

Black Creek Township Supervisors Regular Meeting Minutes March 6th, 2018

The Regular Meeting of the Black Creek Township Supervisors- held on Tuesday, March 6th, 2018, at 2:00p.m.

Supervisors Present: Lescowitch; Rohrbach; Adams

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Public Comment on Agenda Items: There was no public comment

Minutes:

Regular Meeting Minutes February 6th, 2018

A motion was made by Joe Lescowitch to accept the minutes, seconded by Dr. Saura Rohrbach, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting, as presented.

Roll Call: Lescowitch- yes; Rohrbach- yes; Adams-yes

Financial Report:

Supervisor Rohrbach will give the township's financial report from February 1st, 2018 through February 31st, 2018.

General Fund	\$87,049.88
	(\$22,799.70 of general fund money is in escrow for fire)
State Fund	\$1,539.75
MMA	\$80,385.11
Alumni	\$4,587.99
Total Available Funds:	\$173,562.73

A motion by Bonnie Adams, seconded by Joe Lescowitch, to approve the financial report.

Roll Call: Lescowitch- yes; Rohrbach-yes; Adams- yes

Bills:

Payment of the bills, as presented.

A motion by Bonnie Adams, seconded by Joe Lescowitch, to approve the bills as presented and to pay any and all bills in all funds that become due before the next regular meeting.

Roll Call: Lescowitch- yes; Rohrbach- yes; Adams- yes

Correspondence:

Electronics Recycling Day in Sugarloaf Township

- Saturday, April 7th from 8:00am-12:00pm or until trucks are filled
- Held at Valley Elementary/Middle School

Newsletter from Tarah Toohills Office

- Strengthening Megan's Law

Townships Today Newsletter

- Spotted Lanternfly- new invasive insect threatening to spread through Pennsylvania
- A significant threat to the grape, apple, stone fruit and hardwood industries

Township Reports:

Zoning Report:

- Zoning Officer, Paul Kattner, was not present. No report was given.

Fire Company:

- Fire Chief Joe Lescowitch reviewed the activity report for February, 2018.

Emergency Management:

- Steve Motil was not present. A snow storm warning was provided, which was read by Chairwoman Adams.

Engineer: Joe Calabrese

- Township Engineer, Joe Calabrese, provided the engineer report: Examined Hazel Street, will be issuing a report. Found 3 areas of single surface crack and a fourth area of segregation. He explained that segregation can occur due to asphalt sitting in a truck too long. He recommends to wait until the winter ends, maybe another month. The cracks will need to be sealed and the area of segregation will need to be milled, or the situation can worsen. The engineer is not aware of any breach in contract, by the contractor, but is not yet done with his report.

Solicitor: Donald Karpowich, Esq. gave his report:

- An executive session was held, prior to the regular township meeting, regarding some code issues that are threatening or pending litigation. Asked for a motion from the supervisors to register for the April tax sale to seek to possible acquisition of one of those properties, the property titled by the name of Barry Carty. A motion was made by Joe Lescowitch, seconded by Dr. Saura Rohrbach.
Roll Call: Lescowitch- yes; Rohrbach- yes; Adams- yes
- Zoning Officer Kattner asked the solicitor to create a driveway connection ordinance. Attorney Karpowich has prepared the ordinance and circulated it among Kattner and Calabrese. Hopefully, at the next township meeting, they will have a recommendation for the board of supervisors to allow advertising for adoption.

Road Department:

- The road department report was reviewed by Chairwoman Adams:
The road crew cleaned and washed trucks, installed an automatic tarp system on truck number 4, filled sink holes in Weston, cleaned culverts and drains before and after rainstorms, serviced truck number 14 and replaced the hydraulic line, patched various potholes, repaired truck number 4, replaced mailbox damaged by plow, picked up water totes, picked up garbage dumped along Rock Glen Road, dismantled truck for parts and scrap, repaired backhoe, replaced brake rotors on skid steer, plowed and cindered 9 times and removed 3 trees from roadways.

