



The Howe Township Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Thursday, July 1, 2021 at 5:00 PM at the Hope Eternal United Methodist Church, 2 Burd Road, Newport, PA. Present: Chairman Dale Beaver, Vice Chairman Charles Burd and Supervisor Kathy Donahey. Luke Roman representing the Perry County Times was also in attendance.

Chairman Beaver called the meeting to order and led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Beaver called the roll: All Supervisors were present.

A motion was made to approve the corrected minutes for June 3, 2021 as presented. Burd/Donahey. Motion carried.

A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's Report and to pay the bills as presented. Donahey/Burd. Motion carried.

GENERAL GOOD AND WELFARE

No one present wished to address the Board regarding any Agenda items.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The vacancy on the Zoning Hearing Board still needs to be filled. No interested candidates have been identified. The opening continues to be posted on the Township website.

The application for the American Rescue Plan Funding has been submitted to DCED following receipt of the required SAM (System for Award Management) number from the Federal Government.

Chairman Beaver informed the Board that he had received a phone call on June 30 from Corporal Short from the Pennsylvania State Police barracks at Newport with regard to the concern expressed in a recent Board meeting about the accumulation of trash at the Park and Ride. Corporal Short indicated that solving the problem was a more difficult task than he had anticipated. An arrangement has been made with PennDOT to erect "No Dumping" signs. The site will be



cleaned up by PennDOT and the signs will be installed. Corporal Short related that Cocolamus Creek Disposal (CCD) was “not pleasant” to work with, however, the Park and Ride will no longer be a location of the depositing and pick-up of recycling, garbage or other trash.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Beaver stated that there is too much money in the General Fund Checking Account. From our past experience, he indicated that \$50,000 is sufficient to cover the day-to-day operating needs of the Township. The current balance is \$143,379.55. Of that amount, \$15,086.00 is earmarked to pay Chemung Supply for the guard rail work on Gypsy Hollow Road. In addition, \$18,616.80 needs to be set aside for the snow removal attachments that have been ordered from Messick’s for the loader/tractor. After those expenditures, that leaves a balance of \$109,676.75 in the General Fund checking account.

Chairman Beaver introduced a proposal that the Board open up a \$50,000 Easy Access CD at Pennian Bank (currently at 0.35% interest) and at the same time, purchase the Billy Goat debris machine from Messick’s for \$8,000, less \$1,200 in trade-in value for the 3 pieces of used equipment that we have in the shop. That would still leave a balance of \$52,876.75. The items that are being offered for trade-in are a LandPride mower deck, a Meteor snow blower and a Bush Hog blade attachment. Supervisor Donahey agreed with opening the CD, but objected to spending \$6,800 for the Billy Goat machine. Vice Chairman Burd questioned whether the \$1,200 trade-in value was enough for the used equipment.

Chairman Beaver expanded upon the potential amount of use that the Township would get from having the Billy Goat machine and again said he thought the purchase would be beneficial for the Township. Chairman Beaver moved that the Board address the high checking balance in the General Fund by opening a \$50,000 Easy Access CD at Pennian Bank at the current interest rate and the same time take up Messick’s offer to sell us a new Billy Goat machine for \$6,800. Vice Chairman Burd requested that the two items be introduced as separate motions. Supervisor Donahey agreed. Chairman Beaver restated the motion to simply use



\$50,000 from the General Fund checking account to open an EZ Access CD at Pennian Bank at the current interest rate. Vice Chairman Burd seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

A second motion was made by Chairman Beaver to purchase the Billy Goat machine from Messick's for a net cost (\$8,000 - \$1,200 trade-in) for \$6,800. Vice Chairman Burd seconded the motion for purposes of further discussion. A lengthy discussion ensued. Vice Chairman Burd would like to see the trade-in value re-negotiated with Messick's to see if we can do better. Chairman Beaver made a motion to purchase the Billy Goat machine from Messick's for a maximum, delivered to the Township, of \$6,800, with the understanding that he will re-negotiate the trade-in value with Messick's. Beaver/Burd: Vote was Beaver/Burd, Yes; Donahey, No. Motion carried.

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

The minutes of the HTMA from their May 17, 2021 and DRAFT minutes for the June 21, 2021 meetings were previously sent to all Board members. Vice Chairman Burd stated that the system was tested in June and everything worked with a few minor bugs. The Authority is in the process of installing 3 back-up generators for the pump stations with automated equipment to turn them on in the event of an emergency. The target date to activate the system is now August 1, 2021 to have the letters sent out to the residents to hook on to the system. Newport Plaza will be the first to come on line as they will be decommissioning their package plant. Vice Chairman Burd related that the Municipal Authority is looking into the cost of setting up a website that is separate from the Township website, particularly to look into the idea of allowing their customers to be able to pay their bills on-line.

SOLICITOR REPORT

Solicitor Dave Jones was not present at the BOS meeting. Chairman Beaver gave an update on two items. The work on the Sign Provisions continues as we are waiting for Solicitor Jones to compile the work done at the last work session and



commit to writing. Beaver also expressed a desire to incorporate a number of additional updates to the Zoning Ordinance at the same time. A laundry list of zoning updates, including but not limited to: Air BnB's to Outdoor Dining and Virtual Restaurants, to Livestock vs. Pets, etc. were presented to Solicitor Jones for consideration and were also previously shared with the Board.

