

MINUTES
RICHLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
April 11, 2022

The Richland Township Board of Supervisors met for their regular meeting on Monday, April 11, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Richland Township municipal building, 322 Schoolhouse Road, Johnstown PA 15904.

All COVID 19 restrictions for social distancing and masks (if not vaccinated) were followed.

PRESENT

Robert Heffelfinger, Chairman

Keith W. Saylor

Brian H. Lehman

Jeffrey D. Wingard

Gary A. Paul

Bryan Beppler, Executive Director via phone conference

Kimberly Stayrook, Secretary

Forrest Fordham, Solicitor

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Chairman Heffelfinger called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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- Mr. Wingard moved to approve the minutes of March 28, 2022, as distributed, seconded by Mr. Lehman. All in favor. Motion Carried

APPROVE AGENDA - ANY CHANGES TO WRITTEN AGENDA

Mr. Heffelfinger asked that the following items be added to the agenda: Authorization to Spend All ARPA Funds for 2021 and 2022 for Salaries and Benefits.

- It was moved by Mr. Saylor to approve adding the Authorization for ARPA Fund Expenses, seconded by Mr. Wingard. All in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON AGENDA ITEMS - *The Public has the right and the opportunity to comment on any agenda item -None*

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter (copy) from Cambria County Conservation District to University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown – E&S Plan REACHland Pedestrian Crossing

A copy of a letter was received from the Cambria County Conservation District, addressed to UPJ regarding approval of the E&S Plan submitted for project REACHland Pedestrian Crossing proposed for Schoolhouse Road and Highfield Avenue.

OLD BUSINESS

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Resolution – Berwind Corporation/Leventry Road Phase 2 Subdivision Sewage Facilities Plan

A resolution was presented for Berwind Corporation’s Leventry Road Phase 2 Subdivision Sewage Facilities Plan Revision for Land Development. They proposed to develop four lots on Leventry Road and Highland extended the sewer line.

- It was moved by Mr. Paul to approve the Resolution for Berwind Corporations Sewage Plan Revision for Leventry Road, seconded by Mr. Lehman. All in favor.

Authorization To Spend All ARPA Funds received in 2021 and 2022 on Police and Roadcrew Salaries and Benefits

- It was moved by Mr. Wingard to approve spending the ARPA funds received for 2021 and 2022 on Police and Roadcrew salaries and benefits for 2021 and 2022, seconded by Mr. Lehman. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Payment of the Bills

- Mr. Saylor moved to pay the general fund bills totaling \$221,460.80, seconded by Mr. Paul. All in favor. Mr. Saylor noted the quarterly allocations for East Hills Recreation and Highland Library were included within the bills list, which is reflected in the total bills paid.

Cambria County Board of Assessment – Tirth Holdings LP (Super 8 Motel) Continuance

Attorney Fordham explained the Cambria County Board of Assessment appeals process. He indicated that Tirth Holdings aka Super 8 Motel had filed an appeal of their assessment but asked that the hearing be continued until August. He stated that the Richland School District takes the lead on tax appeals, as they have the biggest stake in the result.

Cambria County Assessment - Quality Inn Suites Hearing Scheduled for August 8, 2022

Attorney Fordham stated that the Quality Inn Suites has filed for a tax assessment appeal, and it has been scheduled for August as well. The same as Tirth Holdings, the owners of the Quality Inn Suites filed a tax assessment appeal, requesting a reduction in their assessment. He explained that as part of the appeals process, an outside party sometimes requests appraisals to come to a fair market value on properties.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Stayrook noted to everyone present that the next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held Thursday, April 21st at 6 p.m. and has been properly advertised as such. It was noted that the Board will be at the PSATS Convention, therefore the meeting was changed.

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Public Comment

Dave Strushensky, Mya Drive had questions on tax assessment appeals, the procedures and the affects the reductions have on residential property taxes.

A lengthy discussion was held with the Board, Mr. Strushensky and Attorney Fordham on the appeals process.

Alice Bragdon, Elsie Drive commented on the ARPA funds and using it for payroll expenses and Mr. Heffelfinger indicated that it is completely legal and by earmarking it for payroll, it does provide monies for other projects in lieu of payroll from the general fund.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly D. Stayrook

Administrative Assistant