

Incorporated March 12, 1738

TINICUM TOWNSHIP

Bucks County

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

163 Municipal Road
Pipersville, Pennsylvania 18947

RICHARD ROSAMILIA, CHAIRPERSON
JIM HELMS, VICE-CHAIRPERSON
ELEANOR BRESLIN, SUPERVISOR

Tinicum Township Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes November 1, 2022

Supervisors Eleanor Breslin, Jim Helms and Richard Rosamilia were present with Township Manager Teri Lewis and Township Solicitor Steve Harris. The meeting was held in the Tinicum Township building meeting room. There were approximately 30 people present at the meeting and 14 in attendance online.

Chairperson Rosamilia announced the meeting would be live-streamed on Zoom. Due to technical issues, the meeting was delayed 10 minutes. Rosamilia called the public meeting of the Tinicum Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:40 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. Announcements

UPDATE Golden Pheasant Bridge

On October 20th, the Board and Manager participated as Consulting Parties in the PennDOT Section 106 meeting regarding the Golden Pheasant Bridge.

Zoning Hearing Board Update and Overview

Eric Hinrichs, Zoning Hearing Board Chair, provided a brief overview of the Zoning Hearing Board, which hears and decides on zoning variance requests, special exceptions and appeals to Zoning determinations as permitted by the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code and the Local Zoning Ordinance. The Board consists of three volunteer members and one alternate member appointed by the Board of Supervisors to 3-year terms.

Land Preservation Committee

Tim Hall, Land Preservation Committee Chair, provided a brief overview of the Land Preservation Committee, which works to preserve open space and natural resources. The Committee consists of seven volunteer members appointed by the Board of Supervisors to 1-year terms.

Communication Ad Hoc Committee

Anita Nolan, Editor for the Township Newsletter, said the new Communication Committee intends to issue the first newsletter in January. Nolan encouraged the audience to provide any ideas, general interest articles, committee articles, local photos or upcoming local event notices for inclusion in future issues.

Park and Recreation Board

Terry Johnston, Parks and Rec Board Chair, gave an overview of the Park and Recreation Board, which works to maintain and plan events for the two township parks, Four Brooks and Tinicum Community. He noted the success of the recent Tinicum Trunk or Treat Event Halloween Celebration held at the Tinicum Community Park and announced a Winter Songs in the Park event featuring the Palisades Madrigal Singers will be held on December 10th.

Committee and Board Participation Open to All Residents

Township Manager Lewis thanked all the committee and board volunteers. She noted that any interested resident can attend any committee meeting, ask questions, learn about the committees, volunteer to help out on a particular project or event, without the need to join or attend every meeting. She stated that all the meetings are open to the public.

Tinicum Trunk or Treat Event Halloween Celebration Thank You

The Board thanked Teri Lewis, Eleanor Breslin, Kathy Moreni, Jim Kopchak, Terry Johnston, Cindi Gasparee and Joan Tanner, as well as the police, fire and ambulance, for their efforts and support in making the event such a success.

Winter Songs in the Park, December 10th from 4 – 5 pm.

The Palisades Madrigal Singers will be performing at the Tinicum Community Park in Ottsville (behind Cooper Mechanical). The entire community is invited. Bring a lawn chair and a candle and enjoy the music in the meadow.

Palisades School Comprehensive Plan

The Palisades School District is developing its Comprehensive Plan. A link to the Community Survey, is available on the Township website, www.tinicumbucks.org.

B. Old Business

Sherman Road

Harris stated he had reviewed the PennDOT diagram regarding the “residence district,” but was unable to determine if the diagram was ever officially adopted. He said it was left up to the Townships to determine the “residence district.” Helms reviewed the definition of “residence district” and believed that Sherman Road could qualify as a “residence district.”

Breslin suggested passing a onetime ordinance to create a “residence district” to avoid the cost burden of speed studies. Rosamilia asked if every local road could be considered “residence district.” Harris said the Board would need to decide if this was an ordinance regarding Sherman Road or an ordinance regarding “residence districts” to be 25 mph. He clarified that the Board must define where the district is located in order to authorize the installation of 25 mph speed limit signs.

Resident Luke Sorensen stated that certain roads could be identified as “residence district” roads and then, dependent on the physical road conditions and number of residences, the Township would make the decision if the road should be posted at the 25-mph speed limit

Helms recommended that Sherman Road be designated a “residence district” and the 25 MPH speed limit be authorized. He said then research could be done to determine which other township roads would be considered a “residence district.”

Motion to advertise Ordinance 258 to establish Sherman Road as a “Residence District” and authorize a 25 MPH speed limit.

Motion by Helms. Second by Breslin. Voted upon and approved.

