

The annual organizational meeting and regular monthly meeting of the Fox Township Board of Supervisors were held January 4, 2016 at 6:00 PM. Those present: Mike Keller, Dave Mattiuz and Randy Gradizzi, supervisors, Kathy Dowie, secretary-treasurer, Amy Cherry, newspaper reporter, Robin Singer, Don Ruffner, Cheryl Ruffner, Ken Huey, Steve Skrzypek, Gloria Kastner, John Kastner, Marge McDermott, Bob McDermott, Betty Agosti, Tina Gradizzi, Rick Krishart, Linda Krise, Shirley Gradizzi, Debby Agosti, Jim Nissel, John Lilja, Ruth Lilja, Rhonda Bonfardine, Grace Doran, Marissa Smith, Ray Pollino, Bob Gradizzi, Mike Kamandulis, Alan Agosti, Terry Krishart, Justin Krishart, Torie Gradizzi, John Copelli, Shawn Mahoney, Lori Mahoney, Ed Lavella, Jon Carr, Kacie Carr, Robert Woelfel, Judy Woelfel, Bill Kline, Chris Kline, and Christine Geci.

A motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Randy Gradizzi to appoint Mike Keller as temporary chairman. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Randy Gradizzi to appoint Kathy Dowie as temporary secretary. Motion carried.

Temporary Chairman Keller then called the meeting to order and continued with the business of the organizational meeting.

A motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Randy Gradizzi to appoint Mike Keller as chairman. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mike Keller, seconded by Randy Gradizzi to appoint Dave Mattiuz as vice-chairman. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mike Keller, seconded by Dave Mattiuz to appoint Kathy Dowie as secretary-treasurer. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Randy Gradizzi, seconded by Dave Mattiuz to set the treasurer's bond at \$500,000. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Mike Keller to appoint Randy Gradizzi as Roadmaster. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Mike Keller to appoint Jerry Zimmerman as Assistant Roadmaster. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Randy Gradizzi to appoint David Pontzer as legal counsel. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Randy Gradizzi, seconded by Dave Mattiuz to hire an engineer as needed for projects after obtaining price quotes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Mike Keller to appoint Kathy Dowie as chairman of the vacancy board. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Randy Gradizzi, seconded by Dave Mattiuz to appoint Gerald Huff and Louella Moyer to the Planning Commission. Motion carried. These terms will expire on 12/31/2019.

A motion was made by Randy Gradizzi, seconded by Dave Mattiuz to appoint Jerry Zimmerman to the Sewer Authority. Motion carried. This term will expire on 12/31/2020.

A motion was made by Randy Gradizzi, seconded by Dave Mattiuz to appoint the following to the Recreation Board: Don Ruffner to the term that will expire 12/31/2020, Rob Singer to the term that will expire 12/31/2019 and Robin Calla to the term that will expire 12/31/2018. Motion carried. There remains another vacancy to this Board. Interested parties should submit a letter to the Township office.

A motion was made by Randy Gradizzi, seconded by Dave Mattiuz to appoint Matt Pontzer to the Zoning Hearing Board. Motion carried. This term will expire on 12/31/2018.

A motion was made by Randy Gradizzi, seconded by Dave Mattiuz to appoint Janet Otto to the Toby Water Advisory Board. Motion carried. This term will expire on 12/31/2020.

A motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Mike Keller to select First Commonwealth, CNB, PLIGIT, Farmers and Northwest Banks as depositories for the Township. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Randy Gradizzi to establish monthly meetings to be held the first Wednesday of the month at 6 PM at the Municipal Building. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Randy Gradizzi to appoint Mike Keller as voting delegate to the Annual PSATS convention and the other supervisors and the Township secretary as other delegates to the convention. Motion carried. The convention will be held April 17 – 20 in Hershey.

A motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Mike Keller to establish holidays for the employees as New Year's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, Day after Thanksgiving, First Day of Deer Season, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, plus three personal days. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Mike Keller to establish overtime as anything over 40 hours earned weekly. Motion carried.

Employee wages for this calendar year were set at the Budget meeting with a 25¢ per hour increase for all employees. Stackpole-Hall/PHEAA students will increase to \$8.00 per hour as per Stackpole-Hall.

Vacation will remain as established within the personnel policy.

A motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Mike Keller to set the mileage reimbursement rate equal to that set by the IRS at \$0.54 per mile. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Mike Keller to appoint Rob Singer as Sewage Enforcement Officer. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Randy Gradizzi to appoint Russ Braun as Assistant Sewage Enforcement Officer. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Mike Keller to appoint Rob Singer as Building Code Official. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Randy Gradizzi, seconded by Dave Mattiuz to establish on-lot sewage application fees at \$225 for new systems and \$185 for repairs. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Randy Gradizzi, seconded by Dave Mattiuz to establish equipment rental fees for emergency situations at: Grader \$65/hr. Backhoe \$55/hr. Large trucks \$55/hr. Small trucks \$45/hr. Street Sweeper \$70/hr., Front-end Loader \$65/hr. and Emergency Vehicles \$65/hr. All rentals must be with a Township operator. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Mike Keller to appoint Kathy Dowie as administrator of the pension plan. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Mike Keller to appoint Randy Gradizzi as open records officer. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Randy Gradizzi, seconded by Dave Mattiuz to establish the St. Marys Daily Press as the newspaper of general circulation for all required public notices. Motion carried.

With no other business to be addressed at the organizational meeting, a motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Randy Gradizzi to adjourn this portion of the meeting at 6:14 PM and move on to the business of the regular monthly meeting.

Chairman Keller began the agenda of the regular monthly meeting by acknowledging the visitors. The majority of the visitors present were there in support of Debby Agosti and Gloria Kastner who they felt did a great job as park directors and were upset that supervisors Keller and Mattiuz had voted at the last Township meeting to permanently lay these ladies off and create two new part time positions to direct the park. Many had the same concerns and comments with the following being the most emphasized:

Many of the residents questioned why Keller and Mattiuz, if wishing to save the Township money, would take health insurance coverage from the Township instead of their own employers. To this, it was explained that the Second Class Township Code allows for supervisors, even if not full time employees, to be covered by the Township's health insurance plan. When asked if they get a monetary kickback from their places of employment for not being on the health insurance, they both replied that they do not.

Many residents had concerns about who would maintain the park when the summer staff was not there. Mike Keller stated that his plan was to have the road crew work park maintenance into their daily schedules and that he plans on meeting with the roadmaster and crew to discuss this. They were also concerned about who would manage the college students in the summer. Keller explained that they will be preparing a job description for two part-time employees that will manage the summer park staff and the park programs. Many complimented Debby Agosti on her rapport with the children that attended the park programs and felt that the Board will have a hard time replacing Debby and Gloria with someone that will do as good of job. Keller stated that Debby and Gloria are welcome to apply for these two new positions.

Marissa Smith, a former summer park employee was concerned that with only 12 college students being hired this year and Deb and Gloria being laid off that the programs and maintenance tasks could not be accomplished at the level they were before. She also asked why they were not allowed to fundraise anymore, as she felt they raised a decent amount of money by fundraising. Mike Keller responded that he questioned the actual profit that was made if the staff expenses were taken into consideration.

Shirley Gradizzi questioned the pay of the other Township employees in comparison of Randy, the Roadmaster who manages the rest of the road crew. Keller responded that the auditors set Randy's wages. She was also concerned with Kathy Dowie being able to participate in activities of the Bicentennial (in 2013) and the ambulance on company time.

Debby Agosti thanked everyone for the support and the phone calls and stated that it was an honor to have worked with all the kids at the park over the years. Gloria Kastner asked if there was any way she could remain on the Township's insurance for a few more years until she was eligible for Medicare coverage – a package similar to what other employees received in the past. The Board did not think that would be possible. Kathy Dowie responded that COBRA coverage is an option.

Mike Keller was asked if he had given a lot of thought to this before making his decision. He responded that he did. When looking at the Township's budget trend, he feels that the decline in landfill host fees warrants this cut and maybe more cuts in the future to bring the Township back to living within its means. At the time the full time park director wage was created, the Township was making \$2.7 million a year in host fees. In 2015, the Township received \$883,000. He estimates that the Township will save \$60,000 by making this change. Many felt that that was not a significant amount to make what they felt was a drastic change to a program they felt was a huge asset to the community. Some even suggested raising taxes to compensate.

