

TUSCARORA TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 7, 2023 at 7:00 pm

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order with the pledge of allegiance by Supervisor Ridley at 7:00 pm

ITEM 2: ROLL CALL

Present – Supervisor Ridley, Clerk Reidsma, Trustee Vance, Trustee Kramer, Treasurer Balazovic

Absent – None Quorum present

ITEM 3: BOARD MEMBER CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

No board conflicts.

ITEM 4: PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

The floor was open for public comment at 7:02 pm.

- J McGinnis – Consent agenda – correspondence regarding copyright infringement matter resolved.
- P Michael – Club Rd repair funding.
- B Henderson – Club Rd local road not a primary road, repair funding. Petition for Club Rd repair funding.
- D Webb – Planning Commission report correction.
- M Chervený – Planning Commission report correction.
- C Brown – Club Rd repair funding.

ITEM 5: APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Move to pull Meeting Minutes dated 12/26/22, 1/3/23, 1/13/23, the payroll dated 1/12/23, Treasurer's Report, and payables from the Consent Agenda to New Business Item 7e.

Moved by Balazovic, seconded by Kramer

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION: Move to pull Clerks Report from the Agenda and move it to the Consent Agenda.

Moved by Ridley, seconded by Balazovic.

Voice Vote - In Favor, Ridley, Balazovic Opposed, Vance, Kramer, Reidsma

MOTION FAILED

Discussion:

Documents related to the Clerk Report including what action the board would be asked to take.

ITEM 6: OLD BUSINESS

ITEM 6a: Club Road:

MOTION: Move to begin the special assessment district (SAD) process for the purpose of funding Club Road repairs from M68 to Martha Street, assessing each lot adjoining Club Rd \$750.00 payable over 5 years and each backlot owner \$500.00 payable over 5 years.

Moved by Ridley, seconded by Balazovic

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VOTE – In Favor, Ridley, Balazovic, Opposed --Vance, Kramer, Reidsma
MOTION FAILED

MOTION: Move to fund Club Road repairs by \$132,000 from ARPA funds, \$25,000 County grant, \$36,679 from the Township.

Moved by Vance, seconded by Kramer

ROLL CALL VOTE: In Favor – Kramer, Vance, Reidsma, Opposed -- Ridley, Balazovic
MOTION CARRIED

Discussion:

We cannot proceed with a board action through SAD since more than 20% of the owners have objected. Timeline for the SAD process.

Club Road is not a residential road, it is not a primary road per county, but actual usage is indicative of primary road use.

Comparison and contrast with other road repair projects – Wilson Rd, Eagles Nest Rd, Chippewa Beach. Establishing a SAD to get DNR funding may not be successful as state property is generally exempt when the property is for public use.

ITEM 6b: ATTORNEY SELECTION:

Report - board is currently considering choosing between Plunkett Cooney or Tim MacArthur for township counsel.

MOTION: Move to recommend hiring Plunkett Cooney for township counsel.

Moved by Reidsma, seconded by Vance

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote

MOTION: Move to request Supervisor Ridley arrange schedule for Plunkett Cooney attorney to attend upcoming meetings.

Moved by Kramer, seconded by Vance

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous vote.

Discussion:

Both firms would be excellent.

MacArthur has depth of knowledge but he is very busy and has limited resources.

Plunkett Cooney has less local experience, but has depth and diversity of resources.

ITEM 6c: SALE OF TOWNSHIP PROPERTY

MOTION: Move to engage the services of Brian Fulford to establish property descriptions at a price not to exceed \$2,250; to accept purchase agreement from Drost Chocolate LLC for the sale of the property; counter the offer from Miramonte Property Management LLC at a purchase price of \$17,146.00;

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authorize Supervisor Ridley to enter into a purchase agreement with GLOW for 2,750 sq ft of land for \$3,988 (\$1.45 per sq ft). With the following contingencies:

- The sale of all three parcels to close simultaneously not later than March 31, 2023
- Correcting the legal descriptions based on Mr. Fulford's findings.
- The proceeds from the sale shall be earmarked for future use of establishing a parking area on the southern most adjoining parcel which is to be retained by the township.

Moved by Balazovic, seconded by Kramer
MOTION CARRIED by unanimous voice vote

Discussion:

Research found that there are no good comparable sales available at this time.

