

MINUTES

Those in Attendance: Chairman Adam Bills, Vice-Chairman Marlin Groff, Supervisors: Raymond Rice, Craig Keenan and Samuel Beiler, Township Manager David Thompson, Township Secretary/Treasurer Karen Farra, Zoning Officer Walter Hockensmith, Roadmaster Blaine Stoltzfus, Michael Hartmann, Samuel L. Esh, Amos K. Esh, Mose H. Esh, Amos L. Esh, Wanda Ranck, Thomas Hersh, Mark A. King, Ephraim King, Christ fisher, Henry Stoltzfus, Sam Fisher, Levi Fisher, Fannie (last name illegible), Deborah Boynton, (first name illegible) M. Fisher, Elmer P. Esh, Josh Knosp, Paula Knosp, Jim Knosp, Bob Devonshire, Henry Fisher, Robert Tusing Amos S. Fisher, Judith Tusing, Nick Lopez, Elisa Ranck Fleming, Wendel Ranck, Amos Fisher, Elam Beiler, Jr. Randy Kunkel, Jason Smith, B.J. Yunkin, John Stoltzfus, Marik Tomassetti, Mel Fisher, Alvin Fisher, Ivan King, Henry S. Fisher, Elmer E. Fisher, Christ Fisher, Noah Fisher, Marcella Peyre-Ferry (LNP Correspondent), Dave Anderson, Jenni Weidman, Jim Weidman, Ben Beiler, Chris Beiler, Jacob Dolbow, Daniel Beiler, Paul Zook, Ivan Fisher, Ervin Fisher, Daniel Beiler, Many Stoltzfus, Jonas Fisher, Sam Petersheim, Neal Hershey, and other members of the community that did not sign in.

CALL TO ORDER/FLAG CEREMONY

MINUTES

- Raymond Rice **motioned** to approve the Board of Supervisors Workshop Meeting Minutes for March 8, 2022. Second by Craig Keenan. All Ayes. **Motion Approved.***
- Marlin Groff **motioned** to approve the Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes for March 15, 2022. Second by Samuel Beiler. All Ayes. **Motion Approved.***

TREASURERS REPORT/BILLS

- Craig Keenan **motioned** to approve the March 2022 Treasurer's Report. Second by Marlin Groff. All Ayes. **Motion Approved.***
- Raymond Rice **motioned** to approve the April 2022 Disbursement List of Bills to be paid. Second by Marlin Groff. All Ayes. **Motion Approved.***

PERSONS TO BE HEARD/PUBLIC COMMENT: None at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Invitation to register for APWA May 20, 2022 Golf Outing.
- Lancaster Chamber April 1, 2022 letter regarding membership.
- April 2022 MRM Trust Notes.
- MRM Trust Workers' Compensation Pooled Trust 2022 Dividend Distribution.
- MRM Property & Liability Trust 2022 Dividend Distribution.

- Lancaster County Assessment Totals by School District and District.

TOWNSHIP REPORTS

TOWNSHIP MANAGER

- Updates by Township Manager, David Thompson.
- March 15, 2022 Request to DCED for Keystone Community Grant Project Extension.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

- March 22, 2022 Memorandum regarding Municipal Neighbor Update on Fire Company Merger.
- Mr. Thompson read emergency services March 2022 call report.

ROADMASTER:

- Updates by Township Manager, David Thompson.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

- Updates by Supervisor, Craig Keenan.
- Mr. Thompson advised the Charles & Janet Groff Petition to Re-Zone matter is pending proper advertising and Lancaster County Planning Commission review/hearing, so it will likely be June before this matter can be finalized.

ZONING HEARING BOARD:

- Report submitted by Zoning Officer, Walter Hockensmith. Mr. Hockensmith reminded those in attendance to maintain yard maintenance now that the warmer weather is upon us.

PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION:

- Updates by Supervisor, Raymond Rice.
- Mr. Rice advised that Darrell Blank has stepped down from the Parks and Recreation Commission and it is the desire of the Commission to have David Yothers appointed to take Mr. Blank's place.
- Raymond Rice **motioned** to appoint David Yothers to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Second by Craig Keenan. All Ayes. **Motion Approved.**
- Raymond Rice **motioned** for approval of installation of park memorial bench for Darryl Beiler. Second by Craig Keenan. All Ayes. **Motion Approved.**

SEWER AUTHORITY & SEO:

- March 7, 2022 Minutes of Paradise Township Sewer Authority.
- Updates by Township Manager, David Thompson.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

- *Briefing Item:* 272 S. Kinzer Rd - Laverne G. Riehl: Rettew April 4, 2022 Review No. 1 Letter.
- *Briefing Item:* 74 Iva Rd - David S. Beiler: Rettew April 11, 2022 Review No. 1 Letter.
- Raymond Rice **motioned** to appoint Craig Keenan as the Township's State Association Delegate. Second by Samuel Beiler. All Ayes. **Motion Approved.***
- Marlin Groff, Vice Chairman presented his Amended Notice of Resignation from Board of Supervisors effective April 19, 2022. Craig Keenan **motioned** to accept Mr. Groff's resignation. Second by Raymond Rice. All Ayes. **Motion Approved.*** Mr. Bills shared his thanks and appreciation to Mr. Groff for his service to the Township and on the Board of Supervisors.
- Samuel Beiler **motioned** to appoint Allen Fisher as Supervisor to Board of Supervisors. Second by Raymond Rice. All Ayes. **Motion Approved.***
- Samuel Beiler **motioned** to appoint Allen Fisher as Vice Chairman of Board of Supervisors. Second by Craig Keenan. All Ayes. **Motion Approved.***

PERSONS TO BE HEARD/PUBLIC COMMENT:

Received multiple comments from the public relating to the merger of emergency services as follows:

- Wanda Ranck. Ms. Ranck advised she received a letter from Strasburg Fire Company that their and Paradise-Leaman Place Fire Company (hereinafter "PLPFC") first due territory area was taken away, and that PLPFC was removed from call boxes, defunded and closed by Paradise Township. She feels this is irresponsible. They shouldn't have to wait on Gordonville Fire & EMS, instead of Strasburg Fire Company and PLPFC, to respond to a call. Minutes matter. If it were not for Strasburg Fire Company and PLPFC, during the fire at her property in 2018, much more of her property would have been burned and destroyed. Ms. Ranck further criticized the Township's decision to remove PLPFC's first due territory stating she feels the decision amounts to a hostile takeover that ripped the hearts and souls out of the men of PLPFC. Ms. Ranck further emphasized she feels the actions taken by the Township are irresponsible and jeopardize community safety. She asked Mr. Bills about having golfed with someone from Gordonville Fire Company, and what the plan, time table, etc., is for the merger of emergency services. Mr. Bills responded he had golfed with someone from Gordonville Fire Company. He further advised Ms. Ranck that PLPFC is still able to operate in the Township and were only recently taken off of the call boxes, but meetings are being held between PLPFC and the members of the emergency services consolidation Steering Committee. It is the hope and intention of the Supervisors that PLPFC be a part of the merger. Later, Ms. Ranck asked how is this situation making the community safer. Mr. Groff said the Supervisors tried to listen and understand PLPFC's perspective, and that PLPFC had an entire year to participate in the merger discussions and chose not to. Ms. Ranck said she thinks the Township bullied PLPFC and that is

a hostile takeover. Mr. Groff expressed he disagrees with this assessment as PLPFC had a chance, and still has chance, to be a part of the merger.

