

*Incorporated March 12, 1738*

# TINICUM TOWNSHIP

*Bucks County*

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

163 Municipal Road  
Pipersville, Pennsylvania 18947

JOHN BLANCHARD, CHAIRPERSON  
RICHARD ROSAMILIA, VICE-CHAIRPERSON  
JIM HELMS, SUPERVISOR

### Tinicum Township Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes December 18, 2018

Chairperson John Blanchard called the public meeting of the Tinicum Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:30 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisors Richard Rosamilia and Jim Helms were present with Solicitor Steve Harris, and Township Manager Teri Lewis. There were approximately 13 people in attendance.

#### A. Public Comment

No Comment.

#### B. Emergency Services

Doug Skelton, President Delaware Valley Fire Company provided the following report:

- The Del Val Fire Co. thanked the Board, Township Manager and taxpayers for the annual donation.
- The Del Val Fire Co. held their last spaghetti dinner for 2018. There will be no dinners in January or February.
- The new, 2019 Pumper Truck is now in residence at the Township Public Works Building.

#### C. Police

Chief Phelan, Tinicum Township Police Dept. gave the report for November:

- 225 Incident Reports: 52% service calls, 22% traffic-related, 14% crimes/suspicious occurrence investigation, 2% court or training
- Check Fraud Case Arrest: Commendations to Officer Madden, who has been working on the case for several months. Preliminary hearing has been held and the case will go to trial.
- Ottsville Business Theft Arrest: An ex-employee was arrested for stealing money from the accounting office.
- Felony Animal Cruelty Case: The Dept. worked with the SPCA to resolve an animal cruelty case. The animals were surrendered to the SPCA and individuals will no longer be allowed to own or keep those types of animals under the preliminary agreement.
- Church Vandalism Charge: A juvenile will be charged with damage to a church on Smithtown Rd.
- 3 Crashes: No injuries reported.
- Snow Storm Response: Phelan thanked Skelton and the Public Works team and Swamps for their help with motorists whose car had become stuck during the early November snowstorm.
- Truck Enforcement Program: 33 violations; 10 trucks removed from the road for serious safety concerns.
- ALICE Safety Drill: The Dept. participated in an ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) Training Drill at Tinicum Elementary. The training provides preparation, decision-making skills, and proactive plan for teachers and school administrators in the event of an aggressive intruder, active shooter or other emergency.
- Town Hall Meeting On School Safety: State Police, Springfield Police Dept. and the Tinicum Police Chief participated at a panel meeting at Palisades School where the public asked questions on different topics concerning safety.
- Firearms Training: The Dept. participated in firearm training qualifications in low light conditions and Shoot/Don't Shoot Training utilizing video scenarios and laser guns. Phelan thanked the Tech School the training.
- Records Audit: The State Police audited Tinicum Police records. The audit is done to ensure that all information is handled correctly. Tinicum passed the audit.
- Police Vehicle: The Dodge Charger is being retired and going to auction.  
**Motion:** to authorize the Dodge Charger to go to auction.  
**Motion by:** Blanchard. **Second by:** Rosamilia. Voted upon and passed.

**D. Public Works**

No report.

**E. New Business**

Bridge at Golden Pheasant to Reopen: Rosamilia said he had spoken with PennDOT who said the repairs were nearly completed and that bridge would reopen on Friday, Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>.

Tinicum Civic Association to Donate Funds for AED/Defibrillator Unit to the Police Foundation:

Sue Walsh, President of Tinicum Civic Assoc. (TCA) along with Hannie Banister, Trustee, and Stana Lennox, Treasurer, presented a check for \$1,000 to the Tinicum Police Foundation for the purchase of a mobile AED for Tinicum Township police vehicles.

Chief Phelan said that the police are often times the first to reach the scene of an emergency. Phelan noted that the units use the same pads as ambulance units so that the victim can be easily transferred to the EMS equipment. He said that the Police Foundation identified the need for another AED unit, the second for the dept., and thanked both the Tinicum Civic Association for their generosity and the Tinicum Police Foundation.

