

**PARADISE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 20, 2021**

Call to Order

Chair Gonze called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Gonze led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Public Comment Statement

Gonze read the public comment statement "*Ladies and gentlemen, before the Board of Supervisors votes on any matter, the Board will allow for public comment on that particular item. If you wish to be heard at that time, please raise your hand, and you will be recognized*".

Gonze stated that the meeting is being recorded for the limited purpose of preparing the official minutes.

Roll Call

Officials Present:

Peter Gonze – Chair

John C. Prevoznik – Solicitor

Reda Briglia – Vice Chair

Charles Unangst – Engineer

Michael Stein – Supervisor

Tina Transue – Secretary

Solicitor Prevoznik stated that there was an Executive Session that started at 5:44 p.m. and ended at 6:14 p.m. and all three Supervisors were in attendance. Solicitor Prevoznik stated that a personnel matter was discussed. No decisions were made.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Briglia moved and seconded by Stein to approve the December 6, 2021 Board of Supervisors regular meeting minutes as presented.

Motion carried 3-0.

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Treasurer's Report

Transue read the Treasurer's Report.

Motion: Briglia moved and seconded by Stein to accept the December 20, 2021 Treasurer's Report.

Motion carried 3-0.

Unfinished Business

SFM BCO Proposal/Discuss – The Board acknowledged receipt of the proposal from SFM Consulting requesting appointment as the Building Codes Official for Paradise Township.

Motion: Briglia moved and seconded by Stein to table discussions on the SFM proposal until the 2022 organizational meeting.

Motion carried 3-0.

Quotes for Peterbilt, JD Tractor & Boom/Approve Ordering – The Board reviewed the purchase orders for the vehicles to be purchased in the 2022 budget year.

Motion: Briglia moved and seconded by Stein to approve ordering, through the CoStars program, the John Deere Tractor in the amount of \$55,867.04 and the Tiger Boom in the amount of \$75,485.68 for a total amount of \$131,352.72.

Motion carried 3-0.

Motion: Briglia moved and seconded by Stein to approve ordering, through the CoStars program, the 2022 Peterbilt in the amount of \$114,121.00 for the Peterbilt Truck and \$95,801.00 for the accessory package including snowplow hitch, snowplow, spreader, lights & wiring, and miscellaneous items from E.M. Kutz for a total amount of \$209,922.00.

Motion carried 3-0.

New Business

Red Rock Rd/Forest Hills Run Bridge/Resolution/MOU Agreement – The Board discussed the detour around the Red Rock Road superstructure bridge replacement as proposed by Whitney, Bailey, Cox & Magnani (WBCM), the engineering consultants for the project to be completed in conjunction with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Transportation. Stephen Roman requested that the Township review and sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) allowing the Commonwealth of PA to use a small section of Red Rock Road, a Township Road, as part of the detour around the project. The Board had questions concerning the MOU and wanted clarification before signing the document.

Motion: Briglia moved and seconded by Stein to table signing and submitting the MOU until more information can be obtained.

Motion carried 3-0.

Gonze will contact Stephen Roman, from WBCM, to get the answers to the Board's concerns.

Peterson Hill Road/ Discuss – Stein briefly reviewed the issues on Peterson Hill Road, such as speeding and wrong way drivers, as discussed at the December 6, 2021 meeting.

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Charles Unangst explained that in 2012, Hanover Engineering submitted a report of Traffic Flow Options on Peterson Hill Road to the previous Roadmaster Bob Safin. Mr. Unangst also submitted information on speed humps/tables as a possible solution. The Board discussed possible options to address the issue.

Motion: Stein moved and seconded by Briglia to authorize Mr. Unangst to study further options and make a recommendation to the Board. Mr. Unangst is also to identify property owners that would be affected by any changes made to Peterson Hill Road.

Motion carried 3-0.

Replace Laborer/Maintenance Employee/Discuss – The Board discussed hiring a replacement laborer/maintenance employee to replace Neil Boushell. The Board discussed posting the job opening internally before advertising to the public.

Motion: Briglia moved and seconded by Stein to post the open position of laborer/maintenance employee internally.

Motion carried 3-0.

PMVFC Financials/Release Appropriation/Approve – The Board reviewed the 2021 Financial Report submitted by Pocono Mountain Volunteer Fire Company, as required, to receive the \$40,000.00 appropriation stipulated at the January 4, 2021 Organizational Meeting. The Board discussed requiring an affidavit of verification of the financial reports.

Motion: Stein moved and seconded by Briglia to approve releasing the \$40,000.00 appropriation to Pocono Mountain Volunteer Fire Company contingent upon receiving a signed verification affidavit to support the financial reports.

Motion carried 3-0.

Appointment of Deputy Tax Collector/Approve – The Board discussed appointing Patricia Michaels as the Deputy Tax Collector for Paradise Township.

Motion: Briglia moved and seconded by Stein to appoint Patricia Michaels as the Deputy Tax Collector for Paradise Township.

Motion carried 3-0.

EAC 2022 Priorities/Discuss – The Board discussed the priorities list submitted by Carol Hillestad on behalf of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC). The Board further discussed role of the EAC. Stein will look into the ordinance that created the EAC and its charter.

Motion: Gonze moved and seconded by Stein to table the discussion on the EAC 2022 Priorities List.

Motion carried 3-0.

Reorg Meeting Ad/Approve – Gonze stated that a public notice must be published in the Pocono Record advertising the Organizational Meeting dates and times for the Boards/Committees of Paradise Township. The Board requested two changes to the public notice before submitting to the Pocono Record.

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Motion: Stein moved and seconded by Briglia to approve advertising the dates and times of the Organizational Meetings for the Boards/Committees of Paradise Township with corrections.

Motion carried 3-0.

Longevity Pay (Transue)/Approve – Gonze stated that without regard to past practices, the Board will, in the future, include Transue's longevity pay in her yearly salary.

Motion: Briglia moved and seconded by Stein to approve amending Transue's 2021 MOU to authorize a \$150.00 increase to her salary for a yearly salary on \$60,650.00.

Motion carried 3-0.

Tina Transue 2022 Salary – The Board proposed a three percent increase for Transue's 2022 Salary.

Motion: Briglia moved and seconded by Stein to approve three percent increase for Transue's 2022 Salary.

Motion carried 3-0.

Motion: Stein moved and seconded by Gonze to authorize Solicitor Prevoznik to draft Transue's 2022 MOU with the three percent increase adjustment.

Motion carried 3-0.

Penn Strategies LSA Letter/Any Action – Transue explained that she was contacted by Jason Fitzgerald of Penn Strategies stating that Penn Strategies submitted a grant on behalf of the Hawthorne Mount Pocono Resort and inadvertently inserted Paradise Township on the application as applicant. Mr. Fitzgerald is requesting that Paradise Township assign an LSA grant to the Monroe County Industrial Development Authority (MCIDA) as the applicant. Solicitor Prevoznik is to draft a letter to the individuals requesting the assignment stating that the Township has neither standing to assign nor an opinion on the grant application. The letter should note that the Township has no objection to changing the applicant's name.

Motion: Stein moved and seconded by Briglia to authorize Solicitor Prevoznik to draft a letter to the individuals requesting the assignment stating that the Township has neither standing to assign nor an opinion on the grant application. The letter should note that the Township has no objection to changing the applicant's name.

Motion carried 3-0.

Reports

Solicitor - Solicitor Prevoznik stated that he would be meeting with Gonze, Shawn McGlynn, and Charles Unangst to review the Wilkins ZHB hearing and also the Ski Haven Lake Estates Bridge replacement.

Engineer - Mr. Unangst stated that the Traffic Calming signals are connected to power and Wyoming Electric is waiting to program them. Once programmed, Wyoming Electric will set up final inspections with PennDOT. Mr. Unangst stated that Hanover Engineering

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received and forwarded to Transue the Mount Airy Trails report. Mr. Unangst questioned if there was recent contact from Tarpon Tower regarding the completion of the cell tower.

Motion: Briglia moved and seconded by Stein to authorize Solicitor Prevoznik to contact Attorney Rich Williams to inquire as to the status of the cell tower.

Motion carried 3-0.

Zoning Officer – The Board discussed the Zoning Officer's report.

PMREMS – Gonze stated that PMREMS retained Steve Keyes as their new Director of Operations. Gonze stated that the PMREMS 2022 Budget was approved.

Other Business/Public Comment

Kevin Transue stated that he contacted Logan Evans, PMVFC Fire Chief, to discuss the fire company crossing the replacement bridge into Ski Haven Lake Estates. Mr. Evans stated that the fire department is currently responding to calls in Ski Haven Lake Estates. Mr. Evans is requesting a letter/report of the specs of the replacement bridge to demonstrate that the bridge can handle the weight of the emergency response vehicles.

Correspondence/Miscellaneous

None.

Adjournment

Motion: Briglia moved and seconded by Stein to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

Motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Transue
Secretary