

Black Creek Township Supervisors Regular Meeting

Thursday, March 4, 2021, at 6:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

The Regular Meeting of the Black Creek Township Supervisors, held, Thursday, March 4, 2021, was brought to order at 6:00pm.

- Attendance: Roll Call: Davis; Present, Rohrbach; Present, Adams; Absent
- Also in attendance is our Solicitor, Attorney Matt Turowski

Public Comment on Agenda Items:

Donna Lupcho stated that she and other residents have finally received their Sugarloaf Ambulance Membership forms

Minutes:

The chairwoman asked if there are any additions or corrections to the February Meeting Minutes, held on February 4, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

-Sandra Rittenhouse spoke regarding the food pantry and their part of electric bill which she says, has always been \$20.00 per month. She challenged the fact that the Township is now charging 25% of the electric bill to the food pantry. It was explained that the food pantry's lease says that the food pantry will pay \$20.00 per month, or 25% of the PPL bill, whichever is more. It was explained to Ms. Rittenhouse that the Township is just following the food pantry's lease, in charging them their part of the monthly electric bill.

-Mrs. Rittenhouse stated that the minutes should be accepted for everything except for the "donation" made to the food pantry; the 75% of the PPL invoices for 2020, because that figure is not accurate, as the food pantry paid more than it was supposed to, in 2020. She then said that the Lease that she has for the food pantry, differs from the one that the Township has.

-The Township Solicitor, Attorney Turowski stated that the lease in the Minutes Book is the same lease provided by the Solicitor's office, the year it was written, and that the Township would be happy to show her the lease, but that there was nothing further to discuss, regarding the lease.

- A motion by: Saura Rohrbach, seconded by: Rick Davis, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 4, 2021, as presented.
- All in favor.

Financial Report:

The treasurer read the Township's financial report from February 1st to February 28th, 2021.

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| BB&T General Fund: | \$179,625.15 |
| PLGIT Prime Savings: | 82,637.24 |
| <u>PLGIT Alumni Assoc:</u> | <u>5,449.73</u> |
| Total Checking/Savings: | \$267,712.12 |

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|------------------------|---------------------|
| <u>PLGIT Checking:</u> | <u>24,639.95</u> |
| <u>TOTAL FUNDS:</u> | <u>\$292,352.07</u> |

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- A motion by: Saura Rohrbach, seconded by: Rick Davis to approve the financial report.
 - All in favor.

The treasurer, continued to say that in addition, tomorrow, 3/5, our Liquid Fuels tax payment, in the amount of \$117,152.49 will be directly deposited into our account. Unfortunately, this amount is about \$10,000.00 less than usual for the Township, due to COVID-19, as the amount is determined by gas tax and casino money; both suffering for several months with the casinos being closed, and travel restrictions. The township will have to try to make up the \$10,000.00 deficit elsewhere as prices on everything else having to do with oil; fuels, asphalt, tack oil, in addition to running the Township, such as insurances, employee payroll, road salt, etc., will just continue to rise.

Supervisor Davis continued to say that we have also received turnback mileage which was deposited into our account on March 1, in the amount of \$20,680.00.

Bills:

Payment of the bills, as presented.

- A motion by: Supervisor Rohrbach, seconded by: Supervisor Davis, 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 Vote: Davis, yes; Rohrbach, yes; Adams, absent

Correspondence: None

Reports:

- The Zoning Report was read by Chairperson Rohrbach
- Fire Company Report, submitted by Fire Chief Joe Lescowitch, was read by Chairperson Rohrbach
- Emergency Management, submitted by Steve Motil, was read by Chairperson Rohrbach
- Engineer Report: Engineer Jason Snyder; Nothing to report
- The Roadmasters Report, was read and reviewed by Chairperson/Roadmaster Rohrbach

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- Supervisor Rohrbach announced the township is seeking a full time road crew employee. She is advertising in the Press Enterprise and the Standard Speaker, and already received several applicants.

