

BUFFALO TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS – REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING – DECEMBER 12, 2018

AND

ADOPTION OF THE 2019 BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BUDGET OF ALL FUNDS

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Buffalo Township Board of Supervisors was held Wednesday, December 12, 2018, in the Buffalo Township Municipal Building and convened at 7:35pm.

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) The Board of Supervisors met with their Solicitor after the Special Meeting regarding personnel issues on Nov. 20
- b) Ron Zampogna, Gary Risch, Albert Roenigk and John Zurisko met with Penn DOT regarding Ralston Road concerns on Nov. 30
- c) The Board of Supervisors met with their Solicitor in the Township Municipal Building on Dec. 12

Ron Zampogna responded to “6-b” on the Info-gathering section in regard to the Meeting with Penn Dot. He stated that Penn Dot initiated an onsite meeting regarding the concerns with Ralston Road. There have been many concerned citizens in the township regarding this area. Penn Dot did take down the 55 MPH sign and marked the road about 600 feet down the hill from Ralston Road where they suggest that the township cut back the trees and limbs that are obstructing the view of drivers. Penn Dot has placed a speed tracker in that area and hopefully by the middle to end of January they are planning to put up a 4-foot by 4-foot sign approximately 50-60 feet up the hill from Freeport on the right-hand side showing the diagram of Ralston Road, First Street and Shuster Drive.

Christine Myers of Garden Way asked why was “6-a” skipped over, what does that one mean? Atty. Lutz stated that we had an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Christine asked if there

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is any further information available on that? Atty. Lutz stated no, we really can't disclose that.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of the November 14, 2018, Regular Monthly Meeting and the November 20, 2018 Special Meeting of the Buffalo Township Board of Supervisors, as recorded, was on motion of Matt Sweeny, seconded by John Zurisko. Motion Carried. Un. Approval.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT for November 1-30, 2018, inclusive for audit, was on motion of John Zurisko, seconded by Matt Sweeny. Motion Carried. Un. Approval.

Gary Risch stated that he had a question, how much money do we have in the Recreational Fund where we get the money for the Subdivisions? Janice Zubrin asked what Recreational Fund? Gary stated when we get the \$1500.00 for the Subdivisions. Matt Sweeny stated the Fee In Lieu Of. Janice stated that it is in the Capital Reserve. Gary asked so it is not in a separate account? Janice stated no. Gary asked why it is put in the Capital Reserve? Janice stated because that is where I put it. Gary asked why don't you keep it separate? Janice answered because I know how much is in it. Gary asked how much is in it? Janice replied why didn't you ask me before the meeting, so I could have the information available for you. Gary replied, I would think you should know that off the top.

MONTHLY BILLS

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

PROPOSED 2019 BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BUDGET OF ALL FUNDS

Various requests for inclusion in the 2019 Budget were received. 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. There were no questions, comments, or suggestions.

Albert Roenigk asked if the township could budget an additional \$1,000.00 to each of the Fire Departments in the township. Right now, we give both Sarver VFC and Buffalo VFC \$40,000.00 each. I think we should increase it so they each get \$41,000.00 from the township.

On a motion of Albert Roenigk, seconded by Gary Risch to increase the amount given to the Fire Departments by \$1,000.00 each which will reflect on the 2019 Budget. Motion Carried. Un. Approval.

RESOLUTION #2018-7, BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BUDGET OF ALL FUNDS – ADOPTED

On motion of John Zurisko, seconded by Matt Sweeny, to adopt Resolution #2018-7 Buffalo Township Budget of All Funds. Motion Carried. Un. Approval.

