

▪ **MINUTES**
▪ **Pittston Township**
▪ **Board of Supervisors Meeting**
▪ **May 20, 2024**
▪ **Pittston Township Municipal Building**

Call Meeting To Order 7:00 PM

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call Slezak ___P___ Hawk ___P___ Taroli ___P___
- An executive session was held on May 1, 2024 and May 16, 2024 regarding general litigation and personnel

Minutes: minutes of the Supervisors regularly scheduled April 15, 2024 presented to Supervisors for their review comments and/or corrections.

Questions/Corrections – NONE HEARD

- **Motion:** To approve minutes of April 15, 2024

Slezak ___M___ Hawk ___S___ Taroli ___
Slezak ___Y___ Hawk ___Y___ Taroli ___Y___

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY – Any public guest who is to provide testimony to the Board during a meeting should state their name (spell their last name) and address, and if speaking for an organization, the name, and identity of the organization.

Supervisors Comments

Township 2023 Audit Report Presentation by Auditors

Tom Rainey and Don Fennoch from Rainey & Rainey, CPAs, our independent auditors, were in attendance to provide the board of supervisors a presentation on our audited financial statements for fiscal year 2023. Mr. Rainey pointed out that the opinion of the financial statements was an “unmodified” opinion, which is the cleanest opinion of the financial statements that could be given in the audit. He also commented on some of the financial figures on some of the pages in the audit.

Mr. Rozitski further commented regarding the financial statements that approximately 68% of the mercantile tax in 2023 was from eight (8) taxpayers. He finally commented that the police pension is underfunded by \$393,537. He said that that would only come into play if there is a disaster scenario in which all of the police officers that participated or are participating in the police pension all retire at once. Mr. Rozitski reported that the audited financial statements will be available on the website for public viewing on 5/21/2024.

- **MOTION:** To accept audited financial statements from Rainey & Rainey, CPAs, for Pittston Township for fiscal year 2023.

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Slezak ___ Hawk __S___ Taroli _M___
Slezak _Y__ Hawk _Y__ Taroli __Y___

Zoning Officer/Code Enforcement Officer Hiring Consideration

Mr. Rozitski recommended to table the appointment of the zoning and code enforcement officer with reasons as explained to the supervisors earlier.

- **MOTION:** To TABLE the appointment of Joseph Jones as part-time zoning and code enforcement officer at a rate of \$20.00/hr.

Slezak__S___ Hawk __M___ Taroli ___
Slezak _Y__ Hawk _Y__ Taroli __Y___

The appointment was TABLED.

Notification from Dupont Borough About Election Site

The Township received notification from Dupont Borough that after this election year, they would like the Township to look into moving the election site from the Dupont Borough DPW garage to another location. They are requesting this since it requires Dupont to move so much of its equipment and the lighting is not the best in the garage. Mr. Rozitski will notify the Luzerne County Election Bureau after the election is over and certified of the pending change requested.

Transportation Road Impact Fees—OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Rozitski brought up an open discussion with the supervisors about transportation road impact fees. These impact fees are a way to raise revenue to be used directly for road infrastructure projects. If the supervisors are interested in exploring these impact fees, Mr. Rozitski said he could meet with Solicitor Sanguedolce to get the process started, but our current engineering firm, CNA, does not specialize nor doesn't have any experience with impact fees. The Township would most likely need to receive quotes from professional engineering firms that has experience with these impact fees. Supervisor Hawk pointed out that CNA is appointed on a case-by-case basis so since this is an area CNA is not experienced with, he takes no issue in soliciting quotes from another firm for this project.

Curtis Muffley, a resident, inquired if this would affect any property owners. Solicitor Sanguedolce said the fees would be based on the weight limit of the vehicles on the roads, so no cars would be affected. Supervisors Hawk, Taroli, and Slezak all agreed to give Mr. Rozitski permission to talk to Solicitor Sanguedolce about these fees and solicit quotes from engineering firms.

Pittston Township v. RDM Construction Group Update

Back in 2022, the Zoning Hearing Board denied an appeal from RDM Construction Group to construct a warehouse off Commerce Road in a R-1 district. The Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas ruled in favor of the Pittston Township Zoning Board on the appeal. RDM Construction Group further appealed the case to the PA Commonwealth Court, who recently

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ruled in favor of RDM Group. The Pittston Township Board of Supervisors has just filed a petition to the PA Supreme Court to hear the case, which will not just have implications in Pittston Township, but throughout the state. We are hoping to hear shortly on whether the PA Supreme Court will hear the case or not.

All supervisors and Mr. Rozitski said they are concerned about the ruling if the PA Supreme Court does not hear the case as it would not be just Pittston Township that is affected, but the whole Commonwealth of Pennsylvania would be affected as well as the ruling would be binding statewide.

Garbage Bag Update

The Township recently had our annual bag drive on May 9th and May 10th from 9am-5pm at the Fire Building on North Township Blvd. Despite the weather, we pushed through and the drive was a big success. There are too many people to thank, but Mr. Rozitski just wanted to say thank you to the street department for their assistance with handing out the bags and recycling bins both days and to the fire department for their hospitality for both days. Mr. Rozitski also thanked Supervisor Taroli and the administrative staff for their help in getting the envelopes and logistics for the drive ready as well.

