

Penn Township Supervisor Meeting

February 5, 2025

Chairman Isaac Ramer Jr. called the 2.5.2025 Supervisor Meeting to order at 6:05 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present included: Supervisors: Isaac Ramer Jr., Mark Strawser, Ross Smoker, Solicitor Jim Bathgate and Township Manager Julie Hartley

Public Present: William Moyer, Bill Kline, Jon Payne, Brian Hipple, Chad Brandt, Shellie McCurdy, Rodney Ries, Bruce Witkop, Tim Thomson, Paul Long, Dean Schreiber, Chris Sheaffer, Kelly Feiler, Rob Beierschmitt, Marcia Moore of the Daily Item, and Mike O'Fallon

Chairman Isaac Ramer Jr. announced that an executive session was held from 5:30 pm to 6:05 pm this evening to discuss legal and personnel matters with no decisions made at that time.

Minutes – **On motion by Ross Smoker, seconded by Mark Strawser, with Isaac Ramer Jr. abstaining to approve the January 15, 2025 supervisor's meeting minutes.**

Persons Present to be Heard:

Dean Schreiber, ESRRA – Dean, President of ESRRA, asked if the Board had any feedback for the association.

Dean noted that he and Chad Shaffer did a survey of the park and noted that the monuments are in the corn field and need to be made permanent. Mark Strawser will meet with Dean on site to discuss possible solutions. Dean continued by noting that recreation association will finance part of the field three and field one improvements. Netting is needed at DeWire field and fencing at the softball field which Apollo Fencing was hired to complete. Isaac thanked Dean for the work of ESRRA.

Rob Beierschmitt, Selinsgrove Little League – Rob informed the Board that a certificate of insurance will be given to the township before the dug-outs and other field improvements are started. The dug-out construction will be supervised by Jeff Turner who is a licensed contractor. Dean shared that the Selinsgrove Little League met with ESRRA to discuss the project and they recommended that the Board let the work proceed. The project is slated to begin in July. **On motion by Isaac Ramer Jr., seconded by Ross Smoker and Board acclamation to allow the dug-out construction providing that a certificate of insurance is provided and all permits and regulations are followed.**

Kelly Feiler, REC Center – Kelly provided copies of the agreement and other information about the REC grant being pursued. The Board expressed concern that guaranteeing the grant would be a conflict of interest since the Board would be approving the Land Development and Stormwater plans. The Board suggested taking the grant agreement back to the County Commissioners and have them back the project. Jim explained that only if the Land Development and Stormwater plans could be approved ahead of the grant application that the township would not have a conflict of interest but the township would still have to consider the liability of signing the agreement. Kelly will take this information to the County Commissioners.

Jason Kauffman, DH&L Fire Co. (via phone) – Jason reported that there were thirty-five incidents in January with no significant fire loss in the township. The major fire that was during this month was in Jackson Township. The Jackson Township fire was the first fire where the new ladder truck was used. Currently the gun raffle is underway and tickets are available. He noted that as soon as the officer's list is available for this year he will get a copy to the township.

Brian Hipple, DH&L Ambulance – Brian noted that there were two hundred and sixty-six incidents in January with ninety-one calls being in Penn Township. Only six calls were missed in the township. Currently all the units are in service with one sustaining damage from a collision with a deer but the unit is able to respond.

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New Business:

Appoint Jordan Tressler as Regular Member of ESRRRA – Jordan Tressler was recommended by ESRRRA to be appointed to the association. **On motion by Mark Strawser, seconded by Ross Smoker and Isaac Ramer Jr. abstaining the Board appointed Jordan Tressler as a regular member of the East Snyder Regional Recreation Association.**

TRA Electric Quote for Meter Base for Rte. 15 Street Lights – Mark shared that the current meter base for the route fifteen street lights is rusted and getting water inside. A new meter base would allow PP&L to charge for the actual electricity used instead of estimating every bill and should cut down on the amount of the billing each month. Replacing the lights with LED has cut down on the invoice totals. After discussion it was decided that two more quotes were needed and it will be tabled until two more quotes are secured.

FNB Line of Credit for Tax Collector – Julie noted that the tax collector has been receiving bad checks and has had to personally cover the fees associated with them until the taxpayer pays the penalties at a later date. Ron Zeiders has applied for a line of credit to avoid these charges and needs the Supervisors to approve it to get it in place. **On motion by Ross Smoker, seconded by Mark Strawser and Board acclamation to approve the line of credit for Tax Collector Ron Zeiders.**

Colin Rice, Substitute Plow Driver – Mark explained that he would like to hire a former employee, Colin Rice, to be a substitute snow plow driver when someone is unavailable to cover their route. **On motion by Isaac Ramer Jr., seconded by Mark Strawser, and Board acclamation to approve Colin Rice as a substitute snow plow driver.**

