

May 30, 2017
Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.

MINUTES

Chairman Robert H. Rohner, Jr. called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Also present were Richard C. Vollmer, Vice Chairman; John P. Sivick, Supervisor and Robert F. Bernathy, Esq., Township Solicitor. Jon Tresslar, P.E., Township Engineer was not present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No comments were received.

SAW CREEK ESTATES:

Present on behalf of Saw Creek Estates were David Martin, general manager and Peter Derrenbacher, president for the property owners' association board.

Blighted Properties:

There are three (3) properties of concern. The first is a burned out house on Saunders Drive. The second is a foundation on Porter Drive. It appears the builder has walked away from completing the house. The third is a house on Dover that is in disrepair, with open windows and doors. The community's code compliance officer has made a report with the township's zoning enforcement officer.

This will be reviewed with the zoning enforcement officer.

Short Term Rentals:

Saw Creek Estates allows short term rentals, as outlined in their community rules. A short term rental is a rental thirty (30) days or less. Landlords must register and pay an annual fee. A rental over thirty (30) days requires a lease. There is no occupancy limits in the community's rules. A state hotel tax certificate must be submitted to the community by the landlord to ensure that state taxes are collected and submitted. A county tax certificate is not required. The complaints received by a Saw Creek Estates resident has no basis according to Mr. Martin.

Recycling/Leaf Pick Up:

It was discussed that the community can designate an area for residents to drop off brush and leaf waste that will then be picked up by the township for disposal at the Oak Grove Multi-Municipal Compost Site. The community may also deliver the material themselves. It will be reviewed by the community how they wish to handle this.

A copy of the Compost Site's accepted materials list, costs and days and times opened will be forwarded to Mr. Martin.

Planned Improvements:

The community is planning to relocate their mailboxes. The project will entail the pouring of a concrete base, and the construction of a pavilion over the mail boxes. Mr. Bernathy informed Messrs. Martin and Derrenbacher that a land development plan will need to be submitted for the township's review and approval.

A copy of the township's Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance will be supplied after the meeting.

Parks & Recreation:

An update on the Bushkill Village Conservation Plan was briefly discussed.

A status of the ballfields at the community park was requested. It was explained that litigation with the contractor is currently happening, and no further information could be discussed at this time.

Storm Prep/Response:

Discussion was specific to the March blizzard (Stella). Any State of Emergency would be shared with all communities. This storm was a very difficult storm that caused hardships for both private communities and public entities.

By law, the township could only conduct winter storm maintenance on private roads in the case of an emergency, i.e., someone needed an ambulance, or fire trucks need to respond to a fire, etc.

Public/Private Partnerships:

Mr. Martin stated that if fundraising is needed for the Bushkill Village Conservation Plan, to please contact the community for assistance.

The closing of the Bushkill Outreach was also discussed, and that if volunteers are needed for a replacement food pantry, to please let them know. They can assist in getting volunteers. Messrs. Martin and Derrenbacher were informed that the supervisors are working to assist in rectifying this unfortunate situation.

The proposed rate increased by Pennsylvania American Water Company (PAWC) was discussed. This company has the highest rates in the state, and they have applied to PUC for an 17% increase. PUC should inform PAWC to look internally to cut costs. A public may be held in Saw Creek.

AMBULANCE DONATION:

Motion made by Mr. Vollmer and second of Mr. Rohner to donate \$10,000 from the township's Emergency Services Tax collected. Unanimous.

BRODHEAD ROAD LITTER PICK-UP REQUEST:

Mr. Rohner stated that a resident who has adopted Brodhead Road for litter pick-up has requested that the road be closed during the litter pick-up for safety reasons. Mr. Bernathy stated that the supervisors have no authority to close a road for anything other than an emergency situation. The township could supply signage, and safety equipment, but it may be best that the public works department handle the litter pick-up on the Brodhead Road.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-LITIGATION (NORTHEAST SITE CONTRACTORS):

Motion made by Mr. Rohner and second of Mr. Vollmer to adjourn into an Executive Session regarding litigation (Northeast Site Contractors) at 10:54 a.m. Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Mr. Sivick and second of Mr. Rohner to adjourn out of Executive Session and return to the regular meeting at 11:14 a.m. Unanimous.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m. by the motion of Mr. Sivick and second of Mr. Rohner. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert H. Rohner, Jr.
Secretary/Treasurer