

**UPPER YODER TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
JANUARY 16, 2014**

**REGULAR MEETING
MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

MEMBERS PRESENT

EDWARD BARZESKI
WILLIAM HUSTON
ROY SHAFFER
ROBERT AMISTADI
SCOTT HUNT

OTHERS

ROBERT SHAHADE, SOLICITOR
KEN MESKO, ENGINEER
NICK BAILEY, ROAD SUPERVISOR
WALTER HOWELL, CHIEF OF POLICE
PAM LONSINGER, RECORDING SECRETARY

OTHERS: T. Goughnour, S. Goughnour, P. Miller

CHAIRMAN CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:00 P.M. WITH THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 12/19/13 AND 1/6/14

Bill moved, Bob seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Motion Carried 5/0 on the minutes of 12/19/13. Motion Carried 4/0/1 with Roy abstaining on the minutes of 1/6/14 because he was absent from that meeting.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS: SECRETARY/INCOME/PAYROLL REPORT

Bill moved, Scott seconded to approve the reports submitted with discussion on the Secretary's Report to follow later. Motion Carried. 5/0

APPROVAL OF GENERAL FUND BILLS - \$40,411.21

Scott moved, Roy seconded to approve payment of the general fund bills in the amount of \$40,411.21. Roll Call Vote: Roy-aye, Ed-aye, Bob-aye, Scott-aye, Bill-aye. Motion Carried. 5/0

APPROVAL OF OTHER FUND BILLS - \$58,248.19

Scott moved, Bob seconded to approve payment of the other fund bills in the amount of \$58,248.19. Roll Call Vote: Roy-aye, Ed-aye, Bob-aye, Scott-aye, Bill-aye. Motion Carried. 5/0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

GIS MAPPING

Ken reported that the County is not interested in coordinating a multi-municipal arrangement for GIS Mapping. He suggested that the Township proceed independently. He is in the process of putting the sewer maps together with the Township mapping. They can be placed on the website as a PDF File so they cannot be altered. The maps will consist of individual sheets that can be viewed and printed. Chairman inquired what the total cost was for the mapping. Secretary stated that those records are in the office and can be provided.

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AUDITOR POSITION VACANCY – 6 YEAR TERM

Action was tabled.

WESTMONT HILLTOP RECREATION COMMISSION

Solicitor discussed the planned meeting to be held on January 23rd with Southmont, Westmont and the School District and the procedures necessary for the future organization to move forward. It was noted that Bob Amistadi will be available to attend.

Ed moved, Scott seconded to authorize Bob Amistadi to represent Upper Yoder Township at the meeting. Motion Carried. 5/0

Scott moved, Roy seconded to authorize the Solicitor to proceed with a proposal to re-establish the Recreation Commission as a Successor Entity having budgeted funds. Motion Carried. 5/0

Bill moved, Bob seconded to authorize the Solicitor to have the Recreation Commission redefined under a 5013C Partnership, which would be an Independent Entity having budgeted funds and membership. Motion Carried. 5/0

The Board strongly protests any dissolution of the Recreation Commission and advised the Solicitor and Bob Amistadi to make it very clear. Also, they want it explained that the notice to withdraw from Southmont was improper and inadequate. Scott noted that he spoke with a School Board Member about starting something fresh. A lengthy discussion followed.

NEW POLICE CRUISER

Bill reported that the new cruiser was ordered.

WINTER YEAR – 2014-15 SALT SUPPLY

Ed suggested that the Township commit to ordering 1,500 ton of salt, the same as last year of which the Township is obligated to at least 60% or 900 ton. Board concurred.

ROAD DEPARTMENT WELDING MACHINE

Nick provided the Board with a quote from Dale Oxygen for a Lincoln Power Mig Welder in the amount of \$2,708.49. It was noted that a \$200 rebate was applied. He stated that it will do everything needed and Doug is trained in using it.

Roy moved, Ed seconded to authorize Nick to purchase the Lincoln Mig Welder in the amount of \$2,708.49 from Dale Oxygen. Motion Carried. 5/0

CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

It was noted that Wright Disposal will be picking up the Christmas Trees.

2014 GRANT SEMINAR

Scott suggested that one of the Secretary's attend the seminar hosted by State Representative Frank

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Burns on Thursday, February 20, 2014 to obtain information on what grants and programs are available through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Ed moved, Roy seconded to authorize Pam or Mary Kay to attend the seminar on Thursday, February 20, 2014 at the Ebensburg Borough Building. Motion Carried. 5/0

2013 & 2014 ROAD PAVING PROGRAM

Ken reported that he did not have an opportunity to meet with Mike Bowser of PennDot. He will talk to him and report back at the next meeting.

DUMPING AT THE JOHNSTOWN MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE ON GOUCHER STREET

Chief Howell informed the Board that the dumping is continuing and the Township did not hear back from DEP. He expressed his concerns about the dumping altering a natural water course that will ultimately create a negative impact downstream. The Conservation District issued a permit to the contractor stating that it is not an impacted stream. Chief Howell objected to that decision and pointed out that there is an unnamed tributary that flows to the Stonycreek River identified on the Quad Sheet.

