

Brecknock Township Board of Supervisors
Minutes of Meeting – September 12, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Brecknock Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:04 PM by Chairman Jeff Fiant at the Township Building with all members present, followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Others in attendance included Secretary-Treasurer Hunter L. Ahrens, Attorney Bethany Emkey, Surveyor John Hoffert, and half a dozen residents or Township employees including Robert Moyer and Deborah Althouse.

Public Comment Period: Robert Moyer, of 61 Andrew Drive, commented on several topics that he was concerned about including a blocked drain near Andrew and Norman Drives, parking and visibility on those streets is also difficult due to trees and shrubs that are in the public right of way. Mr. Moyer also referenced other issues with stones leftover from oil and chipping done on Norman and Andrew Drive. Mr. Moyer also requested that issues related to maintenance of trees by property owners would be included in future Township Newsletters.

Minutes: The minutes of the August 7, 2018 meeting were unanimously approved as written on motion by Richard Burkhart seconded by Mark Weber.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report and payment of all bills and payrolls were unanimously approved as presented on motion by Richard Burkhart seconded by Mark Weber.

A correction to the August and July Treasurer's report was unanimously approved on motion by Mark Weber and Jeff Fiant. The correction was in a total amount of \$220.00.

Sunoco Pipeline: Hunter shared that Engineer John Weber did not have a report in regards to the Sunoco Pipeline. Attorney Emkey reported that the Solicitor's officer had received the amended Stormwater Maintenance Agreement from Sunoco and she asked the Board to conditionally approve on the receipt of the signed agreement from Sunoco. The agreement was unanimously approved on motion by Richard Burkhart and seconded by Mark Weber.

Buxton Restoration by Sunoco: Hunter shared that Sunoco has proposed an alternative seed to the Recreation Board's original request, because the seed that they requested was unavailable. Richard asked if the time of year would make it difficult for the seed to take root. Hunter shared that the seeding company assured us that they would raise those concerns, but they had not shared that concern. Richard motioned that Sunoco would be permitted to seed with the company's recommended seed. The motion was unanimously approved and seconded by Mark Weber.

Township Website: Hunter shared that he has been working with the website contractor and the general website format has been completed and content will continue to be added. Hunter presented to the public and the Board a presentation of the website's features thus-far and some of the work that will be upcoming with the website contractor. Richard asked what the anticipated date of completion would be. Hunter responded that the process has proven to require more time and energy than initially expected, but he hoped that the website would be ready to post in the next year.

Non-Uniform Employee Handbook: Hunter shared that the proposed draft does not include the parental leave policy that was discussed before by the Board, because the Solicitor's office had concerns with the provisions. Hunter recommended that the remainder of the draft be approved and that the Board would address the parental leave policy at a different time. Jeff agreed and shared that he felt a parental leave policy could be addressed later. Bethany added that there were a few revisions made by the Solicitor's office regarding the employee's agreement and language connecting pregnancy and short-term disability coverage. A resolution approving the Non-Uniform Employee Handbook was unanimously approved as revised on motion by Jeff Fiant seconded by Mark Weber Resolution. **RES. #2018-15**

Update Code of Ordinances: Bethany shared that the Code of Ordinance update will be completed by the October meeting.

Maple Grove Annexation Plan: John Hoffert, a local surveyor representing the Maple Grove Park Development Corporation, presented the Maple Grove annexation plan that was approved by the Planning Commission and was reviewed by the County of Berks. The engineer's comments had been addressed as well and Hunter shared that the Township Engineer recommended approval of the plan. The annexation plan was conditionally approved, pending the receipt of the property's deed, on motion by Richard Burkhart and seconded by Mark Weber.

Sunoco Pipeline Detour Plan: Hunter shared that the Sunoco Pipeline had presented plan that would include using Maple Grove Road as a detour for a road closure during construction of the pipeline that would take place over two weeks. The Township Engineer and Roadmaster were both concerned that the detour used areas of Maple Grove Road with a weight limit. Hunter shared that the Township Engineer recommended that the Board reject the detour plan for this reason. The Board tabled the proposed detour plan pending revision from Sunoco.

Approval of Non-Uniform and Uniform MMO: Hunter shared the total of both MMO's combined would be a total of \$136,265.00. Hunter shared that the increases were due to increased life expectancy and reduced insurance rates, which were presented by Mockenhaupt earlier in the year. The MMO's were unanimously approved as presented on motion by Jeff Fiant seconded by Mark Weber Resolution.

Appointment of Barbara McIntyre to the Recreation Board: The Board questioned why the appointments were being made to the Recreation Board in September. The appointment was unanimously approved for a four-year term on motion by Richard Burkhart seconded by Mark Weber.

Resolution Adopting an Open Records Policy: Jeff reported that the hours listed in the Open Records Policy needed to be revised to correctly represent the current office hours. A resolution approving the Open Records Policy was unanimously approved as presented on motion by Jeff Fiant seconded by Richard Burkhart. **RES. #2018-16**

PA Health Insurance Cooperative Trust: The appointments of Shirl Barnhart and Lester Houck were unanimously approved as Trustees of the Pennsylvania Townships Health Insurance Cooperative Trust on motion by Richard Burkhart seconded by Jeff Fiant.

Donation to the County Agriculture Land Preservation Board: Hunter reported that our records do not indicate that the Township has ever donated to the Board before. The Board decided to donate \$250.00 to the Board for 2018. A donation of \$250.00 was approved on motion by Jeff Fiant seconded by Richard Burkhart. Mark Weber abstained due to a conflict of interest.

Other New Business: Resident Deborah Althouse asked for any advice or insight about consideration that Township could give to her to assist her on making her business as profitable as possible. The Board empathized with the difficult situation that she is in, but added that a variance change, which would have to be undertaken by the Zoning Hearing Board, would be the only recommendation they could make from the Township. Jeff shared that the Zoning Ordinance has made inroads to open up more commercial areas and more permissions for business development.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM on motion by Richard Burkhart seconded by Mark Weber.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hunter L. Ahrens, Secretary