

- MINUTES
 - Pittston Township
 - Board of Supervisors Meeting
 - September 21, 2020
 - Pittston Township Municipal Building

Meeting will be open to the public

LIMITED TO 25

Call Meeting To Order 7:00 PM

- Pledge of Allegiance -
- Roll Call Slezak ___P___ Hawk _P___ Steve Rinaldi ___AB___

Agenda - Inserted on Web Page on Thursday, September 17, 2020

Minutes: minutes of the Supervisors regularly scheduled August 17, 2020 was distributed to Supervisors for their review, comments and/or corrections.

Questions/Corrections

- **Motion:** To ACCEPT minutes of August 17, 2020 as presented to the Supervisors for their review, comments and/or corrections.
 - Slezak _M___ Hawk _S___ Rinaldi _____
 - Roll Call: Slezak _Y___ Hawk _Y_ Rinaldi _____

Supervisor Comments

Supervisor Hawk discussed the crime watch program and wished to continue moving forward with this project. The committee is exploring the tax exempt status

Supervisor Hawk discussed the concept of a long range planning committee. Mr. Bonita said that he would participate. Mr. Hawk will take names to interested residents.

Yard Waste:

Residents are reminded that they must call before Tuesday in order to be on the list for yard waste pickup. Supervisor Slezak commented that he expects to continue the program to the middle or end of October, longer, weather permitting.

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Quail Hill - Pittston Twp., Dupont Boro and Avoca are submitting a joint municipal applications for a grant in amount of \$716,379.30, with a match contribution of \$307,019.70 which will be shared 50/50 with Dupont Borough for Quail Hill, Phase 1 only. Acceptance of roads in Phase 1 will be contingent upon receiving the grant. Engineering and survey study must be conducted and it was mutually decided to engage Colwell-Naegele Associates, Inc. for \$35,000, \$10,000 will be the obligation of the Township

Question on Quail Hill

- **Motion:** To hire Colwell-Naegele Associates, Inc. engineering to perform survey and engineering study with a maximum cost to the Twp. of \$10,000,
 - Slezak _S_ Hawk _M_ Rinaldi _____
 - Roll Call: Slezak _Y_ Hawk _Y_ Rinaldi _____
- **Motion:** To enact Resolution 9-01 of 2020 to submit a joint municipal grant application in amount of \$716,379.30, with a match contribution of \$307,019.70 which will be shared 50/50 with Dupont Borough for Quail Hill, Phase 1 only.
 - Slezak _M_ Hawk __S__ Rinaldi _____
 - Roll Call: Slezak _Y_ Hawk _Y_ Rinaldi _____
- **Motion:** To authorize Supervisors to sign settlement agreement concerning the Quail Hill Development as negotiated by our Solicitor and with the Solicitor's approval.
 - Slezak _M_ Hawk __S__ Rinaldi _____
 - Roll Call: Slezak _Y_ Hawk _Y_ Rinaldi _____

Independent Audit of 2019 Books and Records -

An audit was conducted by an Independent Certified Public Accountant on the books and records of Pittston Township and was presented to the Supervisors on September 9, 2020. The audit was available for public inspection beginning September 14, 2020 between the hours of 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM Monday and is listed on the Web Site piittstontownship.org

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Mr. Bonita highlighted certain revenue and expenditures in the 2019 audit report and stated that the auditor issued an "unqualified opinion" which is the highest level of assurance that an independent CPA can issue.

Mr. Bonita then discussed some revenue projections for 2021 received from HA Berkheimer.

- Earned Income Tax Revenue is projected to be \$50M less due to COVID - 19
- Local Service Tax Revenue is projected to be \$35M less due to COVID-19
- Mercantile Tax Revenue is projected to be \$200M less due to COVID-19

Operating expenses for 2021 will remain relatively constant but his projections show that the Twp. will not have a surplus as it did in 2020. Naturally, his projections are based on current conditions which are dependent on the recovery period the economy will experience.

