

December 29, 2020
Tuesday 9:34 A.M.

MINUTES

Chairman Robert H. Rohner, Jr. called the meeting to order at 9:34 A.M. Also present were Theresa Laino, Vice Chair, Aaron Springs, Supervisor, Sean Logsdon, Township Solicitor, Mike Lamoreaux, Township Engineer, and Edwina Wolfe, Assistant Secretary.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

PUBLIC HEARING – RESOLUTION NO. 358 ADOPTION OF THE 2021 BUDGET AND RESOLUTION NO. 359 TAX LEVY:

The public hearing for the 2021 Budget was opened at 9:34 A.M. The General Fund millage rate remains at 6 mills for a total of \$7,499,756. This is higher than normal due to the plans for the Bushkill Outreach and Community Center at a price of \$4,324,950. The Fire Fund will remain at 1½ mills for a total of \$249,410; Emergency Services Fund \$55,371 and State Liquid Fuels Fund \$320,309. For a total budget of \$8,124,846.

Motion made by Mr. Springs and second by Ms. Laino to approve the 2021 Budget (Resolution No. 358) and to set the Tax Rates at 6 Mills for General Fund Purposes, 1.5 Mills for Fire Fund and .333 Mills for Emergency Services Fund (Resolution #359). Unanimous.

No public comments were received.

Motion made by Mr. Rohner and second by Mr. Springs to close the Public Hearing at 9:35 A.M. Unanimous.

PUBLIC HEARING – DRIVEWAY ORDINANCE: **PUBLIC HEARING – ROAD OPENING ORDINANCE:**

Mr. Rohner announced he hasn't received notice of the publication from the Pocono Record. Mr. Logsdon advised the Public Hearing for the Ordinances should be tabled. Motion made by Mr. Rohner and second by Mr. Springs to table the Public Hearing for the Driveway Ordinance and the Public Hearing for the Road Opening Ordinance until the regular meeting to be held on January 4, 2021, following the re-organization meeting at 9 A.M.

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 19, 2020:

Motion made by Mr. Springs and second by Ms. Laino to approve the minutes of November 19, 2020. Unanimous.

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 23, 2020:

Motion made by Mr. Springs and second by Ms. Laino to approve the minutes of November 23, 2020. Unanimous.

AUTHORIZE THE PAYMENT OF THE BILLS ON LIST #1, LIST #2 AND THE TRANSFERS AS PRESENTED:

Motion made by Ms. Laino and second by Mr. Springs to authorize the payment of the bills on List #1, List #2 and the transfers as presented. Unanimous.

ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS; ALL FUNDS, FOR THE MONTH ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2020:

Motion made by Mr. Springs and second by Ms. Laino to approve the financial statements; all funds, for the month ended October 31, 2020. Unanimous.

ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS; ALL FUNDS, FOR THE MONTH ENDED NOVEMBER 30, 2020:

Motion made by Mr. Springs and second by Ms. Laino to approve the financial statements; all funds, for the month ended November 30, 2020. Unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. BRISCO MT. ROAD CULVERT:

Tabled.

2. SUNSET ACRES PROPOSED ROAD DEDICATION:

Tabled.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. RESOLUTION NO. 360 – BLUE RIDGE COMMUNICATIONS

Motion made by Mr. Springs and second by Ms. Laino to extend the contract with Blue Ridge Communications for one year with an increase of \$100 for a total payment of \$3,100. Unanimous.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 361 – FEE SCHEDULE

Motion made by Mr. Springs and second by Ms. Laino to approve the revised fee schedule. A copy is a part of these minutes on file. Unanimous.

3. APPROVE DISABLED VETERAN REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE FERNANDO G. MARTINEZ

Motion made by Mr. Rohner and second by Mr. Springs to approve real property tax exemption certification for Fernando G. Martinez. Unanimous.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- 1. AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS HELD ON DECEMBER 17, 2020 AT 9:00 A.M. – LITIGATION, SAW CREEK ESTATES PROPERTY OWNERS’ ASSOCIATION BOARD.**

POCONO MT./PIKE COUNTY COG REPORT(S):

Ms. Laino reported there was no quorum at the meeting and the bids to paint the road lines were opened.

ROADMASTER/PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REPORT:

Roadmaster Tim Rohner reported work continues on trucks and equipment. Work was done on a roof at the park, the doors at the township building, and on spreaders and plows. Anti-skid was hauled from the park to the township building. Leaves were picked up along the township roads and the recycle sites at the township building, Pine Ridge, Tamiment, and Ranchlands were cleaned up. Truck old #915 passed inspection as did new #915 and the tilt trailer. New tires were installed on trucks #912 and #915. Clean up from clean up days continues. Site lines along the township roads have been mowed. Trash has been picked up on township roads. Pot holes have been filled on the township roads. The crew reinstalled the building over the grinder pump at the park. A new tree was planted by the pavilion at the township building. The plows and spreaders have been installed on the trucks for the winter. The new CAT Excavator was delivered. The water pressure tank has been replaced at the township building. The crew was out for plowing and cindering on December 9th and 17th. The Road Task force scheduled for December 17th was cancelled due to the storm.

Chairman Robert Rohner opened a discussion regarding Bushkill Emergency Corps. Lehman Township donates a large sum of money to the Corps and is number 3 on the yearly report of dispatches sent out. The supervisors are becoming uncomfortable and would like to see how money is paid out. Currently the president of the Corps owns an employment agency through which Bushkill Emergency Corps employees are hired. Mr. Springs suggested the supervisors ask for a copy of the contract between the employment agency and Bushkill Emergency Corps and also ask for more details to see how money is spent. Mr. Rohner agreed the supervisors need to know the money paid by the taxpayers is being allocated properly. He would like to know how much money goes to the employment agency. Mr. Logsdon will draft a letter to be sent to Bushkill Emergency Corps pending approval by the supervisors.

Mr. Rohner also discussed having a meeting with the East Stroudsburg School Board to discuss their position regarding substandard repairs done on some of the district’s buildings. Ms. Laino and Mr. Springs agreed on the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business motion made by Mr. Rohner and second by Mr. Springs to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 A.M. to go into Executive Session regarding possible litigation with PENDOT. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by,

Edwina Wolfe
Assistant Secretary

