

**MINUTES**  
**RICHLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**APRIL 8, 2024**

*The Richland Township Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Monday, April 8, 2024 at the Richland Township Municipal Building, 322 Schoolhouse Road, Johnstown, PA 15904 at 6:00 p.m.*

**PRESENT**

*Bob Heffelfinger, Chair*

*Gary A. Paul*

*Keith W. Saylor*

*Brian H. Lehman*

*Jeffrey D. Wingard – Via Team*

*Bryan J. Beppler, Executive Director*

*Kimberly D. Stayrook, Administrative Assistant*

*George Gvozdoch, Jr., Esquire*

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**AUDIENCE**

*Chairman Heffelfinger addressed the audience that was gathered at the meeting regarding issues they have with a Zoning Hearing Board scheduled to hear a request for Storage Units at the Galleria. He indicated that the Board of Supervisors have no say and nothing to do with the Zoning Hearing Board. They have their own 5-member board, as well as their own Solicitor. He said that there is no item on the agenda tonight that addresses the Zoning Hearing Board or the request for storage units. The topic will not be discussed. There will not be a question-and-answer session.*

*Attorney Gvozdoch stated that this issue is not a decision of the Board of Supervisors and that once the Zoning Hearing Board renders their decision, if anyone wishes to appeal, the issue goes directly to Cambria County Court. It does not come to the Supervisors at all.*

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*- Mr. Wingard moved to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2024 meeting as distributed, seconded by Mr. Paul. All in favor. Motion carried.*

**APPROVE AGENDA - ANY CHANGES TO WRITTEN AGENDA** – There were no changes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON AGENDA ITEMS** - *The Public has the right and the opportunity to comment on any agenda item. There were no comments.*

**CORRESPONDENCE**

*Tribune-Democrat Newspaper In Education – Sponsorship Award*

*The Tribune Democrat provided a Newspaper In Education Sponsorship Award to the Board of Supervisor as a Thank you for the 2023-24 school term.*

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**OLD BUSINESS**

*None*

**NEW BUSINESS**

***Payment of the Bills***

*- Mr. Saylor moved to approve the general fund bills in the amount of \$122,779.62, seconded by Mr. Lehman. All in favor. Mr. Saylor pointed out several noteworthy expenses.*

*- Mr. Saylor moved to approve the out of meeting check payable to Laurel Chrysler Dodge for a 2024 Durango in the amount of \$44,800.00, seconded by Mr. Lehman. All in favor.*

***Request from Fire Department for consideration of 2011 Sutphen 100' Ladder Truck***

*Mr. Beppler stated that the Richland Fire department has requested that the Board consider purchasing a used 2011 Sutphen for \$585,000 to replace the 2004 LaFrance. He has not investigated the finances, rate, or terms for consideration by the Board.*

*Mr. Lehman stated that he believes the Board needs further information regarding this request, including where the funding is in the current 2024 budget. He realizes that the Fire Department stated if the Board does not act, they would lose the firetruck. Mr. Heffelfinger noted it stays on the market.*

*Mr. Saylor noted the short time frame that has been given to the Board to make an informed decision, as they were not aware of this until the previous Tuesday, and it is on tonight's agenda. He also stated that the Board has been asked to spend \$585,000 that is not budgeted.*

*Mr. Heffelfinger asked Mr. Beppler, who owns the truck that is for sale, the Township, or the Fire Department. He thought perhaps Mr. Beppler could speak to the Fire Department regarding time frames.*

*Mr. Beppler stated that the information he was given was relayed to him by the Fire Department, he has not had any interaction with Broker vs. Municipality. He believes that it is a Broker managing the sale on behalf of the Township.*

*Mr. Saylor asked for clarification on the item as it is listed on the agenda. He stated that "for consideration" meaning the Board would authorize purchase or consideration to purchase tonight.*

*Mr. Beppler stated that the fire department would like it if the Board would provide a Letter of Intent, signed by the Board, to move forward with the financing. He noted that he looked at the budget and no money has been budgeted for this purchase.*

*Attorney Gvozdich stated that the Board could table the request, but it has to be the entire request.*

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*Mr. Heffelfinger stated that it would be nice to have a conversation with Fireline, township to township, but hard to do so in seven days.*

*Mr. Lehman stated that the Board could give it more consideration if it is a good deal, at a good price, but the Board needs to have a discussion and look at the budget to find money for an unbudgeted item.*

*- Mr. Wingard moved to table the request for Request from Fire Department for consideration of 2011 Sutphen 100' Ladder Truck until the next regular meeting on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, seconded by Mr. Saylor. All in favor. Motion carried.*

***Resolution #2024- 16 Disposition for Destruction of Richland Township Elected Tax Collector Records***

*Mr. Heffelfinger read Resolution #2024- for the destruction of Richland Township Elected Tax Collector Records, specifically copies of 2022 and 2023 R/E tax notices; copies of 2022 and 2023 per capita notices; Taxpayer personal information that arrives with payments from lenders for both business and property owners; letters from attorneys and closing companies regarding property transfers; and 2021 paper receipts for the entire year from all collections.*

*Mr. Gvozdich stated that he researches the Disposition of Township Records with the PA Historical Society and provided several specific items for Ms. Stayrook to review when requesting disposition of records for the tax office.*

*- Mr. Lehman moved to approve Resolution #2024-16, seconded by Mr. Paul. All in favor. Motion carried.*

***Public Comment***

*Dave and Marsha Strushensky had a discussion with the Board regarding the fire department request for a firetruck. The discussion included by was not limited to the height of the ladder, the funding necessary to purchase, fundraising, etc.*

*A resident of Bella Lane asked about Recycling and Spring Cleanup on Bella Lane. He stated that Pro Disposal provided everyone with blue recycling bins and are collecting them. So, for Spring Cleanup he wants to know if they will come on to his street. It was noted that this is not an accepted Township Street and Pro Disposal has not been authorized to pick up Recyclables at the residences. The residents and Pro have been advised that the bins must be taken to Mt. Airy Drive for pickup. So, Spring Clean Up cannot be picked up on Bella Lane either, as it is a private Lane. The Board asked Mr. Beppler to speak to Pro Disposal and remind them they are not to be driving their trucks on private roads for Township services such as recycling pickup and spring cleanup.*

*There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Kimberly D. Stayrook*

*Administrative Assistant*