Bill moved, Ed seconded to send a second letter to DEP via Certified Mail alerting them once again of the Township's concerns. Motion Carried. 5/0

WESTMONT HILLTOP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TRAFFIC ISSUES

Chief Howell addressed the traffic issues at the Elementary School. The ingress and egress was designed to handle the buses, not the constant flow of vehicles dropping off their children. The School District wants the police department to direct traffic. The Police try to help out on Friday's when they are available. Chief noted that it is a dangerous hazard that has been created by the School District.

FARM ANIMALS

Chief noted that the Police Department received several calls regarding unsheltered livestock when the temperatures became frigid.

ROAD DEPARTMENT TRUCK

Nick reported that the truck will be ready by the first week in March.

SUNRAY DRIVE BUILDING

Nick met with Link Computer about wiring the computers. They suggested that the best approach would be to eliminate Verizon and have one platform. This would eliminate extra cable and wiring as well as costs. Everything would be I.P. based through Atlantic Broadband using the latest and best technology.

Nick also provided the Board with a quote from Tercek Electric for the installation of a Security System in the amount of \$2,735.00 and a monthly monitoring fee of \$15.00. Bob inquired if the System was accommodating for future expansion. Nick will contact Tercek to verify. Mr. Miller interjected that the Hite Company has a nice set-up for security cameras through the Co-Star Pricing Program that might be cheaper. The contact person is Tim Merritts. Nick will contact Mr. Merritts for more information.

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CORRESPONDENCE

DEPT. OF LABOR & INDUSTRY- LOSS PREVENTION SURVEY – A letter was reviewed from the Dept. of Labor & Industry concerning the State Workers Insurance safety and health recommendations outlined for risk improvements. It was noted that not everyone had a chance to review the entire packet.

Bob moved, Bill seconded to take the recommendations under advisement. Motion Carried. 5/0

GARBAGE FEE EXONERATIONS

Two requests were received that were exonerated in 2013. It was verified that nothing has changed with the status of the two properties.

Roy moved, Ed seconded to exonerate the 2014 garbage/recycling fees in the amount of \$145.00 for the properties located at 289 Sell Street, owned by George Mulkey and the apartment at 593 Harshberger Rd., owned by Charles Riddle. Motion Carried. 5/0

NEW BUSINESS

2013 REAL ESTATE TAXES EXONERATION/2013 PER CAPITA TAXES EXONERATION

The Tax Collector, Karen Howell submitted the figure of \$25,366.28 for Real Estate to be turned over to the County and a total of \$2,766.50 to be turned over to PA Municipal for collection.

Bill moved, Scott seconded to accept and approve the exonerations as submitted by Karen Howell. Motion Carried. 5/0

RECREATION APPOINTMENT

Chairman stated that the Township's appointment to the Recreation Commission serves at the will of the Board.

Ed moved, Roy seconded to remove Joseph Veranese from his appointment to be replaced by Scott Hunt with the entire Board as alternates. Motion Carried. 4/1/0 – Bob opposed stating that it is nothing personal against Scott but that he does not have a problem with Mr. Veranese continuing on.

Roy moved, Ed seconded to send a letter to Mr. Veranese thanking him for his service. Motion Carried. 5/0

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Recreation Commission - Walter Howell, as a resident of Upper Yoder Township, expressed his concerns with the way the situation of the Recreation Commission is being handled. He stated that it started out as a Volunteer Organization and it would be a crime to take it away from the community. He believes it should be presented at the Courts for a decision on the proper steps to disband it. He also was displeased that Southmont delivered a letter to Mr. Huston at his place of employment instead of the

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Township office, which is the proper protocol. A discussion was held concerning the conflict with having an audit done. Bob Amistadi does not believe it is about an audit. Bill Huston stated that it is necessary to build something out of it that the residents deserve and that it needs to be structured and administered better. Also discussed was the issues with the Ridge and the 1997 Grant that was secured. Solicitor Shahade pointed out that he is almost certain that the Township was the sponsor for the grant and signed off on it. It was noted that there are 5 members serving on the Recreation Authority. The Board is aware that Jim Craft, Lee Williamson and Kevin Pile are members but are unsure of the other two. Ed will contact Mr. Craft to confirm who the other members are. A lengthy discussion followed.

Paul Miller of 700 Goucher Street inquired if the meeting was open to the public. He was informed that it was not a public meeting because the purpose of the meeting is to gather and share information as well as the legalities involved.

Sunray Drive Security System – Mr. Miller suggested that the security at the Sunray Drive Building should encompass the entire perimeter of the property because of the area in which it is located.

Winter Road Maintenance – Mr. Miller questioned why salt was being spread when the temperatures were unfavorable for the salt to be effective. He stated that the liquid calcium chloride would be useful but in frigid conditions, the use of cinders is the most efficient product.

ADJOURNMENT

Bill moved, Scott seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried. 5/0

ADJOURNED

8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Pam Lonsinger
Secretary

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING.