**Meeting Minutes October 2023**

**Time Meeting called to order: 6pm**

**Supervisor’s Present at Meeting:** Chairwoman Jill Careyva, Vice Chairman Jon Dettery, Supervisor Kyle Mummey, Solicitor Shane Hobbs, Esq., Secretary Liza Verges, Treasurer Elizabeth Tolan, and Zoning Officer Jonathon Biros.

**Public Comment on Agenda Items Only:**

Pam Harts asked about the solicitor’s report, the resolution: establishing rules for conduct at meetings. What does this entail? Jill Careyva states the solicitor will discuss it when it’s his turn.

**Reports**

* Treasurer Report – Liz Tolan states the receipt for services and/or goods are attached to the check for the supervisors to review. Her report consists of a payroll package, a summary report and she ask for 2 supervisors initials to show they have reviewed payroll. She states the public may have copies of the report at the end of the meeting. Kyle Mummey asks about the splits shown under certain vendors to which Liz Tolan explains that the bills were received in batches making them split payments. Kyle Mummey states it is easier for the public to follow along with the report if they had the report as it not tentative until its approved by the Board of Supervisors.

1. Motion to accept Treasurer’s Report for September 2023 made by Jill Careyva, seconded by Jon Dettery. Kyle Mummey abstains, motion carried.

* Solicitor Report-

1. Resolution: establishing rules for conduct at meetings. Solicitor Shane Hobbs introduces himself and states after the last meeting, the meetings tend to get out of hand. These meetings must follow the Sunshine Act. They are open and public meetings, but it doesn’t mean it’s an open forum. The problem with the meeting is the length of the meeting as it can become disorganized. Speakers should be residents of the township or their legal representative. They should only have 5 minutes and should state their name and address. Public comment and public participation are not intended to require the supervisors to answer impromptu questions of items that are not on the agenda. A supervisor may request an individual to leave if it interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting. This is only a draft and can be adopted by the supervisors if they say choose.
2. The Old Brandonville Firehouse- DEP correspondence of Sewage Complaint Investigation on the Old Brandonville Fire Company located at Spring Water Blvd on Route 924. The complaint was that the current owners of the old Brandonville Fire Company are digging up the old leach bed and the sewer pipe is discharging into the freshwater creek which is only 40 feet from it. The complaint also stated the property was purchased from Sheppton Oneida Fire Company with no onsite inspection. The Sewage Enforcement Officer Robert Fugate Jr. has submitted his findings. He did a follow-up on the property and found the property is in compliance and observed that there was no discharge of sewage to the surface of the ground. There was an onsite inspection conducted on 9/21/2023 with the current owners and found no violations of the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act.

Pam Hartz stated she has no problem with the resolution. She makes a lot of comments, and she knows people can get out of line, herself included because they get frustrated. She feels as you are going through the agenda items a question may pop up that may either help or change the view of the board on.

Kyle Mummey states he read the resolution via email. He states there is something similar that can be found in the Codifications. He feels leaving the power to a solicitor to remove a resident is much and that decision should be left up to the Board of Supervisors. Shane Hobbs agreed.

2) Motion to accept the Solicitor’s Report for September 2023 made by Jill Careyva, seconded by Kyle Mummey. All in favor, motion carried.

* Motion to approve Regular Meeting Minutes for September 19, 2023, made by Jill Careyva, seconded by Jon Dettery. Kyle Mummey abstains, motion carried.
* Motion to pay all bills in all funds which become due before the next meeting except Carbon Engineering. Kyle Mummey suggests all 3 supervisors initial as approval by the Board of Supervisors. Motion made by Jill Careyva, seconded by Jon Dettery. All in favor, motion carried.
* Zoning Report – 8 permits were issued, and 1 zoning hearing board actions set for Mr. Trutt on October 11, 2023, for dimensional variance. Motion to accept Zoning Report for September 2023 made by Jill Careyva, seconded by Kyle Mummey. All in favor, motion carried.
* Police Report – Sergeant Dimmick Motion to accept Police Report for September 2023 made by Jill Careyva, seconded by Kyle Mummey. All in favor, motion carried.
* Engineer Report – see new business.
* Road Report – Jon Dettery states the roadcrew have been doing a lot of coal patching, some pipe work. Grass cutting was a big issue, but they caught up and cut all the grass. They did a couple of ditches and for heavy run off they put in number 3 stone. Jill Careyva stated after the last meeting she was going to contact Dane Watro. It’s very hard to get PennDOT to come down to look at the road. The Chief of Police states they called, and they did come out to the township. The study of the road started a while ago. Kyle Mummey states the skid test was completed. Penn DOT’s plan is to mill about a quarter inch of the road from the top of town beginning at Main Blvd down to Phineyville Rd. The thought is by milling it we will get a little more traction and hopefully prevent some of the crashes and slippery conditions. The estimated time frame is before winter.

Ray Trojan states that most of the accidents are due to speed not just wet roads. Can we get the State Police to help? Sergeant Dimmick states

Motion to accept Road Report for September 2023 made by Jill Careyva, seconded by Jon Dettery. All in favor, motion carried.

* Pumpy Project Report - There was no report for September 2023.

**Old Business:**

* DCED Police Survey update: Kyle Mummey states that are no updates currently. The Police Chief is working on it.
* Jonathon Biros states Mary Stitzer had called him with concerns about a condemned property neighboring her residents. Mary Stitzer states the property is located at 76 W Market St and has gone through 2 judicial sales.

**New Business:**

* Discussion on current Schuylkill County Re-assessment- Jill Careyva states she attended a dinner a Leiby’s discussing the Schuylkill County Re-assessment plan. The last tax assessment was done in 1996. Identical houses on the same street are getting taxed differently. To avoid lawsuits, they decided on the reassessment. The School Tax is spot zoning. The company that is handling the reassessment will not enter your home. One third of homeowners will pay more, one third will pay less and one third will remain the same. You will get a letter based on your resident tax. This will be in effect as of 2026. Motion to approve this information made by Jill Careyva, seconded by Jon Dettery. All in favor, motion carried.
* Discussion on a resolution to apply for DCED Grant by EUTPD- Sergeant Dimmick states the 2nd Police vehicle, the white Ford Explorer is over 10 years old. It’s at no cost to the township. He would like the approval of the board to apply for the DCED Grant for $100.00 with the resolution. Motion to approve the resolution is made by Jill Careyva, seconded by Kyle Mummey. All in favor, motion carried.
* Discussion on use of the Township Walking Trail for the Haunted Trail on October 28th, 2023. Kyle Mummey states he was approached by several residents about bringing back the Haunted Trail with Marianne Hall taking the lead on it. She states it was posted on social media and it gained a lot of interest. There will be an informational session on October 10th at 5:30pm to discuss the Spooky Trail. They are looking for volunteers and donations. Jill Careyva states posting the meeting on the website.
* Discussion on Road Bid meeting to be held on Monday, October 9th, 2023, at 6pm with Engineer. Jill Careyva states the engineer will be here to open the bids so that we can get something done on the roads. As there is still time to get some roadwork done.
* Zoning Hearing Board - Glenn Trutt Variance scheduled for Wednesday, October 11th, 2023, at 6pm.

**Public Participation:**

**John Petrylak Chairman of East Union Township Sewer Authority –** is concerned with issues no having a code enforcement officer. Jill Careyva states The Police Chief, and the Sergeant will be handling the Code work. Kyle Mummey states for any condemnation to contact the Police Chief.

**Amy Austra** – asked when did the police take over code? Jill Careyva states at the last meeting. Kyle Mummey states they are filling in.

**Jackie Houser** – asking the solicitor about the permits issued to L&B Landholding signed by the engineer when the township had a code enforcement officer. The permit issued was for an extension to add 2 feet to a 6-foot fence. Kyle Mummey states the issue is permits being signed by someone that was not authorized by the Board of Supervisors.

**Bob Gabardi -** states any fence above 6-feet should go before the Zoning Hearing Board.

Pam Hartz – asks about the trail. What happened to the extension plan to the trail? Kyle Mummey states we were not successful in getting the grant for the extension. Pam Hartz asked the treasurer if all employees were paid? The treasurer states hourly employees were paid, not monthly employees, as she only did one payroll period.

Motion to Adjourn made by Jill Careyva

Time 7:22pm

**Members of Public in Attendance:** Annette Leonard, Roseann Evangelista, Kris Pasupuleti, Raymond J. Trojan, Edwina Matuszkiewicz, John Petrylak, Bob Gabardi, Wendy Danchision, Danny Danchision, Stephanie Van Gieson,Mary Jo Van Gieson, Jackie Houser, Pam Hartz, Marianne Hall, Mary Stitzer, Julio Ayala, Jonathan Good and Christian Good.