

MINUTES

Those in Attendance: Chairman Adam Bills, Supervisors: Ray Rice, Craig Keenan, Marlin Groff, and Samuel Beiler; Secretary/Treasurer Karen Farra, Zoning Officer Walter Hockensmith, Bob Devonshire, Blaine Stoltzfus, Marik Tomassetti, Ken Esh, Doug Brubaker, Jason D. Smith, Joshua Knosp, James Knosp, John Stoltzfus, Jacob A. Dolbow, Neal A. Hershey, Barry Yunkin and Ben F. Beiler

**CALL TO ORDER**

Karen Farra, Secretary/Treasurer, called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

**RE-ORGANIZATION**

- Nomination for Chairman of the Board of Supervisors were opened by Karen Farra, Secretary.

**Nomination for the position of Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for 2022:**

Election of Chairman - Supervisor, Craig Keenan, **motioned** to elect Adam Bills for the position of Chairman. Second by Supervisor, Marlin Groff. All ayes. **Motion Approved.**

**Nomination for the position of Vice-Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for 2022:**

Chairman Bills called for Election of Vice-Chairman. Supervisor, Ray Rice **motioned** to elect Marlin Groff for the position of Vice-Chairman. Second by Supervisor, Craig Keenan. All ayes. **Motion Approved.**

- Marlin Groff **motioned** to close nominations. Second by Ray Rice. All ayes. **Motion Approved.**
- Marlin Groff **motioned** for approval of the following 2022 Appointments/Re-Appointments. Second by Craig Keenan. All ayes. **Motion Approved** to make the following 2022 Appointments/Re-Appointments:

<u>Annual Appointments/Re-Appointments</u>	<u>Current Appointments</u>	<u>2022 Appointments</u>
Appointment of Township Secretary/Treasurer - <b>Karen Farra</b>		<u>Approved</u>
Appointment of Sewer Secretary/Treasurer - <b>Michele Anderson</b>		<u>Approved</u>
Appointment of Township Manager/Road Master - <b>David S. Thompson</b>		<u>Approved</u>
Appointment of Paradise Township Sewer Authority Board Member - <b>Dennis Groff</b>		<u>Approved</u>
Establish Amount of the Treasurer's Bond - <b>\$2,000,000/700,000</b>		<u>Approved</u>
Establish Amount of Township Manager's Bond - <b>\$2,000,000/700,000</b>		<u>Approved</u>
Establish Amount of Sewer Secretary/Treasurer Bond - <b>\$2,000,000/700,000</b>		<u>Approved</u>
Appointment of Chief Administrative Officer for Pension Plan - <b>Karen Farra</b>		<u>Approved</u>
Appointment of Township Auditor for Term of 6 Years - <b>Lisa Herr</b>		<u>Approved</u>

Appointment of State Association Delegate - <b>Marlin Groff</b>	<u>Approved</u>
Certify Delegates to the PSATS State Association Convention on April 24-27, 2022 - <b>Supervisors, Treasurers, Zoning Officer</b> <b>Township Manager</b>	<u>Approved</u>
Appointment of Emergency Management Coordinator – <b>Leon Fisher</b>	<u>Approved</u>
Appointment of Depositories - <b>PNC Bank, Edward Jones</b>	<u>Approved</u>
Appointment of Co-Op Chipper Depositories - <b>Ephrata National Bank</b>	<u>Approved</u>
Appointment of Co-Op Belt Loader Depositories - <b>Ephrata National Bank</b>	<u>Approved</u>
Appointment of Township Legal Counsel - <b>Blakinger Thomas, P.C.</b>	<u>Approved</u>
Appointment of Township Engineer - <b>Rettew Associates</b>	<u>Approved</u>
Appointment of Vacancy Board Chairman – <b>Karen Farra</b>	<u>Approved</u>
Appointment of Sewer Enforcement Officer (SEO) - <b>Dale High</b>	<u>Approved</u>
Appointment of Township Planning Legal Counsel - <b>Matt Crème</b>	<u>Approved</u>
Equipment Operators - <b>Blaine Stoltzfus, Bryan Stoltzfus Craig Keenan</b> <b>David Thompson &amp; Walter Hockensmith. In case of emergency,</b> <b>other operators may be required &amp; appointed with approval of Roadmaster.</b>	<u>Approved</u>
Appointment of Zoning Hearing Board Member – <b>Levi Stoltzfus</b>	<u>Approved</u>