Question on Audit Report

- **Motion:** To accept the audit which was conducted by an Independent Certified Public Accountant on the books and records of Pittston Township

• Slezak _M_ Hawk _S_ Rinaldi _____
 Roll Call: Slezak _Y_ Hawk _Y_ Rinaldi _____

904 Recycling Performance Grant 2019 - Mr. Bonita reports that on September 10, 2020 the Township received \$60,050 for its 2019 recycling efforts. This represents 80% of the Township's entitlement and is one of the highest in Luzerne County.

2021 Minimum Municipal Obligation - Based on actuarial assumptions by Duda Actuarial Consulting, the 2021 Township Minimum Obligation for pension plans administered by the Township are:

Police Pension	\$55,964
Non Uniform Pension	20,557

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The Township receives State Aid from the Commonwealth on full time employees of the Township who participate in the plan. The State Aid reduces the obligation of the Township

Question on MMO

- **Motion:** To accept the computation of the 2021 MMO as prepared by Duda Actuarial Consultants and provide the suggested amounts in the 2021 operating budget of the Township

- Slezak _S_ Hawk _M_ Rinaldi _____
Roll Call: Slezak _Y_ Hawk _Y_ Rinaldi _____

2020 Scholarship - thank you card from Scott and Maureen Shandra thanking the Supervisors for the scholarship awarded to Devin Shandra

Luzerne County Hazard Mitigation Plan

Correspondence from Luzerne County urging the Township to adopt Luzerne County 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan. Twp. will maintain its eligibility to be the beneficiary of hazard mitigation grants over the next 5 years when we/if we adopt this Plan. If the Twp. does not adopt the Plan, it may jeopardize our eligibility to benefit from these grants starting as early as November. The plan was forwarded to our solicitor to review. He reviewed and inquired about this plan and found nothing wrong with the Twp. adopting the plan. Supervisor Hawk questioned as to what this exactly meant. Mr. Bonita read from the resolution "**WHEREAS**, PITTSTON TOWNSHIP, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania is most vulnerable to natural and human-made hazards which may result in loss of life and property, economic hardship, and threats to public health and safety

- **Motion:** To adopt Luzerne County 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan and enact Resolution 9-02 of 2020

- Slezak _S_ Hawk _M_ Rinaldi _____
Roll Call: Slezak _Y_ Hawk _Y_ Rinaldi _____

New Business

- **Motion:** To ratify pre-paid \$ 191,599.13 and bills payable in the amount of and \$ 65,118.55

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payroll and related expenses for payroll period ending

8-19-2020	53051.67
9-02-2020	59100.44
9-16-2020	49875.48

HARFORD	931.56
PRINCIPAL	563.98
AFLAC	95.38
HASSLER	125.00

M&J Excavating (Church Road) \$224,372.40

BHW Building Inspector \$ 2486.86

Question/Comments on the Motion

- Slezak _S_ Hawk _M_ Rinaldi _____
- Roll Call: Slezak _Y_ Hawk _Y_ Rinaldi _____

Fire Department

Received notification of Volunteer Fire Relief in the amount of \$26,344.28 which is scheduled to be direct deposited on September 22, 2020. This must be paid over to the Volunteer Fire Relief fund within 60 days of receipt.

- **Motion:** To disburse the Volunteer Fire Relief fund proceeds received to the Ptn Twp. Volunteer Fire Relief Fund \$26,344.28

- Slezak _M_ Hawk _S_ Rinaldi _____
- Roll Call: Slezak _Y_ Hawk _Y_ Rinaldi _____

Road Department -

Resignation - Jeff Tomko, part time road worker resigned from employment in Pittston Township effective September 18, 2020

- Motion - to accept part time road worker resignation from Jeff Tomko effective September 18, 2020

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Supervisor Slezak stated that he would like to replace Mr. Tomko with a full time employee and possibly an additional part time worker.

