

Richmond Township Board of Supervisors
Monthly Meeting
Monday, September 11, 2023
7:00 P.M. prevailing time

Chairman Brian Wanner called the Richmond Township Board of Supervisors' monthly meeting to order at 7:03 P.M. in the Richmond Township Municipal Building. The pledge of allegiance followed.

ROLL CALL

In attendance at this meeting were Supervisors Brian Wanner, Sam Kemmerer and Scott Brinker; Jennifer Galomb, Township Secretary-Treasurer; Chris Hartman, Esq., Solicitor and Scott Anderson, Township Engineer.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – AGENDA COMMENTS SESSION

There were two residents listed on the sign in sheet that had comments about the solar farm, which Brian Wanner asked if they would mind waiting until the Engineers report to go over.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Sam Kemmerer to approve the minutes from the August 14, 2023 monthly meeting, Scott Brinker seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Code Enforcement Report- Kraft Municipal Group

Jeff Fiant reviewed the report with the Board.

604 Crisscross Road- they received a permit application and are addressing that situation.

219 Dryville Road- Review Letter for the Zoning Hearing Board Meeting. They are seeking a variance for the parking requirements.

330 Mine Road- Hearing is scheduled for tomorrow with the judge from Oley. It was recommended the Board have an executive session after the meeting to discuss this property.

McCardle's Pub- Hearing had to be rescheduled due to being on the same day as 330 Mine Road with Judge Greth. The property has not been cleaned up at all.

11 Farmer's Drive- ZHB Decision- The Board did approve the special exception, the only contingency was to pave the area they wanted to have stone, which is what the ordinance calls for.

SEO Report- LTL Consultants Ltd.

There are 3 properties yet that need to pump out.

Brad Pflum was in attendance and had mentioned that all residents are sent regular letters, letting them know that they need to have the septic systems pumped. Anyone who still hasn't pumped is sent a reminder letter about the need to pump and if no compliance they are sent letters certified mail.

Police Report- Fleetwood Police.

Officer Focht from the Fleetwood Police went over the report.

Virginville Fire Company Report.

The Board reviewed the report and had no questions.

Walnuttown Fire Company Report.

The Board reviewed the report and had no questions.

Walnuttown Fire Company submitted a request for fire tax disbursement in the amount of \$22,623.85 for property insurance renewal. A motion was made by Brian Wanner to approve the payment of \$22,623.85 Sam Kemmerer seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

EMS- Life Lion

As Kutztown Ambulance Transport is no longer providing service, we felt the need to bring in Life Lion to address any concerns the public may have regarding coverage for the Fleetwood area.

John Shook from Life Lion explained that on average there are between 40- 60 – 911 calls a month, with an average response time is 9 minutes. There is an ambulance at the Fleetwood Fire Department, which is there 24/7. They are covering Richmond, Fleetwood, Rockland and part of Ruscombmanor.

Keith McMahon; Director of Life Lion was also in attendance and discussed the financial status of the ambulance company. Life Lion is owned and operated by Hershey Medical Center, which is non-profit as are they.

The Board had asked for a meeting to be set up to educated them as to what they do and what financially the Township might be able to do to help out.

Approval of the Saucony Creek Brewing sponsoring of the Maple Mistress 5k

A motion was made by Brian Wanner to approve the running of the Maple Mistress 5k, conditional upon providing the Township with an updated insurance binder and hold harmless agreement, Sam Kemmerer seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

None

Engineer's Report- Scott Anderson

Solar Farm

Scott Anderson discussed that the solar farm has conducted soil testing and have revised their reports to show that the testing is exceeding what the original reports were showing. On the far southern corner of the property along Weaver Road, they performed a trial run for the Conservation District, proving that they can attain the 20" ripping, add their amended soils, with sand and fertilizer as well as an 8" till of the amended soils, then seed it and mulch it. The process went very well.

At this time the site work minus the soil amendments is pretty much complete. The equipment is all installed as well and have done some testing on the equipment, but it is not up and running. They are well aware that the soil amendments must be done and work correctly before the Zoning Permit CO can be issued.

Scott mentioned that there are a bunch of items that need to be addressed yet, as well as the Conservation District has a list of items that need to be worked on, along with clean up before anything can be done.

428 Mertz Road- Ron Kurtz-

Ron discussed that they have not cleaned up the area since the poles from Met-Ed have been installed. The property is growing weeds and no one is mowing it. Ron is looking to install a fence but can't do that until the pasture is cleaned up.

Scott mentioned that at the last month's meeting there was a "stop work" ordered until they were able to get the flooding and soil conditions contained, so no work was able to be done at that time. They have completed the testing and are told to move forward with the rest of the project. Scott will look into the situation.

Ron asked if they were going to be addressing the retention ponds at any point as the water is still flowing through them. Scott mentioned that it is on the list, but they have to do the soil amendments first before the retention ponds are worked on. There were a few questions from the public regarding the retention ponds and Scott mentioned that the soil amendments have to be done first, then the retention ponds are dealt with.

Another resident had asked what the purpose of the sand bags are that are at the bridge. They look as if they are retaining it, as the water is not being allowed to go into the retention pond that is set up to catch the water. Scott discussed that part of the E&S permit is to have silt socks there and it is possible that they are not staked properly. It was also stated that a pipe next to Weaver's driveway has significantly dropped since this project has started and are hoping that fixing that is part of the agreement. Scott mentioned that he believes it is part of the design, that the pipe is cut and water then drains into the ponds, but he will investigate all issues further.

