

November 3, 2014

Chairman Dennis Macheska called the regular meeting of the Ransom Township Board of Supervisors to order on November 3, 2014 at 7pm at the municipal building located at 2435 Hickory Lane. Also present were supervisors David Bird and William (Bud) Brown, secretary Sarah Griggs and Attorney Ed Scacchitti. Twenty – one individuals signed the sign in sheet.

Dave Bird made a motion to accept the previous months minutes as read. Bud Brown seconded the motion. All yes 0 no.

Officer Harvey of the South Abington Police presented the police report for the month. Officer Harvey advised the residents that the new police lines have been repainted on Upper Bald Mt Rd. Office Harvey also stated that there was a burglary at the Greenspace property barn and patrol in that area has been increased. He stated that Penn Foster was also broke in to but the state police do not think the two incidence are related. Officer Harvey advised that after the break in Penn Foster has a guard posted on the property. Dennis Macheska advised that wire for the fire system was stolen out of Penn Foster.

There wasn't a representative present from the Newton Ransom Fire Hall to present the report for the month.

Bernie McGurl, Lackawanna River Corridor Executive Director, and Joyce Hatala addressed the residents about MS4. Bernie and Joyce presented the residents with pamphlets regarding the subject. Bud Brown advised that the township received a letter advising that the township is now in compliance with MS4 and Bernie and Joyce were in attendance due to further educating the township on MS4. Bernie advised that the MS4 is a new area under the Clean Water Act that EPA on a federal level and DEP on the state level are responsible for working with municipalities. It comes from the Clean Water Act that was updated by Congress in 1996. It was updated due to our society being so dependent on motor vehicles and water can no longer go into the ground in its natural habitat due to parking lots, shopping malls, etc. When it rains oils, materials from cars, pet waste, and salt run off and become urban stormwater runoff. The EPA started making rules when the update went into effect requiring Municipalities to get NPDES permits for storm water. MS4 is the name of the new area of fighting water pollution. MS4 stands for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Sources. Bernie advised that the six MS4 minimum control measures are: 1. Public education and outreach. 2. Public participation and involvement. 3. Illicit discharge detection and elimination. 4. Construction site runoff control. 5. Post construction runoff control. 6. Pollution prevention and good housekeeping. Joyce Hatala addressed the residents advised that they have also done education booths at festivals, farmers markets, etc. She advised that they also provide educational materials on rain barrels, vegetated swells, and rain gardens. Bernie stated that Green Infrastructure is a good way to address the water pollution problems. Over the next few years EPA will be looking at if the water quality has changed in the Chesapeake Bay. If there are not changes the EPA will be coming back with increased requirements. There were no public questions for Bernie and Joyce.

Rick Notari presented the Lackawanna County Event Calendar for the month.

Under Public comment: Jerry Blackwell questioned the balance in the general fund account. Sarah Griggs advised the balance had changed so much due to the

township having to pay for the road work done, the most amount going to Evergreen Drive. Jerry Blackwell also questioned the loan payment amount for the Greenspace property. Jerry questioned if it is a monthly payment. Sarah Griggs advised that it is a yearly payment and there is also an interest payment for the loan due at the beginning of the year. Jerry questioned if the supervisors have ever considered subdividing the property. Dave Bird stated that they have not looked into subdividing it but they have looked into other options including windmills and solar energy.

Hank Rowinski advised that large rocks are being dumped at the end of skyline drive for the Snake Road project. Hank stated that with the rocks being dumped in that area cars cannot see to get out of the road. Dave bird advised that he would give Dave Maciak at PennDot a call about the problem. Kathy Rowinski added that with the same road project the sun at certain times of day make it impossible to see the flagmen. Kathy questioned how long the road project will take. Bud Brown advised that it is a state road and we were no informed how long it will take.

Being there no further public comment Dennis Macheska returned to the agenda. Dennis advised that the township received an inspection report, engineers report and 3rd quarter ground water monitoring report. Noting no violations.

Bud Brown made a motion to pay the bills as presented. Dave Bird seconded the motion. All yes 0 no.

Dennis Macheska advised that at the December 1, 2014 Supervisors Meeting the supervisors will be adopting a new contract with Comcast and there will be a public hearing at 6:30pm before the meeting to review the ordinance and answer any questions.

Dennis Macheska read the treasurers report for the month. The balance in the general fund was \$567,400.42 and the liquid fuels account balance was \$1,340,707.12. Recycling for the month of October totaled 3.64 tons. Novembers recycling dates were November 20th and November 21st.

Dave Bird presented the road report for the month. Dave stated that they are continuing to mow and are trying to keep ditches clean of leaves. Dave advised that the trucks are ready for snow.

Dennis Macheska advised that the township is again participating in the Toys for Tots drop off. The drop off box is located in the lobby of the township building on Hickory Lane. All new, unwrapped toys will be collected until December 11.

Dennis Macheska stated that the township barn located at the Greenspace property was recently vandalized. If anyone sees someone other than township employees or officials at the property please call South Abington Police Department. Dennis advised to please not approach the individuals. Dennis stated that the property will now be under video surveillance.

Bud Brown stated that the township is currently working on the budget for 2015.

Connie Flesh advised that the sign on the road she lives on is marked Lakeview Drive. Connie stated that due to confusion the road sign should read South Lakeview Drive. Dave Bird stated that is something he would look into.

Dave Bird made a motion to adjourn. Bud Brown seconded the motion. All yes no.

Respectfully Submitted
Sarah Griggs