

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SUPERVISORS OF HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP
HELD JULY 30, 2015

PRESENT: David Randler, Brenda Bennick, Brian Thum, Thomas Schoener, Terry Wolfe, Carol Keppley, Robert Keppley, Solicitor Haws, David Wolfskill, David Radcliffe, John Stine, Liz Sterner, Joan McClelland, Rebecca Geller and Cheryl Bowers.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Randler at 7:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

LIZ STERNER (Comcast) - Ms. Sterner stated that our Comcast contract will expire at the end of the year. She stated that the Federal Law states an agreement/contract for each municipality that Comcast serves must be in place. The Federal maximum franchise fee is 5% on TV cable service only and Heidelberg Township is at 5%. Chairman Randler stated it appears they are shifting fees to avoid paying on the franchise fee. Ms. Sterner stated they are not shifting anything, the franchise fee is paid on the amount the customer is paying for cable service. Some people have only the minimum service and others have the maximum.

Supv. Thumm questioned why he doesn't have cable service in the mountain area where he lives.

Ms. Sterner stated that service is provided based upon density and she would be happy to look at any locations not served.

Solicitor Haws asked if it was possible to receive a report on the average franchise fee paid. Chairman Randler asked if she could provide the previous 5 years of franchise fees.

Chairman Randler asked since we have free internet and wish to stop it can we pass it on to the fire company. Ms. Sterner stated it cannot go out of the Township, but if it can be preserved till a later time.

Chairman Randler asked what would happen if we don't sign the new agreement. Ms. Sterner said they would operate under the old one till a new one is in effect.

After further discussion Ms. Sterner agreed to report back on the following items: revenue report, snapshot of sources of revenue and explanation of bundled services.

Treasurer Carol Keppley will provide a report on the franchise fees collected over the last five years.

DAVID WOLFSKILL – Mr. Wolfskill brought an application to enter into the Agricultural Security Area for the recently purchase Wertz property. Mr. Wolfskill stated they have been farming the land for years and since they purchased it they would like to proceed with the Ag. Security and then sell the development rights. The property is 37 acres and is zoned Medium Density Residential. Chairman Randler said that if he could wait till after the ACRE lawsuit is settled, the Joint Zoning must be changed at that time and we could also change the zoning for the Wertz property. This could take approximately 1 year and there would be no cost to Mr. Wolfskill. Mr. Wolfskill was instructed to send us a letter detailing his intentions. Mr. Wolfskill said that that would be fine and thanked the Board. Mr. Wolfskill asked if the trees on the Randy Leibig property could be trimmed back to avoid hitting his farm equipment.

DAVID RADLIFFE (Robesonia Swimming Pool) – Mr. Radcliffe stated he is attending the meeting to answer questions regarding the financials that Heidelberg requested. He stated the Township was sent the financials and he heard that we wanted a more detailed report. Supv. Wolfe stated he wanted to know if the pool was planning to do any fundraisers. Mr. Radcliffe stated they had a successful 5K race and will do it again next year. Discussion on conveyance of property to the

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AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION CONTINUED

Township and have the pool lease it back to avoid property taxes. Supv. Wolfe made a motion to contribute \$1,000.00 to the Robesonia Swimming Pool, seconded by Supv. Thumm and passed unanimously. Solicitor Haws said he would discuss options with the pool's Solicitor.

JOHN STINE (Zoning Officer – Technicon) – John attended the meeting to get guidance on how the Board wants to proceed on the Kissling and Kline properties.

Kissling: There was a dangerous structure hearing held on Oct. 31, 2014 and Mr. Kissling was to have demolition completed within 90 days. Nothing has happened. Solicitor Haws will prepare the citation wording and John will file it with the DJ. The wording will request the DJ to impose the maximum fine per day.

Kline: John Stine determined the property to be a dangerous structure and he will proceed with submitting it to the Berks County Blighted Property Review Committee. Solicitor Haws will send a letter to the mortgage company.

MINUTES: The minutes of the June 26, 2015 meeting were emailed. Supv. Schoener made a motion to approve the June 26, 2015 minutes, seconded by Supv. Bennick and passed unanimously.

TREASURERS REPORT: Treasurer Carol Keppley circulated the July treasurers report. Chairman Randler made a motion to approve the July treasurers report, seconded by Supv. Bennick and passed unanimously.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: Treasurer Carol Keppley presented the bills for payment. Supv. Wolfe made a motion to approve the payment of presented bills, seconded by Supv. Schoener and passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SEWER – Chairman Randler reported he will have the details available next month.

POLICE & FIRE – The Police Report was circulated. The schedule cannot be completed at this time.

PLANNING COMMISSION – No meeting in July.

ROADS, BLDG. & EQUIP. - The road report was circulated. Chairman Randler circulated two proposals for a new roof. Supv. Wolfe made a motion to award the job to the low bidder, Flint Lane Construction - \$9,990.00, seconded by Supv. Bennick and passed unanimously. The other bid was from Dennis Rick Contracting (\$11,640.00). A Township inspection was held and a list was compiled of items for the road department to work on. A letter will be sent to homeowners that have tree branches hanging over the road letting them know that the road department will be out trimming in Aug. and Sept. The fence at the footbridge will be removed due to deterioration. During the inspection rental properties/apartments were addressed and the Rental Committee will be meeting to decide the next step.

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RECREATION BOARD – No report.

BUILDING INSPECTORS REPORT – Inspections this month – Ryan Hower (pool) and David Merkel (garage)

ENGINEERS REPORT – TEI report emailed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED

PLUMBING & SEO – TEI report emailed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ACRE LAW SUIT – This is almost settled. Chairman Randler reported that Senator Argil may have funds available to change the current zoning.

ZONING ISSUES – These were discussed under Audience Participation.

CORRESPONDENCE

A thank you note from Frank Schnee for the snack basket.

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing

At this time an executive session was called to discuss personnel. Time – 9:26 PM

The meeting was reconvened at 10:06 PM

Due to Chief Boyer being on Workers Compensation he will get paid up to the date of injury which was July 23, 2015.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Supv. Wolfe, seconded by Chairman Randler and passed unanimously. Time – 10:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,


Cheryl L. Bowers, Secretary

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 27, 2015