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ADOPTION OF TAX RESOLUTION #2018-8 - ADOPTED

On motion of John Zurisko, seconded by Gary Risch, to adopt Resolution #2018-8, which establishes the 2019 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 2018:** Twp. Real Estate Tax is \$2,786.36, Per Capita @ Penalty is \$440.00

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

- **NOVEMBER 2018:** Earned Income Tax is \$126,748.30, Local Services Tax is \$23,029.35

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

- **NOVEMBER 2018:** Twp. share: \$352.65

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

- **NOVEMBER 2018:** \$0.00 - Did not receive as of 12/12/18

(5) ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT (ROGER KELLY):

- **NOVEMBER 2018:** 17 Permits Issued, 7 Single Family Residences, 1 Storage Building, 1 Pool, 7 Grading Permits, 1 Solar Panel
Building Permit Fee: \$5,093.90, Mileage: 210, Grading Permit Fee: \$85.00, Lot Development Fund: \$600.00

(6) THE DISTRICT JUSTICE'S REPORT:

- **NOVEMBER 2018:** Ordinance & Statute Violations \$0.00, Code Violations \$0.00 - Did not receive as of 12/12/18

(7) BUFFALO TWP. POLICE REPORT

- **NOVEMBER 2018:** Total calls 167

(8) BUFFALO TWP. VFC, CHIEF'S REPORT

- **NOVEMBER 2018:** Calls for month 77, Fire related calls 60 Medicals 17, Company Hours 89 hrs. 39 mins., Staff Hours 728 hrs. 33 mins., Calls for Year 437, Fire Damage for Month \$0.00, Fire Damage for Year \$300,000.00

(9) SARVER VFC, CHIEF'S REPORT

- **NOVEMBER 2018:** Calls for month 71, Fire related calls 35, Medicals 36, Company Hours 280.22 hrs., Staff Hours 423.39 hrs., Calls for Year 582, Fire Damage for Month \$0.00, Fire Damage for Year \$21,000.00

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OLD BUSINESS

BID FOR THE TRUCK GARAGE REPAIR MUNICIPAL COMPLEX CONTRACT NUMBER 18-1 -TABLED

Ken Howard with Bankson Engineers stated that there were 9 companies that sent in Bids for the repairs on the Truck Garage Repair Municipal Complex Contract Number 18-1. The lowest bid came in from Holbein Inc. at \$130,800.00 for the Lump Sum Bid #2. Which was a bid for the full replacement of the garage. Based upon a letter which Bob Holbein has submitted today, he has given us some pricing to add 14 feet or an addition of 28 feet. After much discussion between Ken Howard, Bob Holbein, Ed Smith, Bob Fletcher and the Board of Supervisors, it was decided to set a date and time to meet and get measurements for the additional bay and storage area along with the garage doors.

On a motion of Matt Sweeny, seconded by Albert Roenigk to table the Truck Garage Repair Municipal Complex Contract Number 18-1 until more information is gathered regarding adding an additional truck bay and storage area. Motion Carried. Un. Approval.

BID FOR THE SUNNY LANE CUL-DE-SAC IMPROVEMENTS CONTRACT NUMBER 18-2 AWARDED TO NORTHROCK CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$68,356.00 - ACCEPTED

Ken Howard with Bankson Engineers stated that there were 8 companies that sent in Bids for the Sunny Lane Cul-de-sac Improvement Contract Number 18-2. The lowest bid came in from Northrock Construction Inc. from St. Mary's, PA at \$68,356.00. We would recommend the award of this bid in the amount of \$68,356.00 to Northrock Construction.

On a motion of Gary Risch, seconded by Albert Roenigk to award the Bid from Northrock Construction in the amount of \$68,356.00 for the Sunny Lane Cul-de-Sac Improvements Contract Number 18-2. Motion Carried. Un. Approval.

DISCUSSION REGARDING SETTING FEE FOR SOLAR PANELS – TABLED

Ron Zampogna stated that we have been discussing this the last couple meetings. Atty. Lutz and Atty. Farrington have been checking into this also. This is something that is new and upcoming in the township. There is a lot that needs to go on based on the complexity of the Solar Panel. We are also awaiting input from Code Sys along with other entities that we have contacted for information.

On a motion of Matt Sweeny, seconded by John Zurisko to table setting the fees for Solar Panels. Motion Carried. Un. Approval.

