

BUFFALO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS – REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING – DECEMBER 11, 2019

AND

ADOPTION OF THE 2020 BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BUDGET OF ALL FUNDS

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Buffalo Township Board of Supervisors was held Wednesday, December 11, 2019, in the Buffalo Township Municipal Building and convened at 7:30 pm.

The Meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Ron Zampogna. This Meeting is being recorded. If anyone is taping this Meeting, please state your name and address.

Roll Call

Ron Zampogna II	Present
Gary L. Risch	Present
Albert T. Roenigk	Present
Matthew J. Sweeny	Present
John Zurisko	Present

A majority of the Board of Supervisors being present, the Chairman declared the Meeting open for the transaction of business.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSIONS; PERSONNEL; AND/OR INFO-GATHERING MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

- a) Tim Derringer, John Zurisko, Gary Risch and Matt Sweeny met in the Township Municipal Building regarding personnel matters Dec. 3
- b) The Board of Supervisors met with their Solicitor in the Township Municipal Building on Dec. 11

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of the November 13, 2019, Regular Monthly Meeting of the Buffalo Township Board of Supervisors, as recorded, was on motion of Matt Sweeny, seconded by Albert Roenigk. Motion Carried. Un. Approval.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE TREASURER’S REPORT for November 1-30, 2019, inclusive for audit, was on motion of John Zurisko, seconded by Gary Risch. Motion Carried. Un. Approval.

MONTHLY BILLS

After reviewing the invoices and bills presented for payment, it was on motion of Matt Sweeny, seconded by Albert Roenigk to pay the monthly bills. Motion Carried. Un. Approval.

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PROPOSED 2020 BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BUDGET OF ALL FUNDS

Chairman Ron Zampogna asked for questions, comments, or suggestions from the residents present regarding the Supervisors' Line Item Allocations and/or the Total Township Budget. The Budget has been posted and it is a little over \$2.3 million dollars.

RESOLUTION #2019-11 BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BUDGET OF ALL FUNDS - ADOPTED

On motion of Gary Risch, seconded by John Zurisko, to adopt Resolution #2019-11 Buffalo Township Budget of All Funds. Motion Carried. Un. Approval.

ADOPTION OF TAX RESOLUTION #2019-12 - ADOPTED

On motion of Gary Risch, seconded by Matt Sweeny, to adopt Resolution #2019-12, which establishes the 2020 Tax Rate, as follows: ½% Earned Income Tax, ½% Real Estate Transfer Tax, \$47 Local Services Tax, \$10 Per Capita Tax (all persons 18 years of age and older, and Buffalo Twp. Real Estate Tax – 5.5 ML. Motion Carried. Un. Approval.

REPORTS

(1) THE ELECTED TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT (CARLA GARIA):

- **NOVEMBER 2019:** Twp. Real Estate Tax is \$1,728.48, Per Capita @ Penalty is \$330.00

(2) THE APPOINTED TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT (BERKHEIMER):

- **NOVEMBER 2019:** Earned Income Tax is \$139,754.07, Local Services Tax is \$24,396.06

(3) THE APPOINTED TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT (SHARPS):

- **NOVEMBER 2019:** Twp. share: \$304.63

(4) WEEKLY STAMP SALES (DEED TRANSFER'S):

- **NOVEMBER 2019:** \$13,123.51

(5) ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT (RICK HEALEY):

- **NOVEMBER 2019:** 5 Permits Issued, 1 Single Family Residences, 1 Residential Addition, 1 Porch/Decks/Roof, 1 Solar Panel, 1 Grading Permits
Building Permit Fee: \$1,249.55, Mileage: 120, Grading Permit Fee: \$100.00, Lot Development Fund: \$1,367.09

(6) THE DISTRICT JUSTICE'S REPORT:

- **NOVEMBER 2019:** Ordinance & Statute Violations \$270.48, Code Violations \$171.77

(7) BUFFALO TWP. POLICE REPORT

- **NOVEMBER 2019:** Total calls 104

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OLD BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF THE AMENDED PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE BYLAWS – APPROVED

On a motion Matt Sweeny, seconded by John Zurisko to approve the amendment made to the Parks & Recreation Bylaws permitting the Township Supervisor Liaison to be a voting member. Motion Carried. Un. Approval.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION TO SET REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS - APPROVED

Motion to set Regular Monthly Meetings at 7:30 pm, the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month. The months of June, July, August, November & December will be the 2nd Wednesday only. The Reorganization Meeting is January 6, 2020 at 7:00 pm with the Regular Monthly Meeting to immediately follow.

