

December 5, 2011

Chairman Joe Esposito called the regular meeting of the Ransom Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7 PM on December 5, 2011 on Hickory Lane. Also present were Dennis Macheska and Atty. Bill Jones. Fifteen individuals signed the roster.

The minutes of the past meetings were read. Dennis Macheska made a motion to accept the minutes as read and Joe Esposito seconded the motion. Vote count was 2 yes and 0 no.

Joe Esposito reported the township received from DEP notification of approval of a construction certification for modifications to the groundwater monitoring system at Alliance Landfill involving construction of wells M-17 and M-18 and the decommissioning of wells M-3, M-5, M-9 and M-10. Also from DEP the township received notification of a Notice Of Violation issued to Cascade Tissue Group because their Discharge Monitoring Reports were submitted late for the months of April, May, and July.

Dennis Macheska made a motion to pay bills as presented and Joe Esposito seconded the motion. Vote count was 2 yes and 0 no.

Joe Esposito read a resolution for an executive agreement with H.A. Berkheimer to be the exclusive tax office for the collection of local services tax for Ransom Township. Dennis Macheska made a motion to adopt the resolution and Joe Esposito seconded the motion. Vote count was 2 yes and 0 no. Joe then read a resolution to appoint Berkheimer as its tax hearing officer for the local services tax. William Brown of Bald Mountain Road questioned the resolutions which were explained. Joe Esposito made a motion to adopt the resolution and Dennis Macheska seconded the motion. Vote count was 2 yes and 0 no. Atty. Jones then read a resolution to authorize Berkheimer to impose and retain costs of collection on delinquent local services tax. Joe Esposito made a motion to adopt the resolution and Dennis Macheska seconded the motion. Vote count was 2 yes and 0 no. Atty. Jones read the final resolution to appoint Kathy Zielinski as liaison between Berkheimer and Ransom Township for the local services tax. Joe Esposito made a motion to adopt the resolution and Dennis Macheska seconded the motion. Vote count was 2 yes and 0 no.

Sgt. Greg Winowich of SAPD was present and presented the police report which noted 132.35 hours of coverage during the month of November. He reviewed several incidents and noted an attempt of fraud through phone sales. Kathy Rowinski of Ransom Road questioned what to do about an identity theft situation and she was advised to call PSP or SAPD if they are available.

Joe Esposito reported two vacancies for township positions will be opened next month: a zoning hearing board alternate and the vacancy board. Interested residents can pick up applications at the township office and all applications need to be into the township by 12/15/11. Atty. Jones explained the function of the vacancy board to Bill Auriemma of Ransom Road.

Joe Esposito noted all bills need to be into the township by 12/15 to facilitate the closing of the 2011 financial records.

There will be a special meeting on Thursday, 12/29 at 7 PM for the purpose of adopting the budget for 2012, passing the tax millage, paying the bills, and closing the 2011 financial records.

Treasurer's report was \$1,990,441.50 and revenue was \$5,100.89.

Recycling totaled 11,800 lbs. for November and 12/15 & 12/16 are this month's dates.

There was no road report due to the absence of Dave Bird, Roadmaster.

Atty. Ernie Preate and John Seamans were present concerning the Dorothy Richards Estate major subdivision. DEP has not sent the letter stating this subdivision meets their requirements and discussion followed. Discussion followed.

Joe Esposito reported the reorganization meeting will be Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at 7 PM on Hickory Lane with the regular meeting immediately following.

Under public comment, Bill Auriemma of Ransom Road questioned the bill list and why monies were paid to the magistrate. It was noted the magistrate's monies were revenue and not expenditure. He also questioned why 5-6 guys were on the payroll for roads since it was reported the roads are caught up. Bob Ketz and Lenay Blackwell of Bald Mountain Road questioned why some people have building permits and others do not. Lenay Blackwell, real estate tax collector, reported she is required to have a copy of the building permits and listed work done for which she did not receive a building permit. Dennis Macheska reported he forwards the building permits to John Foley who is the Lackawanna County Assessor for his use. Discussion followed concerning what work requires a building permit and what work results in re-assessment. The secretary will now give a copy of the building permit to the Ransom Township real estate tax collector. Kathy Rowinski requested the upcoming minutes be placed on the township website so she can view the upcoming agenda items. It was explained the upcoming minutes are draft until approved at the upcoming meeting. Kathy Ketz questioned what is being done concerning the oil and gas drilling issues. Dennis Macheska advised her to call her representative concerning House Bill 1950 which will take away all municipal authority over gas drilling. Residents were again advised to get their water tested now to have a baseline if drilling should occur. It was noted there is an error on the bill list with J&B Printing corrected to the elected tax collector.