Walsh said that the TCA donation comes as a result of a banner year at the Tinicum Art Festival, which is the major fundraiser for the non-profit TCA. The Festival is planned and run entirely by volunteers and proceeds given back to the community, benefiting over 30 other non-profit organizations that serve Tinicum Township. She said that this year there were a record number of volunteers and attendees. Walsh said she hoped to see everyone at the 70<sup>th</sup> Tinicum Art Festival in 2019.

The Board and Manager thanked Walsh and the TCA for all their hard work and all they do for the community.

**F. Old Business**

Geigel Hill Bridge Repairs

Following up on the discussion from the last meeting, Lewis said that she had obtained the bridge construction plans from PennDOT. Skelton said that he verified that the caulking that had been previously specified was weather type stripping. Skelton recommended that they move forward with Professional Construction Contractors Inc., for the following repairs:

- Caulking of open joints between check wall and wingwall
- Repair crack on Northwest corner of parapet
- Repair cracks on all fascia beam seats
- Repoint open joints in stone under cracked beam seat.

**Motion:** to employ Professional Construction Contractors Inc. to begin repairs on the Geigel Hill Bridge, weather permitting, based on the their repair estimate of \$5,110.00.

**Motion by:** Rosamilia. **Second by:** Helms. Voted upon and passed

Blanchard said the Township owns the Geigel Hill Bridge and any damage to the bridge is the Township's responsibility. Blanchard said that Officer Gerding did extensive research on the bridge, the related intersections and the location of the stop signs. Blanchard said preliminary discussions with the Police Dept. regarding ways to proactively prevent future damage, include:

- Changing the angle on the northern end of the bridge. However, there are site line issues with moving back the stop sign to allow larger vehicles.
- Restricting the size of the vehicles allowed to cross the bridge.

Blanchard stated that at this time there are no restrictions on vehicle size and that a full size tractor-trailer is allowed to cross the bridge even though a second vehicle would not be able to fit on the bridge at the same time due to the bridge angles. In addition, a larger vehicle would then not be allowed to go through the covered bridge located further down Geigel Hill Rd.

Rosamilia suggested that they contact PennDOT to send out their inspector to look at Gerding's research and to inspect the damage. He said that since the bridge is only 8 years old, the damage could be the result of a design flaw. Helms noted that PennDOT might be able to make other repair suggestions that may prevent future damage. Blanchard said they would continue discussing it further with PennDOT and then report back to the public.

Bus Stop Signage for Geigel Hill Rd at Permanent School Rd.

Blanchard stated that a resident had requested bus stop signage at Geigel Hill and Permanent School Rds. He said the Board had contacted Palisades School District who discussed it at their Facilities Committee meeting on Dec 5<sup>th</sup>. He said the School reported they wanted to discuss it further. Blanchard said that since the Township plays no

role in deciding school bus locations, it would be up to the school district to decide to change the location due to safety concerns or to work with Chief Phelan and Skelton to place warning signs in that area.

Conservation Easement Application for 74 Stagecoach Rd, Pipersville

- **Property Owners:** Jeffrey and Lorraine Keller
- **Property Location:** 74 Stagecoach Rd, Pipersville, PA 18947
- **TMP:** 44-026-001-001
- **Acres:** 24.93 Purchase price approved \$121,682.26

**Motion:** to approve the purchase of the Keller Conservation Easement for the approved purchase price of \$121,682.26.

**Motion by:** Blanchard. **Second by:** Rosamilia. Voted upon and passed.

Rosamilia read the resolution stating that Supervisor Rosamilia is authorized to sign the settlement documents on behalf of Tincum Township for the purchase of the Keller Conservation Easement [TMP 44-026-001-001]. If Supervisor Rosamilia is unable to attend, Manager Lewis is authorized to sign the documents on behalf of the Tincum Township Board of Supervisors.

**Motion:** to authorize Supervisor Richard Rosamilia to sign the settlement documents for the purchase of the Keller Conservation Easement [TMP 44-026-001-001] on behalf of Tincum Township and, if Rosamilia is unable to attend, Township Manager Teri Lewis is authorized to sign the settlement documents on behalf of the Tincum Township Board of Supervisors.