On a motion of Matt Sweeny, seconded by Albert Roenigk to set the 2020 Regular Monthly Meeting Schedule as listed above. Motion Carried. Un. Approval.

LETTER OF REQUEST FROM PATRICK REITZ TO BE REAPPOINTED TO THE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY BOARD FOR AN ADDITIONAL 5-YEAR TERM – APPROVED

Ron Zampogna read the letter that was submitted by Patrick Reitz regarding his interest in being reappointed for a 5-year term on the Municipal Authority Board.

On a motion of John Zurisko, seconded by Matt Sweeny to approve Patrick Reitz' reappointment to the Municipal Authority Board for a 5-year term. Motion Carried. Un. Approval.

ANNOUNCEMENT: POSITIONS AVAILABLE FOR 2020 CENSUS TAKERS. IF INTERESTED YOU CAN APPLY ON LINE. FLYERS ARE IN THE TOWNSHIP LOBBY

MOTION TO HIRE JEFFREY SWIKLINSKI AS A FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2, 2020 – APPROVED

Ron stated that the board has gone through the process of interviewing and narrowing down then re-interviewing with the help of Chief Derringer. The township is growing, the Chief needs more help and we would like to have more than one officer on a shift for safety of the officers and also of the residents in the township. This was the main consideration of bringing on another employee. This will give us a force of eight full time officers, and we believe we have a good guy in Mr. Swiklinski. Vicky

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Hoffman, Bear Creek Road asked if this was to replace anyone and if there are any part time Officers. Ron replied we are not replacing anyone. We are going from 7 full time to eight full time officers. Matt Sweeny stated this is instead of having a bunch of part time officers. Vicky asked if eight is included in the new budget? Ron replied, it is. Which will compensate for a lot of the overtime that we had to absorb. The Chief has had a lot of issues with part time employees. It is hard to find part time workers in any field. Vicky asked how many part time officers do we have? Ron replied, we don't. Matt stated we have one part time police officer, but he rarely works. Gary Risch stated that we have paid out over \$80,000.00 in overtime for the police officers to work shifts that we didn't have anyone to cover. Ron stated that the township is growing and so the force has to grow. Gary asked how many calls have you had this year? Chief Derringer answered 2,000. Gary commended the police department.

On a motion of John Zurisko, seconded by Gary Risch to hire Jeffrey Swiklinski as a full-time police officer effective January 2, 2020. Motion Carried. Un. Approval.

ANNOUNCEMENT: II-VI INCORPORATED WILL BE HAVING THEIR LAST TESTING FOR THE YEAR OF THE COMMUNITY EARLY WARNING SYSTEM ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20TH AND SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21ST, 2019 AT NOON ON BOTH DAYS.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2019-13 AUTHORIZING A TAX AND REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTE - ADOPTED

Ron stated that this is something that we do every year. It is part of the budget. This is \$200,000.00 in case we need it and the tax money doesn't come in quick enough to cover the bills. This is basically a line of credit. Atty. Lutz replied, yes. Ron stated, I believe we have to do this for the bank. Janice Zubrin stated that the DCED requires that this be done. It was just started last year. Atty. Lutz stated that it is better to put it in place at the beginning of the year. Ron stated that we don't always need it but if we do it is there, and we pay it back immediately.

On a motion of Matt Sweeny, seconded by Albert Roenigk to approve adoption of Resolution #2019-13 authorizing a Tax and Revenue Anticipation note. Motion Carried. Un. Approval.

