

Black Creek Township Supervisors Regular Meeting

Thursday, May 6, 2021, at 6:00 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

The Regular Meeting of the Black Creek Township Supervisors was held on Thursday, May 6, 2021.

Attendance: Roll Call: Davis, Yes; Rohrbach, Present; Adams, Absent. __
Also in attendance is our Solicitor, Matthew Turowski.

Public Comment on Agenda Items: None

Minutes:

Chairwoman Rohrbach asked ask if there are any additions or corrections to the April Meeting Minutes: None mentioned.

A *motion* by: Chairwoman Rohrbach, seconded by: Supervisor Davis, to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting, as presented.
All in favor.

(Copies are available on the front table, for public review)

Financial Report:

The treasurer read April's Financial Report

BB&T General Fund:	\$273,093.83
PLGIT PRIME Savings:	82,637.24
PLGIT Checking/Liq. Fuels:	\$109,864.58
Total Funds:	\$465,595.65

PLGIT Alumni Assoc.:	\$ 5,949.78
Total Funds:	\$471,545.43

A *motion* by: Supervisor Rohrbach, seconded by: Supervisor Davis, to approve the financial report.
All in favor.

Bills:

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.

Correspondence:

No correspondence from Tarah Toohil was received, but it was mentioned that her Newsletter was all about COVID-19, and that, that information is easily found in our local newspapers. We did receive Senator Gordner's Newsletter regarding the importance of getting out and voting in this very important Primary Election, on Tuesday, May 18. This year, voting is being held at the Black Creek United Methodist Church, over on Golf Course Road. The deadline for mail-in ballots is May 17, by 5:00 p.m.

Reports:

Zoning Report: Sonny from Larry C. Frace Inspections LLC was introduced, and was kind enough to read April's Zoning/Codes Report.

Fire Company: Chairwoman Rohrbach read Fire Chief Joe Lescowitch's activity report.

Engineer Report: - Engineer Jason Snyder did not submit a report this month, but he is helping us to apply for a Grant through the Dirt & Gravel Program, for a 2-phase project on Chicks Lane. If we can qualify Chicks Lane as a low volume road, and obtain the Grant, we would be able to repair the ditch drainage, add pipes, and the 2nd phase would be the actual pavement. We should be able to submit the application by the end of the month.

Emergency Management: Chairwoman Rohrbach read Steve Motil's Emergency Management report.

Roadmaster Report: The roadmaster report was reviewed by Chairwoman Rohrbach.

Old Business:

- Chairwoman Rohrbach read the letter from Commonwealth Financing Authority regarding the Multimodal Transportation Fund Program Grant, which we applied for, for full depth reclamation for Golf Course Road. The letter said that the competition and demands from other entities, and the reduction in available funds across the board, made it impossible to grant us the Grant money, this time.
- 2nd Amendment Sanctuary: Supervisor Davis stated that our Solicitor reviewed Butler Township's Resolution, making them a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary, and researched and customized that, to meet the needs of Black Creek Township. Supervisor Davis then proceeded to read the proposed Resolution being discussed, and listed other Townships, Counties, etc., who have either already become 2nd Amendment Sanctuaries, or are talking about doing so, in an effort to protect our Constitutional right to keep and bear arms; it's basically a statement to big government, saying that they are not going to shred our Constitution. Supervisor Davis then opened the floor to any questions or comments, making it clear that no decision had to be made at this meeting. A discussion ensued, and though not directly related to the 2nd Amendment Sanctuary topic, it was made clear that with what is going on in the Township with shooting ranges and target ranges, that making Black Creek a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary was not a very popular subject, with many of the residents who feel that we should not be dabbling in the 2nd Amendment issue. Solicitor Turowski explained that this Resolution was an expression of intent, and not enforceable. And as a Resolution, rather than an Ordinance which would make it a Law, it does not put the Township at liability; it's just a show of support. However, since Black Creek Township does not have its own police force, the State Police would not have to follow or abide by this Resolution should it pass, as it would not fall under their jurisdiction. It was mentioned that Sugarloaf residents, who are also members of CAP brought this subject to the Sugarloaf Township as well.