Police

Letter from Chief Angelella requesting additional full time police officer. Chief Angelella was asked to discuss the full time needs of the community. She stated that the officer in question was now working 32 hours per week and the additional 8 hours would cut into other part time hours. The need for full time officers is necessitated by increased citations, investigations, etc. It would confirmed by Mr. Bonita that police officers are in demand and the last time advertisements were made by the Twp. only two responses were received. There has been a significant increase in both miles patrolled and magistrate fines received by the Township. Chief stated that she had a good, qualified officer in mind, Anthony Demark, and felt that if the Twp. did not act on this she would lose him to another department and it would create a void in her department.

Jim Sulima, a Twp. resident, a consultant with other police departments, also noted that there is a shortage of police officers, both part time and full time.

Joseph Hawk stated that he has received numerous calls requesting more police protection.

- Motion - to hire as a full time police officer Anthony Demark with benefits in accordance in the current collective bargaining agreement.

Question/Comments on the Motion

Both Supervisors commented on the need for full time qualified police officers.

• Slezak__S__ Hawk __M__ Rinaldi __
 Roll Call: Slezak__Y__ Hawk __Y__ Rinaldi ____

- Motion - to ACCEPT police report as submitted by Chief Angelella

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Zoning/Code

Lot 34 - Center Point

On October 21, 2019 according to Penn Eastern E mail all items were addressed and again on March 9, 2020 another e mail was received from PennEastern indicating that final approval can be granted to his project

- Motion - to grant approval of this project

Question/Comments on the Motion

• Slezak__M___ Hawk __S___ Rinaldi ___
 Roll Call: Slezak__Y___ Hawk __Y___ Rinaldi _____

AVP Avoca Airport Aviation Hanger - letter from PennEastern recommending approval of land development upon approval contingent upon applicant addressing comments contained in Mr. Amato's letter . T. Best was asked if the applicant addressed the comments and he stated no. Action on this matter was TABLED

Chapman St./Butler Heights Subdivision - In September 2019 comments were issued by PennEastern regarding this subdivision. Plans were presented to the Supervisors in September 2020 for verification but went unsigned. Upon review by Mericle representatives and Mr. Bonita it was determined that appropriate notes had to be inserted in the revised plans and that the plans presented were not adequately noted. Mericle was advised to revise the drawings and insert the appropriate note. Mericle agreed to add the notation to the deed(s). A letter from Mericle stating that the proper notations were on the revised plans and that the notation would be included on future deeds.

Question/Comments on the Motion

- Motion - to accept revised plans with proper notations and have Supervisors sign

• Slezak__M___ Hawk __S___ Rinaldi ___
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MS-4

Web Page - received a letter from WVSA MS-4 stating that the new web page designed by Computer Visionaries complied with the requirements of the MS-4 program.

Report

WVSA, Phil Campeni prepared and submitted a report concerning activity by WVSA and the Twp. regarding the MS-4 activity in the Twp. To recap activities to date:

	2020
Streets Swept (Curb Miles)	31.2
Catch Basins Cleaned	1
Storm Drains Replaced	7

Public Comment

Donna Renaura - Italian Citizens Club - complained about the fence being down and the vegetation being overgrown. Mr. Bonita asked Terry Best to respond. Ms. Renaura was informed that a citation was issued July 13, 2020 against the IACC and he was awaiting the case before the Magistrate. Solicitor has been in touch with members and was informed that their insurance claim was denied and they had no money to repair/replace. Mr. Renaura asked about the grant IACC received and was explained to her that his was a LSA grant which the Twp. was asked to submit on behalf of service clubs in the area, one of which was the IACC. No funds of the Twp. went to the IACC.

Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn

- Slezak __M__ Hawk _S__ Rinaldi __ _
Roll Call: Slezak __Y__ Hawk _Y__ Rinaldi __ _