Headquarters Bridge Update

The Board reviewed the following actions:

- The Township Engineer continues the feasibility review of the temporary bridge and the rehabilitation of the existing bridge.
- The Board is currently reviewing the following Federal and State grant programs:
 - Federal Grant Program: IJJA Bridge Improvement Program

- State Grant Programs: PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund, DCED Multimodal Transportation Fund, and Local Share Account (LSA) - Statewide Grant Program
- Grant program review criteria:
 - Requirements for eligible projects
 - Application deadlines and award timeframes
 - Minimum and maximum project costs
 - Matching requirements, if any
 - Restrictions on the funding source for the match funds
- The Board is reviewing publicly available info and speaking with support staff from different agencies to gain more insight into grant programs.
- The Board is doing the groundwork now to determine the best grant opportunities once the engineer feasibility review is complete.

C. New Business

Authorization to Advertise the Tincum Township 2023 Proposed Budget

The Board and staff held five advertised public budget meetings to discuss the 2023 needs of the Township. In addition to meeting with the Township Manager, Director of Public Works, and Chief of Police, the Board also met with leadership from the Palisades Regional and Del Val Fire Companies, Upper Bucks Rescue, and Point Pleasant Emergency Services.

The Board was pleased to announce that the same level of services will be provided to the community without raising taxes. The total 2023 budget including Land Preservation Funds is \$3,854,990; excluding Land Preservation Funds the 2023 budget is \$2,781,990. Budget highlights include a new police vehicle, backhoe replacement and a shed to protect Public Works equipment.

The Township received \$414,306.65 American Rescue Funds. The Township elected to take the standard deduction option and reimburse the operating funds for salaries and benefit expenses paid during the pandemic. Due to the reimbursement, the Township will be able to budget a portion of the funds for the following three items:

- 1) \$180,000 for Township Building improvements, including a small addition to improve office functionality and installation of an ADA accessible bathroom.
- 2) \$10,000 for hand operated rescue tools for a Del Val Fire Company rescue truck, to enable the rescue truck to be classified by the county dispatch as a "Rescue Truck."
- 3) \$30,000 to pay for E360 online platform to allow the public easy access to Township Ordinances and Codes.

Motion to authorize advertisement of the Tincum Township 2023 Proposed Budget.

Motion by Rosamilia. Second by: Breslin. Voted upon and approved.

Township Board of Supervisor Meeting Video Storage and Access

Lewis stated that the estimate to professionally manage the video storage of the Board of Supervisors meetings had been too high. She asked the Board for authorization to investigate Cloud Storage of the meeting videos to allow the videos to be kept for perpetuality and provide easy access by the public. Breslin suggested that topics be time stamped on the written minutes moving forward.

Motion to authorize Lewis to investigate Cloud Storage options for the Township Board of Supervisor meeting videos.

Motion by: Rosamilia. Second by: Breslin. Voted upon and approved.

Authorization to advertise draft Ordinance 259 Amendment to Ordinance 204 (Wood Fired Boilers) with pages 4 & 5 diagrams from Ordinance 204 included.

The Board stated that the amendment reflects EPA air quality changes.

Motion to authorize advertisement of Ordinance 259 Amendment to Ordinance 204 (Wood Fired Boilers)

Motion by: Rosamilia. Second by: Helms. Voted upon and approved.

D. Regular Business

Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2022 meeting as written.

Motion by: Breslin. Second by: Helms. Voted upon and passed.

Treasurer's Report & Budget Recap

The Budget Recap and Treasurer's Reports for October will be made available at the next meeting.

Payroll Report

Motion to accept Payroll Reports for the period ending October 21, 2022 in the amount of \$34,334.12.

Motion by: Breslin. Second by: Helms. Voted upon and passed.

Disbursements:

Motion to approve the disbursements as written.

Motion by: Helms. Second by: Breslin. Voted upon and passed.

General Fund	Amount	Memo
Postmaster	\$190.00	Stamps
PMRS	\$5,679.52	St Aid 4th qtr. estimated 2022 non u
Aflac Business Services	\$145.64	February Supplement Insurance withheld
Hartford Insurance	\$531.13	Life and Disability Insurance Monthly
Verizon wireless	\$207.42	Police Wireless
Keystone Municipal Services Inc	\$4,033.50	Professional Services 9-20 thru 10-13
Ehrlich Green Team	\$667.80	Pest Control - Police
VISA	\$358.24	USPS Self Addressed stamped envelopes
DelGuercio's Disposal Service	\$155.00	Trash Removal
Staples Credit Plan	\$133.66	Office Supplies
Uniform Gear	\$199.47	Police Uniform Supplies
Wynn Assoc	\$4,005.33	Engineering Services Oct
Harris and Harris	\$2,032.50	Legal Services Sept
MaGloclen	\$400.00	Police Dues
Uniform Gear	\$1,074.00	BPV Carriers
Pa Dept of Ag	\$25.00	Police Kennel License
Payroll Fund	Amount	Memo
Account Edge Payroll	34,137.96	Pay period end 10/21/22
Escrow Fund	Amount	Memo
Wynn Assoc.	\$2310.70	Professional Eng. Services
Harris and Harris	\$516.25	Legal Services

E. Zoning Hearing Board

ZHB 2022-3: Variance and Special Exception of Hessol

921 River Road, Erwinna. TMP 44-015-090.

Requests removal and reconstruction of non-conforming accessory structure in the side yard setback and floodplain.

