

August 14, 2023

Page 1 of 6

The North Annville Township Board of Supervisors met at the Water Works Fire Hall at 7:30 p.m. on August 14, 2023 for the purpose of a regular monthly meeting. All members were present. Also present was: see attached attendance sheet in minute book.

Randy Leisure, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Clyde Meyer, Vice-Chairman, made a motion to approve the July 10, 2023 meeting minutes as presented in printed form. Randy 2nd the motion, motion carried. Randy then made a motion to adopt the July 10 Treasurer's Report as presented in printed form. Clyde 2nd the motion, motion carried. Adam Wolfe, Secretary-Treasurer, read all the bills for the month. Larry Buffenmeyer questioned the details of the ELA Group invoices, to which Randy replied that an update on the status of the Clear Spring Road study will be provided as an agenda item. Adam made a motion to pay all bills as read. Clyde 2nd the motion, motion carried.

For the police report, Chief Farneski stated that the Cleona Borough Police Department responded to 43 calls in North Annville Township during the month of July. A traffic detail on Shanamantown Road resulted in the issuance of eight citations. The Chief continued by stating that ELA Group has submitted a request for Clear Spring Rd. crash data. The Cleona P.D. is investigating a complex case involving a serious injury sustained by someone who was riding in the back of a transport vehicle and not properly strapped in. The Cleona P.D. also recently provided assistance to fire departments with an injured horse in a trailer being towed by a truck on Clear Spring Road. The Department is currently in the process of hiring a full-time police officer as well as four part-time officers, with two of the officers being school resource officers. Larry Buffenmeyer questioned if the Chief has any ability to influence a speed limit reduction on the north end of Bellegrave, to which the Chief replied "no" and further stated that the ability of local police in Pennsylvania to perform speed enforcement is severely handicapped by the state legislature's continued and ongoing failure to allow local police departments to use radar for speed enforcement. In response to a resident's question pertaining to police coverage, the Chief replied that there is currently two officers on duty during the day, while there is one officer on duty at night with varied coverage on the weekends. The Department is currently down by two full-time officers. Seth Custer questioned the amount of time that the Cleona police spend in North Annville, to which the Chief replied that coverage is evenly spread out, with patrols of the main roads occurring multiple times a day. Randy stated that the supervisors appreciate the efforts of the Cleona Police Department.

For an update on the status of the Clear Spring Road Traffic Study, Randy read the study schedule then stated that the supervisors will likely meet with ELA group during the week of August 21. The study is looking at things including, but not limited to, traffic counts, core samples, truck and trailer tracking thru turns and the condition of bridges and culverts. Randy continued by stating that the study will determine whether restrictions based on weight and/or length can be placed on the roadway. In response to a resident's question pertaining to state funding, Paul Bametzreider, Township Solicitor, stated that the amount of the annual liquid fuels allocation does not change based solely on the traffic count of a particular roadway. In response to a resident's question regarding safety at the intersection of Shanamantown Rd. & Clear Spring Rd., Randy stated that the study is taking safety and sight distances into consideration. In response to another resident's question pertaining to the ownership of Clear Spring Road, Randy stated that it is a Township-owned road.

August 14, 2023

Page 2 of 6

For an update on matters pertaining to Lebanon Solar I, LLC, Paul stated that Lebanon Solar filed a reply brief and we are now waiting for the Judge to set a date for oral arguments to take place. Julie Kaylor questioned whether or not the public is able to attend the oral arguments, to which Paul replied "yes." Adam stated that he will post the date of the oral arguments on the Township's website when he receives an oral argument schedule in writing.

For an update on the 1742A Thompson Ave. nuisance violation investigation, Paul stated that the investigation has determined that no nuisance violation notice is warranted. Clyde stated that the property has recently been cleaned up.

For public comments pertaining to the possible purchase of the Hill Farm Estate property by Jubilee Ministries, Randy stated that the supervisors do not know much about anyone's current intentions. Randy continued by stating that the property is currently zoned R-2 Medium Density Residential and that, as per the zoning officer, a halfway house is not a permitted use in the R-2 Zoning District. Randy went on to clarify that the R-2 Zoning District excludes hospitals and sanitariums, and in response to questions from residents, Randy stated that if Jubilee Ministries were to purchase the property and apply for a zoning variance to operate a halfway house, the publicly advertised hearing for the zoning variance would take place in front of the Township's Zoning Hearing Board, which is independent from the Board of Supervisors and only meets on an as-needed basis.

