

MORRIS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING

March 1, 2023, 4:30 PM

The regular meeting of the Morris Township Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Josiah Jones with a salute to the flag.

A roll call of officers showed Josiah Jones, Emerson Reams, James Williams, Patrick White, Rod Beard, Fred Little and Patti Moore

Guests: Joel Kraus, Lillian Beveridge, Bob Beveridge, Tom Crain Jr., Mark Rusnak, Willard Verbeck, William Clark, Sue Danko, Mike Holmes, Ed Andrasko Jr., Josh Pennington, Robert Seprish, Lawrence Marince, Chris Williams, Vicki Rusnak, Denise Howell, Walter Bettler, Perry Reiter, Eric Rusnak Philipsburg Journal, The Progress

Minutes: The Chairman entertained a motion, Emerson Reams motioned, and James Williams seconded to accept the minutes from the Board of Supervisors Meeting. Motion carried with all supervisors voting yes.

Financial Reports: The Chairman entertained a motion, Emerson Reams motioned, and James Williams seconded to approve the financial report. Motion carried with all supervisors voting yes.

Bills: The Chairman entertained a motion, Emerson Reams motioned, and James Williams seconded to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried with all supervisors voting yes.

Planning Commission: The Chairman entertained a motion, James Williams motioned and Emerson Reams seconded to approve the Karcewski Subdivision presented by Lawrence Marince. Motion carried with all supervisors voting yes.

Solicitor Report: Solicitor Beard provided the solicitors report. Solicitor Beard researched the requested information regarding the Knox Box request and following discussion it was decided to decline following through with this ordinance request.

Solicitor Beard also discussed the RJ Corman Railroad. Solicitor Beard researched and found this section of the railroad is still considered an active line. He stated if RJ Corman wishes to grant a lease, he is comfortable with it, and said he will proceed with that. Supervisor James Williams requested the approximate cost of this project. Solicitor Beard stated the prior discussion was \$100.00 per year for the lease.

David Karcewski spoke with his objections to the project. He stated he agrees with it being a walking and bicycle trail to benefit the residents to keep them off Rt 53 but does not agree with it being for motor vehicles. Josiah Jones stated the township is researching the costs for this project, including contacting the insurance company to make sure this project would be covered. He stated this is very preliminary and they are not sure RJ Corman will even agree to have ATV's on the trail. A resident suggested RJ Corman send a representative to the meeting. Sue Danko expressed her objection to the project stating that in the past it was nothing but problems. She also asked if the taxpayers would be responsible for the upkeep of this trail, and stated if the township pursues this project "you will have a fight on your hands." Josiah Jones stated there are funds for upkeep and again stated this project is very preliminary.

Chris Williams stated many years ago, RJ Corman placed rail road ties on the railbed to prevent travel across it, stating it was at the request of the township.

Josiah Jones stated they were trying to do something nice for the community. Residents continued to speak regarding their objections. Ed Andrasko stated the trail does not connect to snow shoe rails to trails, and stated it's a "trail to nowhere".

Solicitor Beard stated he is preparing the LGUDA documents for DCED for the paving projects. It was decided this will be expended from the general fund. He stated he will get the documents notarized and advertised for the April 5, 2023, meeting.

Public Comments:

Bob Seprish attended and requested a 4 ft ROW that connects to the school property be added to the 2023 Paving Project in the Shady Acres Development. He stated he has the path ready for paving, this project would allow for access from the development to the school property. The supervisors stated it's a good idea but being its not a township ROW they suggest looking into it as far as the legality of the request.

Vicki Rusnak questioned the code enforcement process. She stated if the property cannot be seen from the roadway, she does not feel code enforcement should come onto her property, as it is their private property and business. She suggested the code enforcement vehicle be marked. She questioned the legality of campers for occasional use and if this was against the ordinance. James Williams stated according to our ordinance's campers are permissible, but they must be registered and licensed. Vicki and Mark Rusnak spoke stating they do not want code enforcement on their property, especially unannounced. Rod Beard stated the Code Enforcement Officer does have the right to do inspections on private property. He stated if there is a potential code violation on private property the Code Enforcement Officer can as a curtesy call the landowner but is not required to do so. Code Enforcement Officer Patrick White explained the process and Josiah Jones and Patrick White continued to explain that code enforcement is not targeting or "picking on" them or any residents.

Fire Protection Update: No report.

Road master's report: Fred Little provided the Road master's Report.

Code Enforcement Update: Patrick White presented the code enforcement report to the board.

Morris Township Recreation: Chris Williams stated there will be a meeting on March 8, 2023, at 6:30 P.M.

Municipal Authority of the Township of Morris: Jim Hummel stated they upgraded pump station 5. There will be smoke testing done on everything from Troy Hill to the school. If there are any problems, there will be letters sent to residents to get it fixed. If it is not fixed the bill will be doubled until it is fixed.

Stone Bids Results: (Sealed Bids)

1B- 800 TON

- GOH -----\$31.55 Ton -----\$25,240.00
- Woodland Equipment ---- \$22.55 Ton -----\$18,040.00
- JM Delullo -----\$24.80 Ton----- \$19,840.00
- New Enterprise -----\$25.65 Ton ----- \$20,520.00
- Grannas Bros. -----\$27.40 Ton ---- \$21,920.00
- Earth Movers-----\$26.26 Ton -----\$21,008.00

2B-400 TON

- GOH -----\$27.55 Ton -----\$11,020.00
- Woodland Equipment ---- \$20.51 Ton -----\$ 8,204.00
- JM Delullo -----\$22.15 Ton----- \$ 8,860.00
- New Enterprise -----\$22.15 Ton ---- \$ 8,860.00
- Grannas Bros. -----\$26.90 Ton ---- \$10,760.00
- Earth Movers-----\$22.51 Ton ----\$ 9,004.00

2A-800 TON

- GOH -----\$22.55 Ton -----\$18,040.00
- Woodland Equipment ---- \$16.35 Ton -----\$13,080.00
- JM Delullo -----\$18.20 Ton----- \$14,560.00
- New Enterprise -----\$18.10 Ton ---- \$14,480.00
- Grannas Bros. -----\$22.15 Ton ---- \$17,720.00
- Earth Movers-----\$18.21 Ton ----\$14,568.00

The Chairman entertained a motion, James Williams motioned, and Emerson Reams seconded to award all stone bids to Woodland Equipment in the amounts of \$22.55 per ton for 1B, \$20.51 per ton for 2B and \$16.35 per ton for 2A. Motion carried with all supervisors voting yes.

PAVING BIDS

- GOH -----\$ 329,921.00
- New Enterprise -----\$306,429.25
- Grannas Bros. -----\$292,603.35
- HRI-----\$357,081.00

The Chairman entertained a motion, Emerson Reams motioned and James Williams seconded to award the 2023 Paving Project to Grannas Brothers Paving in the amount of \$292,603.35. Motion carried with all supervisors voting yes.

Executive Session: The Chairman entertained a motion, James Williams motioned, and Emerson Reams seconded to go into executive session at 5:46 PM. The Chairman entertained a motion, Emerson Reams motioned, and James Williams seconded to return from executive session at 6:02 PM with no action. Motion carried with all supervisors voting yes.

Adjournment: The Chairman entertained a motion, James Williams motioned, and Emerson Reams seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:02 PM. Motion carried with all supervisors voting yes.

Respectively Submitted. Patti Moore, Secretary