

**HAINES TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MARCH 18, 2021**

On March 18, 2021 at approximately 6:35 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 and a moment of silence. In attendance: Chairman Daryl Schafer, Vice-Chair. Delmer Homan, Supervisor Fred Lingle, Secretary-Treasurer Susan Wenrick, Roadmaster Mark Hosterman, HAMA Secy./Treasurer Patricia Valentine, HAMA System Operator Charles Valentine and HWMA Secretary Tracy Ridenour.

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor of PA has mandated that the public maintain social distancing measures and wear masks or other facial coverings in public spaces.

**REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:**

Gabriel Hutchinson w/Hutchinson Companies, LLC & LGN Management, LLC was scheduled to address the Board but his presentation has been tabled to a later date.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None given.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:**

Fred Lingle motioned to approve the meeting minutes as presented for 02/18/21. Delmer Homan seconded the motion and the motion was carried. Vote: F. Lingle – Yes D. Homan – Yes D. Schafer – Yes

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The Treasurer asked the Board if it was their intention to move the certificates of deposit for Road Equipment and the Building Fund back to their respective checking accounts when the certificates of deposit reach maturity on 03/27/21. Current rates for certificates of deposits as well as money market accounts have hit a new low but are still higher than the regular checking account rates. Rates for a 12 month CD from three local banks were as follows: JSSB .05%, FNB .30% and MBTC .45%. Money market checking accounts ranged from .20% to .27%. The Treasurer recommended reinvesting the current General Fund certificate of deposit into a new 12 month certificate of deposit at .45 % with MBTC when it reaches maturity on 03/27/21. The Treasurer also recommended investing \$200,000 from the State Fund into a certificate of deposit for a 12 month period at .45 % with MBTC, the current earning rate for the State Fund with JSSB has fallen to .01%. Daryl Schafer motioned to close out the Road Equipment CD upon maturity and return it to its checking account. Fred Lingle seconded the motion and the motion was carried. Vote: D. Schafer – Yes F. Lingle- Yes D. Homan – Yes (Funds will be used towards the future purchase of a backhoe.)

Fred Lingle motioned to close out the Building Fund CD upon maturity and return it to its checking account. Daryl Schafer seconded the motion and the motion was carried. Vote: F. Lingle – Yes D. Schafer – Yes D. Homan – Yes (Funds will be used towards either future building renovations or possible new construction.)

Daryl Schafer motioned to reinvest the General Fund CD into a new 12 month CD with MBTC at the rate of .45%. Fred Lingle seconded the motion and the motion was carried. Vote: D. Schafer – Yes F. Lingle- Yes D. Homan – Yes

Delmer Homan motioned to invest \$200,000 from the State Fund in a 12month CD with MBTC for .45%. Fred Lingle seconded the motion and the motion was carried. Vote: D. Homan – Yes F. Lingle – Yes D. Schafer – Yes

Daryl Schafer motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report for 03/18/2021 as presented and file for audit. Fred Lingle seconded the motion and the motion was carried. Vote: D. Schafer – Yes F. Lingle – Yes D. Homan – Yes

Daryl Schafer motioned to release the following 2021 budgeted contributions: \$1000 for the Aaronsburg Civic Club, \$500 for Centre HomeCare, \$500 for Home Nursing Agency, \$500 for the Penns Valley Little League and \$500 for the PVPRA (swimming pool.) Fred Lingle seconded the motion and the motion was carried. Vote: D. Schafer – Yes F. Lingle – Yes D. Homan – Yes

**ROADMASTER REPORT:**

Mark Hosterman reported that the road crew had been trimming trees along Ingleby Road to allow more sunlight to reach the road surface in certain areas. The road crew cleaned debris from intersections and along roadways. Excess stone was removed from some yards. The Kubota tractor needs new external cylinders, which will need to be shipped from Japan. The crew will soon return to work on the Ingleby Road DGLVR project. Mr. Hosterman will be sharing the cost for crack sealant this year with other municipalities.

**PERMITS:** For February: (2) Zoning and (0) CKCOG.

**HTPC:** No report, no member was present.

**PVRPC:** Their next meeting is on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Agenda items include a discussion on having some type of regional meeting of water boards and operators.

**HAMA:**

Patricia Valentine reported that the Authority approved moving forward with timber harvesting on HAMA lands with Allegheny Forestry. The forester has estimated the Authority earnings at \$30,000 to \$40,000. Mrs. Valentine said that the Authority was also made aware that Andrew Cashner was interested in working for them and learning more about the plant operation. Fred Lingle, acting as the HAMA Chairman asked the Board of Supervisors if they were willing to guarantee a line of credit for the Authority in the amount of \$400,000. The LOC through MBTC, would be used towards engineering fees and the repayment of the LOC would hinge upon a PennVest grant that their engineer feels confident they will be awarded.

Daryl Schafer motioned to guarantee a LOC in the amount of \$400,000 for HAMA. Delmer Homan seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

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

**HWMA:**

A copies of HWMA's 02/08/21 meeting minutes and 03/10/21 Treasurer's report were provided to the Board of Supervisors. Tracy Ridenour reported that the Authority was doing well. The Authority is also working with Allegheny Forestry and hope to earn approximately \$35,000 for timber harvesting. Susan Kauffman assisted the Authority in locating water lines.

**PVEMS:**

Reports submitted by representative Bari Deaven included: 01/13/21 meeting minutes, the February & March Chief and Office Manager's reports, 12/31/20 financial report and their February 2021 financial reports. The reports were emailed to the Board of Supervisors. The Board requested that the PVEMS trim down their financial reports. They do not need to include copies of their bank statements or reconciliations.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

All correspondence listed on the agenda had been reviewed by the Board. No actions were necessary.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The Board was asked to clarify the eligibility for part-time employees to earn and accrue personal time in the Township's Employee Handbook and they were asked to consider terminating the 457 plan. Daryl Schafer motioned to include the part-time employee eligibility requirements and calculations for a 16 hour work week as well as a 20 hour work week. Delmer Homan seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

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

The Board discussed terminating the 457 pension plan, which is solely funded by employees if they choose to participate after one year of employment. The 457 plan, since its inception has not been utilized and the cost to maintain the plan and the recordkeeping is an expense to the Township. Employees could easily establish their own IRAs if desired. The Township will continue to maintain and offer defined contribution pension plans for both fulltime and part-time employees after they meet the eligibility requirements. Daryl Schafer recommended and motioned to terminate the 457 employee contribution pension plan. Fred Lingle seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Board was notified that Haines Township would be receiving \$155,816 under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which is a federally funded coronavirus relief package. These restricted funds are to cover eligible costs incurred by December 31, 2024. Funds cannot be used to deposit into pension funds or to offset revenue resulting from a tax cut. Examples of uses include: Relief for Covid-19 economic impacts through aid to small businesses, non-profits, etc., provide premium pay to essential employees, provide government services affected by a revenue reduction due to the pandemic and make investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. The Board will carefully consider the best use of the funding for the Township.

The Secretary-Treasurer was asked to present a plan of how to possibly renovate the existing Township building to better meet the needs of all concerned.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Fred Lingle motioned to adjourn the March 18, 2021 monthly meeting of the Haines Township Board of Supervisors at approximately 8:10 P.M. Delmer Homan seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

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