

MEETING FRIDAY 4-21-2023, 10:00 A.M.  
Municipal Bldg. 306 Byron Street McGrann

In attendance: Supervisors Palmer and Southworth, Supervisor Hecker absent and Secretary Davis on vacation

Citizens: Larry Cecchi, Carol Cecchi and Dennis Phillips from the Leader Times

Meeting called to order by Chairman Palmer at 10:00A.M. followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Minutes of 4/5/2023 regular meeting were distributed, motion to approve by Southworth, seconded by Palmer, no public comment heard, carried.

Fort Run Park – Palmer received a letter from a resident in McGrann requesting permission to place a butterfly tree and a small plaque somewhere in the park as a memorial to two local teenagers who tragically passed away. The resident who requested the memorial would absorb all costs and would maintain the memorial. Palmer stated that he thinks that it is a nice idea, and he is in favor of the idea if it is small and tasteful. Carol Cecchi asked who the resident was and the name was provided. Larry Cecchi said he thought it was a good idea. Palmer made a motion to allow the small memorial and that he would find the location for placement outside of the main playground area and with the condition that other citizens who may want to add names to the memorial would be allowed to do so, seconded by Southworth, no public comment heard, carried.

Fort Run Bridge near Riverside Intersection – Palmer stated that the township received an inspection report on the small bridge crossing Fort Run located near the Riverside Intersection. This bridge has been inspected and found to have several minor deficiencies that need to be repaired. PennDot sent us the inspection report and listed the township as the owners and who are responsible for the repairs. Palmer stated that the bridge is 21'7" long and needs repairs like bolts put into the guardrail that abuts the bridge, concrete cracks need to be sealed, etc. Palmer stated that the township has no record of ownership, no record of turnover agreements and that the supervisors do not believe that the township owns the bridge. Palmer stated that he called PennDot District-10 Bridge Department in Indiana, PA. and spoke with representative Gill. Palmer ask PennDot for any documentation that they might have showing that we own the bridge. He was told that PennDot also has no documentation. Gill told Palmer that the bridge was constructed in 1975 when the inspection was redone by PennDot, and that a final inspection was never completed. Gill also told Palmer that in 2017 the Federal Highway Transportation Agency required PennDot to locate all bridges and get them added to inspection list. Four bridges were in Armstrong County and they were added to the inspection list. Gill stated that since we receive liquid fuels monies the PennDot attorneys said the responsibility should be with the county or the municipality. Palmer told the PennDot representative that Manor Township would not accept a liability like that without proof of ownership or a takeover agreement. Palmer contacted the township solicitor who also found that the Armstrong County Planning office also has similar issues with other bridges. The solicitor is going to write a letter to PennDot disputing ownership of the bridge. Palmer made a motion to allow the solicitor to contact PennDot and write a letter of dispute, seconded by Southworth, Larry Cecchi said good luck getting that resolved, carried.

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Bishop Hill/Coal Street paving project – Palmer stated that the solicitor researched the property deeds for Bishop Hill to determine where the public road ends and private property begins. Those records are on file. Palmer stated that Supervisors Southworth and Palmer met with Senate Engineering and Kathy Heilman from the County Planning Office to map out the projected paving, using the solicitors research to determine the boundaries for paving the road, being careful to avoid construction on private property. The paving project will be put out to bid in approximately 3 weeks. Palmer made a motion to put this out to bid, seconded by Southworth, Carol Cecchi ask where Bishop Hill Road was, Southworth answered off of Garretts Run Road, carried.

Dollar General – The Engineer for the new proposed Dollar General store near Speedy's Restaurant contacted Supervisor Palmer and requested that a holding tank ordinance be passed by the township since the property that they want to build on did not pass the required perk test. There are no public sewage lines available in that area. Palmer stated that years ago a similar agreement was reached with Garda's Restaurant. Palmer turned the matter over to the township solicitor who drafted a proposed holding tank ordinance. The solicitor feels that an ordinance is a better way to manage this matter since it addresses other potential situations in the future for everyone, instead of individual agreements. The agreement is a standard agreement that meets the D.E.P. regulations. Palmer made a motion to advertise the ordinance, seconded by Southworth, Larry Cecchi said that this is a standard. Carol Cecchi ask where the Dollar General Store was located, Southworth told her in the field across from Speedy's, carried.

