

Incorporated March 12, 1738

TINICUM TOWNSHIP

Bucks County

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

163 Municipal Road
Pipersville, Pennsylvania 18947

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

Tinicum Township Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes February 21, 2023

Supervisors Eleanor Breslin and Richard Rosamilia were present with Township Solicitor Steve Harris. The meeting was held in the Tinicum Township building meeting room. Chairperson Jim Helms and Township Manager Teri Lewis were absent. The meeting was live-streamed on Zoom and recorded. There were approximately 13 people present at the meeting and 9 viewed online.

Vice Chairperson Eleanor Breslin called the public meeting of the Tinicum Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:30 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. Old Business

Headquarters Bridge Update

The Board stated the following:

- On February 9, 2023 a conference call was held with Supervisor Rosamilia, Township Manager Teri Lewis, Township Engineer Steve Baluh and Delaware Riverkeeper Network Consultant Doug Bond.
- It was determined that the additional boring information provided by PennDOT was not sufficient to determine what will be needed for a temporary bridge and additional digging must be done to determine the thickness of the abutment.
- Bond is to provide a Scope Of Work document defining the work to be performed.
- Once the Scope Of Work document is received from Bond, Baluh will contact PennDOT to determine what will be needed to conduct the work within the PennDOT right-of-way and will contact adjacent property owners.

Update on Real Estate Tax Collection & Resolution 022123.01

The Board stated that on February 16, 2023, a special Board of Supervisors meeting was held to appoint a replacement tax collector, Deborah Ann Yerger, who is also the Tax Collector Springfield Township. Resolution 022123.01 specifies the fees to be charged and expenses reimbursed by the Township, the depository and reporting of real estate taxes and the compensation rate and requirements of the newly appointed Tax Collector of Tinicum Township.

Motion to approve Resolution 022123.01 Specifying the Fees to be Charged by and Expenses Reimbursed by the Township, Depository of Real Estate Taxes, Reporting of Real Estate Tax Collection and the Compensation Rate and Requirements of the Tax Collector of Tinicum Township, Bucks County.

Motion by: Breslin. Second by: Rosamilia.

Discussion:

The Board stated the following reasons for appointing a new tax collector:

- During 2022, tax bills were sent late or not at all.
- Tax payments received were not processed promptly or not at all.

- The inability to obtain property or tax certification necessary for closing on real estate transactions.
- Numerous calls to the Township office as a result of these issues.

Supervisors Rosamilia and Breslin met with the former tax collector in May of 2022 to offer assistance and better understand the process. The Supervisors met again with the former tax collector in November of 2022, and they understood he was working with a mentor and appointing a deputy to assist with getting bills out and reconcile the monies received, which is still to be sorted out, but nothing improved.

The Board noted that there was no suggestion of any criminal conduct or impropriety. However, the former tax collector failed to settle the 2022 tax duplicates by January 15, 2023, as required by tax law. As a result of that failure, the Board of Supervisors is required to replace the tax collector with a new tax collector.

Harris also noted that the County of Bucks informed Tinicum Township that the County refused to send the 2023 tax duplicates to the former tax collector, due to his failure to settle the previous year taxes. The County of Bucks requested that the Board replace the tax collector, as specified by Local Tax Collection Law. Palisades School District was also supportive of the action.

Regarding the length of term for the newly appointed tax collector, Harris stated he received an email from the assistant county solicitor for the Election Board, stating that any vacancy occurring prior to February 14th would go on the primary ballot. After that date, any vacancy that was 60 days prior to the general election would go on the November ballot and the parties can nominate a candidate for the general election. However, under the Local Tax Collection Law, in the case of a vacancy, the new tax collector must agree to serve for the remainder of term of the elected tax collector, which would be December 31, 2025. Harris stated that they have asked the Board of Elections to determine which law has precedence and are awaiting their response.

In response to a question from a resident, Harris stated that the cost for the new collector will be higher than the cost for the elected tax collector, but it would not be paid twice.

Motion to approve Resolution 022123.01 Specifying the Fees to be Charged by and Expenses Reimbursed by the Township, Depository of Real Estate Taxes, Reporting of Real Estate Tax Collection and the Compensation Rate and Requirements of the Tax Collector of Tinicum Township, Bucks County.

Voted upon and passed. Helms was absent.

B. New Business

Volunteer Board Appointments

Rosamilia and Breslin met with a volunteer but tabled the matter until Helms could join in the discussion.

C. Announcements

Death of Robert Sukup

Robert Sukup was a long-time resident, volunteer for Tinicum Civic Association and caretaker of the Historic William Erwin Cemetery. He passed away on January 30, 2023. Due to Sukup's efforts, Heritage Conservancy is taking donations to maintain the Erwin Cemetery, and a link to Heritage Conservancy will be posted on the Township website when available.

