

MINUTES - HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS BUSINESS MEETING
August 25, 2021

PRESENT: David Randler, Thomas Schoener, David Manbeck, Terrence Wolfe, Kevin Snyder, Andrew George, Esq., Chief Leon Grim, Nicole Werner, Lori Brown, Geneva Berger, Forrest and Barbara Stricker, Victoria Troutman, William Arndt, Jena Sweigart, Officer Brian Baxter, Larry and Bonnie Kelchner, Chad Numbers, Eileen Zerbe, David Wolfskill, Officer Ranft, Michael McKeone, Doug Sigman, Kindall Wann

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Randler at 7:30pm

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Chief Grim: Introduced K9 Aldo (2 year old German shorthair from the Netherlands) and Officer Brian Baxter. Aldo is trained to find missing children and drugs. German shorthair pointers are known for hunting. The thought is "hopefully detection will deter entrance of narcotics." Officer Baxter spent 4 weeks in Western PA for proper training in handling. Sup Wolfe asked if the school district was cooperative about allowing a K9 into the buildings. Chief Grim has been in touch with Superintendent Dr. Giffing and building principals, the schools are in agreement. The SRO stated this resource would be great at football and basketball games. Aldo is able to track (having no article of clothing, only general human scent and visible fresh broken patch) and trail (scent from personally belongs).

Awards presentation to Officer Ranft for his quick response and action to Victoria Troutman's 911 call on July 27th after being stung by bees.

Awards presentation to Womelsdorf Volunteer Fire Company Deputy Chief Ryan Zerbe, Lieutenant Michael McKeone, and Firefighters Doug Sigman and Kindall Wann for their actions taken on August 14th, 2021, at a residence on Mountain Avenue in Heidelberg Township.

Jena Sweigart: Shared future goals and initiatives for the Robeson Community Library. The library serves the following communities: The Borough of Robeson, North Heidelberg Township, and Heidelberg Township. Serving around 6,000 community members. The library's target is to have 15-20 activities/events per month. The key to success is library funding which pays salaries, purchases of new materials, and offer event/activities. State and county distribution and municipalities support the library. Increased cost of insurance is expected and is difficult to find. Insurance costs are almost 50% off expenditures. The library is expected, for the next fiscal year, to be open 45 hours per week with a mandatory 7 hours on Saturday. The Robeson Library would like to see a contribution of \$2.50 per capita. Currently, Heidelberg Township's current per capita rate is \$1.16. Sup Wolfe stated Mrs. Wolfe has spent the last two days at the high school stocking books on shelves and finished setting up the library for the school year. She knows how important the library is, along with his daughter who is a teacher at Conrad Weiser West Elementary School. Chairman Randler asked how much more the state gives if the \$2.50 per capita is met. Mrs. Sweigart was not sure of the exact figure but explained they are guaranteed a dollar to dollar match. Chairman Randler asked what the cost of insurance was. Mrs. Sweigart said in 2021, insurance is approximately \$6,000 and was an exceptional increase from the prior year. Sup Snyder suggested the Robeson Library setup a table at the upcoming community pool event where they could speak to residents and ask for donations. The event is to be held on Friday, August 24th.

Forrest Stricker and David Wolfskill: Is concerned about the Heidelberg Bridge that spans over the Spring Creek. Lower Heidelberg would like to remove the bridge due to costly repairs. Mr. Stricker stated the bridge is used frequently and would like to see it replaced. Nothing fancy, maybe just a flat bridge. Chairman Randler said David Wolfskill contacted him regarding the bridge after receiving a letter stating the bridge was going to be removed. The township received an email from Lower Heidelberg Township in May addressing the latest inspection and the MPH needed to be lowered to 35. However, there was no information or indication of removal. The residents do not want the bridge eliminated. It is in agreement, the bridge is in bad shape and is

getting worse. Chairman Randler suggested to have Jen Van Dyke, engineer from TEL, contact Lower Heidelberg Township for follow up and obtain additional information. David Wolfskill said this would be the third bridge Lower Heidelberg would have eliminated. If this continues, we would be landlocked. Mr. Wolfskill also stated the bridge is an integral part to move farming equipment. He avoids Heffner Rd as it is a "death trap" and is scary to move equipment. He feels the argument will be there is not enough traffic flow. However, in the future you will only see increased movement and congestion. Sup Schoener stated it would also be difficult to move fire equipment. Chairman Randler reiterated that the issue will be pursued with Lower Heidelberg Township.

Eileen Zerbe: Asked if a fence was going up at Bethany Children's Home. Secretary Werner confirmed a permit was only approved for a gate system but will follow up.

William Arndt and Chad Numbers: Wanted clarification on new ordinance (junk vehicles) and wanted to know when minutes and new ordinances would be posted. Chairman Randler stated that all information has been updated on the website as of today. Sup Wolfe explained Mr. Arndt has always kept up with his property and is an asset to the community. Mr. Arndt said they do towing for the SHPD and other local departments. Abandoned vehicles and junk vehicles are left outside the fence for removal. Sup Wolfe stated the township owes it to the property owner to give them a call if there is problem. Mr. Numbers asked if the township would call if there were any problems at his place of business. He admitted his property tends to look a mess and is not happy about it. He has 15-20 vehicles that he can file an abandonment report for but loses money for each file reported. Sup Schoener asked Chief Grim if a call is typically made prior to the code enforcement officer making a visit. Sup Wolfe suggested a business committee should be formed to address issues prior to sending a code enforcement officer. He would like to see the township work with business owners in the area. Ordinances are in place to be followed but does not address being neat. Mr. Wolfe feels if there is a serious problem that causes a crisis in the township, then we need to take action. Sup Snyder appreciates both gentlemen attending the meeting to discuss.

