

Main Township Supervisors Meeting

October 2, 2023, 7:00 pm

First Order of Business

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present for the meeting were:

Pamela Slusser, Supervisor

Bob Baylor, Supervisor

Phil Savidge, Police Officer

Lisa Schell, Secretary

Matthew Turowski, Solicitor

Public Attendees: 24

Minutes of Meeting

Pam stated the September minutes were posted to the webpage for review. Bob made a motion to approve the September 11, 2023, minutes; Pam seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Bob made a motion to approve the treasurer's report; Pam seconded the motion.

Public Comment

Candice Cotterman asked if lines could be painted between her house, 952 Mainville Drive and 1045 Mainville Drive (her mom's house), since that area is like a racetrack with speeders and people pass on the double line. Phil will talk to Mike about getting them painted. Phil said there were lines there before so there is enough space for them.

Jonathan Broadt read a letter from the Fire Company (attached) which requested that the Fire Company have more time to do more research before the supervisors would stop the collection of the fire tax.

The fire department also asked that all three supervisors attend the fire company's next meeting on October 23rd at 7:00pm so all parties can discuss the issue.

Rich Shuman stated that the pipe across from Dave's is cut back about 2ft. and the concrete netting is getting backed up and if nothing is done they may lose it. Bob will take a look at it.

John Lenhart stated that the township's webpage has been hacked again and they should consider using

the one the police have. Lisa stated that she just found out about it, but when you go directly to the webpage it is fine. She will contact the administrator to let him know about the issue.

Ralph Defrain stated that he did not resign as the EMA Director, as that is the rumor out there. Pam or Bob did not hear that and thanked him for staying on.

Old Business

New Building

Pam stated that there has been no movement on this since the engineer working on the drawings stated he cannot support building with pre-case walls.

Truck Repairs

Bob stated that the white truck at North Point should be done in about two weeks. Mr. Bodman asked if all trucks will have cameras and Bob stated that is the plan.

Fire Tax

Pam stated this is tabled and it is just a conversation and no voting has been done. If any changes are made it would have to be adopted with a new budget. Bob stated that everyone needs to get together to talk.

New Business

2022 Audit

Lisa stated that Herring, Roll & Solomon, PC has completed the 2022 Audit and there were no financial findings. All accounts were audited and there were some changes recommended by the auditor to make things easier going forward, such as combining accounts and recording all accounts in Quickbooks. Lisa stated that it was a learning process for both her and the auditor since it was the first year working with a CPA.

Sewage Officer Report

Lisa stated no report was received for the month.

Zoning/Construction Report

There was no report for the month since Adam was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Police Report

Phil provided the September report:
158.5 hours worked

912 miles
62 incidents
26 traffic incidents
3 non-traffic incidents

Bob made a motion to approve the September Police Report; Pam seconded the motion; all were in favor.

Other

With no further business to discuss, Bob made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 pm; Pam seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Schell
Secretary

We the fire department of Main township, have gotten together to talk about the current thought of change of tax to donation. We would like to take this time to address this proposal.

We would ask that this gets tabled until the beginning of the year. We need more time to get into some research on how things are going to be. I personally would like to talk to a few other departments to see how they are receiving money, whether it's a tax or it's a donation. I have spoke to 2 individuals who represent neighboring departments, one is a tax and one is a donation. The one with the tax covers 2 townships and 1 boro. They receive 1 and a half mill from each township, and the boro. We receive 1 mill off our tax. We are not looking for a tax increase. We understand that taxes are not ideal. The reasoning behind this tax was to assist with the rising prices of fuel, truck maintenance, purchasing of a newer truck, and costs of building maintenance. Since then, we started doing our online raffles, and while it is making money for us now, we could lose that any day. The PA house of representatives were able to get it passed for volunteer fire departments around the state that our online raffles were to go until COVID was no longer a pandemic. Since they have put that into motion, they have moved the deadline because COVID has come back. We do not know what the future holds for the status of our online raffles.

The tax is just that, a tax. One more thing to pay for. However, it is a very low tax on average. In the event of the fire department going defuncted, or dismembering the average home owner insurance will go up 3-4 times, or 300-400% for those who do not have a fire department within 5 miles of their home. This would be well above the one mill for a fire tax we are receiving.

We requested the funding to help build as it was a vision of Dave's to see if the township would help us to buy a new to us, not brand-new truck if needed. Dave had in past meetings gave prices for new trucks, as a way to show that things are not getting cheaper. The average used truck will run us around 200-300 thousand dollars. Since the tax was put in place, we now have stipulations of spending a certain amount of the money per year. This was due to complaints that were brought up to township supervisors, however there is not a single documented complaint in the minutes for the meetings. There are also no documented complaints for the fire tax.

We the members of the Main township Fire company request this be tabled until more research can be done on both ends by supervisors, and the fire company. We also ask that the township supervisors come to a fire meeting to discuss this more since there was a conflict of schedule and they were not able to be there for the September meeting. In the event we the members, and the supervisors cannot come to an agreement, that it be added as a referendum and have the tax payers of the township decide the fate of the tax turning into a donation.