

The regular meeting of the Wheatfield Township Supervisors was held Monday, December 4, 2023 in the Wheatfield Township Building. Barry Schrope called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Barry Schrope, Jeff Smith, Vicki Jenkins, Lester Nace, Phyllis Krieger, Paul Krieger, Mary Smith, Dave Jenkins, Phil Vogel, Josh George, Holly Potter, Mary Swope, Brian Swope, Candi Schrope, Lisa Rowe, Garry Rowe, Lorraine Wallett, Dexter Potter, Rick Shumaker, George Green, Rich Parrish, Amanda Tolbert Smith, David Mills, Giuseppe Palomba, Paul Wyatt – Perry Cty. Times, Ron Hummel, Brian Hummel, Bobby Hockenberry, Holly Hockenberry and Barb Zeigler. Jim Fuller was absent from tonight's meeting.

Barry Schrope led the pledge to the American flag followed by a moment of silence.

The minutes of the November 6, 2023 regular meeting were presented to the supervisors and posted for attendees in the Wheatfield Township Building prior to the December 4, 2023 regular meeting for public viewing. Phyllis Krieger stated there are a couple of things in the minutes she would like changed stating there were a couple things in the minutes she did not say. Phyllis said on page 186 of the minutes it states she had the records with her and would be leaving them before she went out the door, Phyllis said she did not say that because she did not have the checkbook and everything else with her. Jeff Smith stated he was in and signed checks today and advised he listened to the tape and that is what was said. Phyllis stated then she would like to hear it as well and the other thing was the lawyer said about the checks and she stated she forgot to sign them and stated if he would like she could sign them now, she does not believe she said that because there would be no point to sign them now. Jeff said he also heard that on the tape. Phyllis stated she would like to listen to it. Vicki Jenkins asked if she would like to hear it now and advised the current tape would need to be stopped and she would have to go back to November's recording. The recording was reviewed and the secretary minutes will stand as being correct. Barry Schrope stated he would like to clarify something as well. Barry stated it was talked about that he was at the October's rec board meeting where they signed the checks and yes, he was at the meeting but the check in question was signed October 28th by the rec board and he does not see the list of the checks there paying until the minutes are approved the following month. Barry said this has been changed, the supervisors now get a copy of the rec board draft minutes to review before the rec board approves them. Jeff Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting as presented by the secretary, Barry Schrope second the motion.

Barry Schrope advised Paul Wyatt, Perry County Times, will be recording the meeting.

Phyllis Krieger stated she would like to clarify some things from the last meeting. Phyllis stated it would've been nice if the supervisors would've come to her with questions or problems instead of blind siding her with the lawyer present and stated she has gained nothing from the township as volunteer secretary/treasurer; they've attended recycling and spring cleanup. Phyllis stated after last month's meeting being falsely accused of numerous things she resigned and that she was contacted by Jeff Smith twice that night and then she spoke with Barry Schrope and they indicated they wanted all the rec board records that night and she indicated she could get the records to them in the morning and they wanted the records that night. Phyllis stated she told them she needed to get them together and could get the records to them first thing in the morning which she did. Phyllis advised she used her computer, printer, paper and her time and worked for free the past 3 years as the secretary/treasurer and doesn't appreciate this kind of treatment and false accusations. Phyllis said it was stated there was nothing in the rec board minutes reflecting the transfer to cover the check, the approval of the transfer to cover the expenses was in the October minutes. Phyllis said the false accusations and the way it was misrepresented in the newspaper is affecting her reputation. Phyllis said Barry and the lawyer both said they both had trouble getting records from her and she would like to know how they tried contacting her to get the records. Barry said they met at meetings and he didn't he didn't strictly come out and say he wanted their cancelled checks but when you go back and look at the rec board meeting minutes from December the rec board money is over \$4,000 off. Phyllis asked Barry if he asked her for their records; Barry said he did not. Phyllis said then why did you and the lawyer say you had a hard time getting the records from her. Barry said he did not ask her for cancelled checks; they talked and looked at the minutes. Phyllis said so she was accused of not giving them the records, you didn't ask her for them. Barry stated no, he did not ask her for cancelled checks. Phyllis said did he ask her for the records; Barry said he is not sure what she means by the records. Phyllis said he and the lawyer both said they had trouble getting the records from her and she would like to know when he asked her for the records. Phyllis asked how much of our tax dollars was paid to the lawyer to subpoena the records from the bank. Vicki Jenkins advised she believes the total is around \$1,700. Phyllis said they could've just asked her and she would've handed over the records. Phyllis would also like to know why the bills are not in the supervisor's minutes; how do they know as taxpayers what bills are being paid. Vicki advised all of the bills are listed in the treasurer book in anyone would like to look at them. Phyllis stated the rec board had to list the bills in the minutes, Vicki advised the bill list is included in the supervisor's monthly packet. Phyllis said she would like to clarify for everyone else and the newspaper that she was not asked for the records, they subpoenaed them from the bank and accused her of not giving them the records. Jeff Smith stated he would like to know what the false accusations are, Phyllis stated that she did not give them the records and that Barry is having trouble getting any information from the rec board. Phyllis said they were telling him everything they knew about the paving; they don't know about the paving; they would have to ask the paver. Barry said in the rec board minutes it clearly states what the rec board was paying to have paved, it states, after the bridge project the rec board will pave parking lot at pavilion #2, John's work