A *motion* by: Supervisor Davis, seconded by: Supervisor Rohrbach to table the *Resolution* which would make Black Creek Township a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary.

All in favor.

New Business:

- Since the last meeting, the office manager is no longer with us, and we feel that it is only fair to give our secretary a raise, since she is assuming all of the responsibility at the office. After a small discussion explaining our previous office workers' salaries and the amount of work that Fran is getting done, it was decided to raise Fran's pay to \$16.00 per hour, as municipal secretary.

A *motion* by: Supervisor Davis, seconded by: Supervisor Rohrbach to raise the Township's municipal secretary hourly rate to \$16.00 per hour.

All in favor.

- Last month we received a request from the Nuremberg-Weston Volunteer Fire Company to help pay for the insurance on the fire trucks. As we have done in previous years, this year we donated the full amount of \$3,381.00 to do so.
- The new Location for the Election taking place on May 18, 2021 is Black Creek United Methodist Church, 158 Golf Course Rd., Sugarloaf, PA 18249. Unfortunately, the Election Bureau gave the name of the Church on their notification cards, but instead of using the Church's address as the election location, they gave the address for the Municipal Complex here in Black Creek Township. So, we called the Election Bureau to let them know, and they are sending out new cards with the correct address for the Church, which will alleviate some of the confusion. Due to COVID-19, we felt it better to hold the election elsewhere, where people could socially distance in a place with heat and/or air conditioning.

A ***motion*** by: Supervisor Davis, seconded by: Supervisor Rohrbach to cancel the next **Work Session**, scheduled for Wednesday (the 3rd Wednesday of the month), May 19, 2021.

All in favor. _____

- Review Public Comment from last meeting: None

Public Comment: The floor was opened up for public comment.

Donna Lupcho stated that people were asking her why the Black Creek United Methodist Church was chosen over the Nuremberg-Weston Volunteer Fire Company, for election voting. We could not answer that question, as it was the Election Bureau's decision. The Township explained that we kept emailing them and asking where the election was going to take place, but did not get an answer until the cards with the incorrect address were received. A discussion ensued explaining that Governor Wolfe made a decision to combine districts across the entire state, so instead of some of us voting at the Church and the rest of us voting at the Fire Company, everyone is voting at the same place because he made it one district. So, voting was moved here, at the municipal complex. However, there were a lot of complaints about voting in the recycling center, and then with COVID, here was too small anyway, and voting had to be moved again.

It was mentioned that we are still waiting for the street sweeper, and that last month the street sweeper was broken. And although Conyngham Borough thought that this could be done by the end of April, and even though the street sweeper is now fixed, they have been short one worker for 3 weeks now; currently leaving them with only 1 road crew worker. As soon as they have their manpower back, they will come to help us to sweep our streets. Hopefully, it will happen this month.

Supervisor Davis spoke to the Duty Officer and Sargent at the State Police Barracks, who went through call logs back to April 1st. They reported to have received 2 calls/complaints, and dispatched cruisers for both incidents. Shooting is going on in the wee hours of the morning (actually very late at night) at Black Creek Estates, at Orchard Hill, up above Gateway, and over at Red Rock. Some think it may be coming from Sugarloaf Falls, at the top of the mountain in a private development. Yes, this is being done by very inconsiderate people, but we cannot trespass on private property, and it's being done in the thick of the woods. Purchasing a drone was discussed and Attorney Turowski stated that you may have to be licensed by the FAA to do that. He also stated that you can regulate shooting ranges, but not people on their own private property. The Township has spoken to PSATS regarding the State's rules and regulation.

Adjournment:

A ***motion*** by: Supervisor Rohrbach, seconded by: Supervisor Davis, to adjourn the meeting at: 6:55 p.m.

All reports and correspondence covered during this regular meeting are available for review at the front table. If you would like a copy, one can be supplied, after the conclusion of the meeting.