

**East Brunswick Township
BOS Monthly Meeting
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The Board of Supervisors of East Brunswick Township held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at the Municipal Building. The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Jeffrey Faust at 6:30 PM. There was a PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE to our flag.

In attendance for the meeting were Chairman Jeffrey Faust, Vice-Chairman/Treasurer Thomas Strause, Supervisor John Heim, Jim Crossen, Esq.; Brian Baldwin Engineer; Roadmaster Tom Noecker and Secretary Kelly Coldren.

Also in attendance for the meeting were residents: Jean Strause, Kevin Hough and Brian Tobin; Steve Ziegler and Scott Cary - representatives for Mr. Tobin; and Colleen Hoptak from the South Schuylkill News.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Kevin Hough - Sewage Concern - N. Market St.

Now that the work has been done to try to remedy the situation at his neighbor's, his backyard is now the low point and the sewage is seeping in and creating puddles in his yard. He also states that neighbor does still pump water from basement to the front of the house and into the street at different times. BOS advises him that our SEO has the authority to deal with this and will be in touch. K. Coldren will contact Wayne and have him come sample the water in Mr. Hough's backyard once the weather allows.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

Brian Tobin/Scott Cary - Timbering on Summer Mountain Road

Mr. Tobin is seeking exemption from the timbering permit requirements for his situation. He bought the property in July with the intent of building a residence in the future and to improve the habitat. DCNR has been out to look at property and he has hired Forester, Scott Cary, to spearhead the project. He is not looking to timber for profit; rather just to clear the area for a future home and to encourage forest regeneration as much of the trees are dead mature oak. They have already marked buffer zones and the trees to keep in blue. Mr. Tobin, Mr. Cary and DCNR find the ordinance quite burdensome for this situation. They are specifically seeking exemption via Paragraph 8 of the ordinance which references lots predating the ordinance. This lot was subdivided in the 1980's, which is long before the ordinance was put in place, and he has no plans to further subdivide. Mr. Cary states that this is not a clear-cutting operation but rather a salvage harvest. Less than a 1 acre lot will be cleared for the house and driveway; 33% of the lot will not be timbered; and most of the trees are already in poor condition. They also state that stumps will remain. J. Faust explains that the ordinance was not intended for home building situations. It was meant for situations involving clear cutting as our township has encountered multiple issues

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resulting in washouts of whole areas and roads in the past. The township has greatly suffered from clear cutting. Mr. Cary feels the most burdensome parts of the ordinance are the 4 pages of instructions for the tree inventory as well as the 50 foot buffer zone. BOS may look into revising the ordinance for similar cases and Mr. Ziegler of DCNR has offered his assistance if/when we decide to do that. Mr. Cary explains that there is an E&S plan in place. The area that will be disturbed for logging roads is 1 acre or less and will be minimal as there is already an old road in place. B. Baldwin states there are state regulations and a NPDES permit is required for areas of over 1 acre and over 5,000 square feet of timbering. The BOS states that their only conditions for Mr. Tobin's project is that he send the E&S plan to our Zoning Officer and submit the \$75 fee. He can then begin, as we know he is trying to have this done in the off-season. They require no adherence to buffer zones mentioned in the ordinance or any other requirements. K. Coldren will inform Zoning Officer of conditions and Mr. Tobin is very grateful for the BOS decision.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Basketball Court Fencing

B. Baldwin has prepared a thorough request for proposal and the BOS has asked K. Coldren to please reach out to several fencing companies and request proposals to be due at the next township meeting. B. Baldwin explains that we are not required to put pads on the light posts as they are out of the field of play distance-wise, but that our insurance adjustor may recommend it in the future.

SR 2003 Bridge Replacement over Pine Creek

B. Baldwin spoke with PennDot and it is actually written in the contract that they have to have township representatives present at the pre-construction meeting/inspection; to provide us with a copy of the video; and that there is a line item included for road repairs to ensure road is put back to original pre-detour condition.