at the bridge includes paving from the bathroom to the bridge, the drive down to the parking lot at pavilion #2 and the handicap spot. Barry said so he asked the rec board numerous times what they paid to have paved for their \$16,000 some and no one will answer him. Phyllis said because he is asking the wrong people. Jeff stated the rec board paid the bill; Phyllis stated she could not tell them what was paved. Jeff stated she wrote the check, Phyllis said she was given the bill and paid the bill. Phyllis stated she is talking about the false accusations from the auditors, from Barry and Jeff. Jeff said when they spoke to the lawyer and he said about getting the bank records he advised them that they could ask her for the records or go to the bank and with this whole project they got papers that were whited out, things that didn't add up and invoices on the same invoice number. Jeff said when the lawyer asked how they wanted to obtain the records he stated he wanted them directly from the bank so they know there was no tampering because it's been obvious the paper's they had handed into them were tampered with. Lorraine Wallett stated she is an accountant and she has offered to be an accountant for what the township would need. Lorraine stated she has read through a lot of the documents and records and she thinks there is a lot of good people trying to do a lot of good things but she doesn't think the township or the rec board had good procedures, policies or method. Lorraine stated she saw 3 invoices that were the same invoice number, whited out and different amounts. Lorraine said she is not saying that anybody is doing anything fraudulently but it happened in Penn Township 25 years ago and they lost nearly 3 million dollars over a period of several years over poor management and she does not want to see this township suffer the consequences. Lorraine stated the amount of money the township paid the attorney to go to the bank is a standard procedure that most accounting audit firms would do, there not going to come and ask the person that there getting information from that looks confusing and stated she is not blaming anyone but she thinks everyone should listen to what is being said. Lorraine stated she would like to help out but will not do it if there's going to be name calling and the bs that's going on right now; these guys are trying to get to the root of the problem; let's all work together and do a better job and put processes in place. Lorraine advised she is in favor of an official audit from someone outside, something needs to be done to get this under control.

Paul Krieger stated he would just like to ask the Lord for wisdom for everybody here, especially our leaders, and he apologizes to the Chairman for what he said last month about him having anything to do with the mistake of not obtaining 3 quotes, that Phyllis corrected him on that. Paul stated it's also interesting that the Chairman noted Phyllis was the only one who would talk with him and he didn't have the courtesy to ask her for the records so he doesn't have an issue with them using the lawyer, he has an issue with what was said when the lawyer insinuated that it was difficult to obtain the records and that made Phyllis look like she was holding them back and she wasn't. He doesn't understand why they would say it was difficult. Jeff Smith stated the lawyer is not here so he can't speak for him. Paul said Phyllis still agreed to meet with them and she made the call Tuesday night about meeting and she was told no. Paul said it's interesting to him that the supervisors sit there with the lawyer and get paid, but yet the people that are volunteering have no representation and nobody to speak for them and are being told the township is possibly going after them and they expect cooperation.

Holly Potter stated she would like to thank Barry Schrope for his years of service this being his last meeting.

Lorraine Wallett stated she is offering her services as an accountant and she has the experience and be able to help the supervisors.

David Mills stated he is on the rec board and he is the person down there picking up the dog poop, cleaning out the bathrooms and doing the trash. David stated that's money they are saving the township, yet they've been made to look like crooks, none of them are lawyers or know all of the things that need to be done and that's where the buck stops at the supervisors table; the supervisors are the ultimate end of it all and he does not know where to say the rec board is heading and if there is even going to be a rec board anymore and asked Barry and Jeff if that's something they want or don't want. Barry stated he always wanted a rec board and he always told them they did a good job; it's the supervisor's job to look into any discrepancies they might find. David thanked Dexter for doing the water and things out at the park that need to be done yearly. David said your paying a township employee to do this stuff where the rec board would have done it for free. David also thanked Phyllis for her time served.