- Craig Keenan **motioned** for re-appointment of any and all other Board or Commission Members with current standing members as long as they are willing to serve. Second by Ray Rice. All ayes. **Motioned Approved.**
- Marlin Groff **motioned** to approve the mileage reimbursement rate at the **2021** IRS Rate is \$0.56 per mile, with this rate to be adjusted to IRS 2022 mileage rate once it is released by the IRS. Second by Ray Rice. All ayes. **Motion Approved.**
- **Building Inspection Services:** Ray Rice **motioned** to approve the following inspection service agencies for 2022. Second by Samuel Beiler. All ayes. **Motioned Approved.**
  - (1) Commonwealth Code Inspection Services (CCIS)
  - (2) Building Inspection Underwriters (BIU)
  - (3) Associate Building Inspections (ABI).
- **Distribution of 2021 Year-End Profit and Loss Report**
- **Reorganization portion of meeting adjourned at 6:24p.m.**

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**TOWNSHIP REPORTS**

**ZONING HEARING BOARD:**

- Reports submitted by Zoning Officer, Walter Hockensmith.
- 3566 Lincoln Hwy E. – Lydia Stoltzfus, Owner: Request to ratify November 4, 2021 Nuisances Notice of Violation & Enforcement Notice - Violation of Nuisance Ordinance

Sections 2 (a), (b) & (c), and Ordinance No. 4, Section 2F – Storage, accumulation or depositing of any abandoned or junked vehicles, building materials, garbage, ashes, rubbish or other refuse matters. Marlin Groff **motioned** to ratify the November 3, 2021 Nuisances Notice of Violation & Enforcement Notice. Second by Craig Keenan. All ayes. **Motion Approved.**

#### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS:**

- David & Amos Fisher – 391 Osceola Mill Rd: Financial Security Reduction Request No. 1. Marlin Groff **motioned** to reduce Financial Security to \$16,438.00. Second by Ray Rice. **Motion Approved.**
  
- Adoption of Resolution No. 2022-3 Revising First Due Response Territories Assigned to Officially Recognized Volunteer Fire Companies.
  - Marlin Groff asked if this matter was adequately advertised. Chairman Bills responded yes. Marlin Groff then **motioned** for discussion. Second by Craig Keenan. All ayes. **Motion Approved.**
  
  - Craig Keenan presented prepared statement relating to this matter, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein as if fully set forth herein.
  
  - Marlin Groff presented prepared statement relating to this matter, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein as if fully set forth herein.
  
  - Adam Bills stated there have been extensive and important discussions on this issue. Advised that the Board of Supervisors are not trying to shut any fire companies down and are hoping everyone can come together to better serve the community. He stated this Resolution represents the Township’s recognition to move forward with consolidation with those fire companies willing to participate in this process.
  
  - Chairman Bills called for a vote to **adopt** Resolution No. 2022-3. Ray Rice voted no to the Resolution, Craig Keenan voted yes to the Resolution, Marlin Groff voted yes to the Resolution, Samuel Beiler abstained from voting due to his lack of involvement in discussions held prior to this point in time, and Adam Bills voted yes to the Resolution. With the majority of the Board of Supervisors in favor, **Resolution No. 2022-3 is Adopted.**

#### **PERSONS TO BE HEARD/PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Neal Hershey, Chief Paradise Leaman Place Fire Company. Mr. Hershey stated that at a meeting held last Monday night, he was told the Township was not involved. Mr. Hershey stated Paradise Leaman Place Fire Company has always been willing to talk. Chairman Bills responded that he agrees that they have always been willing to talk, and no one has ever said otherwise, but they have never been willing to work together with regard to consolidating.

