

March 13, 2019
Clinton Township Board of Supervisors Meeting

The regular February meeting of the Clinton Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Ken Coles on March 13, 2019 at 7:00 PM at the Clinton Township municipal building. Chairman Kenneth Coles, Vice Chair Brian Non, and Supervisor Russell Curtis were present. Solicitor Jeffrey Treat was also present.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. Hearing Check / Meeting is audio and visual recorded - Noted

C. Public Comment – Items on the Agenda Only – Matt Curtis asked about updating the website and was told that it would be looked into. Don Salak said that there are still giant holes in his road to which Vice Chair Non said that he would address the issue in his Road Master's Report. Ray Vogt commented on the washboard surface of Town Hill Road.

D. Minutes of Reorganization Meeting February 13, 2019 - Chair Coles made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Non to accept the minutes of February 13, 2019. All voted yes. The motion carried.

E. Minutes of Regular Meeting February 28, 2019 - Chair Coles made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Non to accept the minutes of the special meeting of February 28, 2019. All voted yes. The motion carried.

F. Road Master Report – Vice Chair Non gave the road master's report. He noted that the township is on its third round of cinders. He has the new pipe to put in Little Keen Road. He has met with Scott Maciak and reported that they worked on plans for township roads: Smith, Ravniker, Flat Rock, and Burns. The possibility for a grant for Ravniker still looks good. Scott Maciak does not recommend black top for Flat Rock Road. Additionally, Scott Maciak will do the engineering for the rest of Burns Road. Vice Chair Non made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Curtis, to give Kevin Weist a dollar per hour raise, increasing his hourly rate from \$14.50 to \$15.50 an hour. He explained that with the machine work that Kevin has been doing has saved the township a great deal of money. All voted yes. The motion carried. Don Salak brought up the issue of needing to keep paved roads in good condition. When asked about the status of repairs on Burns Road Chair Coles reported that the court date is scheduled for March 27, 2019, but that the plans were to cut out the damaged areas and replace them. Matt Curtis asked about work on Smith Road, to which Vice Chair Non explained that the work got done as far as having the pipes changed. The paving didn't get done as the previously awarded contract had expired. Curtis inquired as to why the supervisors were not holding the bidders "feet to the fire" for the work to be done now at last year's price. Treat interjected saying that the bidders did want to do the job at the time but that it was too far into the winter and the supervisors made the decision to not move forward with paving until next spring. Bonnie Johnson asked why the "Bridge Closed" signs over on Brace Brook Road had never been picked up, citing the cost of the signs as the reason for her concern. Chair Coles explained that DEP recommended leaving the signs there while the township wait for permits necessary for repairs.

G. Open Issues

- a. **New truck for Clinton Township** – Vice Chair Non explained that a new "Western Star" truck will cost \$106,000.00 with an additional \$56,000.00 to outfit the four-wheel drive vehicle for township use. Supervisor Curtis said that he was not in favor of a new truck right now, expressing that he wanted to get the other trucks and backhoe paid for first. Vice Chair Non reminded him that it's a year out before a truck gets built after it is ordered. Ultimately, Vice Chair Non suggested tabling the issue for another month.
- b. **Bids for Grading/Rolling – No bids were opened.** Chair Coles said that the Conservation District does not recommend a double drum roller for dirt and gravel roads as was advertised.

March 13, 2019
Clinton Township Board of Supervisors Meeting

Township Engineer Weinberger disagreed with Supervisor Curtis, stating that a double drum is a pavement roller. Chair Coles suggested holding a special meeting to rebid with a request for a single drum roller. He noted, and the other supervisors agreed, that all would be willing to donate their time and that other than the advertising cost, the special meeting would not be an expense to the township. Attorney Treat suggested advertising both ways; single or double. Chair Coles made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Curtis to rebid the grading and rolling for both single or double drum rolling at a special meeting on Wednesday, March 27, 2019. All voted yes. The motion carried. Matt Curtis said that last year the Supervisors decided to have the job done by the hour as opposed to by the job, but nobody was there to babysit the work being done. Supervisor Curtis gave a rebuttal stating that he was there every day the work was being done.

c. **Bids for Modified/DSA** – One bid was received and opened. The result was as follows:

| Company Name | Bid Amount |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Bill Pykus Excavating, Inc. | 3,500 plus or minus tons of DSA for \$12.25 per ton, delivered and tailgated on township roads as directed or at township stockpile. |

Vice Chair Non made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Curtis, to accept the bid from Bill Pykus Excavating, Inc. for DSA. All voted yes. The motion carried.