**Motion by:** Rosamilia. **Second by:** Blanchard. Voted upon and passed.

Policy for Audio Recording of Supervisor Meetings

Harris stated that the policy designates the following regarding audio recording of Supervisor Meetings:

- Audio recordings will be made and kept for the purpose of preparing the minutes.
- If someone asks for the recording prior to the minutes being approved, pursuant to the Right-To-Know Act, the recording will be preserved and a copy will be made available.
- If no one asks for a copy of the recording, then once the minutes are approved, the recording is erased.
- Cost of the audio copy is \$25 and will be put on a USB drive provided by the Township.

Harris stated that policy designates that following regarding Public Comment of Supervisor Meetings:

- Residents may speak during the public comment period.
- Only residents and taxpayers of the Township may speak during public comment period. Non-residents may be permitted to speak by discretion of the Chairman, if their topic is relevant to Township issues.
- Only one representative of an organization is permitted to comment on behalf of the organization.
- The Chairman is authorized to rule individuals as out of order for repetitive comments.

**Motion:** to approve Resolution No.121818.02 Establishing a Policy for Audio Recording of the Board of Supervisors Meetings and Establishing Policy for Public Comment at those Meetings.

**Motion by:** Blanchard. **Second by:** Rosamilia. Voted upon and passed.

Smithtown Road/River Rd Intersection Safety Concerns

Blanchard stated the following:

- The intersection of Smithtown Rd and River Rd had been brought to the Board's attention as a hazardous situation for vehicles exiting right onto River Rd due to limited sight distances and travel speeds. [Left hand turns are not permitted.]
- The Township Engineer has prepared an extensive report.
- The Engineer Report concludes that the best way to address the safety issue is to make Smithtown one-way into Smithtown Rd up to the "Y" at Twin Lear Rd.
- Installing a Convex Road Mirror on River Rd had been discussed but PennDOT said that they would not approve it.

Rosamilia said that he understood that the view looking southbound is blocked by a garage and a wall when vehicles are trying to make a right hand turn out of Smithtown Road. He said that they had previously discussed a large mirror but that PennDOT had changed their previous policy and said that they no longer allow mirrors. However, Rosamilia said, there are currently many mirrors installed along River Road. Blanchard asked if the mirrors were on the property owner's driveway. Rosamilia said they are on the poles at intersections and in some places there were two mirrors. Rosamilia said he thought they should delay making a decision and discuss the mirrors further with PennDOT. Rosamilia said he would like to meet with PennDOT to get a better understanding

of why they had changed their policy on the mirrors, especially since there were so many on River Rd. Lewis said she would contact Don Centofante of PennDOT and request a meeting to discuss their policy.

Blanchard said that the accident data did not support immediate action so that the Board could continue to consider the matter further. Phelan stated that in PennDOT's view, the low accident rate in the area had not warranted a lower speed limit. Rosamilia said that they would have to come to some conclusion within one to two months. Lewis asked if she should put it on the second meeting in January and the Board agreed.

Al Gillen, Cafferty Rd, he said he would agree that exiting Smithtown was difficult. He said if there is a one-way to up to Twin Lear it would be hard to make a left hand turn and go back up Twin Lear. Rosamilia said that the Engineer Report said that it would only be difficult would be for 40-foot truck. He asked if there was a lot of traffic. Blanchard said he didn't travel that way but that he would have some concern about turning around too.

Diane Allison said that forcing more traffic on Twin Lear would be difficult because road is narrow. Rosamilia said that the number of cars that are now turning onto Twin Lear would not increase. Lewis and Skelton said that there were very few people who lived on the section that would be one-way. Rosamilia said if "NO OUTLET" signs are posted there were be very few people who would enter that section. Rosamilia stated that the public has raised the concern and the Board must address it.