- Application received October 17.
- Planning Commission reviewed on October 25. Recommended no objections, but with conditions.
- Board of Supervisors review on November 15.
- Zoning Hearing December 8.

F. Subdivision / Land Development / Conditional Use

LD 2022-3: Land Development of Tretton

CU 2022-1: Conditional Use of Tretton

31 Creamery Rd, Ottsville. TMP 44-001-022-002.

Proposes to renovate barn as a wedding venue.

Requests Conditional Use approval to construct stormwater management facilities in steep slope and permit substantial property improvement within the Tohickon Creek Watershed overlay.

- Applications received August 16. (60 Day Waiver Letter received for Conditional Use.)
- Planning Commission review on October 25.
- Waiver of the clock requested as applicant needs to provide further information. Board of Supervisors review tentatively scheduled for January 17, 2023.

G. Public Comment Session

Resident Tim Cashman responded to public comments that appeared in the Bucks County Heralds and were made at the previous public meetings regarding his appointment to the Planning Commission as follows:

- He is not involved in a “Headquarters Bridge settlement” and the Planning Commission has nothing to do with the Headquarters Bridge.
- His request to pave Sheephole Road was to enable quicker access by emergency vehicles, but the DEP would not permit paving the road and he accepted that decision. He met with Doug Skelton and Rich Rosamilia and they agreed to do more work on the road to fill potholes and he was agreeable.
- Regarding a two-lane Headquarters Bridge versus one lane, he said a two-lane bridge will be owned by PennDOT, but if it is one lane the Township owns it. He asked why should residents have to pay for a state bridge. He said it did not matter to him whether it was one or two lanes, but it did matter who owned it and had to pay for it.
- Having an engineering background is not a requirement to be on the Planning Commission and no one on the Planning Commission has an engineering background. The Township has an engineer on staff as needed and there is no reason to have that requirement.
- He has been in the building trade all his life, is familiar with the permitting process, and felt he understood vision of the community and its needs.
- He has lived in the community for 22 years and has attended many Board meetings.
- He said the main focus of the Board and committees comes down to three things: Safety, environment, and ethics.
- He said that ten years ago watching the school bus his son was riding on having to back up on a steeply incline on Headquarters Road every day and being concerned about his safety was his impetus for getting involved with the Headquarters Bridge issue. He said that there are people in the community who need access through the bridge – especially when it comes to emergency response.
- He thanked the Board for appointing him to the commission and for standing by their decision.
- He asked the Bucks County Herald to interview him and allow him to respond.

Resident Tara Sanders said she had contacted the Board about her support of Tim Cashman. She expressed her frustration with the slow progress on the Headquarters Bridge and asked the Board for future timelines. Sanders asked why the Township must own the bridge to have a temporary bridge. She said the bridge was an eyesore and did not understand the desire to rehabilitate it. Sanders noted the impact to the environment, as well as the impact to community, as a result of rerouting school buses and local traffic. Sanders urged the Board to move forward.

Rosamilia explained the process of reviewing the feasibility of a temporary bridge and the responsibility of the Township to take ownership of the bridge in conjunction with finding funding to pay for the bridge. He said that 10 years ago they tried for a temporary bridge, but PennDOT refused and the Township has no authority regarding a temporary bridge, unless the Township takes ownership.

Rosamilia said they are expecting an initial review from the Township Engineer by the next Board meeting

Helms said he understood Sanders's frustration, but they were all in the bridge issue together and have been held hostage by two entities that exist outside the township. He said that once the RiverKeeper lawsuit ended the Board was hopeful the bridge could move forward, but now there is another lawsuit. Helms said that the Board has tried every avenue possible and discussed the bridge at nearly every meeting for the last five years, however, the Board has very little authority or ability to control the situation.

H. Executive Session

Rosamilia recessed the regular meeting at 9:03 PM for a quick work session. Rosamilia reconvened the meeting at 9:13 PM. He announced that that Headquarters Road Bridge was discussed. No action was taken.

I. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM.

Motion by: Second by: Breslin. Voted upon and passed.

The next meeting of the Board of Supervisors is scheduled for November 15, 2022 at 7:30 PM.

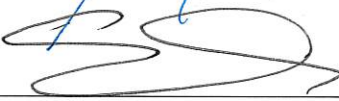
TINICUM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Richard Rosamilia, Chairperson



Jim Helms, Vice-Chairperson



Eleanor Breslin, Member