Going forward now that the drive is over, the Township is asking residents that missed the bag drive to stop by the Township from Monday-Friday from 8am-4pm to pick up their envelope and bags to take with them.

Financial

- **Motion:** To ratify arch-April pre-paid bills in the amount \$188,345.36, and bills payable in the amount of \$ 22,859.40 and payroll and related expenses for payroll period ending

Payroll Week Ending	4-10-24	76,355.40
	4-24-24	72,494.13

PLIC	832.20
Amazon	39.32
Aflac	66.86
AmTrust	10,747.00
Adobe	21.19
PR Transfer	76,355.40
Neopost	100.00
Hartford	1,514.09
Splashtop	104.94

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UCC	108.00
Neopost	100.00
PR Transfer	72,494.13
Amazon	7.99
Amazon	10.99
FNCB	131.00

BHW—April 2024--\$3,382.35

Handwritten Checks:

Check #9112—4-3-2024-Luzerne County Planning Commission--\$80.00

Check #9113—4-19-2024-Matthew Chesniak--\$1,000.00

Check #9114—4-29-2024-Pittston Twp Sewer Authority--\$309.59

QUESTIONS/CONCERNS—None heard

Motion to approve payment of bills and unpaid bills.

Slezak __M__ Hawk __S__ Taroli __
 Slezak __Y__ Hawk __Y__ Taroli __Y__

Emergency Management Report

Supervisor Hawk reported that there is not too much happening across the various departments. Supervisor Hawk noted that there was some minor equipment purchased for the departments during the month.

Fire Department

Incident Report – Supervisor Hawk dispensed with the reading of the report.

QUESTION/CONCERNS – None heard.

- Motion to approve incident report

Slezak __S__ Hawk _____ Taroli __M__
 Slezak __Y__ Hawk __Y__ Taroli __Y__

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Ambulance Report

Monthly report for April 2024—Supervisor Hawk dispensed with the reading of the report.

- Motion to approve ambulance report
 Slezak __S__ Hawk _____ Taroli __M__
 Slezak __Y__ Hawk __Y__ Taroli __Y__

Police

POLICE REPORT - submitted by Chief Angelella – Supervisor Hawk dispensed with the reading of the report.

Supervisor Hawk also noted that Sgt. Navarro and K-9 Zeus graduated from national K-9 school, which is good for the police department and Pittston Township as a whole.

- Motion to approve police report as submitted
 Slezak __M__ Hawk __S__ Taroli ____
 Slezak __Y__ Hawk __Y__ Taroli __Y__

Part-Time Patrolman Hiring Consideration

- **MOTION:** To appoint Angel Brazdzionis as part-time patrolman for Pittston Township at a rate of \$23.57 per hour as per the police CBA.

Slezak __S__ Hawk __M__ Taroli ____
 Slezak __Y__ Hawk __Y__ Taroli __Y__

Chairman Slezak swore in Patrolman Brazdzionis and provided him with the oath of office.

Road Department –

Baker Chapel Phase II Update

Mr. Rozitski reported that the Township recently advertised the invitation to bid for Phase II of the Baker Chapel road project in the Citizen’s Voice on May 3rd and May 7th. We had our pre-bid meeting with our engineers and interested contractors for the project on May 14th at 12pm here at the building. We are scheduled to have our bid opening meeting on May 30th at 2pm here at the municipal building. With this time frame, Mr. Rozitski is projecting to consider awarding the project at the June 2024 board of supervisor’s meeting.

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Armstrong Road Project Update

Mr. Rozitski reported that the Township received the executed DCED Multimodal Transportation grant paperwork back from DCED. The street department and our engineers are working on preliminary specifications and design of the Armstrong Road project. They were out on Armstrong Road marking the road up and measuring the road as well.

Parnell Street Stormwater Project Update

This is a project we have been putting pressure on our engineers to start for awhile. The reason for the delay is that they have to start surveying the road, and the engineers have been having a hard time finding a surveyor. CNA finally were able to schedule one and they were out at Parnell Street surveying last Wednesday.

Recreation - Parks

Oriole Park—Resolution to Apply for GTR Grant

- **MOTION:** To approve Resolution 5-01 of 2024 to approve Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program grant application for Oriole Park improvements.
 - Slezak __S__ Hawk _M__ Taroli __
 - Slezak __Y__ Hawk __Y__ Taroli _Y__

Zoning

Flood Plain Management Ordinance

As mentioned in the April 2024 meeting, Pittston Township received notification from the county that our Flood Plain Management ordinance was required to be updated by June 2024 to be eligible for the National Flood Insurance Program. A draft of the updated ordinance was presented to the Pittston Township Planning Commission and Luzerne County Planning Commission and no comments were provided by both agencies. Mr. Rozitski reported a public hearing was held prior to the general supervisors meeting on 5-20-2024 at 6:30pm.

