

Speaker Township Board Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2021

Meeting called to order **Maitland**@ 7:00 p.m., Five (5) Board members present

Pledge of Allegiance said

Approval of November 2, 2021 meeting minutes: **Motion to approve November 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes made by Murray, second by Stanley. Motion carried.**

Approval of November 2021 Treasurer's report: **Motion to approve November 2021 Treasurer's Report made by Murray, second by Stanley. Motion carried.** Sheldon(Treasurer) reviewed her tax collection report.

Approval to pay November 2021 bills: **Motion to approve November 2021 (Township bills \$4,302.03) made by Sheldon, second by Murray (Fire Dept. bills \$822.11) made Murray, second by Stanley & (Township payroll \$4,063.55) made by Stanley, second by Sheldon. Motion carried.**

Guest:

Public Comment: (Present: , Brenda Murray, Ben Steinhoff, Debra Kesteloot, Trevor Stone, Jan Priess, Fran Gerds, Polly Ferguson & Sandra Squires)

Polly Ferguson/Sandra Squires in regards to 429 E Fremont Road requesting direction in how to deal with a property dispute situation involving neighbors. The well/driveway being used by **Sandra Squires** since 2017 is supposedly on the property of the neighbors. In the past there was an agreement with the neighbors for use of the well and driveway. The situation has changed at the neighbors and a male subject there is saying that they cannot use the well, etc. any longer and was attempting to put up a fence. Police were called but did not show up as Sandra did call them off after a period of time. Polly Ferguson advised she was responding to her daughter's residence from Lexington and passed a patrol car on Todd Rd and she beat officers to the residence. The belief is that surveyors were out a few years ago and there should be records. **Maitland**(Supervisor) suggested they contact the Health Department, which they did and were told the records were so old it would take some time to find them in the basement. **Maitland**(Supervisor) advised that the Township does not have any recourse in this matter but that definitely an attorney should be contacted by **Ms. Squires**.

Cubitt(Clerk) addressed the issue of police not showing up in a timely fashion. Civil matters do not take precedent over emergency calls and if the call felt a threat to person or property they need to explain that to the dispatcher, which would bump the call response. There may have been multiple emergencies going on at the time of the call and it is hard to say what the vehicle on Todd Rd was actually responding to.

Jan Priess and Fran Gerds addressed the board about their taxes being higher due to the Sloat and Cole drains. The drains were cleaned out and Fran Gerds assessment is an increase of \$2,000.00.

Murray(Trustee) suggested that the Drain Commissioner be contacted to come to the next township meeting to explain the increases to the residents. **Jan Priess** stated that there was supposed to be a special meeting to discuss the assessments but that did not take place. Discussion on the resolutions

that were approved last fall for drain maintenance. **Maitland(Supervisor)** advised that he would contact **Drain Commissioner Doug Sweet** to come to the next meeting.

Fire Report: Stone(Fire Chief)

There were a total of two runs in November.

Requesting to hire Josh Thompson for the Speaker Township Fire Department. Last month's report detailed that Josh Thompson had a clear background check and is currently a member of the Yale/Brockway Fire Department. **Motion to hire Josh Thompson for the Speaker Township Fire Department made by Stanley, second by Murray. Motion carried.**

Discussion held on a ventilation problem in the fire hall. Several fireman have complained of mold on their gear. **Stone**(Fire Chief) requesting permission to get quotes on pricing for ventilation fans and they could be installed by the fireman. **Maitland**(Supervisor) stated that probably would not be acceptable to the insurance company and should have a licensed company install the fans. Discussion held on the necessity of proper ventilation in the hall and **Stone**(Fire Chief) instructed to seek bids.

Stone(Fire Chief) gave an update on the MFR training(60hours). Have been given state approval to hold training classes at the hall. Classes could begin in February/March. Would like to reach out to the community to see if there is interest in just becoming a licensed MFR(Medical First Responder) instead of a full-fledged fire person. Discussion held on seeking help from the community to staff this program and it was agreed to give it a try. **Cubitt**(Clerk) asked about the requirements for a licensed program.

Stone(Fire Chief) stated there needs to be one(1) medic and at least one(1) fire personnel available 24/7 for calls. **Cubitt**(Clerk) asked about the billing of these medical runs versus fire runs. **Stone**(Fire Chief) advised some thought and discussion would need to go into how to handle the billing. Not looking to charge excessive amount to the residents most likely \$100.00 like our current fee structure.

On-Board Air Compressor on Engine 1 is not working. The truck is 20 years old and there was an air leak this past summer, which probably burnt the compressor out. Will be seeking replacement parts and repair.

Stone(Fire Chief) advised that 7 members of the fire department do not have uniforms. Will be getting quotes for uniforms after the first of the year to get the needed uniforms for special events, funeral details, etc.

FEMA grants submitted for this year. Looking for air packs again. Need to be thinking of alternative funding as there is a real need for replacement of 16 bottles and 16 masks approximately \$77,000.00.

Fireman Fred Murray retired discussion as from last month. Will be honored with a plaque for 38 years of service at the January 29, 2022 Christmas party. Board members are welcome to attend.

The fire department will be conducting a walk thru of Ametec for location and preventive survey.

Planning Report:

Steinhoff(Planning Commission) advised he spoke with Attorney Brian Garner today about resending the zoning amendments for signs and campgrounds again as the file format cannot be opened by himself and the clerk. Once the copies are received, they then get forwarded onto the County Planning Commission for review.

Steinhoff(Planning Commission) stated that the wind ordinance section on decommissioning needs to be changed from 4 years to 2 years and can be changed with no hearing necessary.

Old Business:

New Business:

Board of Review Meeting:

Maitland(Supervisor) advised there is a Board of Review meeting on December 13, 2021 @ 5:45 p.m. to discuss property tax bill disputes, errors, omission, etc. Also, there is a vacancy for the 3rd BOR member.

Motion to adjourn meeting @ 8:10 p.m. made by Stanley, second by Murray. Motion carried.

Dawn M. Cubitt

Speaker Township Clerk