Water

Tom Strause informs the BOS that the water at the office building is clearer since the well has been repaired. The plumbers are due to come out sometime next week to fix the second bathroom.

NEW BUSINESS:

Hower Subdivision

Plans were received in late December 2018 to turn two current parcels of land into three. Planning Commission granted conditional final approval and also approved the Request for Planning Waiver & Non-Building Declaration. All conditions in question at the time of the PC conditional final approval have been met except for the Certificate of Ownership being

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signed and sealed. Owners are out of state until mid-March and that will be handled at that time. B. Baldwin recommends the BOS also grant Conditional Final Approval based on the signatures and seal being approved. J. Faust made a motion to grant Conditional Final Approval. Second by J. Heim. Voted all in favor. Separate from the PC's recommendation, the applicant via plan notation has offered for dedication to the township 8.5' of width (in some cases less) along Pine Valley Rd for road use purposes. If the Board is willing to accept the offer, the applicant will prepare a separate deed and submit to the township for consideration. Until such deed is dedicated, the area offered for dedication remains with Lot No. 1. The BOS and Roadmaster see no benefit to having this land and do not agree to accept the offer.

2019 Salt Contract

J. Heim makes a motion *to keep our salt amount at 75 tons for 2019*. Second by T. Strause. Voted all in favor.

Dental Coverage Renewal

We received the quote for our dental coverage renewal. The price will increase by 2%. J. Faust makes a motion *to continue with the same plan*. Second by T. Strause. Voted all in favor. J. Heim abstained.

Grants

B. Baldwin informs BOS that the next review date for the CFA Grant for the Pine Valley Bridge replacement is scheduled for March 6th. Also, says the C2P2 grant deadline is in April and needs to know if the Board would like to submit the multi-purpose field for this grant again. BOS says yes. He will have resolution ready for our March meeting. It is a \$60,000 grant (\$40,000 grant and \$20,000 from the township).

Tax Collector Suggestions

Charlene Hoffman, Township Tax Collector, has offered two suggestions:

1. Returned Check/Insufficient Funds Fee which would apply any payment made to the township or Tax Collector. Her suggestion is \$25 plus any additional amount the bank may charge in excess of that.
2. Registration for renters/landlords in the township

The BOS agrees both are good ideas and ask Jim Crossen to pull something together for each. The BOS would like the Renter Registration to simply be that and not include an inspection aspect. Would be just for knowing who is coming in and out of the township.

CORRESPONDENCE

2018 Audit will take place Monday, March 18th.

GENERAL

SOUTHERN SCHUYLKILL COG MEETING

The next COG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 7 PM.

BLUE MOUNTAIN RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

The monthly recreation meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 28, 2019 at 7 PM.

SCHUYLKILL TCC MEETING

The TCC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at 6PM.

CONCERNS

No concerns to report.

PERMITS

Nothing to report.

SEMINARS

No applicable seminars available

ROAD MASTER REPORT

T. Noecker reported that the crew has been plowing and cindering, opening pipes and boxes, repaired plows, cold patched, took care of downed trees, worked on equipment, and removed the large tree in Cold Run Creek that was causing the road to flood. He shared an itemized repair list for the pickup truck. It will be \$2,625 to repair the engine. The mechanic recommended that if we are planning to keep the truck for another 5 years we should go ahead and replace the gaskets now. BOS decides just to repair the engine at this time and if it goes within 5 years we get a new truck. T. Noecker reported that we did receive the new 10-wheeler truck. It had to go back for repairs to the fuel filter right away but is now back.

MEETING MINUTES

Motion by J. Faust, seconded by J. Heim to approve the minutes for the BOS Re-Org Meeting of January 7, 2019 as presented. Voted all in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion by J. Faust, seconded by J. Heim to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. T. Strause abstained.

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REVIEW AND AUTHORIZATION OF BILLS

Motion by T. Strause, seconded by J. Faust to approve the Payment of Bills as presented. Voted all in Favor.

On a motion by T. Strause, seconded by J. Faust, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM. All Voted in Favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly A. Coldren
Secretary