

MORRIS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

March 20, 2024

5:30 PM

The special meeting of the Morris Township Supervisors was called to order by Vice- Chairman Fred Little with Pledge Allegiance to the Flag. A roll call of officers showed Emerson Reams, Fred Little. Other officers in attendance were Patti Moore, Secretary. Josiah Jones was absent.

Guests: Patrick White, Mark Rusnak, Vicki Rusnak, John Saggese, Gary Potts, Jim Hummel

Executive Session: The Vice-Chairman entertained a motion to go into Executive Session for legal discussion at 5:30 PM. The Vice-Chairman entertained a motion to come out of Executive Session at 5:41 PM with action.

The Vice-Chairman entertained a motion, Emerson Reams motioned and Fred Little seconded to retain additional legal counsel to deal with the issue with the Municipal Authority of the Township of Morris issue.

The Vice-Chairman entertained a motion, Emerson Reams motioned and Fred Little seconded to accept the resignation of Chad Baughman from the Municipal Authority of the Township of Morris Board effective 3/14/2024. Motion carried with both supervisors voting yes.

The Vice-Chairman entertained a motion, Emerson Reams motioned and Fred Little seconded to accept the resignation of Willard Verbeck from the Municipal Authority of the Township of Morris Board effective 3/20/2024. Motion carried with both supervisors voting yes.

The Vice-Chairman entertained a motion to advertise to fill the vacancy of 2 open board positions on the Municipal Authority of the Township of Morris Board following the resignation of Chad Baughman effective March 14, 2024, and Willard Verbeck effective March 20, 2024. Motion carried with both supervisors voting yes.

Public Comments: Gary Potts asked when the position will be open to fill the 2 positions. Fred Little stated as soon as The Progress can get it advertised.

Jim Hummel asked, “what’s you guys’ problem with me?”. Emerson Reams stated, “How many times do we have to rehearse this?” Jim Hummel stated, “you went to Chad and threatened to take money from the fire company”. Emerson stated he did not threaten Chad, Emerson said, “I told Chad what was going to happen”. Emerson said, “I am one person, but I know the money has to come from somewhere, right now we are at \$5,000 for a \$50.00 seat”. Emerson said,” let me explain for the 15th time, In the beginning of November, you told me to get with Josiah, you guys need to replace me” then, in the November meeting, we sat right here, you asked me if I got with Josiah to replace you. Emerson stated he asked Jim when he was thinking, Jim answered January. Jim denied that he said a date, but agreed he said get someone to replace him. Emerson stated at the next sewer meeting, Jim said he would stay on if they can’t find anyone or until he no longer owned property in the township. Jim again denied he said this. Emerson said at the January Board of Supervisor meeting, the supervisors appointed to this open seat following Jim stating that they needed to replace him, the supervisors recognized this as a resignation. Jim Hummel stated again that he

did not resign, but Emerson stated the supervisors recognized this as a resignation. Emerson stated both solicitors started looking into the issue, after \$5,000 into the issue, the municipal solicitor stated the seats are not correct. Emerson stated this has nothing to do with us recognizing that you resigned. So now more money is being spent, we are \$5,000 deep in this seat, the fact that you told us to look to replace you, and we did, that's what this is over.

Fred Little stated, you told me to start looking for someone, because by the end of the year you are going to be gone. Jim denied he said this and accused the supervisors of making this up. Fred Little stated his wife was present when this was said and is willing to come and state what she was told. Fred said he would not lie about this or anything. Jim stated the township solicitor made comments to the municipal authority solicitor stating this is not a fight worth fighting for the township. Emerson stated the township solicitor has sent the supervisors, in writing, a statement stating a paper is not needed as a resignation, that a verbal resignation can be recognized and acted upon.

Jim Hummel asked where the money was coming from to pay for this legal fight. Emerson stated he will not take it from the residents of the township. Emerson stated the township is required to pay the workers compensation for the fire company.

Gary Potts asked if there will be a new sewer board come January. Emerson stated there are 2 open seats as of right now, but as Mark Rusnak stated the seats should be advertised, Emerson said even though we do not have to advertise the open seats, in this meeting it was voted to advertise the seats. Gary also stated he feels Jim should keep his positions, both on the board and as a worker. Emerson stated this was actually the initial conversation between Emerson and Jim stating he said he was moving out of the township, but still interested in staying on as a worker.

Adjournment: The Vice-Chairman entertained a motion, Emerson Reams motioned, and Fred Little seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:04 PM. Motion carried with all supervisors voting yes.

Respectively Submitted, Patti Moore, Secretary