

The regular monthly meeting of the Fox Township Board of Supervisors was held February 3, 2016 at 6:00 PM. Those present: Mike Keller, Dave Mattiuz and Randy Gradizzi, supervisors, Kathy Dowie, secretary-treasurer, Amy Cherry, newspaper reporter, Leon Blashock, Deb Straub, Don Ruffner, Cheryl Ruffner, JoAnn Grazioli, Linda Krise, Jackie Himes, Mike Kamandulis, Steve Skrzypek, Jim Nissel, Ray Pollino, Shawn Mahoney, Rick Krishart, Chris Kline, Marissa Smith, DJ Sampson, Rob Woelfel, Judy Woelfel, Deanna Thompson, Debby Agosti, Don Breindel, Jon Carr, Terry Krishart and Mike Agosti.

Chairman Keller called the meeting to order and began by acknowledging the visitors.

Leon Blashock expressed his concern over the Board's decision to lay-off Debby Agosti and Gloria Kastner as park directors. He feels that creating only part time positions will result in a decrease in performance quality. He also asked why it was done before Randy could contact the Rec. Board members. Mike Keller responded that since Debby is Randy's sister, Randy has to abstain from the issue under the Ethics Law.

Don Ruffner gave an update on the maintenance items and program activities that the Rec. Board is currently working on, including: repairs to the restrooms, the basketball hoops at the community park, repair to the rubber surface, the Cruise In and Easter events. Don also asked about having the lot between the Township building and the park graded and planted to be used as a practice field. He asked if this could be done in house or should they get price quotes. He also stated that Kathy Dowie was looking into grant money to repair the ATV trail around the park. Kathy expanded on this by stating that the project could be submitted to two separate grant programs currently accepting applications. If both grants were awarded, there would be no cash contribution on the Township's park – only in-kind labor and some stone from our stockpile. Kathy asked the Board to submit a letter of support for this project. A motion was made by Randy Gradizzi, seconded by Mike Keller to provide a letter of support for the project. Before voting, however, Mike Keller stated that he was concerned about this trail ending onto a public highway. Kathy responded that she spoke with the DNCR representative and this was not a concern, as the ATV riders can safely cross the highway and proceed on to Green Road, a Township ATV road. Keller was also concerned about the liability of even having the ATV road. Rick Krishart commented that that trail is used by a lot of people. His girlfriend even uses it for cross country skiing at times. The vote was then unanimous to send a letter of support for the ATV grants.

Rick Krishart referred to a copy of the job description of the liaison for maintenance at the parks, as was presented to the Rec. Board at their last meeting. This position, which will be fulfilled by the Assistant Road Master (ARM), will be responsible for seeing that the park facilities are mowed and cared for when the park staff is not working. Krishart's concern was that two road crew people will be mowing grass at what he calculated to be \$80 an hour. Mike Keller responded that the Township is not paying an additional \$80 an hour for grass mowing. These are current employees that will assume the new duties within their day. Krishart was concerned about keeping the park in good condition without full time employees at the park. Keller assured him that the road crew had done the maintenance before and would do so again. Once the park staff is working, the college students would continue to mow as in the past. Krishart then continued with a concern that the landfill money being used in lieu of taxes. He asked if taxes alone would cover the Townships expenses. Keller responded that it would not at this time. That is why they are attempting to cut costs. Krishart felt that taxes should be raised a little each year and that the Township should not rely on Landfill money. Keller replied that he personally did not want to raise taxes until it was necessary. Krishart encouraged the Board to look at their spending and cut things such as dental and vision benefits that most places do not even offer any more. He suggested getting price quotes on things such as insurance and uniforms. Kathy Dowie responded that they have gotten price quotes on these items. Krishart stated that the Board needs to get more businesses and people to move to Fox Township. Krishart was also concerned that the wetlands boardwalk project not be forgotten since a lot of money had been put into obtaining the permits. Kathy Dowie responded that she checked on the status of the permits and confirmed that they will not expire until December, 2018. In the meantime, she will be pursuing price quotes and applying for grant funding towards the project.