- Trout Unlimited- an agency that works with municipalities that have trout-inhabited streams that flow under roads, will be looking at replacing a pipe on Park Street. They were scheduled to do so on Friday, but have canceled. Hopefully the Park Street pipe will qualify for grant money. The pipe that is under Park St. is so small that whenever we have a sizable storm, the entire road floods. Our engineer recommends a box culvert because the shallow stream prevents the township from burying the pipe any deeper than it already is.

- The next work session scheduled for Wednesday, March 17, 2021, at 10:00 am. is canceled, as there is nothing to discuss at that meeting.

- A motion by: Saura Rohrbach, seconded by: Rick Davis to cancel the Work Session
- All in favor._

- Review Public Comment from last meeting:

- None

Public Comment: There is a 5-minute limit. Please *state and spell your Name and Residence* and stand at your seat:

-Artie Dice of Rock Glen stated that he received his application for the ambulance, and Donna Lupcho added that they offer a discount for senior citizens.

-Kim Huff, a woman who lives across the road for Red Rock Lodge, stated that for years now, Red Rock Lodge has been used for hunting cabins, ATV's, and a shooting range for the police department, with no problem, even though they shoot less than the allowed distance of 5000 feet from the homes along that road. However, this past year residents began seeing things like Body Parts Long Range Shooting Complex and Training Center, located directly across the street from their homes, bringing in people from out of state, the High Mountain Dirt Bike Riders, etc. On the original target range, they are allowing unsupervised firearms training, and they're bringing in Roll Call which is a training center in Scranton. Ms. Huff explained that the lodge's Facebook page advertises a 4000-acre training facility that hosts an outdoor pistol range, a 1000-yard range, and a host of other training options, including training with "Onsight Firearms Training," and "Roll Call." They have offered vouchers; if you bought a gun from Roll Call in September, you could come down in October to "sight it in." She was told that anyone could join, and that there would be no training or observing; anyone could just be out there, and allowed to shoot.

-Township Solicitor, Matt Turowski explained that part of the answer to these questions is, what kind of zoning permits does the owner have for any particular uses on that property? And that if they don't have any permits, unless they have been conducting those uses prior to the adoption of the zoning ordinance, they would have to get a permit. If there's no permit, then they are in violation of the zoning ordinance, with what they are doing.

-Ms. Huff stated that 2012-2013, the hunting cabin and the police force's use of the range always existed there. But everything else has just begun within this past year, and that there is a total change of use since the Township adopted the new zoning ordinance. Attorney Turowski stated that Zoning Officer will have to see if there was an ordinance prior to 2012.

-Gary Houseknecht of Sugarloaf stated that he is President of the Black Creek Alumni Association and that he wanted to know where the display of all of the year books for the high school was being exhibited, as it was no longer on the wall where it used to be. Both Supervisors in attendance explained that the Township had to remove it, as that wall is now being used for the projector, during LTAP classes. The Supervisors told Mr. Houseknecht that he was welcome to pick-up the display case and the yearbooks, whenever he could, to be exhibited elsewhere.

-An unidentified man, thought to be Jim Slusser, asked the Township to address the M&J tire fire which was burning right now, this moment, at 1618 Spruce St., in Mountain Grove. When asked for pictures, he stated that he posted them on facebook. He would not explain where he posted them, on facebook. The Township made it clear that without photos, little could be done to address the issue, should it need to be addressed. It was decided that Supervisor Davis would go out after the meeting to investigate and if need be, report it to the county as a fire which needed to be extinguished. The man stated that he had given pictures to the Township plenty of times before, and that we should ask the "record keeper" for them, and stop playing games. Unfortunately, no one knew anything about, or had ever seen these pictures that the man spoke about.

Adjournment:

- A motion by: Saura Rohrbach, seconded by: Rick Davis, to adjourn the meeting at: 6:48 p.m.
- All in favor.