Sheetz Store Rebuild -Time Extension

Pennonni Associates had sent a letter to the Township requesting a time extension on the Sheetz Store Rebuild, until November 30, 2023. A motion was made by Brian Wanner to accept the time extension, Sam Kemmerer seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Supplemental Roadwork Bid

Scott discussed that there is currently a bid out until Friday, September 15th for supplemental roadwork. The bid is for three different roads; overlay of Richmond Road, a heavy leveling on Moll Road and leveling on Meadow Drive. The bid is worded that we are not anticipating awarding all of the roads, possibly 1 or 2, depending on budget restraints. He also stated that Penn Dot states that no wearing course can be put down after October 31st, but being that this is not going to be funded by Liquid Fuels,

so as long as you are working with the temperatures that Penn Dot is requiring there should not be any issues.

Scott asked if the Board wanted to have a special meeting to review and discuss the bid results or if they wanted to conditionally award them up to a certain amount. It was decided that there will be a special meeting to discuss the bid results and award.

Southview- Emergency Permit

Scott discussed that the Clean Water Fund is from the Conservation District that will reimburse money that is spent, up to \$11,000.00 for stormwater issues. The application that was filled out is for the Southview project. A motion was made by Brian Wanner to approve the submission, Sam Kemmerer seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Scott mentioned that Jen sent him an email regarding a letter that was received by the Township from John Zuchowski of Moselem Springs Road. He submitted a permit to DEP, which they are required to submit notification to municipalities. He is installing a stabilized stream crossing to be used for agricultural activities. The Board had no comment on the issue.

Solicitors Report

Delinquent Sewer Report

The Board reviewed the report prepared by Attorney Mayfield.

Attorney Hartman discussed that all of the properties that they have added liens to, he would like to wait another month to see if anyone has made payments, if not he will look for authorization to file civil complaints on those accounts.

Update on condemnation actions-

Chris Hartman mentioned that they are getting close to being able to make payment into court. He will take the checks that Jen has prepared and take to the Prothonotaries Office, once they have received the approval.

ZHB- Fleetwood Borough Decision

Nothing to update

Review burning ordinance

Attorney Mayfield had sent over a few sample ordinances over for the Board to review. Jeff Fiant and Michelle had discussed the idea of eliminating burning from the R1 zoning district, with the exception of recreational burning of fire wood but nothing else. The Board wanted to review the zoning map before making a decision.

Jeff Buck from Walnuttown Fire Company asked that if the ordinance is changed, that a notice gets sent to the residents as well as the Fleetwood Police and fire companies so that everyone is aware.

The Board asked Jeff Fiant to review the map and send copies to the Board to discuss next month.

Review letter regarding Rt. 222 warehouse project.

Attorney Hartman advised the Board to have Jen submit a Right-to-Know request to Maxatawny Township for that letter. A motion was made by Brian Wanner to submit the request, Sam Kemmerer seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Steckbeck Engineering- Scott Rights, P.E.

Nothing to report

Miscellaneous Business

None

Roadmaster's Report

Review monthly road work report

The Board reviewed the road work report submitted by Robby.

Robby had asked if they could meet after the bids are open so that the roadwork could be awarded as soon as possible. A motion was made by Brian Wanner to meet on Monday, September 18th at 4:00PM, Sam Kemmerer seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

New roof is finished.

The roof is completed and Robby is in the process of getting quotes on downspouts and gutters.

Timothy Drive- Stormwater

Robby discussed that he met with a member of UGI. They would like the Township to draw up a plan on what needs to be done so that UGI can move the pipe for us. At the moment Robby has the edges stabilized until we can start working on the project.

Secretary- Treasurer's Report

Payment of the bills

General Fund

A motion was made by Sam Kemmerer to pay Check #11093 to Check #11133 including the EFTs in the amount of \$219,550.37 Scott Brinker seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

State Fund

No checks

Light Fund

A motion was made by Sam Kemmerer to pay Check# 2163 in the amount of \$744.71 Scott Brinker seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Richmond Township Sewer Fund

A motion was made by Sam Kemmerer to pay Check #3125 to Check #3131 including EFTs in the amount of \$24,328.72 Scott Brinker seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Walnuttown Fire Escrow

A motion was made by Sam Kemmerer to pay Check # 2167 & Check # 2168 in the amount of \$23,364.85 Scott Brinker seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Virginville Fire Escrow

A motion was made by Sam Kemmerer to pay Check #2167 in the amount of \$741.00 Scott Brinker seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Review quotes for health care benefits

The Board reviewed the quotes for renewal of the health care insurance. A motion was made by Brian Wanner to accept the renewal of the current insurance plan, Sam Kemmerer seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve the 2024 MMO

The Board reviewed the Minimum Municipal Funding Obligation for 2024. A motion was made by Brian Wanner to accept the MMO for 2024, Sam Kemmerer seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2023 Berks County Convention

Jen discussed that the Berks County Convention will be held on Thursday, October 19th from 5:00PM-9:30PM at the Oley Fair Centre, if anyone is interested. Deadline for registration is October 1st. The Board will let Jen know when it gets closer.

Jen discussed that Kenneth Schlegel from the Planning Commission, his term is up January 2024, along with Ronald Kurtz of the Zoning Hearing Board, his term is up January 2024 as well.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Brian Wanner mentioned that they are moving forward with getting a meeting set up with Grande to discuss the open space, they are meeting sometime next week.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

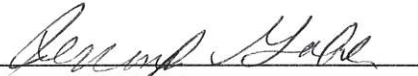
It was asked if anything can be done to hurry Penn Dot along to remove numerous trees along Dryville Road that are in danger of pulling wires down. Last month a resident was 11 days without phone or internet due to a tree coming down on a phone line.

EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS HELD TO DISCUSS 330 MINE ROAD

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Brian Wanner to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 P.M. The motion was seconded by Sam Kemmerer. Motion carried unanimously.

September 11, 2023



Jennifer Galomb
Secretary-Treasurer, Richmond Township



Brian Wanner
Chairman, Richmond Township