

Penn Township Supervisor Meeting

June 21, 2023

Vice-Chairman Isaac Ramer Jr. called the 6.21.2023 Supervisor Meeting to order at 6:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Excused: Jon Payne

Public Present: Bill Kline, William Moyer, Greg Pysher, Margaret Hill, Justin Ross and Chris Hennessy

Executive Session – An executive session was called at 5:36 pm and after the executive session the meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. During the executive session, township issues were discussed with no decisions made at that time.

Minutes – **On motion by Ross Smoker, seconded by Isaac Ramer Jr., and Board acclamation to approve the June 7, 2023 supervisor's meeting minutes.**

Persons Present to be Heard:

Bright Farms/Penn Greenhouse LLC – Jim Bathgate opened the discussion and thanked Bright Farms representatives for attending. Jim noted that there have been several sewage issues and he wanted the Board of Supervisors to be informed on the measures that are being used to address these problems. Attorney Margaret Hile, counsel for Bright Farms, wanted to discuss the process wastewater permitting and the pending stormwater permitting being implemented. PTMA and ESCRA have noted that quantity and quality issues of process wastewater and sewage have occurred. To address this problem all process wastewater after May 4th has been transported to the Milton Sewage Authority for processing. DEP has authorized up to 80,000 gallons of process wastewater can be processed at Milton per week. Since the long-term plans that were offered would be costly to implement, Bright Farms plans to present the shipping of the process wastewater as a long-term plan at the next PTMA meeting on July 6th. Currently Bright Farms is consulting with Penn State on water recycling and other alternative measures. Jim Bathgate asked what size the current wastewater tank was and Chris Hennessey stated that it is 21,000 gallons of pre-treated process wastewater. Jim added that process wastewater by definition does fit in the category of a harmful substance in reference to the township's Holding Tank Ordinance. Currently they are working with DEP to prepare a stormwater and pollution prevention and preparedness plan. They estimate that it will take 90-days to get this plan approved. Margaret added that above ground storage tanks are exempt to a holding tank ordinance. She also noted that Commissioner Kantz and Senator Culver are supportive of Bright Farms using the rail line to ship process wastewater to Milton. Jim said that if the 21,000 gallon above ground tank is to be made a long-term solution it will need included in the amended Land Development Plan. Jim asked that the following items be addressed and added to the Final Land Development Plan: the industrial BMPS permit from DEP, PTMA's agreement to changes, a revised treatment and storage tank, the restroom trailer and the holding tank application. Bright Farms will be meeting with PTMA on July 6th to further address issues.

Bill Moyer, Roads – Bill Moyer expressed concern about washouts on Airtower Road between the David Daku farm to 350 Airtower Road. The Supervisors said that the Roadmaster will look into the situation. Bill then suggested that the S. Front Street project should involve a re-con of the existing pavement, drainage and six inches of asphalt. There are currently three grants being sought to finance this project so the specifications of the project will be provided to Bill.

New Business:

Bright Farms Land Development Extension Letter – **On motion by Ross Smoker, seconded by Isaac Ramer Jr., and Board acclamation to grant a 90-day extension from July 13th to October 13th to Bright Farm's Land Development Plan to allow time for amendments and DEP permitting.**

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Dental Insurance – On motion by Isaac Ramer Jr., seconded by Ross Smoker, and Board acclamation to allow payroll deductions from employees to add dental coverage to their health insurance policy.

Old Business:

Advertise Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Medical Marijuana – Jim will check to see if advertisement was submitted to The Daily Item.

FYI: None

Land/Subdivision:

- Bright Farms – Final LD, filed 6.17.20, due 7.13.23

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

Adjournment - On motion by Ross Smoker, second by Isaac Ramer Jr., and Board acclamation the June 21, 2023 Supervisor's Meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Hartley
Manager