H. New Business

- a. **Clinton Township Auditors' Report** – Auditor Jennifer Weist gave the Auditors' Report that the 2018 audit was completed by the auditors on February 28, 2019. She reported that the books were immaculate.
- b. **The Wayne County Township Officials Association Annual Spring Meeting will be at the Seelyville Fire Hall on March 20, 2019 at 7:00 pm. The snow date is March 27, 2019.** – Chair Coles made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Non, that all Supervisors, Auditors, Planning Commission members, Secretary, and Tax Collector can go. All voted yes. The motion carried.
- c. **U.S. Census Bureau will have hundreds of job opportunities available within Wayne County for the 2020 Census. For those interested there is information by the meeting sign in sheet.** – announced.
- d. **Browndale Fire Department is sponsoring a drive through Chicken BBQ on Sunday, April 7 from 11:00 – 1:30. Tickets are available for \$9.00 apiece.** – announced.

I. Browndale Fire Department – Chair Coles opened the floor for discussion on the idea of a fire tax. A citizen opened the conversation with "We don't need another tax." He explained that his mother-in-law passed away because she waited over a half an hour for an ambulance. Chief Debevec explained that currently ALS dispatch offers terrible service. Don Salak suggested reinstating the per capita tax which was removed when the wage tax was instituted. Chair Coles noted that that was not a bad idea. Attorney Treat said that a fire tax would just be for the fire company. Ron Poska noted that the per capita tax did not have to be taken off. Ray Vogt explained that the Prompton Fire company was much closer to his home, but if he was required to pay a fire tax, he would no longer be donating to Prompton. Debevec explained the "mutual aid agreement" wherein everybody helps everybody and that this tax will not change that. Furthermore, only 14% of citizens currently donate. Boroughs can institute a fee, whereas Townships cannot. Treat explained that townships are required by law to cover the Workman's' Comp costs for Fire Departments, nor do townships have to have a fire department within the township limits.

March 13, 2019
Clinton Township Board of Supervisors Meeting

Matt Curtis noted that if we start subsidizing the fire department, their books will have to be open to everyone. He quoted Act 69. Treat reminded the audience that the township does not have responsibility to support the Fire Department, but that their main purpose is to maintain road ways and to preserve the safety of the people. Chief Debevec pointed out that a new truck will cost roughly \$30,000 to \$34,000 a year in payments. They can no longer get parts for the current truck as the manufacturer is out of business. Currently their budget is \$60,000. A year. Karen A. Knehr-Paulin, an EMS worker showed her disgust at the way some of the Fire Department handle the equipment, the abusive ways they drive the trucks, and make noise when it isn't necessary. Jennifer Weist joined in by noting that when her father was killed in a logging accident a number of years ago, fire department representatives continued to take pictures "for training purposes" in spite of her protests. Ray Vogt noted that we don't want to lose the fire department, but that a per capita tax is far fairer as every person, not just property owners, has to pay. Attorney Treat asks how can you enforce it? It was noted that with 2,000 residents, with a per capita tax of \$10.00 per resident, it would only generate \$20,000 and that it is not possible to enact a \$40.00 per capita tax. Chair Coles stated that as Supervisors, they have to do their best to serve the people and that, at this point, he does not know what the right answer is. Vice Chair Non noted that although the responses to the issue of fire tax tonight was generally negative, last month the room was full of people who were in favor of it. Chair Coles said that he had asked Chief Debevec for, and received, a copy of Browndale Fire Department books for the last three years.

- J. **Treasurer's Report Including Bills for Payment** – Chair Coles made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Non to pay the bills as reported. All voted yes. The motion carried.
- K. **Public Comment** – A citizen spoke up, asking about the Storm Water Tax that Browndale residents incur. Chair Coles explained that the dollar amount needed was a federal mandate and that every three years the township gets a \$5,000 permit fee to maintain and clean out storm drains. The township has a \$10,000 reserve. The supervisors voted to put the Storm Water tax on hold this year, because, with the reserve the township has enough on hand. He noted that the township would incur \$15,000 in fines if permit fees were not paid. In the 2010 census Browndale was barely over the population amount necessary to institute the tax for Clinton II. Clinton I has no public sewers, and is located within the area that affects the Delaware Water Gap, as opposed to the Chesapeake Bay. Theresa Opalka asked why a tax was needed when the Auditors' Report showed over \$300,000.00 in the general account at the end of 2018. Vice Chair Non said that as soon as paving begins the amount will drop down to \$100,000.00 and that annually \$30,000 each is spent on grading, dust control, and DSA, not to mention winter maintenance. Township Engineer said that it costs three to four hundred thousand per mile for payment. Clinton Township has roughly twenty-seven miles of dirt road. Attorney Treat spoke of the upcoming hearing regarding the Burns Road issue, saying that he needed witnesses and an engineer with opinions and knowledge of monetary value of damage. On a different note, Don Salak said that he thought the contract for the windmills expires in 2023. Poska stated that the original agreement was for twenty years. Chair Coles asked Attorney Treat about where things stood with the Logging Ordinance. Treat responded with how difficult the issue was. Chair Coles said that he would get a boiler plate logging ordinance from PSATS.
- L. **Adjournment** – Chair Coles made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Non to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. All voted yes. The motion carried.