All three parcel sales prices are per square foot and matched to best offer we have in hand.

Bear Barbell – adjoining land is so small that it has no sales value.

Closing all three parcel sales simultaneously saves the township closing costs.

ITEM 7: NEW BUSINESS:

ITEM 7a: DNR & COMMUNITY PRESENTATION – DNR to CLEAR CUT ALONG M68.

Presentation by residents M. Ray and N. Prout as well as DNR personnel T. St Pierre regarding plan to cut timber on property adjacent to M68 west of Straits Hwy. Concern has been expressed about effect on the appearance of the drive along that stretch of road. Collaboration between the DNR and residents have resulted in a modified plan to allow the DNR to manage the timber and eliminate the clear cut along M68.

MOTION: Move to support the DNR alternative timber management plan along M68 and adopt the township resolution of support of said plan.

Note: Supervisor Ridley read the resolution into the record.

Moved by Vance, seconded by Kramer

ROLL CALL VOTE: In Favor – Ridley, Balazovic, Vance, Reidsma, Kramer

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous roll call vote.

Discussion:

Purpose of timber clearing

Timeline for the project

Coordinating with adjoining neighbors

Opportunity to provide feedback and contact information to DNR

ITEM 7b: FOLDING MACHINE

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MOTION: Move to approve purchase of Formax model FD 6104 folding machine from Van's Office Supply at a cost of \$3,500.

Moved by Balazovic, seconded by Vance

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous consent.

Discussion:

Old machine is no longer serviceable.

Funds are available in the appropriate budget.

The machine is refurbished.

ITEM 7c: RFP AWARD FOR TOWNSHIP FASCIA AND SOFFIT

Report we received two responses to the RFP. Not considering soffit repairs in this agenda item at this time.

MOTION: Move to accept the fascia repair RFP for \$11,118.50 to be funded by ARPA.

Moved by Vance, seconded by Balazovic

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous consent by voice vote.

ITEM 7d: CLERK REPORT

Report presented by Clerk Reidsma and Deputy Clerk Dillaha regarding issues related to elections, payroll tax returns, financial information, and office operations.

ITEM 7e: TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES, TREASURERS REPORT, PAYROLL, AND PAYABLES

MOTION: Move to accept meeting minutes with revisions:

- 12/26/22 -- 1) D Keipert - correction of the spelling of his name. 2) Missing support for motion
- 1/3/23 -- 1) Correction to budget adjustments item – deleted from the agenda. 2) Tuscarora Township Volunteer Fire Association - correction name of fire department 2) Non-compliance fee – correct reference from penalty to non-compliance fee.
- 1/13/23 -- 1) Clerk motion – typo correct to “Clerk made a motion.” 2) Correct reference to non-compliance fee. 3) Strike detailed board comments and amend to indicate 2 board members made comments.

Moved by Vance, seconded by Kramer

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous consent via voice vote.

MOTION: Move to approve payables with revision to the Gabridge invoice. Gabridge to be paid the contract billing and travel and research balance.

Moved by Balazovic, seconded by Kramer.

MOTION CARRIED by unanimous consent via voice vote.

MOTION: Move to approve payroll.

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Moved by Vance, seconded by Kramer
VOTE – In Favor – Ridley, Reidsma, Kramer, Vance, Opposed, Balazovic
MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion:
Payroll process was not correctly followed.

MOTION: Move to approve Treasurer’s Report.
Moved by Kramer, seconded by Vance
MOTION CARRIED by unanimous consent via voice vote.

ITEM 8: PUBLIC COMMENT

Began at 8:51 pm.

P Michael – Club Road repairs
B Henderson – Club Road repairs
T Prout – DNR form to collect feedback
R Odenwald – Land sale, DNR correspondence, Planning Chair
P McGinnis – technical issues with recordings
H Henderson – board behavior
B Murdoch – Club Road repairs, taxes
R Grandy – Road millage vs special assessment funding

Public comment ended at 9:05 pm.

ITEM 11: BOARD COMMENT

Five members commented

ITEM 12: MOTION TO ADJOURN

MOTION: Move to adjourn
Moved by Balazovic, seconded by Ridley
MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Reidsma - Clerk