- Steve Shearer. As at prior month's Board of Supervisors Meeting, Mr. Shearer again referenced a medical emergency response by Gordonville Fire & EMS where their ambulance had to stop on the way to a call to pick-up a person from Strasburg Fire Company. He also again referenced an email between Adam and Neal Hershey, Chief PLPFC, regarding the first due territory resolution. Mr. Shearer provided a copy of redacted email chain that only showed a portion of the email for January 5, 2022, which also had the names of recipients of the email redacted. Mr. Bills read the email allowed for the public. This document had been made a part of this record. Mr. Groff asked Mr. Shearer what he feels is the significance of this email. Mr. Shearer said it shows how Gordonville Fire & EMS said they didn't want to take PLPFC's territory and wanted to know why the resolution changing first due territories can't be changed. Mr. Bills said it can be changed, but will not be at this time as a result of the conversations and actions that have taken place since its adoption.
- John Stoltzfus, Chief Strasburg Fire Company. Mr. Stoltzfus said the Township said it is unacceptable for Strasburg Fire Company to have taken Gordonville off their call boxes and advised they did put them back on. He asked the Supervisors to justify taking PLPFC off of call boxes. Mr. Bills advised this was a decision made by the emergency services merger Steering Committee and he won't go into the reason why, but can tell him discussions are being had to remedy the situations that instigated the removal of PLPFC from the call boxes. Mr. Stoltzfus stated he feels the decision is unprofessional then asked who responds at Belmont that has a rescue. Mr. Bills advised that is Kinzer Fire Company's territory, but he does not know the operational procedures for calls.
- Eliza Ranck Fleming. Ms. Ranck Fleming presented prepared statement relaying circumstances of major fire in 2018 to which Strasburg was first on scene. In this situation, just one minute difference in response time could have cost her home. She further relayed that PLPFC has knowledge of access ways to the property, which saved time and allowed them to save their tobacco barn. She stated she does not understand the political or financial reasons for Strasburg being removed from first due territory, but would like to see the financial and any other explanation as to why this is the best move. She would like to know who the Township is listening too and if input is being sought from others. Mr. Bills advised the fire company merger Steering Committee is consulting with others who have gone the consolidation process and the Supervisors believe the community will be well-served by the consolidation/merger.
- Unnamed Person. Member of community asked why the Township is moving forward with the merger if the task force recommended against it. Mr. Bills explained the task force recommended against the consolidation at that time due to the discussions being unproductive due to the animosity expressed by PLPFC. He further advised that the State has been pushing for regionalization of emergency services, so it is important that the Supervisors be proactive in pursuing the merger rather than re-active.
- Mr. Fisher (first name not heard). Mr. Fisher said PLPFC is in favor of the merger, just not the way it is happening, so why not let Gordonville Fire & EMS and Kinzer Fire Company merger, give PLPFC back their first due territory, and if they like how the merger goes, they can join later. He thinks otherwise the Townships is putting lives at risk.

- Unnamed Person. Gentlemen commented about Gordonville Fire & EMS, Kinzer Fire Company and PLPFC all being dispatched at the same time for accident in front of barber shop (on Route 30). He then asked Mr. Hockensmith about property across from the barber shop with open and unprotected basement/hole. Mr. Hockensmith said the owner started to fill the basement, the stopped and put the property up for sale, but he will be reaching out to the owner to secure the area.
- Unnamed Person. Asked how can the Township say they are not shutting down PLPFC when no longer funding them and they get no calls? Mr. Bills explained the Supervisors voted on a 90-day moratorium on funding and the decision to remove PLPFC was an operational decision made by the merger Steering Committee. Meetings were held to discuss the matter. Asked if Mr. Bills if he was in the meetings. Mr. Bills said yes and it is his position to support the decisions of the fire companies participating in the merger.
- Unnamed Person. Asked who sent out letters about PLPFC being taken off boxes. Mr. Bills and Mr. Thompson explained a memorandum is provided to neighboring townships updating them on the status of the merger, and this was information was part of one of this memoranda.
- Unnamed Person. Is there anyway the Township will consider going back to the drawing board? Things have gotten too personal, feels it is best to get everyone out of the process and have DCED to a study. Mr. Bills responded he understands this position and agrees things have gotten very personal
- Unnamed Person asked who the Townships representative is on the emergency services merger Steering Committee. Mr. Bills advised he is. Person asked is it necessary to have a Supervisor on the Committee – thinks it is a conflict of interest.
- Unnamed Person asked who is on the Steering Committee. Mr. Bills stated names of Committee members.
- Jonas Fisher. Mr. Fisher referenced another merger of emergency services wherein one of the four fire companies involved in the merger chose not to participate in the merger. In that case, that one fire company continued to run, kept their first due territory and was still funded by their Township. Why can't Paradise's Supervisors do that with PLPFC?

ADJOURN

- At 8:03pm, Marlin Groff **motioned** to adjourn. Second by Craig Keenan. All Ayes. **Motion Approved.**