

MINUTES - HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS BUSINESS MEETING

May 29, 2024

PRESENT: David Randler, Thomas Schoener, Eric Goudy, Nicole Werner, Kevin Snyder, Solicitor Andrew George, Chief Matthew Hook, Eileen Zerbe, Geneva Berger, Randy & Kathy Yarnall, Ryan Zerbe (Womelsdorf Fire Co.)

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

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Eileen Zerbe – No comment

Geneva Berger – Received a question from a neighbor asking about the sale of David Weavers property along Big Spring Rd/Wooltown Rd to Lower Heidelberg Township. Wanted to know who receives the tax money. Mrs. Berger also asked what the activity was at the railroad tracks on Freeman Street. Chairman Randler stated the railroad is replacing railroad ties.

Randy Yarnall – The speed tables have made a difference on Ryeland Rd, no more drag racing at night and it has been a blessing. Those neighbors he has spoken to are also satisfied. Mr. Yarnall also stated the pool looks great.

Kathy Yarnall – It is nice to walk on the road without dodging cars. Asked if there was a weight limit as she sees truck usage on Ryeland Rd. Chairman Randler stated he thought local traffic signs were posted, including weight limit data.

Ryan Zerbe – Participation in Bethany Children’s Home discussion.

MINUTES: April 24, 2024 **MOTION** made by Sup Schoener, **SECOND** Sup Snyder. **PASSED** unanimously with correction to Audience Participation.

TREASURERS REPORT: **MOTION** made to approve the May, 2024 treasurers report by Sup Snyder, **SECOND** by Sup Goudy. **PASSED** unanimously.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: **MOTION** made by Sup Snyder, **SECOND** Sup Schoener. **PASSED** unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Police Report - Report provided by Chief Matthew Hook. There were 46 calls to service, 11 citations, 10 warnings, 1 criminal arrest. Speed enforcement detail was conducted on Bernville Rd. Bethany Children’s Home calls to service numbers in May were submitted, **CORRECTION** on spreadsheet to 11.

- **Bethany Children’s Home:** To date there have been 29 calls to service with the PD. Between April 10 and May 5 there were seven 911 hangups from Bethany Children’s Home. Officer Baxter spoke with a representative from the BCH. The phone system needs to be upgraded as you need to dial “9” to obtain an outside line, this may be causing the problem. Ryan Zerbe stated calls to service for the Womelsdorf Fire Department have been pretty much non-existent. BCH had upgraded there fire alarm system which seems to help. Regarding EMS, Anthony Tucci would have the data. Chairman Randler stated BCH pays taxes on six parcels, asset value totaling \$587,200 (\$880 taxable to the Township). The main campus is assessed at \$9,197,500 (taxable dollars would be about \$13,796 per year). However, this portion of campus is tax exempt. Most of the calls to service are from the property

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that is tax exempt. Chairman Randler and Sup Goudy met with BCH several weeks ago and suggested a fee in lieu of tax. BCH was going to relay the request to the “team” but the Township was heard no response to date. The fee in lieu of tax would help with service fees.

- **School Resource Office:** Yearly cost for the SRO is approximately \$150,000. CWASD pays about 40% towards this fee. The school has been approached for extra funding and denied the request at this time stating they are looking for additional state funding.

- **Red Knights PA Memorial Ride:** To be held on June 22nd. The ride will make its way through Heidelberg Township. This is a yearly event.

Sewer –

- ARRO Water Service Agreement Dated May 1, 2024 (Revisions #1): Agreement stating the following: beginning June 2024 ARRO monthly service fee will be \$1194.30, beginning 2025 the monthly fee will be \$1313.73 and beginning 2026 and moving forward there will be a 4% increase. ARRO Water Services stated all inspectors have certifications.

MOTION made to approve and sign the ARRO Water Service Agreement dated May 1, 2024 (revision #1) by Sup Snyder, **SECOND** by Sup Goudy. **PASSED** unanimously.

- Sewer Account: To date, all accounts are at \$0

Planning Commission – Berks County Planning Commission scheduled a meeting on June 12th at 5:00pm to discuss the Rt 422 West corridor. The meeting will be held at Ozgoods in Robesonia. Lori Brown, Thomas Schoener and David Randler to attend.

Roads, Building & Equipment –

- 2024 Roadwork Notice to Proceed:

MOTION made to sign Notice to Proceed Proposal & Contract with New Enterprise Stone & Lime Co. Inc regarding the 2024 Roadwork Project in Heidelberg Township by Sup Snyder, **SECOND** by Sup Schoener. **PASSED** unanimously.

- Heidelberg Road Bridge: PennDOT contacted the office about placing the correct barrier at the Heidelberg Rd Bridge. Requested a Type #3 barrier. As of the week of May 20th, the Public Works Department has placed the Type #3 Barrier. Secretary Werner to forward notice to PennDOT.

Personnel – No report

Recreation Board/Pool – Opening day for the pool was May 25th, smooth sailing and the Splash Zone is up and running.

Zoning Hearing Board – No report

Joint Zoning Board – Public hearing scheduled for July 18th at 7:00pm regarding the Marion Township Keeping of Peets Ordinance. Lori Brown, Eric Goudy, Thomas Schoener and David Randler to attend.

Engineers Report – Report provided by TEL.

Committee Reports continued . . .

SEO Report - Report Provided by TEI

Zoning Report - Report Provided by TEI

Communications – Secretary Werner met with TextMyGov on May 23rd to discuss software to communicate directly with our residents. The software would send out notifications for snow emergencies, leaf pick-up, road closures, etc. Cost would be as follows: 1st year \$3000 (this includes a one time \$1000 setup fee), fee after \$2000. Chairman Randler asked if the Township could “piggy-back” with Robesonia Borough to keep cost down as we have in the past.

Solicitor’s Report – Report provided by Solicitor George. Reading Bakery agreements are still being reviewed, tabled till next month.

CORRESPONDENCE: Western Berks Ambulance Report, GFL Monthly Recycling Report, ARRO Water Services Monthly Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- N/A

NEW BUSINESS:

- Tax Sitting Hours:

MOTION made to approve the following tax sitting hours proposed by Janet Thumm, Heidelberg Township Tax Collector: August 19th, 20th, 28th and 31st 10:00am to 2:00pm and August 22nd, 29th 3:00pm to 7:00pm by Sup Snyder, **SECOND** by Sup Schoener. **PASSED** unanimously.

- Ryeland Rd Superfund Site: EPA will be installing a fence around the properties being disturbed and has asked if the Township would like to keep the fence erected after the project. Work to begin the week of May 27th.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: by Sup Snyder, **SECOND** by Sup. Schoener, **PASSED** unanimously at 8:38pm.

**Next meeting will be held on June 26, 2024 at 7:30pm,
Board of Supervisors Meeting.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Werner, Township Secretary