Tinicum Earth Day Fair 10am - 2pm on April 22nd

The Environmental Advisory Ad Hoc Committee is in the initial stages of planning an Earth Day Event to be held on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22 from 10 am to 2 pm at the Tinicum Township Community Park and looking for volunteers. If interested, please contact Cindi Gasparre at EAC@tinicumbucks.org.

Tinicum Conservancy Amphibian Crossing

Beginning in Mid-March, salamanders, wood frogs, and spring peepers migrate from their winter burrows to their ancestral pools to breed. The Tinicum Conservancy is looking for volunteers to help these amphibians to safely cross Perry Auger Road. For more information, please go to www.tinicumconservancy.org.

Sinking Springs Productions

Film production has wrapped. The Board stated that the Tinicum Police Dept. would be reimbursed for the time officers worked the roadway in the area of filming at the rate of \$100 per hour.

Resignation of Robert Galdo Land Preservation Committee

The Board thanked Robert Galdo for his contributions to the Land Preservation Committee and to the community.

D. Regular Business

Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of February 7, 2023 as written.

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

Motion to approve the Special Meeting minutes of February 7, 2023 as written.

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

Treasurer’s Report & Budget Recap

Treasurer’s Report and Budget Recap for January 2023 are posted on the bulletin board.

Payroll Report

Motion to accept Payroll Reports for the period ending February 10, 2023 in the amount \$34,481.89.

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

Disbursements

Motion to approve the following disbursements as written.

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

General Fund	Amount	Memo
PA Dept of Labor and Industry - SWIF	\$28.00	PA Dept of Labor and Industry - SWIF
Del Valley Workers Compensation Trust	\$5,362.75	Worker's Comp Insurance
PSATS	\$1,517.00	Membership
Delaware Valley Insurance Trust	\$10,682.75	Commercial Insurance
Skelton, Doug	\$233.96	Reimbursement
Gatehouse Media (Intelligencer)	\$1,818.70	Public Notices
Staples Credit Plan	\$372.21	Supplies and Paper goods
Leaf	\$59.21	Police Copier
ReadyRefresh	\$187.64	Bottled Water
Gall's Inc.	\$144.79	Police Uniform Supplies
Help Now	\$75.00	Police Data Mgt
Staples Credit Plan	\$30.66	Office supplies
Ricoh Americas Corp	\$93.00	Ricoh Americas Corp
Holicong Locksmiths	\$124.39	Alarm System
Bucks County Association	\$300.00	2154 Membership dues
DelGuerico’s Disposal Service	\$155.00	Trash and Recycling Removal
Merry Maids	\$115.00	Merry Maids Janitorial 2/6/23

PennTeleData	\$382.63	Internet Modems
G2 Computers	\$2,364.95	Reimbursement - Adobe Cloud license(s) Renewal + batt backup
Safeguard Business Systems	\$390.00	Printing - cks and env
Harris and Harris	\$4,179.66	Legal Services
Met-Ed	\$29.49	Electricity Traffic Light
Met-Ed	\$358.04	Electricity Public Works
Met-Ed	\$615.41	Electricity Police and Admin
Met-Ed	\$42.50	Electricity Traffic Light
Bucks County Police Association	\$750.00	Police Range Membership
Payroll Fund		
SurePayroll	\$34,481.89	Payroll Period End 2-10-23
State Fund		
Wehrung's	\$792.49	Public Works Supplies
Capital On Trade Credit	\$72.64	Northern Tool Supplies
U.S. Municipal Supply	\$1,349.40	Sign Supplies
Open Space Fund		
Del Val Regional Finance Assoc	\$11,073.68	Open Space Bond

G. 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 area and permit substantial property improvement within the Tohickon Creek Watershed overlay.

- Applications received August 16, 2022.
- 60-day waiver of the clock requested to enable the applicant to provide further information.
- Planning Commission review to be determined upon receipt of revised plans.
- Board of Supervisors review currently scheduled for March 21, 2023.

H. Public Comment Session

Resident John Ramelli stated that in the southern end of the Township they are frequently losing electricity often due to trees falling on the electric lines and asked if there was an ordinance that would require homeowners to remove trees that were likely to fall on the wires, and if not, asked the Board to consider such an ordinance. The Board stated it would investigate the matter.

I. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 PM.

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

The next meeting of the Board of Supervisors is scheduled for February 21, 2023 at 7:30 PM.

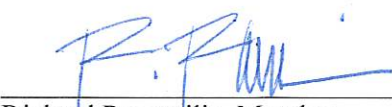
TINICUM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



 Jim Helms, Chairperson



 Eleanor Breslin, Vice-Chairperson



 Richard Rosamilia, Member