

**MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PUBLIC MEETING
DECEMBER 21, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL – DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

The Penn Township Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, December 21, 2020, via an online meeting. President Heiland called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with a roll call of members. Present were Commissioners Brown, Cromer, Elksnis, Heiland, and Van de Castle. Also present were Solicitor Hovis, Township Manager Rodgers, Police Chief Hettinger, Fire Chief Clouser, Township Engineer Bortner, Zoning Officer Smith, and Township Secretary Sweeney.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG FOLLOWED BY A PERIOD OF SILENT MEDITATION:

All in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, which was followed by a period of silent meditation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Heiland read a summary of the Video Conferencing Guidelines.

Commissioner Heiland announced that after the public meeting this evening the Board of Commissioners would convene in an executive session with the Solicitor to discuss personnel, and other legal matters involving attorney/client privilege.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The minutes of the November 16, 2020 Board of Commissioners meetings were approved as submitted.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD – CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

There were none.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2021 BUDGET:

Commissioner Heiland announced that the budget is balanced with no tax increase for 2021. The Commissioners commended Manager Rodgers, Department Heads and all involved for their hard work.

Commissioners Cromer/Van de Castle moved to adopt Ordinance No. 837, the 2021 budget. Motion carried on a 5-0 roll call vote.

Commissioners Cromer/Brown moved to adopt Ordinance No. 838, setting the real estate tax rate for 2021 at 4.40 mills. Motion carried on a 5-0 roll call vote.

Commissioners Cromer/Brown moved that the Township Manager be authorized to balance all 2020 funds by transferring surplus funds to those accounts showing deficits. Motion carried unanimously.

TOWNSHIP REPORTS – STANDING COMMITTEES:

Public Safety – Commissioner Brown:

Commissioners Brown/Van de Castle moved to continue the March 16, 2020 Disaster Declaration due to the COVID-19 pandemic for the period of November 24, 2020 through December 28, 2020, thus ratifying the extension of the original declaration. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Works & Recreation – Commissioner Van de Castle:

There were no additions or changes to the Engineer's Report.

The MS4/Stormwater Inspector is available Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm to answer any questions.

Commissioners Van de Castle/Cromer moved to approve the C.S. Davidson, Inc. Contract Agreement for Professional Engineering Services for the Bankert Road Culvert Replacement in the amount of \$34,200.00 and for the Beck Mill Road Culvert Replacement in the amount of \$33,500.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Planning – Commissioner Van de Castle:

Commissioners Van de Castle/Brown moved to reduce the performance bond for High Pointe South Phase S-1 in the amount of \$2,743,635.40 to \$1,531,583.52. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners Van de Castle/Brown moved to accept the final inspection for Mavis Tire – North Hanover, thus releasing the Irrevocable Letter of Credit. Motion carried unanimously.

There were no additions or changes to the Zoning Officer's Report.

The following Subdivision and Land Development plans were formally filed:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| SL20-07 | Hanover Foods Freezer Expansion |
| SL20-08 | Apple Honda of Hanover Parking Lot Expansion |
| SL20-09 | PERO Farms Hanover Facility LLC |
| SL20-10 | AquaPhoenix Scientific Building Addition |

There were no subdivision and land development plans for approval.

Commissioners Van de Castle/Brown moved to approve the following extension request that will expire on February 16, 2021:

SL18-20 Stonewicke V
Motion carried unanimously.

Finance – Commissioner Cromer:

Commissioners Cromer/Van de Castle moved to approve Township warrants in the amount of \$1,581,406.66. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners Cromer/Van de Castle moved to adopt Resolution No. 963, fixing the rates of pay and various benefits for management and non-uniformed employees of Penn Township for 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners Cromer/Van de Castle moved to adopt Resolution No. 964 setting fees for permits and services for 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel – Commissioner Brown:

Commissioners Brown/Van de Castle moved to reappoint Douglas Stambaugh, GHI Inc., as the Township Sewage Enforcement Officer. They further moved that Douglas Barmoy, Reginald Baugher, and Brandon Bishard, Hanover Land Services, be appointed as the Township Alternate Sewage Enforcement Officers. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioners Brown/Van de Castle moved for the reappointment of Charles Stauffer to a one-year term on the Penn Township Vacancy Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Health & Sanitation – Commissioner Elksnis:

Commissioner Elksnis had nothing to report.

MANAGER’S REPORT:

There were no additions or changes to the Manager’s Report.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioners Van de Castle/Brown moved to adopt Ordinance No. 839 establishing the time and place of regular meetings of the Board of Commissioners. Motion carried on a 5-0 roll call vote.

Commissioners Van de Castle/Cromer moved for the destruction of the recording of this meeting following the approval of the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD/CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Disantostefano, 1234 Bair Road, and Mrs. Rebecca Rowley, 905 Ripple Drive were in intendance to express their concern regarding a property maintenance notice that was received in the mail regarding the posting of political signage. Mr. Disantostefano stated that that the posting of a political sign is protected under several court rulings as a freedom of speech, he has no intention of removing the sign. Commissioner Heiland stated that the notices were sent as a reminder that Penn Township does have a sign ordinance, but there is no intention of levying a fine for political signs. Solicitor Hovis added that political signs are protected under certain case files, but the Township does retain the right to do time neutral, message neutral enforcement.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioners Van de Castle/Brown moved for adjournment at approximately 7:21 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Sweeney,
Township Secretary