

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Independence Township was held on Wednesday, August 10, 2022, at the Independence Township Community Center social hall. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Chairman Dan McLaughlin and the assembly stood for the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag.

ROLL CALL

Present were Supervisors Dan McLaughlin, Wayne Potts, and John Fratangeli. Secretary, Debra Shaffer, Police Lt John Villa and Solicitor, Curt McMillen were also present.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment on any agenda item.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the July 15, 2022, meeting was approved with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by W Potts. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The Treasurer’s report and bill list were approved with a motion by W. Potts and second by J. Fratangeli. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

The Police, Road Department and Fire Department monthly reports were accepted with a motion by W. Potts and second by J. Fratangeli. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

SOLICITOR POSITION

J. Fratangeli made a motion to appoint the law firm of McMillen♦Urick♦Tocci♦Jones as the Township Solicitor. Curt McMillen will be the main attorney. The current rate will be \$500/month retainer which will include review of ordinary correspondence, agendas and meeting minutes, telephone conferences and attendance at regular meetings. An hourly rate of \$125/hour will be charged for routine legal services and \$175/hr. for litigation. These rates will be adjusted, if needed, at the yearly reorganization meeting. The previous solicitor, Nicholas Urick, was unable to continue to act as our solicitor. W. Potts second the motion.

Motion carried.

PARK MEMORIAL BENCH PURCHASE

J. Fratangeli made a motion to accept the bid from Recreational Resources to replace the benches around the playground with recycled plastic benches set in concrete. The bid amount was \$10,140.00 and is below the bidding threshold. Recreation Resources is also a Costars member. These benches will be memorial benches and the first four (4) residents that called were able to personalize these benches at a cost of \$200/each. W. Potts second the motion.

Motion carried.

LED LIGHTING REPLACEMENT PROJECT

J. Fratangeli made a motion to accept a bid from Mason James Distribution to replace all the lighting in the garage, garage bays, office, and police department for a cost of \$202.03. This does not include installation. This is under a project that Duquesne Light is currently promoting to get everyone to switch to LED lighting. The garage and bays will be an entire fixture replacement. The office and police department will be bulbs only. W. Potts second the motion. They also provided a quote to replace all the fixtures and lights at the Community Center for a cost of \$2,553.35. This also does not include labor. This was also accepted with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by W. Potts. Motion carried.

RESCHEDULED MEETING

W. Potts made a motion to advertise and move the October 2022 meeting from the third Wednesday of the month to the first Wednesday of the month. The October monthly meeting will now be held on October 5, 2022, at 4 p.m. J. Fratangeli second the motion. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following public announcements were made:

- Recycle weekend is Fri., Sept. 2nd & Sat., Sept. 3rd
- Next Supervisor Meeting Wednesday, September 7th, 4:00 pm at Community Center
- Office Closed Fri., Sept. 3rd & Mon. Sept. 6th – Labor Day

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rick McConnell of 138 School Road spoke and just wanted to comment that he walks the township park twice a day and a lot of people from a lot of different neighboring municipalities really enjoy it. He said that there is a perfect spot along the creek where the mouth of Longs Run Creek opens to install one of the memorial benches if it can endure water if it floods. Chairman McLaughlin let him know that we should receive notification in September if our grant is approved for a walking trail in the park and if so, that plan has benches located along the entire route.

Pam Hyson of Backbone Road spoke on behalf of her father who is very concerned about Backbone Road where the pipeline right-of-way crosses. The cartway is much narrower than originally constructed and if a car should happen to go over the hillside, there are no trees or obstacles to stop it from going the entire way down. Solicitor McMillen informed her that the Township's right-of-way is 16 ½ ft from the visible center line of the right and we cannot do anything beyond that. She suggested either a fence, guiderail or dirt piled up there to prohibit a car from going over. The Lewises are the landowners that the right-of-way spans. They do have a call into Christopher Koop from ETC (Energy Transfer) to see if they can help. It was suggested to first see what they have to say as they have been very cooperative with anything we have asked of them throughout the construction process.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by W. Potts.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra J. Shaffer, Secretary/Treasurer