For the next item of business, Randy stated that PennDOT has hired Benesch Engineering to perform engineering services for improvement of the intersection at Hill Church Rd. & Thompson Ave. Benesch has now drafted three different design scenarios and is seeking the Township's input as to the preferred design for the improvement of the intersection. Randy went on to say that option # 1 consists of an improved two-way stop intersection with a left-turn lane for westbound Hill Church Rd. traffic, at a projected cost of \$2 million. Option # 2 is the same as option 1 instead it would consist of a four-way stop instead of a two-way stop. Option # 2 did not rate well for safety due to the high potential for rear-end collisions at the stop signs which would be located on Hill Church Rd. The third and final option is a roundabout, which would require the demolition of the former Jim Monteith house, at a projected total construction cost of \$3 million. While option nos. 2 & 3 have similar safety ratings, the Township would be required to maintain the center area of the roundabout in perpetuity. Clyde stated that option nos. 1 & 2 would involve geometric corrections to the vertical and horizontal curves on Hill Church Rd. in order to improve sight distance when entering Hill Church Rd. from Thompson Ave. Ruth Rittel and Larry Buffenmeyer both stated that they would prefer option #1. Aaron Miller questioned the ownership of Thompson Ave., to which Randy replied that the Township owns the portion between North State Route 934 & Hill Church Rd. Other residents said they preferred option # 2 since rear-end collisions would be less detrimental than T-bone style collisions. Randy stated that the supervisors will take all comments into consideration.

Next on the agenda, Randy stated that Comcast and Upward Broadband both intend to submit applications for the expansion of broadband service to unserved locations in North Annville Township using American Rescue Plan funding. Randy went on to question Paul about the status of the Comcast Cable Franchise Agreement renewal, to which Paul replied that he expects the renewal of the Agreement to be complete in another year or two.

Next, Randy read a letter from the Lebanon County Agricultural Land Preservation

August 14, 2023

Page 3 of 6

Board, thanking North Annville Township for continued financial support in preserving the farming culture throughout the county.

For the Planning Commission Report, Brian Keck stated that the wind power ordinance has been approved for referral to the supervisors.

For the Emergency Services Advisory Committee Report, Brion Smoker reported that the Bellegrove Fire Co. Merger Committee is ready to meet with the Union Water Works Fire Co. Merger Committee.

For discussion of a proposed levy of fire tax on real estate, Paul stated that the 2nd Class Township Code authorizes a maximum 3-mill fire tax levy and that the Township is authorized to provide fire services to the community. Paul continued by stating that fire companies are unable to afford \$1 million fire trucks on their own. Randy stated that the Township has financially supported the fire companies in the past; however, the Board would like assurance that the previously-discussed merger of the Bellegrove and Water Works Fire Cos. will take place due to the manner in which merger-related discussions have played out in the past. Randy continued by stating that it is unsustainable for North Annville Township to continue to have two fire companies and that a real estate tax is the only way to adequately fund fire services in the Township. Tammy Blauch questioned what will happen if one fire company decides not to merge with the other fire company, to which Paul replied that the Township has limited ability to control the fire companies. Tammy then asked if the Township could decide to only fund one fire company, to which Paul & Randy both replied "yes." Brian Keck questioned the possibility of a study to examine apparatus needs, to which Randy replied that the Emergency Services Committee has already done that. Brian then suggested instructing the fire companies to merge or the Township will not levy a fire tax. Paul stated that the instruction from the supervisors to the fire companies to merge does not need to be formalized. Jim Hoffman, Jr. questioned if merging is the only way forward, to which Keith Blauch replied that money for new apparatus is the driving force behind a merger. Jim then questioned how best to address low volunteerism then stated that he had no suggestion in mind when questioned by Tammy Blauch. Tammy went on to state that a merger will reduce the number of positions which need to be filled and spread out the workload as a result. Randy stated that the Township does offer the volunteer firefighter tax credit to fire company and auxiliary members who meet the established criteria. Julie Kaylor questioned the possibility of a study to transition from volunteer fire service to paid fire service, to which several people replied that the cost of paid fire service would be considerably higher than anything currently under consideration. Aaron Miller stated that part of levying a fire tax would be the need for a fire company budget to be submitted to the Township. Randy said there is currently the question of what exactly a fire tax should be used to fund. Tammy stated that she disagrees with a comment that no one wants to give up power since Bellegrove has been offering to merge for several years. Ruth Rittel questioned whether or not a fire tax has to be in the form of a real estate tax, to which Randy replied "yes" because a real estate tax is the only way to raise sufficient funds. An exchange then took place between several individuals regarding the fairness of a real estate tax vs. an income tax, at which point Paul instructed them to address the Board and not each other. Larry Buffenmeyer stated that he supports the fire companies; however, he questions why North Annville has two fire companies that are within two miles of each other, to which Randy replied that the supervisors do not know how the Township came to have two fire