Marissa Smith, a former summer park employee, was concerned about the time it takes to mow all the facilities and felt that a couple of guys from the road crew would not be enough, particularly if there were emergency road situations that need attending to, such as a flood. Smith asked what the Board was doing in case the landfill leaves. Dave Mattiuz replied that he has been preaching the very same concern since he took office. That is why he is cutting costs. Randy Gradizzi also responded that they have cut costs in the road department by doing maintenance (such as seal coating) to make roads last longer and require less expensive repairs. Smith then asked where the money that was allotted for Debby Agosti and Gloria Kastner's positions was going. Mattiuz responded that it was not yet decided. Mike Keller stated that in his opinion, it should go to the roads. Health and safety was his priority for the Township. Smith again asked Keller about the fundraising activities they did at the park and why it was a problem when many of the hours were volunteer. Keller responded that he was not aware of what hours were volunteer but felt that it was not an appropriate activity for the PHEAA program.

Rob Woelfel asked those present if their own business took a big cut in income if they too would take drastic measures. He continued by saying that Fox Township has 1/3 the taxes of St. Marys. His son just started a business in Fox Township and pays much less than a friend of theirs does for a business in a much smaller structure in St. Marys. Woelfel and his wife chose to live in Fox Township many years ago because of the lower taxes. In his opinion, raising taxes is not the way to attract more businesses and residents. The park is a nice asset, but people are not moving here because of the park.

Deanna Thompson asked if the Board's plan was to fade out the park program, to which they responded "no." She asked who would be the go to person for the park for Little League and Soccer. Dave Mattiuz responded that Little League and Soccer are not the responsibility of the Township. During the summer months, the park staff will be their go to people for concerns with using the fields but that is all. Mike Keller responded that the Rec. Board should have always been the go to "person" for recreation concerns. Thompson asked if this decision was made by just the three supervisors and did the Rec. Board discuss the issue. Keller responded that this was his decision to bring it up to the Supervisors. He had given the Rec. Board a heads up just prior to the Township meeting but could not speak to them as a group since the Rec Board does not meet in December. It was then voted on at the Township meeting.

Debby Agosti asked why she was laid off permanently. Mike Keller responded that he felt the Township did not need a full time person for that position. She then asked Dave Mattiuz how much he had given towards park development over the years. Dave responded that he did not know a figure off hand. Agosti replied - \$0! She then asked Don Ruffner where the Rec Board got the information on what needed done. He replied that it had been discussed before to which Debby replied that she had made that list. She then asked why her and Gloria were not called in ahead of time and given the option to go part time or why was it not discussed at budget time. Keller stated that it took him that long after the budget to think about it and make his decision. Dave Mattiuz replied that he has been laid off many times and has never been asked to go part time or given any conversation about the decision.

Terry Krishart felt that the two sentences within the park liaison description that state "the ARM will need to coordinate with the Roadmaster..." and "the ARM will not have to get permission from the Roadmaster..." are conflicting and confusing. Randy Gradizzi added his concern that the ARM should at least get permission to use a second employee. Mike Keller responded that this person needs a little autonomy to come and go.

A motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Mike Keller to approve the minutes from the meeting of January 4, 2016. Motion carried.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Landfill inspection report dated 1/05 was received and is available for review.

A list of recently approved Form U applications for disposal of material at the Greentree Landfill has been received and is available for review.

Notice has been received that Tamburlin Coal is filing for a bond release on the Vollmer Operation located in Fox Township.

A letter has been received from Steve Skrzypek to attend the Emergency Management Forum at the Hershey Lodge, April 17<sup>th</sup>. Steve is asking that only the tuition of \$95 be paid by the Township. No room or mileage is requested. A motion was made by Randy Gradizzi, seconded by Dave Mattiuz to approve this request. Motion carried.

A letter has been received from the Fox Township Manor board requesting that the township plow their parking lot. Due to a decrease in their occupancy, they are attempting to cut costs. Randy Gradizzi stated that they need to be aware that this will not get done until the roads and the senior center and other Township obligations are done. A motion was made by Mike Keller, seconded by Randy Gradizzi to have the Township plow the Fox Manor parking lot for the balance of this winter season. Motion carried with Keller and Gradizzi voting in favor. Mattiuz opposed. Dave Mattiuz stated that he felt there should be a written agreement with the Manor, releasing the Township of liability, especially if something should happen because it is not plowed right away. He also felt it should state that it will be plowed at the Township convenience and that it will be for only this year. A motion was made by Mike Keller, seconded by Dave Mattiuz to rescind the previous motion. Motion carried. A motion was then made by Mike Keller, seconded by Randy Gradizzi to plow the Manor for the balance of this winter season provided that they submit a letter releasing the Township from liability as previously discussed. Motion carried with Keller and Gradizzi voting in favor. Mattiuz opposed.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Randy Gradizzi stated that he looked at the streetlight request at the end of Mark Lane with the property owner and West Penn. The Township would have to pay for another pole and run the wire at a minimum cost of \$1,500. The request died for a lack of motion to take action.

