**Minutes for Regular Meeting of East Union Township Supervisors**

**Held on September 1, 2022**

* **Time Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 pm**
* **Supervisors/Officers Present at the Meeting:**

Chairperson - Jill Careyva, Vice-Chairperson - Jon Dettery, Supervisor - Kyle Mummey, Solicitor - Attorney Wallbillich, Engineer - Bill Everett, Zoning Officer - Jonathan Biros, Secretary - Liza Verges, Treasurer - Kate Hendricks (Absent), Code Officer - Michele Moyer (Absent)

* **Supervisors’ Agenda:**

Motion to approve Regular Meeting Minutes for August 2022 – Motion made by Jill Careyva, seconded by Kyle Mummey. All in favor, motion carried.

Jill Careyva would like to accept new secretary at a pay rate of $20.00 an hour. She will work from Monday through Friday, 10am-3pm.

Motion to accept Liza Verges as the new Secretary – Motion made by Jill Careyva, seconded by Kyle Mummey. All in favor, motion carried.

* **Township Officers’ Report:**
  + **Treasurers’ Report/Bills**

Motion to approve Treasurer’s Report for August 2022 – made by Jill Careyva, seconded by Kyle Mummey. All in favor, motion carried.

A discussion was held about a bill from North East Chemical and Supply Company that was sent in error to East Union Township for the Sewer Authority. No one was present from the Sewer Authority.

Motion to approve all Bills for August 2022 for payment except said bill discussed – made by Jill Careyva, seconded by Kyle Mummey. All in favor, motion carried.

* + **Solicitor’s Report**

Attorney Wallbillich discusses updates on pending zoning request. All publications, paperwork, notifications on newspaper, letters to planning commission and postings have been completed on all properties except the Sheppton Oneida Volunteer Fire Co, which will be completed in the following week. Hearing to be held on October 6, 2022.

Attorney Wallbillich discusses update on the road abandonment request. He states two pieces of Union St that have been requested to be vacated have been put into one notice and there will be one hearing on the request. All adjacent property owners will be notified about request in a letter. Ordinance has been prepared to be adopted for hearing on October 6, 2022. Attorney asked the new secretary Liza Verges to sign her 1st Ordinance to be approved by the board of supervisors.

Attorney Wallbillich discusses the estimate of legal fees for the Demolition Lien on Brandonville Property. He states that a $17,500 lien at a commercial collection would be from 20%-25% or about $4,000 ($200 an hour for 20 hours) of legal fees. This is reasonable if there is no opposition. If whereas there is an opposition then there could be additional fees as legal services not be done within a 20-hour time frame. He can run a check to see if the debtor has any commercial financings. In addition, the defendant could also file a bankruptcy or could be insolvent.

Attorney Wallbillich discusses the Tax assessment appeals. There are a number of tax assessment appeals from properties the Township acquired that need to be exempted by the tax collector. A Hearing is to be held September 6, 2022 at the courthouse. Attorney Wallbillich will have a presentation as to why these tax properties should not be taxable to the Township and seek refund for a portion of the taxes paid since the Township acquired them. He will report the results at the next meeting.

Attorney Wallbillich discusses the updates on the Noise Ordinance. He found one Noise Ordinance and circulated it to the Township Supervisors to review. It is a simple form of example, if there is a particular noise of concern, he recommends telling the supervisors so it can be added to the Ordinance. Understanding that the difficulty of a Noise Ordinance is in the enforcement, you would have to catch the person violating the decibels levels by the property. The particular sample Noise Ordinance presented is currently being advertised by the Borough of Minersville.

Motion to accept Solicitors report made by Jill Careyva, seconded by Kyle Mummey. All in favor, motion carried.

* + **Police Report**

Report given by Officer Chris Dimmick.

Motion to accept Police Report made by Jill Careyva, seconded by Kyle Mummey. All in favor, motion carried.

* + **Road Report**

Included in the Engineer’s report

* + **Code and Zoning Report**

Zoning Report given by Jonathan Biros. Zoning Officer has given one permit. There is one continuance hearing for the shooting range to be held on September 22, 2022. They are looking for a replacement member to be part of the Zoning Board. New member must be appointed. New member will not be allowed to participate in the continuance Zoning Hearing. Only members prior to the hearing must be present and sit at the table when hearing commences.

A discussion was held about including Occupancy Permits with Zoning Permits. This would help control influx and enforce quality of life on any property. To be further discussed as not yet approved. Questions: Who will enforce? How much would it cost? Per capita tax, who will register? Kyle Mummey will get some examples from neighboring towns and present at next meeting.

Mike Kakaley asked Attorney Wallbillich about his property being apart of the rezoning ordinance. Attorney Wallbillich informed him that his property will not be included in the new rezoning ordinance and he will receive a letter informing him as such.

Code Report not available. Pam Hartz questions where is the Code Enforcement Report and why is she not at the meeting. Why is township paying her $500 a month and the township is not getting a report? Jill Careyva spoke on her behalf; she did show up earlier in the day to post properties. She will be in touch with her to give report for next meeting.

Motion to accept zoning report made by Jill Careyva, seconded by Kyle Mummey. All in favor, motion carried.

* + **Engineer’s Report**

Bill Everett reports pipes in front of post office are corroded and need replacing. Looking for estimates for the cost of repairs. Jonathan Biros was asked if he can get drawings of Main Street. A video conference will be held with American Legion Park to discuss cost of repairs.

Bill Everett reports that road project should be completed by October 15th.

Motion to accept Engineer’s report and road report made by Jill Careyva, seconded by Jon Dettery. All in favor, motion carried.

* + **Other Officers’ Report**

Agency Opens Records Officer Stephen Bushinsky announces its his first day on the job and received a Right to Know request. He states Andrew Milton assisted with the townships website and it has been updated with the right to know law and request forms.

Motion to accept AORO’s report made by Jill Careyva, seconded by Jon Dettery. All in favor, motion carried.

* **Old Business**
* **Discussion of detail regarding check #895**

Jill Careyva discusses the check was miss filed and was printed and presented to Kyle Mummey for review. It was a deposit for Luzerne Bank in Hazleton into the Moore’s Account for audit.

* **Additional cost of township clean-up**

Jill Careyva informs that clean-up was a huge success. The cost of clean-up was $5,265.00. There was a total of 102 people at a cost of $10.00 per person’s pick-up load.

* **County clean-up**

Jill Careyva informs of the Townships involvement in the Schuylkill County’s Recycling Event to be held on September 15th through the 17th. There are fees for certain items and dumpsters will be provided by the county. Flyers for the event were available at the meeting and will be posted at the Post Office.

Jill Careyva would like to petition for an electronic clean-up through K&B Recycling at a cost of $300.00 to the township. A list would be provided on the cost of electronics at the next meeting. Recycling event to be held on October 15th, 2022.

A motion to approve contract for recycling event was made by Kyle Mummey and seconded by Jon Dettery. All in favor, motion carried.

* **Collective Bargaining Agreement counsel – Siana Law**

Jill Careyva and Kyle Mummey will be discussing with the Chief of Police and see if they can come to an agreement on September 7, 2022 at 6pm.

* **New Business**
  + **Scrapping of old police car**

Jill Careyva states old police car cannot be inspected and is unsafe to drive. Therefore, it will be sold for scrap metal at the junk yard. Attorney Wallbillich states if the value of the car is more than $2,000.00 than it must be advertised. The car’s value is less than said amount, no need to advertise.

Motion to scrap old police car made by Jill Careyva, seconded by Kyle Mummey. All in favor, motion carried.

* + **Solicitation of bids to fix pipe from Post Office to American Legion Park**

Included in the Engineer’s Report.

* + **Executive Session – Personnel**

**Start time: 7:51 pm**

**End Time: 7:57 pm**

Jill Careyva informed that one of the road workers found another job and is no longer working with the township. Position is now available for road work. A new treasurer was hired. Michele Greenly will work 15 hours a week at a pay rate of $28.00 an hour.

Motion to accept new treasurer made by Jill Careyva, seconded by Jon Dettery. All in favor, motion carried.

* **Public Participation**

Edwina Matuszkiewicsz - She asked council about new hires pay and benefits. Chairperson Jill Careyva responds by stating that new hires are part-time employees without benefits.

Tom Houser - He asked solicitor Attorney Wallbillich “Where is the new zoning map?” and “Can the township hire Moore to complete audit?” He also stated that Michael Marks would work for the township on roads if needed. Attorney Wallbillich responds by stating that he still waiting to receive the new map. Also, what has been done for the audits and what remains to be done must be discussed with the both treasurers, Treasurer Kate Hendricks and the new hired Treasurer Michele Greenly.

Stephen Bushinsky – He asked the supervisors about drafting a budget and discussing new budgets now instead of in December for the following year. He inquired about how much debt is the township in. He also brought up the litigation of former treasurer and incorrect payment of wages. He expressed that prior Council included in their report’s employee wages as confirmation that no one was receiving extra pay without approval.

Pam Hartz - She inquired about the Agenda and Work Session. She states she is not sure of the purpose and that the agenda is not being done properly. She states the work session is to talk about what is in the agenda and it should be done prior to the meeting. She expresses that other towns have their work sessions a week before the meeting. She believes the township is not being transparent. Attorney Wallbillich responds by informing her that the work session is a public meeting. The townships supervisors can not meet and discuss township business and deliberate. This is why it is advertised and discussed with the public. Otherwise it would be a violation of the sunshine law, if they meet a week before the meeting; they miss one week of new agenda items which would then have to be added.

* **Motion to Adjourn: 8:17pm**
* **Members of the Public in Attendance (please see attached sign-in sheet):**

Raymond J. Trojan, Pam Hartz, Edwina Matuszkiewicz, Stephen Bushinski, Kris Pasupuleli, Rodney Currier, Amy Austra, Stefan Gerneth, Mike Kakaley, Bob Gabardi, Joe Rela, Martin Hutsko, Jackie Houser, Tom Houser, and Amelia Loftus.