Terry Krishart, a member of the Rec. Board, asked why he was not contacted about this. Mike Keller responded that he had tried to contact Krishart and even left a message but that Krishart had not returned the call. Krishart asked why it was not addressed at the Rec Board meeting instead of by phone calls to which Keller responded that he did not realize the Rec Board did not meet in December. Krishart said the newspaper stated that the Rec. Board recommended this change and to his knowledge, not all the members were contacted. Keller replied that he did call everyone but Krishart, as explained, and Jim Doran, who had already resigned from the Rec Board prior to any conversation regarding this matter. Keller also stated he did not say the Rec. Board recommended this change, simply that he had talked to the members for input on the program.

Shawn Mahoney, president of Fox Township soccer, was concerned about the maintenance of the soccer fields. Keller directed him to attend the Rec. Board meeting that was to be held the next night but that his plan was to have the road crew keep up on the maintenance.

Mike Kamandulis stated that he has been attending the Township meetings for years and understood that budget issues. However, after hearing the residents concern for the park program, asked if perhaps someone could fundraise enough money to keep Debby and Gloria employed at their former capacity. Keller stated that if someone could accomplish that, would it be for a year or every year? It would have to be considered further.

With no other comments, Chairman Keller continued with the agenda.

A motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Randy Gradizzi to approve the minutes from the meeting of December 2, 2015. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Landfill inspection report dated 12/01 was received and is available for review.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Danielle Schneider, a recreation major with a focus in program coordinating, requested to do her internship at the Fox Township park during the 2016 summer term. A motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Randy Gradizzi to approve Schneider's request, placing her as one of the 12 to be hired at the park this summer at \$8.00 per hour. Motion carried.

Randy Gradizzi investigated the request for a streetlight at the end of Mark Lane. He stated that it is very dark, but there is no pole there to put a light on. Dave Mattiuz also spoke with Cameron Uhl who plows that road and that Cameron agreed that a light would help but was also concerned about where to put the pole. Randy will contact West Penn and look at it on site with the power company and the property owner for their suggestions.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board continued by discussing the Keller Road bridge inspection report and the recommended upgrade/repairs. Dave Mattiuz asked why Randy requested purchasing material to repair the endcap when other items looked like they were given higher priorities. Randy explained that he will be addressing the other items too, but that they can actually do this work now. The rest will have to be in the spring. The Board agreed to purchase the 50 feet of stainless endcap as suggested.

A motion was made by Randy Gradizzi, seconded by Dave Mattiuz to approve the following junkyard license renewals:

- Estate of Clayton Bennett, 289 Fairview Road
- Tom Kronenwetter, 131 Linwood Avenue
- Elk County Recycling, Dan Coudriet, 1388 Million Dollar Hwy.
- Rick's Used Parts, Rick Krishart, 724 Brandy Camp Rd, 251 Fairview Rd and 2145 Squab Hollow Rd.

Motion carried. Rob singer stated that there were no issues with any of these locations.

The following applications were submitted for use of the Community Building:

- Gerry Cheatle for the K of C, January 16th, 8 AM – 1 PM, "Hoop Shoot."

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

The following bills were submitted for approval for payment:

- From the General Fund, check #25992 thru check #26025 in the amount of \$55,283.58
- From the Landfill Fund, check #1716 thru check #1717 in the amount of \$1,494.86
- From the State Fund, check #3148 in the amount of \$18,514.17
- From the Fire Protection Fund, check #1550 in the amount of \$23,838.69
- From the Toby Water account, check #867 thru check #871 in the amount of \$3,056.95
- For a TOTAL of \$102,188.25

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 #26003 and #870 to St. Marys Water, as he sits on the Board.

OTHER BUSINESS

Randy Gradizzi stated that he has not been allowed to enter into any of the discussion concerning the park because Debby Agosti is his sister. However, he did thank her for all that she has done. He then announced that he will get on his wife's insurance policy from her employer and off of the Township's insurance, in order to save money. He also stated that he will forfeit the \$100 per month employees are paid for not being on the Township's plan.

Debby Agosti pointed out that it was her decision to not ask for sponsorship money in 2015 because there was a lot of other fundraising going on in the community for other things.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Dave Mattiuz, seconded by Randy Gradizzi, to adjourn this meeting at 7:47 PM. Motion carried.

The next regular monthly meeting will be held February 3, 2016 at 6 PM at the Municipal building.