

**HAINES TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FEBRUARY 20, 2020**

On February 20, 2020 at approximately 6:30 p.m., Chairman Daryl Schafer called the regular monthly meeting of the Haines Township Board of Supervisors to order. The meeting was held in the Haines Township Building located at 153 S. Rachel's Way in Aaronsburg, PA. The call to order was followed by the pledge of allegiance, a moment of silence and introductions.

In attendance: Chairman Daryl Schafer, Vice-Chair. Delmer Homan and Supervisor Fred Lingle, Secretary-Treasurer Susan Wenrick, SEO & Zoning Officer Pamela Winter, Alternate SEO Laron Horner, Christine Zoerner, CPA w/Baker Tilly, Roadmaster Mark Hosterman, HTPC Chairman Charles Valentine, HTPC Secretary Kim Greeley, HAMA Treasurer Patricia Valentine, HWMA representatives Russell Haerer and Tracy Ridenour, PVEMS representative Bari Deaven, Tom Kobb, Martha Futhey, Andrea Ferich, Rick Fetterolf, Frank Stapleton, Harry Hammond, Jonas Haines, Rickey Brooks and Zachary Gay, P.L.S.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jonas Haines is working on an Eagle Scout project to renovate the Don Wert Memorial Park, specifically to replace the benches, stonework and have the monument repaired and plaques made. Mr. Haines made a direct request for funding from the Township, unfortunately Second Class Township Code does not allow for this type expenditure by the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Haines was encouraged to ask the beneficiary of the project for funding or ask the ACC to help him with a fundraising event for the cost of his projects. It was also suggested that he ask local businesses to fund the project. Frank Stapleton and Rick Fetterolf wanted to know if the Township could maintain Water Gap Road. It was stated that the road would need to be brought up to current road standards at the expense of the adjacent landowners and all adjacent landowners would need to agree to dedicate the road over to the Township. The Roadmaster estimated that the cost for bringing the private road to current standards would be approximately \$150,000. (Section of north Water Gap Road from the HAMA treatment plant south to the intersection of Duncan Street & East Street.)

Andrea Ferich notified the Board of Supervisors that she was suing PENNDOT for the tree trimming and "daylighting" of Pine Creek Road within Haines Township. Ms. Ferich claims that the tree service contracted by PENNDOT cut further back than the State's right-of-way allows, PENNDOT did not follow environmental requirements, healthy matured Hemlock trees were removed, landowners adjacent to the road were not given adequate notice and some landowners never received a notice. Ms. Ferich gave the Board a copy of a petition she is circulating that is directed to neighbors and friends of the Upper Penns Creek Watershed which is asking for support regarding PENNDOT and contractor work performed by Beegly Tree Service on Pine Creek Road in 2019 -2020.

REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

The new Alternate Sewage Enforcement Officer, Laron Horner introduced himself to the Board. Mr. Horner will assist SEO Pamela Winter as needed.

Christine Zoerner w/Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP presented the Board with an overview of the Township's 2019 municipal audit and financial report. Ms. Zoerner worked with Rick Bair for four years and is familiar with most of his municipal clients. Mr. Bair retired and the new principal partner is John Compton who reviews all the client audits. Haines Township was given an unmodified opinion from Baker Tilly. In their opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Township as of 12/31/2019. Ms. Zoerner stated she found no problems, the net income was from the same funding sources as last year, the Township has no debt and she recommended the Board keep the Treasurer's bond at \$1,250,000.

Daryl Schafer motioned to approve the 2019 Annual Audit & Financial Report for Haines Township as prepared and presented by Baker Tilly. Delmer Homan seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

Vote: D. Schafer – Yes D. Homan – Yes F. Lingle – Yes

Zachary Gay, P.L.S presented to the Board of Supervisors a lot addition with a non-building waiver for Rickey Brooks. The Township's SEO, Pamela Winter explained that the proposal was actually a subdivision and would require septic testing for a primary and replacement site on the new one acre lot as is required by the Township's ordinance. The Board did not want to set a precedent and stated they would not sign the non-building waiver.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Fred Lingle motioned to approve the meeting minutes as presented for 01/06/20. Delmer Homan seconded the motion and the motion was carried. Vote: F. Lingle – Yes D. Homan – Yes D. Schafer – Yes

TREASURER’S REPORT

Daryl Schafer motioned to approve Treasurer’s Report #2 for 02/20/20 as presented and file for audit. Delmer Homan seconded the motion and the motion was carried. Vote: D. Schafer – Yes D. Homan – Yes F. Lingle – Yes

ROADMASTER REPORT

Mark Hosterman reported that that all of the Township fire extinguishers were checked, he’ll be ordering two loads of bulk deicing salt, new tires were put on the tractor, another sensor was replaced on the 2019 Chevy truck and Haines Township will be sharing the cost of a load of bagged cold patch with Penn Township. Mr. Hosterman met with Christopher Myers, a resource conservation coordinator, to discuss a possible Dirt & Gravel Roads project for Ingleby Road. Mr. Hosterman plans to attend a LTAP class on March 11th at Boggs Township, the topic is Bituminous Seal Coats.