An update on Buffalo Commons Crossing (RACP Grant) was presented to the Board by Chairman Beaver. While we have seen what we believe to be the final Land Development Plan, there is a concern that Hamm Equities still owes HRG money for outstanding invoices amounting to \$22,942.02. This was addressed in a Zoom meeting with all of the stakeholders (Developer, Engineer, HTMA & Township). There appears to be confusion regarding who is responsible for paying these bills. Chairman Beaver made it clear that the Board would not entertain approval of the Final LD Plan if the outstanding invoice amounts were not satisfied. Mike Hess of HRG was assigned to spearhead the investigation to get to the bottom of who really owes how much to HRG for the Design Services that have been provided.

JUNIATA SEWAGE COMMITTEE

Vice Chairman Burd reported that their bi-monthly meeting was held last Wednesday night. He discussed the financial condition of the JSC and talked about changes that are on the horizon. The JSC is wondering whether the member municipalities would consider providing funding from the ARP money that will be distributed by the Federal government. The Solicitor has stated the he does not believe we can stretch ARP far enough unless we can show that revenue was less in which case there are no restriction on the funds under the Revenue Replacement provisions of the ARP plan. The bottom line is that Solicitor Jones thinks it's a stretch. Chairman Beaver related that the Solicitor approved, in writing, that the Board could grant the JSC a certain amount of money, for example \$1,000 or \$2,000, by a majority vote of the Board. This would not be dependent on what the other municipalities do. Vice Chairman Burd indicated that he wanted time to reach out to some of the other members



were doing and report back to the Board, so any potential action was tabled until we have further information.

Chairman Beaver questioned when the next round of mandatory pump-outs of OLDS systems will begin. Vice Chairman Burd indicated that it will come up next year. He also added that we need to amend our Ordinance so that the property owner pays for the on-site inspection of the systems, not Howe Township.

ZONING REPORT

Chairman Beaver offered that two Zoning Permits were issued by CK-COG. One Permit was issued to Kyle Bobo and Erika VanDyke for a new home at 105 Juniata Parkway. Another Permit for a home occupation was issued to Glenn Scott at 6 Gypsy Hollow Road.

ROAD MASTER

Road Master Beaver reported that the guide rail project on Gypsy Hollow Road was completed by Chemung Supply. The invoice for the work for \$15,086.00, as quoted, will be forthcoming. The snow removal attachments for the New Holland tractor/loader were scheduled to be shipped to Messick's by the end of June. Beaver will follow-up with Larry Herman to determine the estimated delivery date.

Wayne Wilson, laborer, informed Beaver that at the end of the year (12/31/2021), he will be retiring. An immediate search for a replacement will begin. Given the current labor market, it may be difficult to find a replacement without the Board getting creative with some kind of incentive to attract a qualified individual.

Also, while the road crew was out sweeping the roads in preparation for the Tar & Chip process, the New Holland tractor which runs the sweeper attachment, broke down. The engine overheated and began spewing coolant throughout the engine compartment. I immediately placed a call to Messick's as the equipment is still under warranty. After a number of back-and-forth phone calls, it was agreed that



Messick's would send a service technician to the site of the break-down to repair the tractor. After closer examination, it was determined that a belt was frayed and broken.

PLANNING COMMISSION

There was no Planning Commission meeting in June. As previously mentioned, the Buffalo Crossing Commons final LD Plan may come before the Board in August, if it is determined by HRG that it does not need to be cycled back through the Planning Commission for review.

OPEN FORUM

Luke Roman asked if the recycling/trash pickup site at the Park & Ride was an approved location for CCD to pickup before and now it's not. Chairman Beaver replied that we (the Township) do not know who made the arrangements with CCD. The PSP (State Police) spoke with CCD about this, not Beaver nor anyone representing the Township. Supervisor Donahey offered that not only was the Park & Ride a recycling spot, but people started dumping their orange (household) garbage bags there as well. That attracted even more trash such as cardboard and other trash that should not have been placed there. If what Corporal Short from the PSP told us is correct, the location will not be a site to drop off any materials, recycling or otherwise.

Luke also questioned what the SAM number was, which is required in order to have Federal funds distributed to the Township. The acronym SAM stands for (System for Award Management). Chairman Beaver explained that acquiring a SAM number is a process that is required by the Feds in order for Federal funds to be distributed to any entity, in our case, the Township. It is required by everyone who is applying for ARP funds through DCED. The award will be released in two installments. A discussion ensued regarding permissible uses of the ARP funding. We will have until December 31, 2024 to spend the ARP money. Luke also questioned what the Billy Goat machine was. Beaver explained that it was piece of equipment that vacuums up leaves and debris, grinds it and shoots the ground-



up material out of a chute. It is used by the road crew to clean out culverts and gutters along the roadside in order to keep water flowing toward the culverts and not out on to the road surfaces.

Chairman Beaver adjourned the meeting at 6:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale W. Beaver, Chairman