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SALE OF THE BUFFALO EMS BUILDING – APPROVED

Atty. Lutz stated that this is the EMS property along Ekastown Road which was abandoned, and Buffalo Township stepped in and are now the Conservators. We received court approval to sell it to the highest bidder. We just simply have to have a closing.

On a motion of Matt Sweeny, seconded by Gary Risch to approve the sale of the EMS Building to Ronald J. Jack, Kimberly L. Smith and John Jason Jack. 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 7, 2019 with the Regular Monthly Meeting to immediately follow.

On a motion of Gary Risch, seconded by John Zurisko to set the 2019 Regular Monthly Meeting Schedule as listed above. Motion Carried. Un. Approval.

Motion to amend previous motion was made by Matt Sweeny, seconded by Gary Risch regarding the Reorganization Meeting date. Motion Carried. Un. Approval.

ANNOUNCEMENT: II-VI WILL BE TESTING THEIR COMMUNITY EARLY WARNING SYSTEM ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14 & SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2018 AT NOON ON BOTH DAYS

RESIGNATION LETTER FROM RAY SMETANA, PLANNING COMMISSION CHAIRMAN – LETTER READ & ACCEPTED

Ron Zampogna stated that we have received a resignation letter from Ray Smetana, Chairman of the Planning Commission. Ron read the letter. His term is up the end of this month. He has made the decision to retire after being on the board for 20 years. He was an asset to the not only the township but the Planning Commission. We will surely miss him.

On a motion of Matt Sweeny, seconded by John Zurisko to accept the resignation letter from Ray Smetana. Motion Carried. Un. Approval.

MOTION TO ADVERTISE TO REDUCE NUMBER OF PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS FROM SEVEN (7) MEMBERS TO FIVE (5) MEMBERS - APPROVED

Ron Zampogna stated that we need to make a motion to do so. It is not something we have to do but if we would decide to it would have to be advertised. Atty. Lutz stated that in order to do that you would have to advertise to amend the Ordinance from 7 to 5. You can do that at the meeting in January. We have enough time to get the add in. Ray Smetana stated the only problem I see with that

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is obtaining a quorum. Ron stated, and I do appreciate that, but I have talked with Rhonda and the rest of the Board. You have had a quorum of 4 at every meeting. In essence it would probably be easier to get 3 here as opposed to 4. Your panels attendance has been very well for the most part. But, yes, it is a well appreciated point.

On a motion of Gary Risch, seconded by Albert Roenigk to advertise to reduce the Planning Commission members from 7 to 5 and changing the Ordinance. Motion Carried. Un. Approval.

Gary Risch stated, I have a few questions. I had several people call me and wondered why it took so long to get the trees off the road? We had 3 or 4 roads in the township that were closed for several days. Ron stated that from what he understood is that you can not do anything until the power is off. Gary stated that I was there when Allegheny Power came and shut the power off and Friday night the tree could have been removed. Matt Sweeny stated that for some reason that wasn't expressed to me. I did receive a call from your neighbor Sunday morning and so I went and checked it out at the tree was off the line. I got ahold of John Gaydos who then contacted Bob Fletcher and then it was cleared immediately. Gary stated that the other one was Coal Hollow Road. That road was a mess. Bob Fletcher stated that we couldn't do anything until the power company cut the power off. I don't think West Penn Power came until either Monday or Tuesday. We don't touch anything until power is cut. Then it is up to the homeowners to clean up the trees. We just put the trees off to the side of the road. We got rid of the chipper, so we couldn't take care of that. It might be a good idea to get another one so when something else happen like this we could go out and clear up the trees. Gary stated there were over 65,000 people in Butler County without power. Ron stated from all the feedback that I have heard, there was a lot of debris down and I feel the road department did a wonderful job. Gary stated I think the roads could have been cleared 2 days earlier than they were. Gary asked Bob how many roads were closed? Bob answered, Coal Hollow, Parker, Beale, and Sunset. Bob stated but until West Penn Power comes out, we are not allowed to do anything. Ron stated, Gary I am not sure where you are going with this? Are you saying West Penn didn't respond fast enough or the township Road Department didn't respond quick enough? Gary answered the Road Department did not respond quick enough. Matt stated that when I spoke to John Gaydos, he said he was out there on Sunday and looked at it and they weren't cut off. Gary said they were cut off Friday night because I stood there and watched them, and the road was never opened up until Sunday. Matt stated there was miscommunication somewhere. Bob stated there is miscommunication somewhere because I was called out to close a road that was already closed. Matt stated besides the miscommunication, I feel that it was handled very well under the circumstances. Darwin Stivenson from Parker Road commented about the trees that are about ready to fall over onto Parker Road. Matt Sweeny stated that we can take a look at that. Albert Roenigk stated there are several trees like that on Coal Hollow Road. Matt stated Harbison Road also. Gary stated that when I was out driving around the township, I could only see 2 or 3 Road Closed signs. I think the township should invest in more of these signs and look for someone that isn't as expensive as Walsh Equipment. Bob Fletcher stated that one of the signs belonged to Buffalo VFC. Bob Fletcher stated that if we have eight (8), that should work. Gary asked Janice if the Municipal Bids are set up on the internet? Janice replied yes, it has been set up. Matt