#### 2019 Proposed Budget Adoption

Blanchard said that there would be no tax increase for 2019. He stated further that no tax increase had been made in the last 8 years. Blanchard thanked all the department heads and Lewis in particular for their hard work and support in working budget increases while still maintaining the level of service.

**Motion:** to adopt the 2019 Tincum Budget.

**Motion by:** Helms. **Second by:** Rosamilia. Voted upon and passed.

#### Report/Update on Service Electric Cable Franchise Agreement

Harris and Lewis met with Tim Himmelwright, Service Electric Cable on Dec 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss the franchise agreement. Harris said that Himmelwright was going to get back to them regarding their request for free Internet to the emergency services providers. However, Harris said that their request for a senior citizen discount and free service to the Township building had been agreed upon. Harris said that the renewal will be finalized after the first of the year and will result in improved services to the Township.

### **G. Monthly Business**

#### **1) Minutes:**

**Motion:** to approve the Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes of December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 as written.

**Motion by:** Blanchard. **Second by:** Helms. Voted upon and approved.

#### **2) Treasurer's Report & Budget Recap:** The Treasurer's Report and Budget Recap for November posted on bulletin board.

#### **3) Payroll Report:**

Blanchard announced that the actual amount for Payroll Report period ending December 7<sup>th</sup> in the amount of \$37,746.24.

**Motion:** to accept the Payroll Report period ending December 7<sup>th</sup> in the amount of \$37,746.24.

**Motion by:** Blanchard. **Second by:** Rosamilia. Voted upon and passed.

#### **4) Disbursements:**

| <b>General Fund</b>                | <b>Amount</b> | <b>Memo</b>                           |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| Tackett Planning, Inc.             | \$3,535.00    | Zoning and Planning Services November |
| Earth Link                         | \$28.95       | Website                               |
| Blum-Moore Reporting Services      | \$250.00      | Stenographer T-Mobile                 |
| Ricoh Americas Corp                | \$93.00       | Ricoh Americas Corp                   |
| Holicong Locksmiths                | \$245.10      | Alarm Monitoring Jan-Mar              |
| Keystone Municipal Services Inc.   | \$1,706.25    | Bldg. insp and rev 11-19 thru 11-30   |
| Nicole M Mead                      | \$145.93      | Reimbursement McDonald Uniform Police |
| Harris and Harris                  | \$1,777.20    | Legal Services November               |
| Magnum Electronics                 | \$403.95      | Spotlight Police F150                 |
| Ottsville Volunteer Fire Co.       | \$26,018.04   | 2018 Fire tax distribution            |
| Delaware Valley Vol. Fire Co.      | \$40,262.50   | 2018 Fire Tax Distribution            |
| Upper Black Eddy Vol. Fire Company | \$5,273.15    | 2018 Fire Tax Distribution            |
| Point Pleasant Fire Company #1     | \$11,355.44   | 2018 Fire Tax Distribution            |

|                                 |             |   |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---|
| Internal Revenue Service        | \$2,887.60  | Employer FICA tax                         |
| Christine Bennett               | \$500.00    | Refund of unused continuance fee          |
| Edward Lawson                   | \$500.00    | Refund of unused cont fee CU (withdrawn)  |
| United Healthcare               | \$10,226.09 | January 2019 Health Insurance             |
| Safeguard Business Systems      | \$299.02    | Printed Checks and Tax Forms              |
| <b>Payroll Fund</b>             |             |   |
| Payroll                         | \$28,155.93 | Paychecks                                 |
| Internal Revenue Service        | \$7,330.14  | Employee FICA tax                         |
| PA Department of Rev            | \$1,058.17  | Employee State tax                        |
| <b>State Fund</b>               |             |   |
| Blue Tarp Financial, Inc.       | \$473.42    | Tool Box (refurb)                         |
| Suburban Propane                | \$1,917.24  | 2751-182056 Diesel Fuel                   |
| H & K Materials                 | \$1,802.00  | Asphalt                                   |
| NYCO Corp                       | \$115.92    | Coupler                                   |
| NAPA of Ottsville               | \$101.87    | Power steering pump 2003 Sterling         |
| Plumstead Materials             | \$2,563.59  | 1B Stone BSS3760                          |
| Vanderlely's Truck Sales & Serv | \$2,612.42  | Brake Chamber hyd hose Steering Box-2000  |
| Plasterer Equipment Co,         | \$1,824.75  | TINIC001 Rim Grader and cutting edges     |
| Michael's Garage                | \$133.00    | F350 Inspection                           |
| Triad Truck Equipment           | \$324.00    | Snow plow edge                            |
| Tractor Supply                  | \$795.22    | Refurb parts and maint tools              |
| Compressed Air Systems          | \$220.43    | Compressed Air Systems                    |
| Plumstead Materials             | \$2563.59   | Stone                                     |
| VISA                            | \$112.61    | replacement - voided check – Slow Stencil |
| <b>Open Space Tax Fund</b>      |             |   |
| Delaware Valley Finance Assoc.  | \$12,720.62 | Monthly Bond Payment                      |

