

Howe Township
December 5, 2019

The Howe Township Board of Supervisors met in regular session at the UPMC Pinnacle Health Community Room at 5:30 p.m. on December 5, 2019. Present: Chairman Dale Beaver, Vice Chairman Charles Burd, Supervisor Kathy Donahey, Secretary/Treasurer Nancy Cangioli, HTMA- Frank Campbell, Road Master/Zoning Officer Chris Simpson, Joe Burget-Burget & Associates, and 3 residents.

Chairman Beaver called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.
Secretary Cangioli called the roll. All Supervisors were present.

A motion was made to approve the minutes for November 7, 2019 as presented; Burd/Donahey. Motion carried.

A motion was made to approve the bills to be paid as presented; Donahey/Burd. Motion carried. Solicitor Jones will review the Subdivision Ordinance language regarding charging interest on the fees owed to the township that are not received in 30 days.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None was offered.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The vacancy on the Zoning Hearing Board still needs to be filled and is on the website.

A motion was made to adopt Resolution 19-10 establishing the Real Estate Tax rate of .5959 mills and the Fire Tax rate of .3778 mills for 2020; Beaver/Burd. Chairman Beaver stated that the Real Estate Tax rate has not been increased since 2005 (15 years) and it must be stated that while the current property tax is a regressive and unfair system which should be eliminated, our state Legislators and the Governor have refused to take steps necessary to change this unfair system. Therefore, in order to continue to provide the current level of services to our residents and businesses alike, we must work within the system as it exists to responsibly manage our Township. Motion carried. Unforeseen, unexpected and unbudgeted expenditures in 2019 cost the Township approximately \$100K.

A motion was made to adopt the 2020 budget for the General Fund and Liquid Fuels Fund as presented; Beaver/Donahey. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Per Solicitor Jones recommendation the organizational meeting will be held Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. with the regular business meeting to follow. Secretary Cangioli will advertise this meeting and all the Board meetings for 2020.

Joe Burget presented the Howe Township/Robin and Elaine Smith subdivision plan to the Board. The Planning Commission recommended approving the plan. A motion to was made to approve the preliminary final subdivision plan for the Howe Township and Robin E. and Elaine A. Smith as prepared by Burget and Associates to include the waivers from Section 304 Preliminary plot plan and Section 305.1.G Drawing Scale; Beaver/Donahey. The intent of the Township deeding this small parcel to the Smith's is to keep the pump station acquisition for the Howe Township Municipal Authority out of eminent domain. Motion carried.

A motion was made to reimburse Jill Walter, Tax Collector for insurance of \$22 and checks for \$7.69; Beaver/Burd. Motion carried.

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

Minutes from the November 18, 2019 were submitted. Frank Campbell thanked the Board for the subdivision plan with the Smith's to solve the pump station problem. He also gave an update on the construction schedule. Chairman Beaver presented a proposal for the Authority's repayment to the Township developed by him, Solicitor Jones, HTMA Treasurer Keith Sheaffer and Frank Campbell. Their current balance owed is \$116,438.52, the Authority will make a lump sum payment of \$20,000 by December 31st leaving the balance due of \$96,438.52. An interest rate of 2.5% commencing 1/1/2020 for a 10-year term, default interest rate of 6%. Solicitor Jones prepared an amortization schedule. Interest only payments are due on 6/15/2020, 12/15/2020 and 6/15/2021 in the amount of \$1,205.49 each. Principal to be re-calculated on above dates if during interest-only payment period, interest may be prepaid and additional payments over interest amounts due will reduce the principal balance. Monthly principal and interest payments will commence on 10/1/2021. No pre-payment penalty at any time. A motion was made to adopt the Howe Township Municipal Authority payment terms from the Authority to the Township for advanced funds as outlined in the proposal; Beaver/Burd. Solicitor Jones will prepare a short agreement that outlines these terms. The Authority also has to agree to these terms. The motion was amended to include Chairman Beaver is authorized to execute the agreement with the Municipal Authority upon their acceptance. Motion carried.

SOLICITOR

A motion was made to authorize Chairman Beaver to execute the deed transfer of the property to Robin and Elaine Smith pursuant to the Howe Township Municipal Authority pump station agreement; Burd/Donahey. Motion carried.

Solicitor Jones extended an invitation to the Board for Stock and Leader's Municipal 101 seminar on January 23, 2020.

ENGINEER

There was no business.

JUNIATA SEWAGE COMMITTEE

Supervisor Burd stated there was no meeting in December. He has requested from Bob Kratzer a year-end report to send out certificates.

ROADMASTER

Chris Simpson reported the pallet forks were received. The plow and spreader were put on the truck. There has been no word from PennDot regarding placement of the Welcome to Howe Township signs on the state roads.

A motion was made in order for Chris Simpson to order the tar buggy that has been approved previously and because he is using his personal credit card a check be written to Chris for \$1,448.50; Beaver/ Burd. Motion carried. The berm work on Acker Rd was completed today.

ZONING OFFICER

Chris Simpson spoke to Mr. Jenney and he gave his word that the vehicles will be moved by the end of the week. Mr. Gorham has until December 25th to move the vehicle but it is registered and licensed. Solicitor Jones advised that he is not in violation then. He will be asked to move it from its current place though. Sign permits are needed for the Burger King and they will be submitting the required applications.

The IZC license agreement which allowed the township to include the 2015 International Zoning Code verbiage regulating signs in Article 14 in the Zoning Ordinance expired in February 2019. It is difficult to interpret regarding billboards. Solicitor Jones was asked to provide from other townships templates for a comprehensive sign ordinance that is easy to understand. A motion was made that the International

Zoning Code people be contacted who approved the language that we have under the 2015 IZC sign regulations, extend that license to 1/1/ 2021, not pay for printed copies in the license agreement and to establish a committee consisting of Chris Simpson, Chairman Beaver and Solicitor Jones to revisit Article 14-Signs of the Howe Township Zoning Ordinance and try to develop language that is comprehensive that will extract us from the licensing contract and adopt our own sign regulations; Beaver/Donahey. Motion carried. A copy of the 2018 version has been purchased from Amazon by the township.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes from the November 25th meeting have been submitted. They reviewed the Howe Township/Robin and Elaine Smith subdivision plan. They recommended approval of the plan and waivers. Secretary Cangioli reported another subdivision plan has been submitted and Terry Heller would like to hold the meeting on December 26th.

<u>Plan</u>	<u>Submitted</u>	<u>Date-Approve/Disapprove</u>
Buffalo Crossing Commons	5/4/17	Extension to December 2019

A motion was made on behalf of Hamm Equities to grant a 3month time extension for Buffalo Crossing; Donahey/Beaver. Motion carried. Solicitor Jones advised that his legal fees can be charged back to the Developers. His invoices are not broken down to reflect his time spent on each project however. He was not aware that it wasn't happening. He will start opening a new matter for each project so the township can be reimbursed by the developers.

The Pinnacle Health building is now closing at 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays. A motion was made to start the Board of Supervisors regular meetings at 5:00 p.m.; Beaver/Burd. After discussion Chairman Beaver rescinded the motion.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.; Donahey/Burd. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Cangioli
Secretary