Supervisors Meeting – October 12, 2021

The Regular Meeting of the Sugarloaf Township Supervisors was held on Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at 7:00 P.M. at the Municipal Building, 858 Main Street, Sugarloaf, PA 18249. The meeting was duly advertised in the Standard Speaker on December 15, 2020.

**Attendance:** In attendance were Chairman Rick Weaver, Supervisor Richard Yost, and Supervisor Joseph DiSabella. Also in attendance were Atty. Joseph Ferdinand, Zoning Officer Henry Mleczynski, Township Office Manager Elizabeth Tolan, and Township Administrative Assistant Lori Webster.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Public Comment:**  Andrew Anderson asked for the reason behind the Executive Work Session held on September 17, 2021. The supervisors responded that they were conducting employment interviews.

**Executive Work Session:** An Executive Work Session was held on September 17, 2021, for personnel reasons.

**Minutes**: Chairman Weaver asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 14, 2021. A motion was made by Supervisor Yost, seconded by Supervisor DiSabella, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously, and copies were placed on the front table for public review.

**Bills**: Supervisor Yost read the Income and Expense Report of the General Fund from September 2021. A motion was made by Chairman Weaver, seconded by Supervisor DiSabella, to approve the bills as read, and to pay any and all bills in all funds that become due before the next regular meeting. The motion passed unanimously, and copies were placed on the front table for public review.

**Financial Statement**: Chairman Weaver mentioned that the financial statement was attached to all agendas. A motion was made by Chairman Weaver, seconded by Supervisor DiSabella, to dispense reading and approve the financial statement as presented. The motion passed unanimously. Supervisor Yost signed the Financial Statement.

**Police Department:** Chairman Weaver reviewed the police activity report for September 2021. There were 116 calls. Magistrate fines collected for September 2021 amounted to $845.41.

**Fire Company**: Fire Chief Duane Hildebrand reported that there were 90 calls for the month of September 2021 consisting of 57 EMS calls and 33 Fire and Rescue calls. It was noted due to delays in submission information, the LSA Grant Submission for the new Fire Truck will be pushed back until June 2022.

**Road Department**: The Road Department Report for September 2021 was reviewed by Chairman Weaver. The Road Department Report was then placed on the front table for public review. As previously approved, a new work truck has been sourced for the Roads Department within the budgeted amount. A motion was made by Supervisor Yost, seconded by Supervisor DiSabella, to proceed with a loan from Mid-Penn Bank in the amount of $50,000.00 at 2.7% with the balance of funds to be paid out of the machinery fund. The motion passed unanimously.

**Zoning Report:** Zoning Officer Henry Mleczynski stated that fifteen (15) permits were issued in September 2021. There was one denied. Additionally, there were two (2) complaints handled and one (1) violation addressed. Proposed Zoning Ordinance No. 2021-2 An Ordinance of the Township of Sugarloaf, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania regulating Storage Containers had been duly advertised in the Standard Speaker on September 26, 2021 and was presented to the Board of Supervisors for consideration of approval. A motion was made by Supervisor DiSabella, seconded by Chairman Weaver to approve Ordinance No. 2021-2. The motion passed unanimously.

An Ordinance of the Township of Sugarloaf, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania Amending Section 604 of The Sugarloaf Township Zoning Ordinance and an Ordinance of Township of Sugarloaf, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania Amending Section 603.3 of The Sugarloaf Township Zoning Ordinance (Building Permits) were put forth for motion to advertise for the consideration of adoption at the November 9, 2021, Supervisors Meeting. A motion was made by Chairman Weaver, seconded by Supervisor Yost to approve advertising the Ordinances for consideration at the November 9, 2021 Supervisors Meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Chairman Weaver placed the Zoning Log for September 2021 on the front table for public review.

**Emergency Management**: Thomas Mundie, Emergency Management Coordinator gave his report for September 2021. He also brought to the attention of the Supervisors a concern regarding a creek which is clogged with trees and mentioned due to his current building being sold in the future, that a new EOC will be needed at some point.

**Sugarloaf Recreation Board (Larock Field):** The Recreation Committee met on October 6, 2021. The minutes have been received and were placed on the front table for review. The next meeting will be held on November 3, 2021.

**Tomhicken Playground Association:**  Minutes have not yet been received for the September meeting. The next meeting for the Tomhicken Playground Association is scheduled for November 17, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

**Planning Commission**: The Planning Commission meeting was held on Tuesday, October 4, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. The minutes have been received and were placed on the front table for review. The minutes from the meeting on September 7, 2021, have been received and were also placed on the front table for review.

The next scheduled meeting of Planning Committee will be held on November 1, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

**Subdivision, Lot Consolidation and Land Development**:

**Pecora Subdivision:** Zoning review was received from Zoning Officer Henry Mleczynski advising that the intended requirements as submitted are in compliance with the Township’s Zoning Ordinance for the A1&S1 Zoning District. Review was received from Luzerne County Planning Commission with comments. Review was received from the Luzerne County Engineer with comments. Review was received by Township Secondary Engineer RJD Engineering Inc. with comments.