**Motion:** to accept the disbursements as written.

**Motion by:** Helms. **Second by:** Rosamilia. Voted upon and passed.

**5) Planning**

No report.

**6) Subdivision & Land Development**

No report.

**7) Announcements:**

Blanchard announced the following:

The Advertised Conditional Use Board of Supervisor Hearing scheduled for tonight, Dec 18th at 8:00 pm: CU 03-2018: Conditional Use Application of Lawson, 82 Ervin Road, Pipersville, 44-011-083-007 was withdrawn.

The Lawsons had been requesting approval to replace a sewage system within the setback area. However, upon inspection, Mr. & Mrs. Lawson system had not failed as the contractor stated. Due to advertising and professional service expenses the Township is not able to refund the Conditional Use fee but the Continuance fee is listed on the disbursement list.

The Township Administrative Office will be closed Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> through Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>

The Office will reopen on Wednesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Police Dept. and Public Works Dept. will be operating on their normal schedule.

**8) Public Comment**

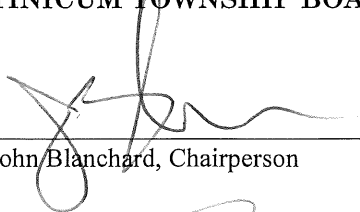
Amleto Pucci, Headquarters, said that there is a serious black ice issue on River Road near Smithtown Intersection. He said he had a serious accident in that area due to the black ice some years ago. Pucci said that while he couldn't be sure he thought that possibly the blacktopping and re-excavation of a steep driveway on the hillside might have contributed to more water being distributed onto the road. He said there could be improvements to move the water away from that area although he said that there is a house across the road so that diverting the water into that person's front yard might not be desirable. Rosamilia suggested that they look into whether a PennDOT permit had been obtained for the work at that location. Rosamilia asked Lewis to contact PennDOT to see what they could do to address the issue in that area. Lewis and Phelan said that Pucci should immediately contact PennDOT and the Radio Room if they see or experience black ice anywhere on River Rd.

The meeting was recessed for Executive Session at 8:25 pm. Blanchard reconvened the meeting at 8:50 pm. No action to report.

**H. Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 pm.  
Motion by: Blanchard. Second by: Rosamilia.

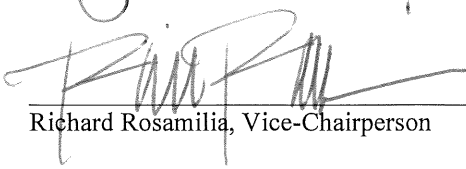
*The organizational meeting of the Board of Supervisors is scheduled for January 7, 2019. Happy New Year!*

**TINICUM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**



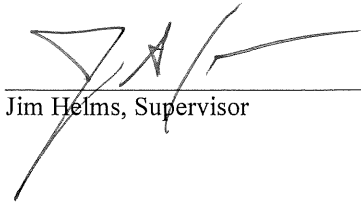
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John Blanchard, Chairperson



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Richard Rosamilia, Vice-Chairperson



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Jim Helms, Supervisor