

PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
175 OAK GROVE ROAD, PINE GROVE, PA 17963
FEBRUARY 23, 2005 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES



Special meeting of the Board of Supervisors for the purpose of discussing the EMS Tax, Right-of-Way fees and other business.

Attending: Supervisors Larry Zimmerman, Diane Tobin, Allen Aungst and Jerry Wise; Secretary / Treasurer Kathy Ferguson and members of the public, list on file. Zimmerman began the meeting at 7 PM stating it was a workshop and no decisions would be made tonight.

EMS Tax Discussion

Tobin presented an informational sheet on Schuylkill County that showed the municipalities in the county who are enacting the EMS tax and how much they are collecting. Tobin also gave a sheet for Pine Grove Area School District that showed the Earned Income taxes assessed by each municipality. Zimmerman said his concern is what we would use the tax for. Tobin said the tax could be used for police, fire, or emergency services and road construction or maintenance, or the reduction of property taxes.

Aungst said two areas we could use it for; the fire companies and road maintenance. Aungst said we are paying over \$10,000 for the fire company's liability insurance and \$5,500 for their workers comp., plus we have \$20,000 in our budget as possible additional assistance to them. Aungst said we pulled money out of the Liquid Fuels Fund this year for road maintenance and we have not done that in the past. Aungst said between these two areas we could use the EMS tax next year.

(Herm Clemens joined the meeting at 7:15 PM.)

Discussion on the EMS tax included:

- ♦ More information is needed to accurately project the amount we could expect to receive if we enacted the tax.
- ♦ We are possibly going to lose money this year as a result of reduction in revenues from the changes to the OPT tax.
- ♦ The maximum amount of exemption income is \$12,000.
- ♦ The school cannot collect more than \$5 of the EMS tax at this point.
- ♦ The tax can be enacted any time this year.

Right-of-Way Fees

Zimmerman said because of today's technology, the solicitor suggested the township develop a fee schedule and ordinance for any construction done in the township right-of-ways. Ferguson gave the supervisors a copy of the Hempfield Township ordinance that she found on the internet that covers telecommunications systems, underground systems, removing equipment and fee schedules. Zimmerman said if we damage something in our right-of-way, we would be liable and another reason for the ordinance is that once someone has the use of our right-of-way, they can allow use of or sell the right-of-way to other companies. After further discussion, it was agreed that this should be pursued.

Equipment for Sale

Aungst said the Borough has an old spreader like the one we have for sale and wanted to know if we wanted to set a price for it. Zimmerman said we should look for the price we paid for the spreader, it was bought in 1995. Aungst asked if we should advertise in the paper at

FEBRUARY 23, 2005 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES - PAGE 2

the same time as in the Township News, Zimmerman said he would rather not do that. Aungst asked if Ferguson needs any more information to advertise the items in the Township News, Ferguson said she has a copy of the memo from Heinbach that the supervisors received in January and if everything on that is correct, she has all she needs. Ferguson said the Township News has two deadlines listed for advertisements; they may have missed the April issue deadline. Tobin said if Ferguson e-mails her the advertisement, she will post it on the PSATS Internet discussion group.

Insurance Check

Ferguson said Aungst had told her to hold the insurance check until tonight, it is due tomorrow. Aungst said he had talked to Stump about the liability and property insurance and the increase was due to the number of claims. Tobin asked why the check was held, it was approved at the last meeting. Aungst said there was an issue on the amount of the increase. Ferguson said she thought it was because of the discussion about the fire company looking at other insurance companies. It was agreed to send the check.

Paving

Tobin asked if we are going to pave the township parking lot this year, last year's bid was cheap. Ferguson said she already sent the bids to Joe Kretulskie to review; the parking lot was not on the list. Aungst said we should budget for that type of thing. Tobin said she wanted to put it in the budget last year and was told we would take it out of the funds. Zimmerman said the list of roads was sent in already, they were the ones left over from last year. Tobin said she will bring it up at the March meeting.

Sewage

Ferguson asked the supervisors about a property at 245 Suedberg Road. Ferguson said the new owner called and asked about records for a sewage system and was referred to the Sewage Enforcement Officers. Ferguson wanted to know if the supervisors had any other knowledge of the property to give to the owner. Tobin said she would call the owner and talk to her about the public sewer going through that area.

Meeting ended at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Kathy Ferguson
Secretary / Treasurer

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