

**Lower Heidelberg Township
Board of Supervisors
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2017**

The Lower Heidelberg Township Board of Supervisors held their monthly meeting at the Township Building, 720 Brownsville Road, on the above date. Present were Chairwoman Cheryl Johnson, Vice-Chairwoman Deborah Scull, Member Michael Keltz, Township Solicitor Andrew Bellwoar, Township Engineer Ryan Rhode (Kraft), Township Engineer Pamela Stevens (SDE), Code Enforcement Officer Glenn Kraft, Police Chief Thomas Deiterich, Road Foreman Matthew Clay and Township Secretary/Treasurer Theresa Conners.

Chairwoman Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and led the pledge to the flag.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the November 20, 2017 Regular Meeting were distributed for review prior to the meeting. **On Motion** by Ms. Scull, seconded by Mr. Keltz, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Open to the Public

Ms. Johnson asked for public comment. Scott Sayers of Hill Terrace Drive noted that he will have his camper removed from his property as of December 21st; he will let the Zoning Officer know of any other campers that he sees parked in residential areas.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Conners noted that the tax collector collected \$7,500 dollars for the month of November. Ms. Conners presented the list of bills and the November Treasurer's Report for the Board's review. **On Motion** by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Keltz, to accept the Treasurer's Report for November, the Tax Collector report for both November, and the bill list as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

2018 Final Budget

Ms. Conners presented the 2018 Budget; the budget has been advertised and made available for members of the public via the website and at the Township office. Ms. Conners noted that there is no tax increase in the General Fund; however there is an increase of .395 mils to fund the principal and interest payments for the road projects bond issue taken out in 2016. Ms. Conners asked if there was any public comments or questions relating to the Preliminary Budget as presented; there were none. **On Motion** by Mr. Keltz, seconded by Ms. Scull, to approve the 2018 Final Budget as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Tax Collector Elect Sharon Boyer was in attendance and introduced herself to the Board and the public. Ms. Boyer will be expanding the sitting hours at the Township building from those offered by Ms. Davis, retiring tax collector. Ms. Conners presented Resolution 2017-22 Establishing Tax Rates for the Board's review. **On Motion** by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Keltz, to approve Resolution 2017-22. Motion passed unanimously.

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Glen Gery / Glen Ridge Subdivision – Preliminary Plan

Mr. Bellwoar noted that an issue has come up with the plan for the Glen Ridge Subdivision; Western Berks Water Authority (WBWA) will not grant an easement for the development road to pass over the water main. WBWA has expressed concern that if there is a problem in the future with a main break, it will be very expensive and time consuming to repair the main if the road runs over it. Mr. Bellwoar recommends that the Board review this issue and not take action to move forward at this time. Dan Becker was present for the applicant and noted this is not a new issue; the road has been on the plan with the noted crossing since 2009. Glen Gery provided the easement to WBWA. Mr. Becker noted that WBWA is a third party agency, and the applicant is seeking a conditional preliminary approval. The third party approval is a final plan issue. Mr. Bellwoar noted that as this is an issue with a third party agency, the applicant should address the issue and then come back to the Township for the conditional approval. Mr. Becker noted that this is not the only road crossing for this water main as the line runs to Reading Hospital; Mr. Bellwoar suggested that Mr. Becker should provide his office with information on the other crossings.

Fire Commissioner's Report

Jared Rensha presented the report for November. There were a total of 87 calls for the month of November, 9 of which were in Lower Heidelberg Township. The squad conducted a Home Fire Preparedness Campaign in Wernersville and installed 48 new smoke detectors, which brings the total number of new detectors installed to 381 for all four municipalities. The next Town Hall meeting for the fire department will be held on January 25th at 7:00 p.m. at the Sinking Spring Borough building. The 2018 Budget goes for approval to the Fire Board, and once approved he will forward it to the Township. Chief Deiterich asked if anything has come back yet from ISO; Mr. Renshaw said corrections have been going back and forth. In particular, they show the lake as being a residential area.

Planning Commission

Ms. Stevens reported that the Planning Commission reviewed the Act 537 Plan at their November meeting. The next step will be to advertise for public comment.

Building/Zoning Report

Mr. Kraft reported that there were 21 permits issued during the past month for a total construction value of \$2.6 million dollars. His office handled four property maintenance issues and five zoning issues.

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Kraft Engineering Report

Mr. Rhode reported that he is working with Carbon Engineering to obtain the written proposal for the Palm Road Bridge. It should be available sometime in January. Mr. Rhode continues to work on the weight restriction issue on Justa Road; if the Board would like to move forward, a motion to authorize the advertising of an ordinance to repeal the weigh restriction would be in order. **On Motion** by Ms. Scull, seconded by Mr. Keltz, to authorize the advertisement of an ordinance to repeal the weigh restriction on Justa Road. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Rhode recommends a No Outlet sign be placed on the road.

Systems Design Engineering Report

Ms. Stevens noted that she has no action items for tonight's meeting.

Recreation Board Report

Ms. Scull reported that the Santa Holiday was held on Saturday, December 9th; all those in attendance had a wonderful time. The Easter Egg Hunt will be held in March.

Police Report

Chief Deiterich reported that for the month of November there were 1,864 service hours, with 138 total calls answered. Of those, 10 were criminal complaints and 8 were motor vehicle accidents. Chief Deiterich will speak with the Solicitor regarding the letter to PennDOT for Brownsville Road.

Road Foreman's Report

Mr. Clay reported that the road crew has handled two storms already this winter. They have been cold patching; if residents notice holes, they need to call the office with the locations. Work on West Charles Street will be starting and there will be no parking on both sides while they are working.

Secretary's Report

Ms. Conners noted that the Board met for a brief Executive Session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss possible litigation.

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Bellwoar asked that the Board approve the subrogation of a claim for Officer Klinikowski as a result of a dog bite while on duty. **On Motion** by Ms. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Keltz, to approve the subrogation claim in the form as presented by the Solicitor. Motion passed unanimously.

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Public Comment

Sharon Boyer asked if a sign could be placed to alert the public to the Blue Lake entrance as they are using her driveway as a turn around. Mr. Clay said this is not a township issue, but perhaps the Army Corp could help with this. Mr. Rhode said he will bring this up with them next time he speaks with them. Don Koch remarked on the picture in the newsletter with the road crew from Penn Township.

Ms. Johnson asked if there was any additional public comment; there was none.

Adjournment

On Motion by Mr. Keltz, seconded by Ms. Scull, to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Theresa Conners".

Theresa Conners, Township Secretary/Treasurer

Approved: January 15, 2018