

**PARADISE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 17, 2022**

Call to Order

Chair Gonze called the meeting to order at 6:04 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.

Special Note

Gonze announced that to meet the requirements established by the Office of Open Records for virtual meetings, this meeting is being audio and video recorded via Zoom from the initial announcement of the meeting until its end. The meeting Zoom link was posted on the Township's website where the public may join the Zoom meeting, interact, and ask questions in real time.

Roll Call

Officials Present:

Peter Gonze – Chair

Reda Briglia – Vice Chair

Michael Stein – Supervisor (via Zoom)

John C. Prevoznik – Solicitor

Charles Unangst – Engineer

Ingrid DeWitt – Secretary

Executive Session

Solicitor Prevoznik stated that an Executive Session was held today at 5:48 p.m. and ended at 6:03 p.m. All three Supervisors were present (Stein participated via Zoom). Township Engineers Charles Unangst and Jason Smith were also present. Solicitor Prevoznik stated that the matter of property acquisition was discussed. No decisions were made.

## **PARADISE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES-OCTOBER 17, 2022**

### Work Session

Gonze stated that he read a statement regarding Professional Services contracted by the BOS for the Township in the Work Session and he is submitting the statement to the record at this time.

Gonze stated that there was a Work Session with representatives from Mount Airy #1, LLC to discuss several environmental issues including pond dredging and timber harvesting. Mount Airy's forester, Mr. Jeff Nichols, is preparing a narrative of what was done during the timber harvest in both the primary and secondary conservation areas. The narrative is due to the Board by November 15, 2022, for review and for a Work Session to be scheduled at the November 21, 2022 meeting.

### Approval of Minutes

**Motion:** Briglia moved and Stein seconded to approve the October 3, 2022 Board of Supervisors regular meeting minutes with minor edits from Charles Unangst.

***Motion carried 3-0.***

### Treasurer's Report

DeWitt read the Treasurer's Report.

**Motion:** Stein moved and Briglia seconded to accept October 17, 2022, Treasurer's Report.

***Motion carried 3-0.***

### Unfinished Business

*PSATS Tax Resolution* – The Board reviewed Resolution 04-2022, Act 57 of 2022. Act 57 requires taxing districts that impose taxes on the assessed value of real property to adopt a resolution or ordinance within 90 days of October 10, 2022, or not later than January 9, 2023, directing the tax collector to waive additional charges for real estate taxes in certain situations. The Paradise Township Tax Collector shall comply with the provisions of Act 57 and this resolution for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2023.

**Motion:** Briglia moved and Stein seconded to approve Resolution 04-2022. A copy of the Resolution to be attached to the Minutes.

***Motion carried 3-0.***

### New Business

*Walter DePue Fine Late Pay/Discuss/Any Action* – The Board discussed inviting Mr. DePue to a future Work Session to discuss payment of his fines. Gonze requested that Solicitor Prevoznik write a letter to Mr. DePue to invite him to meet with the Board at a future meeting to discuss payment options.

**Motion:** Briglia moved and Stein seconded to approve Solicitor Prevoznik writing a letter to Mr. DePue to invite him to meet with the Board at a future meeting to discuss payment options.

***Motion carried 3-0.***

## **PARADISE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES-OCTOBER 17, 2022**

*Planning Commission Letter of Interest/Discuss/Any Action* – Gonze stated that a letter of interest was received from Robert Poles to serve on the Planning Commission for the balance of Robert McDonald's term.

**Motion:** Stein moved and Briglia seconded to appoint Robert Poles to the Planning Commission to serve the balance of Robert McDonald's term.

***Motion carried 3-0.***

*Innovation Church Conditional Use Hearing Withdrawal/Discuss/Any Action* – Solicitor Prevoznik stated that Attorney Campbell, on behalf of Innovation Church, sent a letter withdrawing the church's Conditional Use Hearing Application to house a Christian School within the church. Solicitor Prevoznik stated that a hearing was scheduled for 5:00 p.m. today, however the hearing was canceled based on the withdrawal letter. The letter stated that the school would no longer operate on church grounds as of November 7, 2022.

**Motion:** Briglia moved and Stein seconded to accept the withdrawal of the Conditional Use Hearing Application.

***Motion carried 3-0.***

*Innovation Church Conditional Use Fee Return/Discuss/Any Action* – Solicitor Prevoznik stated that Innovation Church was requesting the return of its application fee and escrow fee, in the amount of \$1,350.00. The Board discussed the costs associated with the hearing. Expenses incurred for advertising and a court reporter for the original Conditional Use Hearing dated September 19, 2022, were \$139.42 to advertise the hearing and \$150.00 for a court reporter appearance, for which the applicants are responsible for half of the costs. Innovation Church's expense responsibility would be \$144.71. The Board discussed Professional Services that were associated with the Conditional Use Application review. The Board discussed sending Innovation Church an invoice for Professional Services that were rendered by the Township's Engineer and Solicitor in the review of the Church's Conditional Use Application.