- Unnamed Gentlemen asked why the Township would not give Paradise Leaman Place some area so they can keep running. Chairman Bills said the new map recognizes those fire companies will to work with the Township. Vice-Chairman Marlin Groff stated that the ultimate goal for the future is to have a map that shows all one territory.
- Unnamed Gentlemen asked what research was done to develop the new map. Chairman Bills said he spoke with Kinzer Fire Company, Gordonville Fire & EMS, Bart Township's Fire Chief and the County regarding the coverage areas.
- John Stoltzfus, Chief, Strasburg Fire Company. Chief Stoltzfus asked how the Township decided who would run 896 - what if there is a cardiac emergency? He also stated that his concern is for life and property and asked if the Supervisors had thought about that. Chief Stoltzfus closed by asking if the Township had consulted with Paradise Leaman Place Fire Company when determining the new map. Chairman Bills said the decision of the Board of Supervisors was made after consulting with the fire companies assigned to the new first due territories and that Paradise Leaman Place was not consulted in drafting of the new map. Vice-Chairman Marlin Groff commented that what was approved tonight will take shape and change as the consolidation proceeds.
- Barry Yunkin, President Paradise Leaman Place Fire Company. Mr. Yunkin stated they plead for DCED involvement and were not aware they were uncooperative.
- Bob Devonshire welcomed Samuel Beiler.

#### ADJOURN

- At 7:20 p.m., Marlin Groff **motioned** to adjourn meeting. Second by Craig Keenan. All ayes. **Motion Approved.**

Thank you Chairman Bills

First off I would like to thank Supervisor Groff, Supervisor Bills and Supervisor Rice for allowing this to be tabled for thirty days at our November meeting so I can speak with the Officers and Crew of all three departments involved.

I would like to thank Supervisor Rice for arranging a meeting with members of the Paradise-Leaman Fire Company to discuss their feelings and concerns with the merger. I felt the meeting was informative though some comments were concerning, but the overall meeting was encouraging. Most of the members there I felt were in favor of a meeting with Kinzer Fire Department. Ray and I did speak after the meeting and felt the meeting went well.

I spoke with both Kinzer and Gordonville. Members from both squads seemed disappointed and tired of the stall tactics and out of character comments about their Squads, but was really encouraged and optimistic when both squads decided to have a meeting with Paradise. My optimism changed to disappointment by the outcome of the meeting.

I too was involved with a consolidation of Squads, though in our case they were dissolving one squad and members either joined the other two or resigned. There is no Fire Company being dissolved here just a consolidation, you (Paradise) are not being shut down so why the fight. This really concerns me. You know, I would really be honored to worked alongside anyone of these members if I would ever decide to become active again, But the Officers in this squad are involving personal feelings that is of no concern to this Fire Department. These Departments are here for OUR community. They entrust in their Townships Fire and Rescue and EMS to be there when the need comes up that they are in need your services.

So in conclusion I would like to thank the Task force, fellow Supervisors, our counselor and you, the community for all of your time and contributions. So my feeling on this matter is that as long as the Officers continue to lead this Fire Department, preventing it from growing and working with the other squads, township and community they will be left behind.

Saying that it saddens me to say I am going to have to vote in favor of the resolution.

Thank You Mr. Chairman for the time to speak.

1/12/2022 6:33 AM

## Consolidation Statement

To Paradise Township <paradisetown@comcast.net>

Karen

I noticed I missed a few words in the written version I sent you. Here is my corrected statement to include in the Jan 3 BOS Minutes.

Statement Requesting Approval of 3-2022 and to move toward consolidation of fire companies.

I want to thank all the people who gave their time in multiple meetings and in the many conversations and discussions about this topic. I want to thank Chairman Bills for initiating a plan to address this concern. I want to thank the task force and the leaders of the three fire companies for the work that they've done to get us to this point. I realize that we're not at a point of consensus. But we are at a point where we have some clear direction to a stronger future.

I'd like to think that we went into this question in good faith, that throughout the process we would be good to each other, and we would respect each other regardless of the outcome. I'm asking that we continue to operate in good faith.

In the past months we've learned a lot about the strengths of each of these fire companies. We've learned that there are things that can and need to be improved in the way our fire companies operate and are organized. We've learned a lot about leadership, we learned about the difficulty of implementing, and accepting change. And we have learned about ways that we can be more fiscally responsible. I also want to thank the people in this audience who've invested their time and energy into this process, who have come here to these meetings and attended other meetings and have listened to the various points of view.

That being said, I went into this process of believing that consolidation of our fire companies was something that should be seriously considered. I believe the action we took in October to move toward a consolidation was the right decision. And I believe passing the resolution before us is the right thing for us to do tonight. I believe passing this resolution is the next step to bring stronger emergency services to our community.

Marlin Groff

January 3, 2022

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Marlin G. Groff

[Redacted Signature]