

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 Special Meeting Minutes February 16, 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. The meeting was live-streamed on Zoom and recorded. There was one person present at the meeting and one viewed online.

Chairperson Helms called the special public meeting of the Tinicum Township Board of Supervisors to order at 5:30 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. Tax Collection

Consideration of Replacement of the Tinicum Township Tax Collection

The Board stated that the special meeting of the Board of Supervisors had been called to discuss the replacement of the Tinicum Township Tax Collector and possible appointment of a replacement Tax Collector as outlined in proposed Resolution 021623.01.

Steve Harris provided the following background:

- Bucks County raised concerns last year about the Tinicum Township tax collector. The Board also had concerns and Supervisors Rosamilia and Breslin met with the tax collector, Michael Clement, in May and November of 2022 to discuss and help address the issues.
- The County stated that it is the responsibility of each tax collector in Bucks County to complete settlement and close out the tax duplicate of the previous year by January 15th of the following year. This task was not completed and as the result the County notified the Township that it would not issue the tax duplicates to Clement to send out for the 2023 year.
- On February 7, 2023, David Boscola, Chief Financial Officer for Bucks County, informed the Township in writing that it saw no other alternative than to replace Tax Collector pursuant to the Local Tax Collection Law. Boscola requested that the Tinicum Township Board of Supervisors appoint a replacement tax collector to prevent additional delay in collections for the county, township and school district for tax year 2023.

Possible Appointment of Replacement Tax Collector

Regarding the appointment of a replacement Tax Collector, Harris stated following:

- The Local Tax Collection Act provides that a replacement can be appointed in the form of a joint tax collector by way of a Resolution.
- Deborah Ann Yerger, Springfield Township Tax Collector, has agreed to also serve as tax collector for Tinicum Township.

- A joint resolution of the Tincum Township and Springfield Township Board of Supervisors is required.
- Springfield Township Board of Supervisors approved the resolution at their Tuesday, February 14, 2023 meeting and the resolution is now before the Tincum Township Board for consideration.
- As a condition of appointing a joint tax collector, the tax collector must agree to serve for the remainder of Michael Clements term, which expires on Dec. 31, 2025. Yerger has agreed to serve for the remainder of the term.

Motion to adopt Resolution 021623.01 Authorizing and Appointing Deborah Ann Yerger to act as Tax Collector for Tincum Township in addition to Springfield Township.

Motion by Helms. Second by Rosamilia.

Discussion:

- Rosamilia stated that the new tax fees will be \$5.63 per duplicate, which represents an increase. He asked Harris if funds would be withheld from Clement to make up the difference or will the Tax Collector Bond provide reimbursement for the Township. Harris stated that he must first review the bond to see if the increase is covered and if so, a claim can be made on the bond. Harris said that if the bond does not cover it, the amount of the increased cost should be withheld from payment to Clement for 2022.
- Breslin stated to the following:
 - The tax collector is an elected position and this was an extraordinary step.
 - The tax collector position provides the primary channel for the Townships budgeted revenue. It is essential that revenue is provided in a timely manner and funding reports are reliable, accurate and complete.
 - Residents must receive their tax bills in timely manner to enable them to take advantage of early payment discounts and payments must be processed promptly so they are not unfairly penalized.
 - The current tax collector did not fulfill his responsibilities in 2022 resulting in many residents experiencing frustration, confusion and concern, which in turn created a burden on the township staff.
 - Clement has failed to settle the duplicates for 2022, as required under state law.
 - The tax law requires the Board to appoint a replacement.
- Harris said the reason this special meeting was scheduled rather than waiting for regularly scheduled meeting next week was because the tax duplicates are required to be sent out on March 1. It was essential to take this action as quickly as possible to allow the replacement tax collector to get the duplicates mailed out on time.
- Breslin said that Clement received notice of the meeting and he was not present.
- Lewis stated she had received a letter from Clement, which she provided to the Board and Harris.

Public Comment:

Silvia LeBlanc, said she, along with Palisades School Board members representing Tincum, Scott Freeman and James Hallowell, were supportive and appreciative of the Board's swift action on this matter. She said Palisades had also had a number of difficulties with the tax collector and had serious concerns about accuracy of the records. LeBlanc stated that the school will probably need to take steps, such as separate audits, at additional cost to tax payers, to ensure the records' accuracy. She said they

hope to partner with the County and Tincum Township to cleanup last year's tax roles as well as prepare for the current year.

Motion to adopt Resolution 021623.01 Authorizing and Appointing Deborah Ann Yerger to act as Tax Collector for Tincum Township in addition to Springfield Township.

Voted upon and passed unanimously.

B. Adjournment

Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 5:43 PM.

Motion by: Helms. Second by: Breslin. 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