

MINUTES APRIL 17, 2019
UPPER NAZARETH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Mike Rinker.

Pledge of Allegiance

Board members present were: Mike Rinker, Rob Disbrow and Scott Sylvainus. Donna Hirst and Brian Pulliam were absent.

Also present were Township Solicitor, Gary Asteak, Township Engineer, Sean Dooley, Interim Township Manager, Deborah Seiple and Treasurer, Betty Parrish.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Barry Schweitzer of 81 Ridge Rd, Bangor, PA addressed the Board regarding 2 lots that he owns in Upper Nazareth Township. The lots are family lots and are each 40' wide parcels. The neighbors on either side of these lots have inquired about purchasing these parcels to enlarge their current properties. At some point the parcels were combined into one larger parcel from the 2 previously existing lots, and therefore, would need to go through the subdivision and land development process. Mr. Schweitzer requested a waiver from this requirement in order to reverse what was consolidated previously. Attorney Asteak informed the Board he had no objection to this request. Attorney Asteak informed Mr. Schweitzer he would need to secure an engineer and get legal descriptions for the lots. Attorney Asteak will assist Mr. Schweitzer and his legal counsel in this process.

Motion was made by Mr. Rinker and seconded by Mr. Disbrow to approve waiving the subdivision requirement for Mr. Schweitzer upon solicitor approval as long as Mr. Schweitzer covers the costs of the Township. Motion carried by all voting aye. (3-0)

APPROVALS

Motion was made by Mr. Rinker and seconded by Mr. Disbrow to approve the agenda. Motion carried by all voting aye. (3-0)

Approval of the minutes of April 3, 2019, was tabled as Mr. Disbrow was not present at the April 3, 2019, meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. Disbrow and seconded by Mr. Sylvainus to approve payment of the bills. Motion carried by all voting aye. (3-0)

Motion was made by Mr. Rinker and seconded by Mr. Sylvainus to approve the March 2019 Financial and Treasurer's Report. Motion carried by all voting aye. (3-0)

PRESENTATION – MAHER DUESSEL – 2018 FINANCIAL AUDIT

Ms. Tracey Rash of Maher Duessel presented the results of the 2018 Financial Audit.

SUPERVISORS' COMMENTS

Mr. Sylvainus requested the Board authorize the Solicitor to prepare a resolution to begin the process of getting the open space referendum on the general election ballot in November. Attorney Asteak stated the ordinance would be similar to one prepared for Lower Nazareth Township. Open space financing is either funded by a real estate tax increase or an increase in the earned income tax of .25%. All municipalities in Northampton County that have adopted an open space ordinance have financed it through the increase in the EIT, as this avenue does not impact those citizens on fixed incomes. Attorney Asteak mentioned to keep in mind the focus of open space is farmland preservation, prevention of further development and support of local agriculture. Bushkill Township acquires conservation easements to accomplish this goal.

Motion was made by Mr. Sylvainus and seconded by Mr. Disbrow to authorize the Solicitor to prepare an resolution to add Open Space Preservation Tax to the general election ballot. Motion carried by all voting aye. (3-0)

Mr. Sylvainus recently submitted to the NAZCOG Steering Committee questionnaires completed by the Planning Commission listing the top six issues that will be addressed by the Nazareth Area Multi Municipal Comprehensive Plan.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

Mr. Sean Dooley stated the Engineer's Project Status Report is included in the meeting packet.

Mr. Dooley stated Morningstar, Heritage Village Phases 3 & 4 will be submitting plans shortly.

Mr. Dooley stated the repair work to the Penn Dixie Road Bridge should wrap up this week or sometime early next week. Mr. Dooley informed the Board there was a substantial increase in cost with regard to the grout. Bids were secured using estimates prepared by PennDOT which did not match what was actually required. The increase is somewhat offset by a reduction in the water testing that was not needed. The net increase is \$13,698.10. Mr. Dooley will be presenting a Change Order at the May 1, 2019 meeting.

TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR

Attorney Asteak received a letter from Attorney Piperato regarding the Special Exception granted to Amy Vigoroux (Keller Property) at a recent Zoning Hearing Board meeting pertaining to her plans for a farm related business. One of the conditions was for Ms. Vigoroux to submit a land development plan. Attorney Asteak stated this was a requirement of the Board of Supervisors in order for the Township to document placement of tents, ensure adequate parking, ensure for adequate sewage disposal, document planned traffic patterns, etc. Attorney Asteak is in the process of facilitating a meeting between Township staff and Attorney Piperato and his client.

ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. Betty Parrish gave an update on the status of the HOME Program.

Mrs. Deborah Seiple stated Nazareth Area School District received approval from PennDOT to place pedestrian crossing and speed limit signs on Tatamy Rd. in front of the Nazareth Area School District.

Mrs. Seiple stated a letter was received from the Northampton County Executive introducing a series of workshops pertaining to the Northampton County Historic and Cultural Assets Plan. Mrs. Parrish will be attending the workshop on Wednesday, April 24, 2019, at 1:30 pm.

Mrs. Seiple presented the 1st quarter NAZCOG call report for animal control.

Mrs. Seiple announced the second Lower Nazareth Township Open Space Preservation Meeting being held at the Lower Nazareth Township Elementary School on Thursday, May 2, 2019, at 6:30 pm.

Mrs. Seiple received a letter from Keystone Consulting Engineers requesting Upper Nazareth comments on a proposed amendment to the Official Map of Moore Township. Mrs. Seiple was requested to respond that Upper Nazareth Township has no comment as the proposed amendment has no affect pertaining to Upper Nazareth Township.

Mrs. Parrish requested approval for HomeTown Press to publish the 2019 Fall and 2020 Spring Newsletter. This request was made by HomeTown Press, as many advertisers will state they will advertise in one or the other.

Motion was made by Mr. Disbrow and seconded by Mr. Sylvainus to approve HomeTown Press publishing the 2019 Fall and 2020 Spring newsletters. Motion carried by all voting aye. (3-0)

Mr. Dooley requested the Board approve making a change in the speed limit on Gun Club Road from 35 mph to 25 mph. Attorney Asteak stated this change can be made now or can be deferred until and if the proposed development on Gun Club Road is approved. Attorney Asteak stated lowering the speed limit is a safety issue.

Motion was made by Mr. Rinker and seconded by Mr. Sylvainus to authorize KCE to conduct a study to reduce the speed limit on Gun Club Road from 35 mph to 25 mph at a cost not to exceed \$850.00. Motion carried by all voting aye. (3-0)

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Motion was made by Mr. Rinker and seconded by Mr. Disbrow to approve the Zoning, Police, and Public Works reports as submitted. Motion carried by all voting aye. (3-0)

PLANNING & ZONING

Nothing at this time.

PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Shupe requested approval to have internet restored to the Yard Waste Facility in order to facilitate remote viewing of the video feed from the newly installed camera system.

Motion was made by Mr. Disbrow and seconded by Mr. Rinker to approve internet service at the yard waste facility. Motion carried by all voting aye. (3-0)

Mr. Shupe requested approval to purchase 2 zero-turn mowers from Whitehall Turf Equipment in the amount of \$19,868.00.

Motion was made by Mr. Rinker and seconded by Mr. Sylvainus to approve purchasing 2 zero-turn mowers from Whitehall Turf Equipment in the amount of \$19,868.00. Motion carried by all voting aye.

Mr. Shupe stated curbside yard waste pick up will be the week of April 22 and the Yard Waste Facility will be opening on Saturday, April 27, 2019.

RECREATION

Nothing at this time.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Chief Cope requested approval to hire 2 part-time officers to fill current vacancies.

Motion was made by Mr. Rinker and seconded by Mr. Sylvainus to approve conditional offers to two part-time officers to fill current vacancies. Motion carried by all voting aye. (3-0)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Mr. Rinker stated he and Mr. Disbrow would be attending a three day workshop on hazard mitigation on April 23, 24, and 25, 2019.

SAFETY COMMITTEE

Next Safety meeting is April 26, 2019 at 12:00 noon.

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Disbrow and seconded by Mr. Rinker to adjourn at 8:04 p.m.
Motion carried by all voting aye. (3-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Parrish
Recording Secretary