**Pecora Bakery:** Component 2 Sewage Facilities Planning Module was received from Brior Environmental Services Inc. for execution by the Planning Committee and the Board of Supervisors. Signatures have been received and Resolution No. 18 of 2021 was presented to the Supervisors for Plan Revision for New Land Development. A motion was made by Supervisor Yost, seconded by Chairman Weaver to approve Resolution No. 18 0f 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

**Preliminary Final Minor Subdivision Lands of Schavo and Simons:** Zoning review has been received from Zoning Officer Henry Mleczynski with comments. Review was received from Luzerne County Planning Commission with comments. Review was received from Luzerne County Engineer with no comments. Review was received from Brior Environmental Services Inc. with comments. Review was received from JTB Surveying and Engineering with comments.

**Old Business:**

**UGI Public Utility ROW Agreement – New Police Station Gas Line:** The Township Solicitor has attempted to determine a figure regarding the right of way request from UGI. UGI has indicated that if they cannot put in the pump station it desires at the Sugarloaf Township Location, the company may not be interested in providing an extended gas line into the new police building. The Township Solicitor suggests resolving the matter at a price between $2,500.00 - $5,000.00 or to attempt to negotiate a lease. AC&R, who installed propane service in the interim into the police station, is confident that the system is adequate to heat the station during the winter months.

**Old Berwick Road Fuel Spill:** The township solicitor is in discussions with the Trucking Company and BIA to secure a 24-month maintenance bond in the amount of 110% of the cost of repairing the impact area.

N**ew Business:**  The next scheduled meeting of the Supervisors will be held on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at 7:00 PM.

**Luzerne County Conservation District:** The Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control plan for Mark Ritz at 39 Mountain Road has been reviewed and is adequate to meet the requirements of the Conservation District.

A motion to advertise a work session on November 3, 2021, at 10:30 am for 2022 Budget Preparation was made by Supervisor DiSabella, seconded by Supervisor Yost. The motion passed unanimously.

An ordinance and a Resolution have been provided to the Board of Supervisors for consideration of LERTA application from Crossroads, XOXO, LLC. A motion was made by Supervisor Yost, seconded by Supervisor DiSabella to advertise a Public Hearing immediately following the November 9, 2021 Supervisors Meeting at 7:30 PM to review the matter and for public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

PURTA Distribution Check for the tax year 2020 has been received in the amount of $1,427.51

The 2021 Commonwealth State Aid Allocation supporting the Volunteer Fire Relief Association (VFRA) was received by the Township in the amount of $23,943.57. On September 21, 2021 payment was made to the Sugarloaf Fire Company in the amount of $23,943.57 in accordance with Act 205, and Form 706B has been completed to reflect this distribution.

A request has been made by the Radiation Protection Program Supervisor at the DEP for an excel spreadsheet with the addresses of all residential properties in our municipality. They will then send a letter offering a free radon test kit to residents within the entire municipality. This program is being provided through the DEP by the American Lung Association. After discussion of the matter and hearing public comment, the Board of Supervisors requested that the Township Office Manager contact the Program Manager at the DEP and see if we can get kits in the Township Office for direct distribution to municipal residents or proceed in a manner that will not necessitate providing addresses of township residents.

Notification has been received from PennDot that our ESTIMATED Liquid Fuels allocation for 2022 will be $179,720.20. This amount may vary based on collections for the remainder of the year.

**Correspondence received since the last meeting:**  Correspondence received since the last meeting was

reviewed.

**Public Comment:**

Public Comment was presented to the Supervisors from Mr. and Mrs. Chunko in regard to an issue with Trucks and Trailers turning around on their property and damaging their lawn and other areas. They indicated that a detour sign currently in use for another project is somewhat helping the matter and asked that the township place a permanent sign in the area to help alleviate this issue. The Supervisors indicated that they would order the sign and meet with the Chunko’s regarding placement.

Sharon Judge provided comment in regard to concern about the proposed warehouses on Tomhicken Road. She is concerned about tractor trailer volumes and property values and put the supervisors on notice that she and other concerned residents would not be in favor of this development.

Andrew Anderson provided comment in regard to speeding on the hill coming down RT 93 from the traffic light at the Top of the 80’s down to the bottom of the road. He also commended the Sugarloaf Police Department and First Responders for the excellent service they provide to the Township.

**Adjournment**: With no further business to attend to, a motion was made by Chairman Weaver, seconded by Supervisor Yost, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 P.M. The motion passed unanimously.

It was noted that all reports or correspondence mentioned during this meeting were available for review at the front table, copies to be provided, upon request, after the meeting.

Richard E. Yost

Secretary

REY/et