Comcast Franchise Agreement – Jim said that he is finalizing his review of the Comcast Franchise Agreement and would like the Board's approval to negotiate with Comcast on the terms of the agreement. **On motion by Isaac Ramer Jr, seconded by Ross Smoker and Board acclamation to have Jim Bathgate communicate with Comcast regarding their franchise agreement.**

Old Business:

Penn Valley Airport Authority – Isaac thanked Rodney Ries for the information he provided and his many years of service. Jim asked how many representatives can serve from the township and he answered that there is one per municipality and each member has a vote. Jim asked if municipality representatives vote in the best interest of the township or for the airport authority. Rodney replied that his vote is for the interests of the entire valley and airport. The hanger that was built several years ago was from the airport's resources and help from the Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce. Currently the airport is in need of another hanger so it can house the bigger airplanes. There are no grants available for constructing hangers. The airport authority is seeking a low interest loan from agricultural funding because of the rural location of the airport but that loan requires that all active members sign the loan agreement. They would like to begin construction this year if possible. The airport in general is in good condition. UPMC has contacted the airport asking for space for their helicopter but there is nothing available. Bruce said that their 2023 audit is available and left a copy for the Board to review. Isaac asked if they could return to the February 19th Supervisor's workshop meeting at 6 pm to discuss things further. Mark inquired as to how often the Airport Authority meets and they answered about once a quarter and the meetings are open to the public. Steve Bower is the airport manager currently. Bill Moyer asked if the businesses contribute anything and Bruce answered that Weis bought a one hundred- and seventy-five-thousand-dollar fuel truck and he shared that his company has also donated equipment. Panda Power and National Beef have also donated. He continued by noting that selling fuel and renting hangers are the only things that generate revenue. The hanger that they would like to build would be one hundred by one hundred and twenty feet. Mark asked how many planes the proposed hanger would hold and Bruce answered that it depended on the size of the airplane. Jon Payne asked if representatives are independent of the Board of Supervisors and Bruce said that was true. Jon continued by asking if there were any debts, grants or loans and how would projects such as resurfacing the runway, LED lighting and proper tree trimming would be financed. Bruce answered that there are grants available for those items and that the airport currently has

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no debt. He also shared that fencing in the airport is not a requirement at this time. Bill Moyer asked if PennDOT would pave the runway and Bruce said that they would not. Jon Payne said that he believed there should be better communication from the airport to the municipalities.

Roadmaster Position – On motion by Isaac Ramer Jr., seconded by Ross Smoker and Board acclamation to advertise for the Roadmaster position.

Public Comment:

Shellie McCurdy – Shellie shared that the REC was open for thirteen days during January. With a total of five hundred and sixteen visitors and an average of forty-three point one visitors per day. There are two hundred and seventy-six students are registered with ten new students so far this year. There will be a teen night on February 11th and a yard sale on the 10th from one to four. There is an upcoming art contest. Ross asked how many students can they handle at one time and Shellie responded that they recently had sixty-eight.

Bill Kline – Bill asked if the Penn Valley Airport mentioned building a new hanger at the last meeting and it was answered that they did not but it was mentioned a year ago.

Chris Shaeffer, Larson Design, Selinsgrove Ford – Chris asked the Board for some preliminary input on a project at Selinsgrove Ford where they want to enlarge and raise a building which will follow the existing lines of the buildings. Jim noted that it is an expansion of a non-conforming use which requires a Conditional Use hearing before the Supervisors. Chris was asked to attend the next Planning Commission meeting to discuss the project with them.

Old Colony Road Closing – Mr. Teats shared that they are planning a training exercise on Old Colony Road and would like to block off the whole road from approximately 8 am to 4 pm on a Wednesday. Local and state police, EMS, sheriffs, firefighters and fire police would be involved in the exercise. It was questioned why the road needs blocked and he said because the command center would be set up on the road. Isaac said that they would need to provide a certificate of insurance and their own signage. Fire police would be directing traffic throughout the event.
On motion by Isaac Ramer Jr., seconded by Ross Smoker and Board acclamation to allow the closing of Old Colony Road if a certificate of insurance is provided and if traffic control is provided.

Reports:

- Julie Hartley, Township Manager, Report Provided
- Mark Strawser, Roadmaster, Report Provided
- Julie Hartley, Zoning Officer, Report Provided
- Colin Rice, Emergency Management Coordinator
- James Bathgate, Township Solicitor

FYI:

- ESCRA Dec. 18th Minutes
- ACH Payroll Report for 1.23.25
- Check Register 1.15.25 to 2.5.25
- ACH Payroll Report for 2.6.25

Land/Subdivision:

- Village at Penns Creek Land Dev. & Subdivision, filed 11.15.24, due 5.13.25

Approval of Accounts Payable (State and General Funds)- On Motion by Ross Smoker, seconded by Mark Strawser, and Board acclamation, to pay bills.

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Adjournment - On motion by Mark Strawser, second by Ross Smoker, and Board acclamation the February 5, 2025 Supervisor's Meeting was adjourned at 7:24 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Hartley
Manager