyone traversing through Eastbrook such as the sign that it posted in New Wilmington. In reply, Chris Fabian stated that he has researched the speed limit signs for

the New Castle Police Department. The cost to purchase a sign mounted on a trailer is approximately \$15,000.00. The cost to purchase a programmable sign on a post is approximately \$7,000.00. The cost for a smaller sign mounted on an existing pole is \$1,600.00 - \$2,200.00. The township may request to borrow a sign from PennDOT. The Supervisors will take the request into consideration.

Keith Hall inquired about who is enforcing the burning ordinance as there have been inquiries made to the Hickory Township VFD and the VFD had a call out for burning incident on Hawthorne. Mr. Hall was advised that that any calls or complaints about burning should be directed to the Hickory Township Secretary. Residents must file a complaint in order for action to be undertaken. Both complaint forms and the entire verbage of the burning ordinance are posted on hickorytownship.com.

Thomas "Ed" McConnell inquired as to what the procedure is to appeal anything issued by the township, such as a building permit or to voice problems he has with an ordinance. Mr. McConnell was asked to be specific and clarify the cause for his question. There was a brief discussion about procedure. Thereafter, Mr. McConnell was advised that issues with building permits should be directed to David McCallister.

Kurt Shingledecker has questions about zoning residential vs. agriculture on a property he intends to subdivide. Mr. Shingledecker was referred to Don Bowden, Chairman of the Hickory Township Zoning Board.

Jon Sweet inquired about the status of hiring a code enforcement officer. Mr. Sweet was advised that David McCallister continues to undertake enforcement responsibilities. There was a brief discussion about the number of pending violation letters and the various stages of clean-up of the properties. Mr. Sweet also inquired about the status of discussions with the Laurel School District about the school resource officer issue. Supervisor Abranovich advised that Hickory Township provided an all-inclusive and final proposal to the Laurel School District on June 5th. The Laurel School District was to notify Hickory Township of their decision. The Laurel School District has yet to vote on the measure, however, Hickory Township has been informally advised that the matter is on the August meeting agenda for a vote and that there is ample support to accept the terms as proposed. Solicitor Medure will undertake the drafting of the contract.

Old Business: A motion to order pipe for the Lakewood-Neshannock Falls Road project was made by Supervisor Dean and seconded by Supervisor Hall. All in favor. Motion carried.

New Business: Motion was made by Supervisor Hall, seconded by Supervisor Abranovich to accept the tax exoneration as issued by the Lawrence County Assessment Office for 1766 Eastbrook Road owned by Michael Pollio, Jr. All in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Abranovich informed the public that the USDA has issued a notice to the region of their intent to disperse raccoon baits containing rabies vaccination from August 5th – 21st. The public is asked to keep their dogs confined to their property or on leashes during the week of baiting and the week after. Anyone needing further information may contact the Township Secretary or visit the USDA website. This notification has also been run on all local television channels.

The Municipal Engineer contract expired on November 15, 2018. This matter will be referred to Solicitor Medure for further action.

The Solicitation Ordinance (No. 1 of 1980) needs to be reviewed and updated. This matter will also be referred to Solicitor Medure.

The Supervisors discussed the need for formal proof of identification (badges, shirts, magnetic signage on vehicles, etc.) for township officials who need to engage the public at their residences. It was agreed that township officials should be issued an official badge. A logo will be drafted and badges will be issued in the near future.

The hiring of any summer or winter labor was briefly discussed. Supervisor Abranovich made a motion to table this matter until the next meeting. Motion seconded by Supervisor Hall. All in favor. Motion carried.

The 25 MPH speed limit sign has been reposted to Devil's Elbow Road.

A motion was made by Supervisor Abranovich, seconded by Supervisor Hall to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 PM. Motion carried.