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Sweeny stated that he could take pictures. Gary also asked whatever happened to the Daily Logs that the Road Department is supposed to be completing? I haven't seen one of these in quite a long time. Ron asked are you looking for a recap of what they do on a daily basis? Gary stated, yes. Bob Fletcher stated that they log the information every day. Gary stated I just want to see how many hours are being spent doing different work, so we can see what the options are.

REMARKS FROM THE FLOOR

Chris Zeigler, President of the Butler Freeport Trail Council stated that parts of the trail has been devastated with trees down but within 10 days volunteers had it all cleaned up. We gave a lot of firewood away and will be doing a lot of chipping this winter. Everyone did a great job. One guy was out every day. It rained every day, but it didn't matter they came out anyway. The Audubon Society partnered with us and a Repair and Buffer Grant was just awarded to us on either Monday or Tuesday. It is a \$54,000.00 Grant from DCNR. The Audubon Society also partnered with us on Chimney Swift Kiosks along the trail in three (3) areas. One in Laneville, one at Monroe Road and the other location to be determined. Ron Zampogna thanked Bob Holbein for the work his company did on the trail.

Terry Taque, President of the Parks and Recreation Committee stated that the Veterans Day Race was a great success. We net income raised was \$4,010.00 which will be split four (4) ways. Hero's Supporting Hero's Foundation, Buffalo Twp. VFC, Sarver VFC and Friends of Buffalo Township. Each organization will receive \$1,002.50. Matt Sweeny stated a lot of good feed back on that, thank you Terry.

Vicky Hoffman asked why the taxes are being raised? Ron Zampogna stated because that haven't been raised since 2014. We have had it at 4.38ML and will be raising it to 5.5ML which should yield us approximately \$70,000.00 with the 1.12 ML increase per year. Main reason is we haven't raised them in 4 years and we have had increased costs across the board from pay increases whether nominal or substantial, increased health care costs, with the size of the community growing, we have had to add an additional road crew member and an additional police officer. All of those things add up. We have been fortunate the last few years to balance the budget the way we have with the rising costs. The costs have been tremendous. Vicky stated we depend on the township not to raise the taxes because the school district raises the taxes every year. Matt stated it is general costs dealing with Health Care and we are still the lowest in the county.

Gary asked when it would be good for everyone to get together to check out the garage in back. Bob Holbein stated the question is now regarding the size of garage doors.

Matt Sweeny pointed out the students in the back from Mr. Wyatt's class. One young man asked what the most controversial topic of the meeting would have been. Ron Zampogna stated that it would be regarding the tax increase.

Melanie Bollinger of Sunny Lane asked when the Cul De Sac will be started and completed. Ken Howard stated that the contract states 90 days. Weather permitting it should be completed by spring.

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ADJOURNMENT was on a motion of Gary Risch, seconded by Matt Sweeny at 8:35 pm. Motion carried. Un. Approval.

APPROVED:

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY