

The monthly Workshop Meeting of the Marion Township Board of Supervisors was held in the Municipal Building and on Zoom video/teleconference with Supervisors Irene Sileski, James Brooks, Secretary Susan Staaby, Assistant Secretary Melissa Benjamin, and three other interested persons. Also present – Kimberly DeRosa and Joe Boldaz from Hydraterra Professionals. Supervisor Peter McCarthy was absent. No one participated via Zoom.

Vice Chair Irene Sileski called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m., followed by The Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments: None.

An Executive Session was held after the Thursday, September 28, 2023 Board of Supervisors Meeting to discuss possible litigation (9:30 p.m. to 9:55 p.m.)

Items for Discussion:

Act 537 – Joe Boldaz from Hydraterra Professionals reviewed the draft Special Study.

Sewage Management Program – Hydraterra is working with Kozloff Stoudt on updating the Guidance Booklet.

Revised On-Lot Sewage Disposal Systems (OLDS) Ordinance – 2023-1 was advertised in the Reading Eagle on October 12, 2023.

Adopt Sewage Management Program Resolution (2023-5) – This will specify the information and documentation required by the pumpers on the pumper reports. Needs to be adopted after the Revised OLDS Ordinance is adopted. Letters need to be sent to property owners and pumpers notifying them of the change.

2023 LSA Category-4 Program (Berks) Grant – Has been submitted and Resolution was adopted.

2023 LSA Statewide Program (PA) Grant – Melissa and Kimberly have been working together to prepare a grant application for Tulpehocken Police Department equipment and EMC emergency supplies. EMC John Sileski is working on getting letters of support for the EMC supplies.

Schedule Town Hall – Joe Boldaz from Hydraterra suggested we hold off on scheduling this until the Special Study is ready for adoption and we know the costs of the project, possibly January.

Set Trick-or-Treat Night and advertise – *Irene Sileski made a motion, seconded by James Brooks, to set Trick-or-Treat Night for Tuesday, October 31, 2023 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. On a roll call vote, Peter – absent, Irene - aye, Jim – aye. Motion carried.*

Road Occupancy Permit Ordinance Amendment – A draft has been prepared. A Resolution needs to be adopted to set the fees.

Proposed Short-Term Rental ordinance – A draft has been prepared. A permit application and rental inspection checklist must be prepared with Kraft Municipal Group. A Resolution is also needed to set the fees.

Robo Calling/Emergency Alerts – The secretaries had a meeting with a Project Manager and training will follow soon.

Stonecroft Village Deed for Open Space Lot 215 – Tabled.

Emergency Management Coordinator Report – Nothing submitted.

Creekview Dairy Operation, 952 Route 419 – Engineer Hess issued a second review letter on September 7, 2023. Two minor changes will be incorporated into the As-Built Plans to address the requirements of the NPDES Notice of Termination. BCCD did an inspection on August 22, 2023, report received. The Letter of Credit balance is \$40,222.88.

Culverts and Related Site Improvements on Marion Drive North, Sheridan Road, Marion Drive South & Paving/Guiderail Improvements on Reichert Road – Everything is completed. Waiting for payment request from CMS, the contractor.

Guiderails – needed on a portion of William Penn Blvd., Hickory Rd. 7 Bollinger Rd. Eng. Hess suggested that we prioritize William Penn Blvd. for this year, Hickory Rd. and Bollinger Rd. can follow next year. If we proceed with all three, project must be publicly bid.

Temporary Construction Easement & Permanent Drainage Easement for Culvert Replacements – Engineer Hess has obtained signatures on all eight easements. Waiting for them to be recorded.

Bollinger Road – Fill Overflow Matter -- Tabled.

Bollinger Road – Fill Overflow Agreement – Tabled.

2024 Road Project – Tabled.

158 Smaltz Road Curve – Apparently there have been quite a few accidents around that turn/curve, most recently October 16, 2023. The property owner inquired as to what can be done. Eng. Hess suggested curve-ahead signs and speed limit signs.

Equipment Repairs – Big truck windshield is damaged/scratched and should be replaced. Quote received for \$190 to replace/install windshield. The little truck windshield is leaking at the top of the cab because there is a big rust spot. We got one estimate for \$1500 for repair of the rust and replace windshield. Four snow plow shoes need to be replaced, \$50 each used.

Extend stormwater pipe along Marion Drive to Main Street – Eng. Hess will meet with UGI on Tuesday, October 24, 2023 for gas main location.

Comcast Franchise Renewal – Draft agreement has been received and reviewed by Supervisors. Typographical error of 3% will be corrected to 5%.

Western Berks Joint Zoning Ordinance Section 403, The keeping of pets & small domesticated farm animals – other municipalities are interested in participating. The September meeting was cancelled and has not been rescheduled yet. We received a response from Berks County Planning Commission of their review.

Stormwater Management Ordinance and Fees Update – Tabled.

Dutch Valley Food Distributors (Landscaping Plan) – They would like to remove 27 evergreen trees from the approved Plan.

Dutch Valley Food Distributors LOC Reduction Request #2 – They requested the LOC be reduced by \$6,750 which is the cost of the evergreen trees they would like to remove from the approved Plan. The current LOC balance is \$3,6515.44. Reduction of \$6,750 who give a remaining balance of \$339,765.44.

37 Main St. – CWP-LD – Escrow Release Request #1. Eng. Hess will do an inspection and recommend an amount for the Escrow Account to be reduced.

Set dates for 2024 Reorganization meetings – Board of Supervisors is Tuesday, January 2, 2024 and Elected Auditors is Wednesday, January 3, 2024. Both meetings must be advertised. *Irene Sileski made a motion, seconded by James Brooks, to set the dates for the 2024 Reorganization Meeting for the Board of Supervisors as Tuesday, January 2, 2024 and the Elected Auditors as Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 7 p.m. in the township building and advertise both meetings. On a roll call vote, Peter – absent, Irene - aye, Jim – aye. Motion carried.*

Municipal Tax Sheet – needs to be completed and returned to the Berks County Treasurer's Office with our 2024 tax rates for real estate, street light, and also the sewer levy

2024 Proposed Budget – Tabled until next month.

Supervisors' Comments:

Peter – Absent.

Irene – Thank you to Sue and Melissa for handling the computer problems. We should consider hiring someone to evaluate and repair the computer problems.

Jim B. – Has sold his house and is moving to Lebanon, PA.

Secretary/Assistant Secretary – Met with Olsen Design Architects and formed a committee to evaluate the space needed in a new building and how it should function. Residents can submit their “vision” for the new building to the Secretary. There is a breakfast-networking opportunity on November 17, 2023 held by Albright College CELG.

There being no further business, *Irene Sileski made a motion, seconded by James Brooks, to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m. On a roll call vote, Peter – absent, Irene - aye, Jim – aye. Motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Staaby, Secretary