Fort Armstrong Horseman's Association – Palmer stated that the Horseman's Association President Jamie Coulter invited him to a planning meeting a couple of weeks ago. In attendance at that meeting was Abby Major, Armstrong Planning, representatives from Penn State Extension and many other association members. The purpose of the meeting was to brainstorm ideas for attracting business to the horse park. The Association wants to construct an indoor arena and other park improvements and they have the Penn State Extension interested in providing funding for the project. There was no mention in this meeting about land use agreement while Palmer was in attendance, however he did leave prior to the end of the meeting for another commitment. Ty Heller, the solicitor for the Horseman's Association, reached out to Andrew Sacco, the solicitor for the township, to discuss the Land Use agreements. Sacco is to research the contract between the Township and the Army Corp of Engineers to determine if we meet the requirements of the contract by allowing the horsemen's association to carryout the proposed construction and activities. Palmer stated that we need to look at this proposal and activities carefully, since it could impact the township financially by way of additional police requirements, traffic control and influx of people and safety concerns. Palmer made a motion to permit the solicitor to research and determine the extent of the Horseman Association's project, seconded by Southworth, no public comment heard, carried.

Crooked Creek Park Contract – Palmer stated that we received an addendum to the park contract showing an increase of almost \$10,000.00 since they recalculated costs

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associated with our new collective bargaining agreement with the police department. No further action required.

Police Car – Palmer stated that the new police vehicles are now in service, and we need to decommission one of the old Crown Victoria's and sale it. We do not need that many cars and the Crown Vic's are starting to nickel and dime us with maintenance costs, in addition to the insurance costs, etc. Southworth suggested getting rid of both Crown Vic's and buy a good used SUV that we have parts for. Southworth said that both Crown Vic's have rust issues and other maintenance issues. Palmer made a motion to get rid of at least one Crown Vic and possibly both and begin looking for a used SUV, seconded by Southworth, no public comment heard, carried.

Direct Deposit – Palmer stated that the police officers have requested to have direct deposit of their pay checks. The secretary is requesting permission to investigate this option. Palmer stated that he already inquired to Nextier Bank and the cost is \$30.00 per month or \$360.00 annually. This would include everything that is needed and cyber security protection from the bank. The bank will come out in about two weeks and do a demo of the system and discuss our options. Palmer also has a call into S&T Bank but has not received a call back yet. Southworth stated that he does not want it and none of the guys on the hill will want it either. Palmer said that in his opinion if we go with this, everyone should be required to participate, or it will not be cost effective. Palmer made a motion to allow further investigation of this measure, seconded by Southworth, Larry Cecchi said that direct deposit was the best thing, he used to deliver over a 100 checks each pay and when direct deposit came along that went away, carried.

Pay Period Election – Palmer stated that we currently use a bi-monthly or semi-monthly pay schedule. The police department has requested that we change to bi-weekly pay periods to make it easier to schedule officers and to reduce overtime. Scheduling now is causing overtime or reduction of hours to prevent overtime. Currently our overtime budget is up by about 300 percent and changing some things around including pay frequency will help reduce that overtime expense. Palmer made a motion to further investigate what the process is for changing the payroll frequency election, he will call Scott Andreassi, the special solicitor, to discuss, seconded by Southworth, Larry Cecchi said that it will add two additional pay periods each year. Palmer stated that it would add two pay periods but no extra wages. Palmer stated that nobody likes change, but sometimes change is what is best for the township, carried.

American Rescue Plan – Palmer stated that Secretary Davis and himself called our consultant and completed the required 2022 annual report for the American Rescue Plan funding that we received. He believes that even though we have reported on all the funding received to date, we must still file reports annually through 2026. The consultant also told us to be alert for additional funding to come down the pike as there is a boat load of money from the federal government set to be released in the future.

Road Projects – Southworth reported on the planned road projects for Terrace Avenue, Manor Drive and James Drive. Stating that the Terrace Avenue Project will not work because of the underground gas line being in the way. Investigating putting a full-length curb made with hot asphalt the entire length instead. James Drive and Manor Drive

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projects are delayed because the contractors have not returned phone calls or given us estimates.

Motion to adjourn by Palmer, seconded by Southworth, no public comment heard, carried.

Adjourned at 10:50A.M.

Jill A. Davis, Secretary