

**PARADISE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 19, 2022**

Call to Order

Chair Gonze called the meeting to order at 6:00 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

John C. Prevoznik – Solicitor
Charles Unangst – Engineer
Tina Transue – Secretary

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Briglia moved and Stein seconded to approve the December 5, 2022 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: Stein moved and Briglia seconded to accept December 19, 2022, Treasurer's Report.

Motion carried 3-0.

Unfinished Business

W. Depute/Fine Late Pay/Discuss/Any Action – Mr. DePue was in attendance to discuss with the Board the status of his delinquent fine payments. Mr. DePue stated that he was not able to pay the fine amount of \$200.00 per month but would be able to pay \$100.00 per month. Gonze suggested that Mr. DePue pay \$100.00 for three months starting on January 3, 2023, and the Board would revisit Mr. DePue's obligations in March 2023.

Motion: Stein moved and Briglia seconded to table the discussion of Mr. DePue's obligations until March 2023. Mr. DePue is to make a payment of \$100.00 per month for the next three months, with the first payment due on January 3, 2023.

Motion carried 3-0.

Open Space Acreage in the Township/Act 319/Discuss/Any Action – Briglia stated that the Act 319 worksheet was a follow-up to a previous discussion regarding how many acres in the Township were dedicated to Open Space. Briglia stated that the report shows that approximately 5,777 acres are currently enrolled in the Act 319 program. Properties enrolled in Act 319 pay a minimum amount of property tax. Based on the data provided, 65% of the acreage of Paradise Township is in some form of tax preference status: Agricultural, parks, preserves, state game lands, and in Act 319 (Clean & Green). The Board may consider the information gathered when determining whether or not to purchase more Open Space properties in the future.

New Business

Union Contract/Approve – Gonze stated that the Board reached an agreement with the Teamsters Union for a contract dated 1/1/23 to 12/31/25.

Motion: Briglia moved and Stein seconded to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement, dated 1/1/23 to 12/31/25, pending receipt of a signed agreement from the Union.

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 3, 2022, Organizational Meeting.

Motion: Briglia moved and Stein seconded to release the 2022 appropriations funds to Pocono Mountain Volunteer Fire Company in the amount of \$40,000.00.

Motion carried 3-0.

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Transue MOU/2023 Salary/Approve – Briglia asked Transue if she had any questions regarding the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Transue replied that she did not receive a copy of the agreement. Gonze stated that the MOU could be revised if needed.

Motion: Briglia moved and Stein seconded to approve Transue's MOU, as drafted.

Motion carried 3-0.

Hawthorne Mt Pocono Resort Conditional Use Hearing/Set Date – The Board discussed dates to hold a Conditional Use Hearing for Hawthorne Mount Pocono Resort. Solicitor Prevoznik stated that a Special Meeting should be set to hold the Conditional Use Hearing with a two-hour time limit stipulation. The Board agreed to hold the hearing on January 30, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Motion: Stein moved and Briglia seconded to schedule and advertise a Special Meeting to hold a Conditional Use Hearing for Hawthorne Mount Pocono Resort on January 30, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. The Conditional Use Hearing will have a two-hour time limit.

Motion carried 3-0.

Reports

Solicitor - Solicitor Prevoznik stated that he had nothing further.

Engineer – Mr. Unangst stated that Steve Dellinger submitted to Transue the proposed changes to the Solar Ordinance as discussed at the November 7, 2022, Work Session. Mr. Unangst stated the Hawthorne Mount Pocono Resort submitted a Scoping Report to PennDOT regarding the road improvements needed to Trinity Hill Road for the proposed entrance to the resort. At this time, the Board of Supervisors has not been consulted on the submissions to PennDOT.

Motion: Stein moved and Briglia seconded to authorize Solicitor Prevoznik to draft a letter to be signed by Chairman Gonze to PennDOT regarding Township roads that will be used to access the proposed Hawthorne Mount Pocono Resort.

Motion carried 3-0.

Motion: Stein moved and Briglia seconded to schedule a Work Session with Steve Dellinger of Hanover Engineering to discuss the proposed changes to the Solar Ordinance on February 6, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Motion carried 3-0.

Zoning Officer – The Board did not receive the Zoning Officer's report.

PMREMS - Gonze stated that the PMREMS budget was approved.

Correspondence/Miscellaneous

Browns Hill Road Letter/Discuss/Any Action – The Board discussed the letter received from Yvonne and John Owen, residents of the Timber Hill Community, regarding the intersection of Browns Hill Road and Route 191. Mr. and Mrs. Owens requested that the Board of Supervisors collaborate with PennDOT to install traffic signals or lights to slow and/or stop the traffic at the intersection. The Board discussed asking PennDOT to look

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into the concrete barrier of the bridge as a possible sight obstruction when leaving Browns Hill Road onto Route 191.

Motion: Briglia moved and Stein seconded to authorize Solicitor Prevoznik to draft a letter to be signed by Chairman Gonze to PennDOT requesting that PennDOT study the Browns Hill Road and Route 191 intersection for hazardous conditions and for PennDOT to take any action it deems necessary.

Motion carried 3-0.

Monroe County Historical Association/Discuss/Any Action – The Board received a letter from the Monroe County Historical Association requesting that the Board donate funds toward the expansion of the Stroud Mansion, which serves as a museum. The Board made note that the 2023 Budget has already been passed.

Motion: Stein moved and Briglia seconded to table the discussion until the second meeting in January 2023. The Board will look at the 2023 Budget to determine whether there are discretionary funds that may be used for a donation.

Motion carried 3-0.

Other Business/Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

Motion: Briglia moved and seconded Stein to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Transue

Tina Transue
Secretary