

The regular monthly meeting of the Fox Township Board of Supervisors was held July 5, 2023, at 6:00 PM. Those present: Dave Mattiuz, Matt Pontzer, and Randy Gradizzi, supervisors, Kathy Dowie, secretary-treasurer, Robin Singer, Amy Cherry, newspaper reporter, Phil and Mary Day, Joyce Mosier, Rich Wonderly, Jay and Chrissy Dippold and Jim Nissel.

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

Mary Day and the other residents of Shelvey Road were present to follow up on the barking dog issue imposed by the kennel near their homes. Matt Pontzer commented that he visited the kennel and spoke with the owner, Shannon Shannon. At the time of his visit, there were 15 – 20 dogs housed at the facility per weekend. The owner stated that she has some barking collars and can get more, but that most of the dog owners don't like them being used. Dave Mattiuz commented that there has been no response from the Township Solicitor on the issue as of yet. Randy Gradizzi commented that he has been in area of the kennel on several occasions and has not heard the barking. Mary Day responded that when they are outside working, especially using power tools, the barking and even howling is terrible. Joyce Mosier commented that one of the dogs got out of the kennel and was running loose in the neighborhood. She caught it and reported it to the kennel owner.

Mary Day cited section 110-40 of the Township code that states:

“Within the RA District, kennels are a permitted use, subject to the following requirements:

E. The applicant shall demonstrate a working plan to prevent or alleviate any noise problems emanating from animals boarded on the site.”

She asked what plan was submitted for this kennel at the time it was permitted, to which the response was that there was no plan submitted. Dave Mattiuz asked what the residents suggested as a solution to which Day responded, no dogs should be housed until a sound barrier is erected.

Chrissy Dippold played a recording of the barking dogs on her phone that she recorded at her home to demonstrate how bad the situation is.

Rich Wonderly commented that he has been at the Human Society facility in St. Marys and that you cannot hear the dogs outside the building. He stated that it was constructed as a building inside a building and seems to be effective.

The Board will continue to investigate this issue and see what can be done. The residents sated they would continue to attend meetings until the problem is resolved.

A motion was made by Randy Gradizzi, seconded by Matt Pontzer, to approve the minutes from the meeting of June 7, 2023. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

The following Use of Facilities applications were submitted:

Chelsea Strathen, July 23rd, Main Street Park, Birthday Party

Lori Surra, Sept. 3rd, Main Street Park, family party

A motion was made by Matt Pontzer, seconded by Randy Gradizzi to approve these applications as submitted. Motion carried.

The following bills were submitted for approval for payment:

From the General Fund, check #29403 thru check #29448 in the amount of \$56,641.63

From the Fire Protection Fund, check #1680 in the amount of \$2,200.68

From the Landfill Fund, check #2190 thru check#2192 in the amount of \$26,651.50

From the Toby Water account, check #1498 thru check #1503 in the amount of \$9,417.94

For a TOTAL of \$94,911.75

A motion was made by Matt Pontzer, seconded by Dave Mattiuz to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried with Pontzer and Mattiuz in favor. Randy Gradizzi was in favor of the motion but abstained from check #1501, #29411 and #29406 to St. Marys Water, as he sits on the Board.

OTHER BUSINESS

Fox Township and Noble Environmental Greentree Landfill are partnering to offer five \$1,000 scholarships to qualified college students residing in Fox Township. To be eligible for either of these scholarships the student must

- have resided in Fox Township on a full-time basis and graduated from a high school within Elk County
- plan to continue their education in any science, environmental or engineering program of study within a state university or technical program.
- be in at least their second year of post-secondary education.

Applications are available at the Fox Township Municipal building or on-line at www.foxtownship.com. Completed application must be returned to Fox Township by July 24, 2023

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Randy Gradizzi, seconded by Dave Mattiuz, to adjourn this meeting at 6:19 PM. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be held August 2, 2023 at 6:00 PM at the Municipal Building.