PERMITS REPORT

December permits: (0) Building permits issued by CKCOG, (0) Zoning permits issued by Pamela Winter.
January permits: (2) Building permits issued by CKCOG, (1) Zoning permit issued by Pamela Winter.

HTPC

HTPC Chairman Charles Valentine asked the Board if they had read the draft burning ordinance that was submitted to them last month. Daryl Schafer inquired into special exceptions for campfires and the like. Mr. Valentine suggested the Board attend a planning commission meeting for a question and answer session on the proposed burning ordinance. Kim Greeley, HTPC Secretary mentioned that there are people in the Village of Aaronsburg burning toxic materials and it is intolerable.

PVRPC

Daryl Schafer said the regional commission is working on the next step to updating their comprehensive plan. Mr. Schafer also announced that Linda Marshall will be retiring in June and she has done a fantastic job for the regional planning commission.

HAMA

The HAMA Treasurer, Patricia Valentine reported that the authority has secured a line of credit with Mifflinburg Bank & Trust Company. This LOC would enable them to move forward on the development of Well #8. Mrs. Valentine asked the Board of Supervisors for more information on the proposed March 3rd meeting with Representative Stephanie Borowicz. Daryl Schafer explained the meeting would be strictly informational and held at the township office. The topics of discussion will include working with the authorities to support them with funding insights to advance their financial situations and any regulatory hurdles they face from DEP. Mrs. Valentine stated that the Haines-Aaronsburg Municipal Authority has a good working relationship with DEP. Mr. Schafer said that it would help to have an ally in Harrisburg and he hopes Representative Borowicz will look into the DEP requirements for smaller systems.

HWMA

Russ Haerer and Tracy Ridenour both spoke for the Woodward authority and gave the Board of Supervisors some background information of the events that transpired that resulted in the pending DEP contempt order. Mr. Haerer expressed concern that the things DEP is requiring them to do for the current well development will put them in a financial condition where they will never be out of debt. Under “New Business” on the agenda was a funding request for HWMA by their attorney John Miller. HWMA is asking the Township for financial assistance to enable the HWMA to continue their well development project which is a DEP compliance requirement. The HWMA attorney and the Township’s attorney have been in contact with each other concerning the HWMA’s request for funding assistance from the Township.

HWMA (continued)

The current HWMA project debt is \$85606.93 which covers a remainder due from well exploration, water system operational assistance and the engineering design, permits, contract administration and construction management of the project. The CDBG money awarded to HWMA will not cover engineering fees.

The Board discussed lending the money to the Woodward Authority with a modest rate of interest but would need the Township's attorney to research legally what resources the Township has available. Ideally the Board would like for the authority to become financially stable, self-sustaining and operate like a business. Several individuals in attendance outside of the normal comment period gave their opinions on the Township lending money to the Authority.

Daryl Schafer, Fred Lingle and Delmer Homan all agreed to proceed with having the Township's attorney find a lending solution to the HWMA funding request. The Board expressed its desire to see financial information from HWMA to get a better idea of their actual revenue stream and reoccurring expenses. Several of the Supervisors plan on attending the HWMA meeting on March 9th.

PVEMS

In addition to the reports the Township received from the PVEMS, the Township's representative Bari Deaven was present to discuss their current fundraising efforts and to announce they have three new Board members. Ms. Deaven, in response to earlier comments, emphasized the difference between a service provider like the PVEMS and a utility business like an authority.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board received a volunteer application from Kathy Shimp expressing her desire to serve on the planning commission. This appointment will be tabled until the March meeting.

Daryl Schafer motioned to accept the resignation of Ryan Greeley from the Zoning Hearing Board. Delmer Homan seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

Vote: D. Schafer – Yes D. Homan – Yes F. Lingle – Yes

Daryl Schafer motioned to accept the resignation from Michelle Teeple from the Haines Aaronsburg Municipal Authority. Fred Lingle seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

Vote: D. Schafer – Yes F. Lingle – Yes D. Homan – Yes

Daryl Schafer motioned to allow the Secretary to submit a letter to DCNR to notify them of an address correction in connection with a DCNR bridge replacement on Stony Run Road over Pine Creek. Delmer Homan seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

Vote: D. Schafer – Yes D. Homan – Yes F. Lingle – Yes

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Daryl Schafer move to adopt a Proclamation designating April 2020 as "Pennsylvania 811 Safe Digging Month." Fred Lingle seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

Vote: D. Schafer – Yes F. Lingle- Yes D. Homan – Yes

Daryl Schafer motioned to hire Tracy Ridenour as a part-time employee as of March 1st for 20 hours a week and motioned to hire Ethan Hull as a part-time employee as of April 1st for 16 hours a week pending successful results of all pre-employment clearances and testing. Both part-time employees will be paid \$15.00 an hour and complete a 90 day probationary period. Delmer Homan seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

Vote: D. Schafer – Yes D. Homan – Yes F. Lingle – Yes

Discussion on changes to personnel policy have been tabled until announced.

Charles Valentine thanked Fred Lingle for attending the last Haines Aaronsburg Municipal Authority meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Fred Lingle motioned to adjourn the February 20, 2020 monthly meeting of the Haines Township Board of Supervisors at approximately 9:05 P.M. Delmer Homan seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

Vote: F. Lingle – Yes D. Homan – Yes D. Schafer – Yes