**Motion:** Briglia moved and Stein seconded to approve refunding Innovation Church the balance of \$1,205.29, along with a letter from Solicitor Prevoznik that no further Professional Services will be rendered without a signed Professional Services Agreement.

***Motion carried 3-0.***

*Open Space Reimbursement/Approve* - The Board reviewed the expenses incurred by the Township to maintain the Open Space properties, which is reimbursed from the Open Space Earmarked Account to the General Fund, in the amount of \$15,283.49.

**Motion:** Briglia moved and Gonze seconded to approve reimbursing the General Fund account from the Open Space Account for expenses incurred by the Township to maintain the Open Space properties in the amount of \$15,283.49.

***Motion carried 3-0.***

## **PARADISE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES-OCTOBER 17, 2022**

*Friendly Community Center Appropriations Request/Discuss/Any Action* – The Board reviewed the Friendly Community Center's (FCC) appropriation request. The FCC is requesting an appropriation of \$9,000.00 for 2023. Prior year appropriations were in the amount of \$7,500.00. Briglia will reach out to the Friendly Community Center and request information on the number of Paradise Township residents that use the FCC.

**Motion:** Stein moved and Briglia seconded to table the discussion until the upcoming Budget Work Sessions.

***Motion carried 3-0.***

*Martens Subdivision/Removal of Frank Marten's Name/Discuss/Any Action* – Solicitor Prevoznik explained to the Board that Frank Martens is now deceased, therefore his name should be removed from the signature line of the subdivision plan. The plan should also bear a note which states: Frank Martens, Sr., and Irene Martens are both deceased, thereby vesting title, by operation of law, to the following identified properties into Jeff Martens, Victor Martens, and Frank Martens, Jr. as surviving joint tenants' with the rights of survivorship. Martens should be notified of the approval.

**Motion:** Briglia moved and Stein seconded to approve removing Frank Martens, Sr.'s name from the signature line on the subdivision plans and adding the note of survivorship to the plan.

***Motion carried 3-0.***

### Work Session (continued)

The Board discussed retaining the services of a Pennsylvania-licensed forester to conduct an evaluation and develop a plan for the remediation of both the primary and secondary conservation areas and also to help with a review of the plan developed by Deer Park's forester.

**Motion:** Briglia moved and Stein seconded to approve Supervisor Stein and Jason Smith to work together to make a recommendation for a Pennsylvania-licensed forester to assist in the review and recommendation process for Mount Airy's timber harvesting Notice of Violation.

***Motion carried 3-0.***

### Reports

*Solicitor* - Solicitor Prevoznik stated that he had an Executive Session item regarding a personnel matter. Solicitor Prevoznik stated that he reviewed the EMS Building lease agreement between PMREMS and the Township and was unable to discover who was financially responsible for the alarm monitoring system in the building. Solicitor Prevoznik also stated that he reviewed the Eastern Time contract for the EMS Building located on Woodland Road. Eastern Time was contracted to service and maintain the fire suppression system at the EMS Building but there are questions as to whether the service was completed. Secretary Transue is to contact Eastern Time to request the service records.

*Engineer* – Mr. Unangst had nothing further.

## **PARADISE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES-OCTOBER 17, 2022**

*Zoning Officer* – The Board reviewed the Zoning Officer's report.

*PMREMS* - Gonze stated that PMREMS is returning to full staffing levels. Gonze stated that PMREMS has reached out to several municipalities to inquire about instituting a tax millage dedicated to the ambulance service instead of relying on donations and grants to fund capital purchases for emergency services.

Correspondence/Miscellaneous

None.

Other Business/Public Comment

None.

Executive Session

**Motion:** Stein moved and Briglia seconded to recess the regular meeting and go into an executive session at 6:53 p.m.

***Motion carried 3-0.***

**Motion:** Briglia moved and Stein seconded to reconvene the regular meeting at 7:24 p.m.

***Motion carried 3-0.***

Solicitor Prevoznik stated that an Executive Session was held and all three Supervisors were present (Stein participated via Zoom). Solicitor Prevoznik stated that contract negotiations regarding the Collective Bargaining Agreement were discussed.

No decisions were made.

Adjournment

**Motion:** Stein moved and seconded Briglia to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

***Motion carried 3-0.***

Respectfully submitted,

*Tina Transue*

Tina Transue

Secretary