Lori Brown: Due to concerns with an area of Freeman St. she wanted to know if the street was in both Heidelberg Township and Robesonia Borough. Chairman Randler said that it was. However, the area of concern is in the Borough of Robesonia.

Geneva Berger: Wanted to know when paving was going to begin in Fry Manor. Chairman Randler stated construction must be complete by October 15th and if not the township may take the bond. Chairman Randler spoke with Pennsy. Pennsy informed him the start date should be in two weeks.

MINUTES: July 28, 2021 minutes were circulated. **MOTION** by Sup Schoener, **SECOND** by Sup Snyder, passed unanimously.

TREASURERS REPORT: A **MOTION** was made by Sup Snyder to approve the treasurer's report for the month of July. **SECOND** by Sup Schoener, passed unanimously.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: A **MOTION** was made by Sup Snyder. **SECOND** by Chairman Randler, passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Police & Fire – Report provided by Chief Grim. There was motorcycle crash in Heidelberg Township. The two motorcycles involved in the crash were going around 85-90 mph on an "S" turn on Church St. They left the road at about 75 mph. The first rider did not survive. The second rider has head trauma. Neither rider wore a helmet.

Sewer – Chairman Randler spoke with Slaymakers, boxes were made for two pump stations. Waiting for the boxes to be programmed. The pump should arrive next week and the generator should be arriving in October (it is on backorder).

Planning Commission – Meeting to be held in October

Roads, Bldg. & Equip. – With the beginning of the school year, Sup Snyder and Larry Knoll setup the timing of the school flashers. However, could not get the timing to work correctly. Telco said the relay was stuck and it is an older unit. Chairman Randler said it was replaced after a traffic accident, need to verify the time frame. Chief Grim said the lights should also be updated. Telco will be out tomorrow morning to work on the timing problem.

A donated toddler playset was added to the playground at the municipal building.

Chairman Randler said the leaf vacuum and chipper should be arriving in September. Secretary Werner and Chairman Randler have a meeting with Jane Meeks, Berks County Solid Waste Authority, tomorrow to discuss the new application for the 902 Recycling Grant.

Personnel – No report

Recreation Board/Pool – Financials for the pool will be finished for the next meeting. FREE community event to be held on Friday evening, August 24th.

Zoning Hearing Board – Next meeting to be held September 22nd

Zoning & SEO Report: Report provided to Supervisors from Technicon Enterprises, Inc.

Building Inspectors Report – Report provided to Supervisors from Technicon Enterprises, Inc.

Engineers Report – Report provided to Board of Supervisors from Technicon Enterprises, Inc.

Solicitor's Report – Report provided by Andrew George, Esq.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Western Berks Ambulance July report
- Select Environmental Solutions Monthly Operations & Maintenance report
- Animal Control Service Agreement with Safety Net Sanctuary, at this time not signed as the SHPD is doing a great job with lost pets.
- Berks County Planning Commission addressing Act 247 Joint Zoning Ordinance Amendment (lot size for apartments)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No Report

NEW BUSINESS:

Fessler Property: Solicitor George stated the property is split between Marion Township and Heidelberg Township. The portion in Marion Township is zoned MDR, as are the properties to the left and right. In Heidelberg Township, the portion of property is zoned agricultural preservation. Mr. Fessler would like to rezone the Heidelberg Township portion to MDR.

Sup Snyder made a **MOTION** to authorize the Township Solicitor and engineer to draft a zoning amendment to rezone the rear portion of Parcel X, known as 620 William Penn Blvd, that falls within Heidelberg Township

Boundary as MDR instead of AP and to start the Zoning Amendment process for this property rezoning. **SECOND** by Sup Schoener, passed unanimously.

County of Berks Department of Emergency Services Dispatch fees: County provided dispatch services, ordinance to be adopted by the end of year. Heidelberg Township only pays for Fire and EMS.

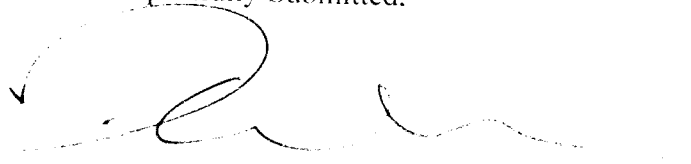
Sup Snyder made a **MOTION** to approve agreement to provide dispatch service fees from the County of Berks Department of Emergency Services. **SECOND** by Sup Schoener, passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: to discuss potential litigation adjourned at 9:42pm

MOTION TO ADJOURN by Sup Schoener at 9:46pm. **SECOND** by Sup Snyder, passed unanimously.

**Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 29th at 7:30pm,
Board of Supervisors Meeting**

Respectfully Submitted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicole Werner', with a large, stylized initial 'N'.

Nicole Werner, Township Secretary