MOTION TO APPROVE CONTRACT FOR CHIEF OF POLICE TIM DERRINGER - APPROVED

Atty. Lutz stated that we have been negotiating with Tim as you know we didn't have a police chief. Chief Behanna was technically an officer in charge so this is a new thing for us. Atty. Lutz asked Tim how long he has been here? Tim replied, all together I have been here 20 years and now 2 years as Chief. We have negotiated the terms and language of the contract and we are satisfied with the contract the way that it is. If you would like to approve that, it is up to you. Atty. Lutz asked the board if they have any questions. Ron stated that Tim is doing a great job running the department. Gary stated that our police department is what it is because of him.

On a motion of Gary Risch, seconded by Matt Sweeny to approve contract for Chief Derringer. Motion Carried. Un. Approval.

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DISCUSSION REGARDING HEATER IN NEW GARAGE – APPROVED

Ron stated that as you know we built a new garage to hold our equipment and maybe we should have done this sooner, but we need to have some heat in there for the guys. Gary stated that we have received three bids on this. We had a used furnace that we were going to use but it was going to cost a little bit more to get a new furnace with a warranty. We received Johns' Heating bid at \$3,940.00. Peter's Refrigeration's bid was \$3,800.00. Which comes with 5-year parts and 10-year warranty. I agree that we should spend another \$1,000.00 for a new heater.

On a motion of Gary Risch, seconded by Albert Roenigk to approve bid from Peter's Refrigeration Heating and Cooling in the amount of \$3,800.00 to install a heater in the new 3 bay truck garage. Motion Carried. Un. Approval.

Gary Risch stated that this is John Zurisko's last meeting and I would very much like to thank him for his time and let him know that I appreciate everything that he has done for the township and will miss him. John replied, thank you and I appreciated this opportunity.

REMARKS FROM THE FLOOR

Pete Robertson with Ryan Homes was in attendance for a brief update on the Twin Oaks Subdivision. All of the items that the township and the Butler County Conservation District asked the Developer to complete within Phase 1 have all been completed. Also, a storm sewer in Phase 2 is almost ready to meet compliance. It should be ready by next Friday before the holiday season starts. Gary Risch asked if Ryan Homes or the Developer have done anything to compensate the people who were flooded? Pete answered not to my knowledge, you would have to ask Mr. Allen about that. Ron asked Ken if he will keep in touch with the Developer? Ken replied that there is someone out there now inspecting it and we will keep you up to date as to the progress.

Ron acknowledged students from Mr. Wyatt's class and asked if any of them had any questions. None of the students spoke.

Renee Alchier with the Audubon Society stated that they are up for River of the Year for the Buffalo Creek. I have papers back there so, if everyone could vote for us, we would appreciate it. The Audubon Society recently received a grant from DCNR for \$30,000.00 that will be used to support initial activities of the watershed coalition, a website, 2 watershed festivals which one will hopefully be down at the park. The Buffalo Creek watershed covers areas in Armstrong and Butler Counties. It is not just here in Buffalo Township. We will have the Watershed festivals, a series of landowner workshops with tree and native plant giveaways, stream crossing signage, creation of education resources and youth focus programming at local libraries. We were also awarded another grant in the amount of \$13,000.00 from the foundation of PA Watersheds to work with Duquesne and Chatham Universities to do some water quality sampling in Little Buffalo and Sarver's Run in 2020. Also, make sure everyone votes, it is one email address per vote. We will receive a \$10,000.00 Grant for the Watershed if we do win and of

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course bragging rights. We also have a display at the store for one more day of the 2019 Audubon Photography awards which includes photos from United States and Canada. This is a traveling display and they are pretty cool. We had the Jingle & Mingle last weekend and it was very successful. Gary asked what the status of the building is? Ken replied that it should be very soon.

Chris Zeigler, President of the Trail Council stated that there was damage north Cabot from the rain and we still have money left from the grant that can be used to repair it. We are doing some drastic ditching. We will be hauling material out of the location all together. We have scouts putting new railings on the bridges.

Terry Tague with the Parks and Recreation Committee thanked John Zurisko for his service not only with the Parks & Recreation Committee but the big difference that he made in the community.

Jack McCoy from Mr. Wyatt's class thanked the Board for the education and letting them observe our local government.

ADJOURNMENT was on a motion of Gary Risch, seconded by John Zurisko at 8:00 pm. Motion carried. Un. Approval.

APPROVED:

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY