



Lehman moved to rescind the September 14<sup>th</sup> letter to the Roadmaster, she will draft a new letter to circulate to the Board referring to the personnel handbook and the executive session and approve training for the road crew.

Clemens asked the solicitor if he could second the motion if he was not present at the executive session. DiNicola said there seems to be two issues and discussion on training followed.

Lehman restated her motion. Lehman moved to rescind the September 14<sup>th</sup> letter to the Roadmaster, she will draft a new letter to circulate to the Board referring to the personnel handbook and the executive session. Clemens seconded the motion. Lehman, Clemens, Aungst were in favor of the motion, Wise and Zimmerman opposed the motion, motion carried 3 to 2.

- ♦ **Treasurer's Report** –The beginning balance of the General Fund was \$228,326.16, September General Fund receipts were \$91,804.21, September General Fund expenses were \$47,669.52, the ending balance of the General Fund is \$272,460.85. The Combined Township Funds ending balance is \$2,849,445.71. Clemens moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Aungst seconded the motion, all were in favor; motion carried 5 to 0.
- ♦ **Approval of Bills** - Ferguson noted the bills for approval include the request from Ravine Fire Company for the donation amount of \$10,000 and copies of bills to support their request were in the correspondence folder. Aungst moved to approve paying the bills totaling \$66,653.95, Clemens seconded the motion, all were in favor; motion carried 5 to 0.

## **PERSONS TO BE HEARD**

**John Heinbach, Roadmaster** spoke to the Board about the letter sent to him on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Zimmerman said the issue could be taken into executive session. Heinbach said he wanted the discussion held in the open meeting.

Heinbach asked Wise what he based his information on to send him the letter. Wise said the information that was discussed in executive session. Heinbach asked him if he didn't think his opinion would have been helpful, the information was hearsay. Wise said he also drives the township roads; he made a decision based on what he heard and saw on the roads.

Heinbach gave the Board a copy of a page from the LTAP book on patching, saying they were following it when the complaint was received. Aungst questioned Heinbach about digging out spots before new macadam surface was put down. Discussion followed on what was done on Stanhope Road and in Swopes Valley. Zimmerman also discussed patching procedures with Heinbach and Geist. Heinbach said they are doing it the same way Wayne and Washington Township and PennDOT are doing it.

Heinbach said if they are doing something wrong, he will take the hit, but before they send a letter they should get his opinion. Ralph Geist said the letter should have all the Supervisors signatures on. Zimmerman said it was agreed he would do the letter and he told Kathy to type it and sign it for him.

Heinbach said the Supervisors should stop the snide remarks about the road crew at meetings. Zimmerman and Aungst said nothing derogatory has been said at a meeting.

Discussion continued on the roads – paving, grading the shoulders, etc.

## **REPORTS**

### **Engineers Report / Planning Commission Report**

- ♦ **Middendorf Sketch Plan of Record** – DiNicola said he spoke with Dave Horst, there is no problem with a waiver for the flag lot. Clemens moved to approve the Middendorf waiver request for a flag lot, Lehman seconded the motion, all were in favor; motion carried 5 to 0.

**REPORTS, cont.**

**Health Officer** – Karen Winkleman said she is the one who filed the complaint for the Health Officer and they are still having problems, she would like the Board to ask the Health Officer to check again. Aungst moved to call the Health Officer immediately and have him check the property again. Clemens seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.

**Landfill Inspector** – Lehman said she checked on the sale of gas and was informed by Waste management if we send them a letter they would be glad to respond to our questions. Discussion on the Board negotiating with Waste Management followed. Aungst moved to send a letter to Waste Management stating progress is being made on the gas project and the Township would like to continue negotiations with them. Lehman seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.

Lehman said the landfill has the first layer of the liner down; the liner crew is working from 6 in the morning to 7 at night. Lehman asked the Board to approve overtime for her as Host Municipal Inspector. Discussion followed.

Wenrich asked if the Host Municipal Inspector is the only one who has to ask for approval for overtime. Aungst said they have allowed the Roadmaster to make the decision for overtime for his road crew. Wenrich said if she is the only one who has to ask it is a discriminatory labor practice.

Clemens moved to approve overtime for the Host Municipal Inspector for the next two weeks, Wise seconded the motion. Clemens, Wise and Aungst approved the motion, Zimmerman opposed the motion, Lehman abstained from voting. Motion carried 3 to 1. Aungst said they need to address the overtime situation in the township in the future.

**Recreation Board** – No comments.

**Roadmaster** – Aungst directed the Roadmaster to get a “No Littering” sign for Brookside Road and to grade Mountain Road towards Washington Township.

**Zoning Officer** – Zoning Officer was not present; Zimmerman said there were five permits approved for September.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- ♦ **Part-time Office Position** – Zimmerman moved to set the hours for the part time office assistant at 20 hours per week, Clemens seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0. Lehman moved to set the wage at \$10 per hour, Clemens seconded the motion, all were in favor; motion carried 5 to 0. Zimmerman moved to have Lehman and Ferguson do the interviews, Clemens seconded the motion, all were in favor; motion carried 5 to 0. Hiring decision will be made by the Board at November’s meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- ♦ **PLGIT Investment Term Accounts** – Ferguson said the \$150,000 term account matured today and she put it into the regular PLGIT account for the Board to decide where they want to invest it. Ferguson said the larger term account with PLGIT will mature on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Ferguson recommended the account that matured today be put in a 90 day term account and the one maturing November 13<sup>th</sup> be invested in a 60 day term account with both maturing at the same time in January in order combine the amounts for re-investment. Aungst moved to invest the \$150,000 account in a 90 day term account with PLGIT and the term account maturing on November 13<sup>th</sup> in a 60 day term account with both to mature on January 16<sup>th</sup>. Lehman seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.
- ♦ **Trick or Treat Night** – Zimmerman moved to have Pine Grove Township Trick or Treat night on Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 PM. Lehman seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.

## CORRESPONDENCE

- ♦ **Paraclete Foundation Request for Letter of Intent** – DiNicola reviewed the letter from the Paraclete Foundation and stated they are not asking for a commitment from the Township or collateral of any sort. Diane Tobin said the letter from the Township is part of the package required for the Foundation to apply for funds. Discussion followed. Clemens moved to send the letter of intent from the Township to the Paraclete Foundation, Lehman seconded the motion. Clemens, Lehman, Aungst and Wise were in favor of the motion, Zimmerman opposed the motion and motion carried 4 to 1.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

- ♦ **Terry Ritzman** asked if Suedberg Fire Company would receive their annual donation if they turned in bills. Zimmerman said yes.
- ♦ **Donald Wenrich** said when Heinbach opened his situation to the public; the Board of Supervisors should have given a synopsis so the public knew what was being discussed.
- ♦ **Bernie Kulkaski** asked if the fire company merger is close to happening. Wise said he doesn't see it happening in the next year, the last two meetings were cancelled. Wise said the fire companies are making sure they can legally do what they would like to do, but they have not given any information to the Board of Supervisors yet.

**Kulkaski** said he would like the Board to become compliant in all areas and discussed the public water situation and the need for it in the truck stop area. He said the Borough water company should be registered with the PUC and Township residents pay 50% more for water than Borough residents. Kulkaski asked if it is correct there is no municipal agreement in place for public water. DiNicola said that is correct and the Borough is selling water beyond its boundaries without a municipal authority to do so, but this Board does not need to take action. DiNicola said a call from a customer to the PUC is needed for them to take action on the issue of the difference in rates; this is not a Township issue, but a PUC and Borough issue. Kulkaski said the Township should make the Borough become PUC compliant on behalf of the affected residents. Discussion followed.

- ♦ **DiNicola** said the tax assessment appeal he filed with the County on behalf of the Township for their property in Ravine was successful and the property was given tax exempt status.
- ♦ **Aungst** said the Board had budgeted to pay part of the workers comp for the ambulance crew and the Borough said the bill is \$2,227. Aungst figured our portion to be \$991 according to the population figures of the Borough, Pine Grove Township and Washington Township. Aungst moved to pay Pine Grove Borough \$991 for Pine Grove Township's share of the ambulance crews workers compensation cost. Wise seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.
- ♦ **Clemens** said the State House of Representatives Finance Committee held hearings in Pottsville on property tax reduction and he was invited to speak. Clemens gave the Board a copy of his testimony and said it is available to the public. Clemens gave a report on some of the discussion at the hearing.
- ♦ **Ferguson** reported Carole Gundrum called and said the DMV denied the request for new license plates the Roadmaster requested for two of the trucks because they need a letter from the Township signed by the chairman stating who is authorized to request tags, titles, licenses, registrations, etc. Zimmerman moved to approve a Township letter stating the Supervisors, the Roadmaster and the Secretary are authorized to request these services for the Township. Clemens seconded the motion, all were in favor; motion carried 5 to 0.

## ADJOURNMENT

At 9:25 PM Aungst moved adjourn the meeting, Lehman seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Kathy Ferguson, Secretary / Treasurer**