Recreation Committee:

- The Black Creek Township Recreation Committee will be having their Easter Egg Hunt on March 24th at 2:00pm at the Rock Glen Park

Old Business:

Sewer Authority replacement for George Currilla- no replacement has been found

Lawrence Cable and Company, LLP is still in process of the 2017 township audit

Supervisor Adams read from the Township News that when a township appoints a CPA, all authorities and responsibilities are transferred to the CPA. The elected auditors must organize and set the compensation of the supervisors.

New Business:

Black Creek Suds- Supervisor Rohrbach stated that there were suds in the Black Creek again on February 16th, which she reported to the DEP. According to the DEP, nothing was directly discharging from Henkel's pipe. However, there were suds coming out of the soil at Henkle. She was informed by the DEP that the Greater Hazleton Joint Sewer Authority collected samples. The DEP cannot sample on Fridays due to the contract they have with their lab. It appeared there may be soil saturation.

Attorney Karpowich suggested contacting the DEP to come to the township and explain the situation. Dr. Saura Rohrbach made a motion for the board of supervisors to request the DEP come to the township to explain the suds situation, seconded by Adams. It was agreed that this session should be open to the public. Roll Call: Lescowitch- yes; Rohrbach- yes; Adams-yes

Updating Township Website- township website was made smartphone and tabled friendly. Rohrbach is updating information. There is now a place on the website where residents can sign up for township notifications, such as if the recycling center is full. Additional documents and maps will be uploaded, once the Zoning Officer's computer is fixed.

Liquid Fuel Money for 2018: \$151,544.49

The next scheduled Regular Supervisors Meeting will be held on April 10nd, 2018 at 2:00pm.

Public Comment:

Denise Davis- sees no problem giving the road crew a gift, but finds it very inappropriate that the elected supervisors give themselves a gift at the taxpayers' expense. Her daughter, who worked previously worked for a municipality and now for the city of Hazleton, was told that they cannot get any bonuses or have Christmas parties, unless the Christmas parties are paid for at the supervisors' expense. She urged supervisors to reconsider moving the meetings to the evenings.

Adams stated that if Davis would like the supervisors to stop buying turkeys, they will do so. Rohrbach states that you cannot legally buy turkeys and distribute them. According

to PSATS, it is unethical for supervisors to buy themselves turkeys, hams, or whatever the case may be. For the workers, the gift would have to be in the form of a gift certificate, so that it is taxable.

Rick Davis- requested that meetings be moved to 6:00p.m.

Sharon Rohrbach- Was not allowed to comment at reorganizational meeting. She should have been allowed to speak about the meetings being held at 2:00p.m. Asked when the recreation meeting is held, Adams answers 7:30p.m. Rohrbach asks why, Adams stated she does not know why. Rohrbach answered because no one could go if it were at 2:00p.m. If the residents were not allowed to give input at the reorganizational meeting, she suggested the supervisors vote again on the meeting time.

Carl Rittenhouse- Has no problem with the meeting times; but would like the meeting times to be in the afternoon in the winter. He said that people are going to have to give if the township wants to be serious about working together.

Dr. Rohrbach read letters from residents Kim Marcelliano and David Benjamin, who were experiencing concerns about vandalism and vagrants at an abandoned home near their residences. These residents were not able to attend the meeting because they work and could not be present at an afternoon meeting. The letters are attached to the minutes.

Dr. Rohrbach read a summary from an article in the Township News. The article was How to Engage the Next Generation of Leaders. This article encouraged supervisors to invite students to attend a board of supervisors meeting. If township meetings are in the afternoon, students are in school and cannot attend.

Sandy Rittenhouse- If the meetings are held at night, do supervisors get reimbursed more?
Lescowitch answered no, the pay is the same regardless of the time the meeting is held.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Joe Lescowitch, seconded by Dr. Saura Rohrbach, to adjourn the meeting at 2:35p.m.

Submitted by Saura Rohrbach, D.C., Secretary