

GLENBURN TWP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING

MINUTES January 19, 2016

Board Members in Attendance: Mike Savitsky, Dave Jennings and Bill Wicks

Board Guests in Attendance: Solicitor MacGregor, Code Enforcement Officer Wicks, Chief James, Sgt Rudolfi and Secretary Benson.

Public in Attendance: Attachment

-Supervisor Savitsky called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm with the pledge to the flag.

Minutes

Supervisor Savitsky motioned to waive the reading aloud of and accept the minutes of the December 21, 2015 Township Meeting and the January 4, 2016 Reorganization Meeting, Supervisor Jennings 2nd, All in Favor.

Financial Report/Presentation of Bills

Mo. by Savitsky, 2nd by Jennings to pay the bills and accept the financial reports as presented by Secretary Benson including the \$22,653 Payment #6 to Wince Construction as part of the AAJRB Grant administration.

Resolution Raising the Tax Millage from 4 to 6 Mills: Solicitor MacGregor discussed the fact that the supervisors approved a 2 mill property tax increase at the December 2015 meeting. A resolution is also required in order to implement the tax increase. Solicitor MacGregor explained that the Township Engineer put together a comprehensive road maintenance and repair plan at the request of the Board of Supervisors (BOS). The cost of the first year of the plan is approximately \$900,000. This will be funded by Liquid Fuels, an LSA Grant, surplus in the General Fund and a \$300,000 loan. The BOS have been discussing roadwork plans over the past few months at the Township Meetings and based on the cost of the multi-year plan approved the 2 mill tax increase which will only be used to cover debt service and roadwork. There is flexibility within the plan and it will be relooked at in future years based on the needs and financial situation of the Township. Each mill gives the Township an additional \$14,000 to use towards roadwork. Glenburn has one of the lowest taxes around and already we use 1.5 mills for fire protection and the equivalent of 4 mills for police. The tax increase is deemed to be the most cost effective way to meet the roadwork goals with the least impact on tax payers. Secretary Benson did some analysis of the property taxes. More than half the residents on the tax rolls currently pay less than \$50 in Township Taxes. Out of a tax base of 918 residents/properties, 892 currently pay less than \$200. This will decrease to 384 paying less than \$50 and 797 paying less than \$200 with the increase. Chairman Savitsky asked if there was any public comment.

Paul Czarkowski, resident of Arch Avenue, asked why the Township didn't consider selling all of its equipment, eliminating the road crew and contracting out municipal services such a snow plowing. He pointed out that Glenburn contracts police services when we used to have our own Chief. Malcolm and Bill Wicks pointed out that the BOS contracted with Waverly for more and better service at a reduced cost. Malcolm stated that he was not aware of any Townships that outsource their road crew. Bill Wicks gave examples of work done by the road crew involving deep patching and drainage projects. They do more than just plow snow. The cost of contracting out those types of services would exceed what it costs to do them in house. Our current 900K plan does not include any drainage with the exception of a box culvert at the top of Humphrey Road. The road crew will be doing the storm water and drainage work. Malcolm stated that the supervisors like to have someone available to address resident concerns and problems and that the road crew does a terrific job. There was further discussion about liability insurance and other expenses incurred by in house staff. Resident Dave Druck pointed out that the same costs would be passed on to the Township via any contractor. There was also some discussion about crack sealing and other road maintenance.

Judy Skerel, resident of White Birch Rd, asked if there were any plans to pave the lower portion of Waterford Road as it has had more traffic since the Conservancy Trail Parking Area was put in. Bill Wicks stated that the supervisors are looking into widening it but that he couldn't put a time frame on when that would happen. The current priority is the drainage work for the 900K plan. He said that more base can be added and the drainage on the sides kept open. He also stated that any new paving would involve more road base.

Township Engineer Jack Scheuer explained that the roads are only as good as the base underneath. He and the road crew did test pits on a number of Township roads and found only minimal base where the roads were in poor condition. There was further discussion on road base and construction.

Craig Nicholof asked if the costs of the road projects included any utility fixes that might be necessary. Jack stated that it was up to the contractors to deal with the utilities and that PA One Call would have utilities mark out where they have equipment and pipes, etc. He stated that occasionally the gas line services are shallow. He also stated that Glenburn has a pave cut ordinance so that utilities will repair where they dig on Township roads.

Mike Savitsky motioned to pass Resolution 2015-06 increasing the Property Tax Millage from 4 to 6 mills. Dave Jennings 2nd, All in Favor.

Hickory Ridge Sewer: Malcolm reported that Dave Gromelski has agreements from ARWA and is updating them. They should be ready by next month.

Committee Reports

Police: No Report

Roads: No Report

Sewage Enforcement: No Report

Code Enforcement: No Report

Planning: No Report

Recreation: No Report

Old Business:

Precision National Plating (PNP) Update: Malcolm is digesting the materials received recently and will follow up on them as need be.

ACT 32 Tax Collection: No Report

Dangerous Structures: Tom Wicks reported that the LiVecchi property has been secured and he will follow up on the downstream trash. Malcolm stated that he has followed up with Attorney Rinaldi about the Colombo diner property and asked for an action plan.

Roadwork Loans: Joanne stated that a 3.15% 10 year loan for \$300,000 has been approved by Peoples Security Bank. However, she has discovered the PA Infrastructure Bank which has rates that are ½ the Prime rate, which is currently 1.75%. She is following up on this financing but was told that it could take as much as 6 months to get approval for the loan and Glenburn can't apply until we get the bid specs for the job. This could possibly cause cash flow issues depending on the timing of completion of the various road projects.

New Business:

Road Master Mennig's Retirement: Mike Savitsky announced that Road Master Mennig will be retiring at the end of the month and that Mark Hopkins will become the new Road Master. The supervisors thanked Dave for his many years of excellent service.

Appointment of Road Crew Position: Mike Savitsky motioned to appoint Jason Griffiths to the position of Road Crew at \$14.00 per hour. Dave Jennings 2nd, All in Favor. Joanne will call and offer the position to Jason.

Announcements:

WVIA Our Town the Abingtons: Joanne announced that she was interviewed about the Glenburn Art Show for this special program. There will be a preview in April. Mike Savitsky mentioned that the Glenburn Grill was part of a refurbishment program for the Food Network. That will air in Mid-February.

Public Input:

Paul Czarkowski asked for clarification about the roadwork loan. Dave Druck asked if the Little League had made any further requests about lighting the field. Mike Savitsky stated that attorney Bollock had made a Right to Know Request for any documentation related to lighting. A subsequent zoning change puts a 12 foot height limit on any lighting installed.

Supervisor Savitsky motioned to adjourn at 8:35pm and Supervisor Jennings 2nd. All in Favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne Benson, Secretary/Treasurer