- **MOTION:** To approve Article 15 – Flood Plain Management as an amendment to the 2013 Zoning Ordinance, as presented and reviewed with no comments from the Pittston Township Planning Commission and Luzerne County Planning Commission.
 - Slezak __ __ Hawk _M__ Taroli __S__
 - Slezak __Y__ Hawk __Y__ Taroli _Y__

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Centerpoint East Land Development Plans

- **MOTION:** To approve land development plans for Centerpoint East Phase IIB Lot 38 (Mericle 112 Armstrong, LLC) as previously approved and recommended for approval by the planning commission and township engineers.
 - Slezak__M__ Hawk _S__ Taroli __
 - Slezak__Y__ Hawk __Y__ Taroli _Y__

- **MOTION:** To approve land development plans for Centerpoint East Phase IIB Lot 40 (Mericle 112 Armstrong, LLC) as previously approved and recommended for approval by the planning commission and township engineers.
 - Slezak__M__ Hawk _S__ Taroli __
 - Slezak__Y__ Hawk __Y__ Taroli _Y__
- **MOTION:** To approve land development plans for Centerpoint East Phase IIB Lot 42 (Mericle 112 Armstrong, LLC) as previously approved and recommended for approval by the planning commission and township engineers.
 - Slezak__M__ Hawk __ Taroli _S__
 - Slezak__Y__ Hawk __Y__ Taroli _Y__
-

Engineering Report –April 2024

Mr. Rozitski reported that other than the land development plans for Centerpoint East that were just approved, all other projected are status quo and remain with the applicants to correct the comments from the planning commission.

MS-4

Supervisor Taroli reported that, at 4-30-2024, there is \$66,010.73 in the MS-4 savings account.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS -- Any public guest who is to provide testimony to the Board during a meeting should state their name (spell their last name) and address, and if speaking for an organization, the name, and identity of the organization.

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Gary Worosilla—

Mr. Worosilla started by commenting the opening day festivities of the little league this year. He is just upset of the traffic enforcement and traffic pattern that took place. He said he witnessed an Avoca police officer watch someone park in front of a fire hydrant and the police officer just walked away. He requests a better traffic pattern and traffic plan for the fireman's picnic in June. Mr. Rozitski commented that he knows that Mr. Consagra has spoken to Chief Lena Angelella multiple times about the traffic plan and road closure for the fireman's picnic, but will further talk to Chief Lena Angelella about the traffic plan as well.

Joe Lakowski—

Mr. Lakowski started by telling the supervisors that he sent an email to them and Mr. Rozitski regarding a zoning map issue and zoning map change request changing an I-1 district to an R-1 district for an area in Suscon. He said he did not receive acknowledgement of receipt from Mr. Rozitski as of the time of the meeting. Mr. Lakowski requests that before the new zoning map is adopted, he is requesting that the supervisors, Mr. Rozitski, and Jack Varaly tour the area and consider the change.

Solicitor Sanguedolce said there is pending litigation about the area that Mr. Lakowski is debating and nothing further could be done with the area until the litigation is resolved. Mr. Lakowski asked if the supervisors could consider holding off on the zoning map change until the pending litigation is resolved. Mr. Rozitski said he could discuss with the supervisors if they would like to go in that direction, and a decision will be made from there.

Sal Montagna—

Mr. Montagna provided the board of supervisors with some pictures of abandoned vehicles in properties surrounding Mr. Montagna's property and requested if something could be done about the abandoned vehicles, which are an "eyesore". Mr. Rozitski took the pictures that was provided by Mr. Montagna and will address the situation with the code enforcement officer to see what could be done.

Ron Marcellini—

Mr. Marcellini asked with the 4th of July coming around, what is the ordinance that Pittston Township has about fireworks. Supervisor Hawk said an ordinance was adopted a few years ago to follow the state's fireworks law, and that if they become a nuisance to a resident to call 911. Mr. Marcellini further asked how the Township will remind the public about the ordinance. Mr. Rozitski said they have resident emails from the garbage bag drive and could send out an email to all community members with emails we have, and that we could provide a copy of the ordinance to Mr. Marcellini if he desires.

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Curtis Muffley—

Mr. Muffley stated his concerns about the speeding and weight limits of the traffic in the Glendale section of Pittston Township. Mr. Muffley said the speeding is getting out of hand in the area in which he resides. Mr. Rozitski said he will speak with Chief Angelella to see if more traffic enforcement could be done in that area to curtail the speeding.

Supervisor Hawk—

Supervisor Hawk wanted to address some of the phone calls, messages, and emails he has received about concerns with Mr. Fred DeSanto speaking at the opening day of the little league. Supervisor Hawk said that the little league opening day is not a Pittston Township-sponsored event, and that as an attendee, he was not going to rip the microphone out of Mr. DeSanto's hands. Mr. Lakowski, an attendee, stated the Pittston Township Little League would not exist without Mr. Fred DeSanto.

Adjournment:

Motion to Adjourn

- Slezak__ __ Hawk _M__ Taroli _S__

Roll Call: Slezak__Y__ Hawk __Y__ Taroli __Y__