Mike Keller stated that he would like a letter sent to the former Rec. Board members thanking them for their years of service. A motion was made by Randy Gradizzi, seconded by Dave Mattiuz to send these letters. Motion carried.

#### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

Dave Mattiuz prepared an ad for the two seasonal park directors. A motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Mike Keller, to place this ad in the Daily Press, Ridgway Record, Bradford Era and Courier Express for 3 non-consecutive days. It was asked if the wages and benefits would be included. Mattiuz responded no, that will be discussed at the interviews. Debby Agosti asked if they had to be Fox Township residents to apply. Mattiuz responded no, just like the summer workers do not have to be from Fox Township. There was also concern that this person have at least a GED education. The motion was amended to include a minimum GED education as well as a deadline of March 1<sup>st</sup> to apply. Motion carried. Once applications have been received, interviews will be conducted by a combination of the Board of Supervisors and the Rec. Board.

A motion was made by Mike Keller, seconded by Dave Mattiuz to approve the description for park maintenance liaison as presented. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Randy Gradizzi, seconded by Dave Mattiuz to advertise for bids for 1,000 ton of #3 limestone. Motion carried.

A vacancy remains on the Rec. Board. Ken Huey and Lori Mahoney have submitted requests to be considered for this position. The term will end 12/31/2020. A motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Mike Keller to appoint Ken Huey to the Rec. Board. Motion carried.

The following applications have been submitted for use of the Community Building:

Fox Twp. Fire Dept., March 19<sup>th</sup>, for a ticket bash.

A motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Randy Gradizzi, to approve this request. Motion carried.

The Elk County Fair Board has requested the use of the Municipal Building meeting room for their monthly meetings. The meetings will be held the second Tuesday of each month at 7 PM, except for the summer months. A motion was made by Mike Keller, seconded by Dave Mattiuz to approve this request. Motion carried.

St. Boniface had requested the use of the small deep fryers from the Concession stand for their Fish Fries. They have used them in the past. A motion was made by Randy Gradizzi, seconded by Mike Keller to approve this request for this year. Motion carried with Keller and Gradizzi in favor. Mattiuz opposed.

The following subdivision has been reviewed by the Fox Township Planning Commission and recommended for approval:

Aaron Kronenwetter and Larry Wittman are subdividing their lot located along Dagus Mines Road. Lot 1 (.055 acres) will be conveyed to Kronenwetter and Lot 2 (.055 acres) will be conveyed to Wittman as extensions to their existing lots.

A motion was made by Randy Gradizzi, seconded by Dave Mattiuz to approve this subdivision as presented. Motion carried.

#### **TRAINING**

Randy Gradizzi has requested to attend a Best Management Practices Workshop hosted by the Elk County Conservation District on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 – 2:30, in Ridgway. No fee. A motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Mike Keller to approve this request. Motion carried.

Rob Singer has requested to attend “Challenges of Existing Buildings,” February 12<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 – 4:00, in DuBois. \$75 fee. A motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Randy Gradizzi, to approve this request. Motion carried.

#### **The following bills were submitted for approval for payment:**

From the General Fund, check #26026 thru check #26060 in the amount of \$42,360.03

From the Landfill Fund, check #1718 thru check #1719 in the amount of \$548.00

From the Fire Protection Fund, check #1551 in the amount of \$10.49

From the Toby Water account, check #875 in the amount of \$371.00

For a TOTAL of \$43,289.52

A motion was made by Mike Keller, seconded by Dave Mattiuz to approve the bills as present. Motion carried with Keller and Mattiuz in favor. Randy Gradizzi was in favor of the motion but abstained from check #26029 to St. Marys Water, as he sits on the Board.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Randy Gradizzi, to adjourn this meeting at 8:31 PM. Motion carried.

The next regular monthly meeting will be held March 2, 2016 at 6 PM at the Municipal building.