August 14, 2023

Page 4 of 6

companies so close together. Brian Tshudy stated that he does not oppose a real estate tax; however, he would like to see it transition to an income-driven tax in the future. Tammy stated that a bill currently under consideration in the State Senate would lift the three mill cap on a fire tax. Discussion followed about how much funding a mill of tax would raise, to which Adam replied that one mill of real estate tax in North Annville would raise approx. \$200,000. Tammy then stated that the Emergency Services Committee first suggested the idea of a fire tax levy to the supervisors in 2020.

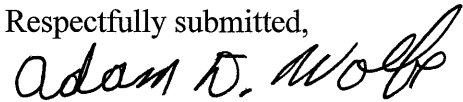
For the road report, Randy stated that the banks have been mowed and we are waiting for line painting to be completed. Estimates will also be obtained for tree trimming on Valley Glen Road.

No business was presented for the Zoning Hearing Board Report.

No additional public comment was offered during the public comment period.

There being no further business, Adam made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. Clyde 2nd the motion, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam D. Wolfe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "W" and "F".

Adam D. Wolfe, Secretary

August 14, 2023

Page 5 of 6

Treasurer's Report:

Balance in State Fund July 10, 2023		\$616,039.69
Receipts: Fulton Bank (FB) GIC Interest	\$71.46	
PLGIT Interest	14.76	
PLGIT Reserve Interest	<u>2,364.04</u>	<u>\$2,450.26</u>
Balance after receipts:		\$618,489.95
Disbursements: none		
Balance in State Fund August 14, 2023		\$618,489.95
Balance in General Fund July 10, 2023		\$1,034,145.21
Receipts: Recorder of Deeds	\$1,376.70	
Cleona Borough	287.62	
Comcast Cable	7,754.60	
District Court	300.00	
District Court	150.00	
FB GIC Interest	99.03	
PLGIT Interest	157.34	
PLGIT Reserve Interest	3,754.64	
Keystone Municipal Collections	<u>56,879.99</u>	<u>\$70,759.92</u>
Balance after receipts:		\$1,104,905.13
Disbursements:		
CK#: 6148 State Workers Insurance Fund	\$631.00	
6149 Leffler Energy	533.53	
6150 Pennsylvania American Water	40.60	
6151 ELA Group, Inc.	7,443.15	
6152 Barley Snyder, LLP	7,632.76	
6153 Borough of Cleona	7,000.00	
6154 Union Water Works Auxiliary	80.00	
6155 Starner Excavating	1,305.00	
6156 Calvin Hostetter	1,194.46	
6157 Randall Leisure	43.93	
6158 Clyde Meyer	43.93	
6159 Adam Wolfe	1,317.74	
EFT Comcast Cable	137.87	
EFT Met-Ed	65.85	
EFT IRS	<u>669.11</u>	<u>\$28,138.93</u>
Balance in General Fund August 14, 2023		\$1,076,766.20

August 14, 2023

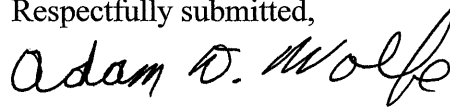
Page 6 of 6

Balance in Public Sewer Fund July 10, 2023		\$23,118.64
Receipts: Hill Farm Estate	\$10,515.14	
H.R. Weaver Family Realty	<u>5,204.88</u>	<u>\$15,720.02</u>
Balance after receipts:		\$38,838.66
Disbursements:		
CK#: 194 Annville Township Authority	<u>\$590.78</u>	<u>\$590.78</u>
Balance in Public Sewer Fund August 14, 2023		\$38,247.88

Summary:

State Fund	\$618,489.95
General Fund	1,076,766.20
Escrow Acct.	3,444.14
Public Sewer Fund	<u>38,247.88</u>
Total all Funds:	\$1,736,948.17

Respectfully submitted,



Adam D. Wolfe, Treasurer