Giuseppe Palomba spoke about a 50' right of way and a driveway permit. Barry Schrope advised him to get with Lester Nace, Zoning Officer about this issue.

Holley Hockenberry also spoke about the 50' right of way that Mr. Palomba spoke of. Barry Schrope advised her to get with Lester Nace as well.

Barb Zeigler stated it sounds like you have a couple here from the board that found a discrepancy that are trying to do their job and get something done for the township and people are up in arms about it and they are not responsible for how things are written in the paper and how people take it. The board takes advice from their authorities and they did what they're supposed to do.

Dexter Potter presented the road master report for last month: took the shoulder spreader off the blue dump truck and put the salt spreader on, got the Dodge ready for winter, cleaned leaves off of Ankajam Drive and Pine Hill, changed the oil and fuel filters in the F250, put up the new Glutts Hole road signs, turned the water off at Wagner Park, cleaned up the bleachers from football at Wagner Park, started going around and opening up pipes along township roads, trimmed on Hunkey Hollow and LTAP is coming December 20th to do the traffic study on Basin Hill.

There was no representative from the Duncannon Fire Co. at tonight's meeting. Correspondence was received from the treasurer of the fire company asking the board for permission to pay Bulldog OEM Services for the repair of a leak in the tanker out of their Apparatus Fund; total repair is \$4,759.50. Barry Schrope asked Vicki Jenkins to contact the treasurer and clarify they are not asking the township to pay the bill.

The 2024 budget has been prepared and advertised as required. Vicki Jenkins stated the Perry County Crime Stoppers donation of \$500 should be deleted from the 2024 budget since they have disbanded. Jeff Smith stated he has an issue with the Recreation Board donation of \$17,500. Jeff stated they have been asked the few years to give the supervisor's a budget and they started doing that but it was always late and this year they told them they would like to have their budget before adopting the supervisor's budget and since that was announced the rec board has not had a meeting since. Jeff said he cannot approve the budget with the rec board donation being included. David Mills stated they have no treasurer now and no secretary, you've threatened to take everything they have already and should at least budget something to maintain the park. Jeff said there are other line items in the budget for the park. Barry Schrope advised there is approximately \$55,000 in the capital reserve account and approximately \$35,000 in the rec board account. Jeff Smith stated with everything that has been going on, he does not have a problem with the rec board, the whole problem he has had has been with this one project and nothing has ever been said by him about the volunteer work that has been done by the rec board the whole issue has been with the bridge project and the money not working out right and he believes there has been a lot of hard feelings out of this. Jeff said that is what he would like to see straightened out and does not want to see the rec board go away; everyone here pays taxes to Wheatfield Township and he would think everyone would want to know where their money is being spent and there has been multiple things that have come in that have thrown red flags over this project and that's why he questioned it. Jeff said until this gets figured out, he would like to see things put on hold until things get figured out. Jeff said there is a lack of communication between boards. Jeff Smith made a motion to adopt the 2024 budget with the removal of the \$500 Crime Stopper donation and the removal of the \$17,500 Recreation Board, Barry Schrope second the motion.

Jeff Smith made a motion for the dates and times for township meetings to be as follows: monthly Board of Supervisors meetings will be held the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. with the exception for the months of January and September, January's meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 and September's meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 3, 2024, the Planning Commission will meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m., the Recreation Board will meet the third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m., the Zoning Hearing Board will hold their organizational meeting on Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. and the Auditors will hold their organizational meeting on Wednesday, January 3, 2023 at 6:45 p.m., Barry Schrope second the motion. Meetings will be advertised as required by law.

Jeff Smith made a motion for taxes to remain at .199 on all real estate assessments, 1% on real estate transfer tax (.5% township, .5% school), and 1.8% on earned income tax (.5% township, 1.3% school), Barry Schrope second the motion.

A letter of resignation has been received from Phyllis Krieger, Park and Rec Board Secretary/Treasurer, effective November 6, 2023. Jeff Smith made a motion to accept Mrs. Krieger's resignation, Barry Schrope second the motion.

A letter of interest has been received from Lorraine Wallett for the vacated Township Auditor position by Rhoda Barrick. Jeff Smith stated after reading her letter he contacted Ms. Wallett by phone and felt she was pretty knowledgeable and has experience with auditing. Jeff said with two new auditors starting it's going to be a little rough auditing the books. Vicki Jenkins stated this would be for the open Auditor position vacated by Rhoda Barrick until the next municipal election in 2 years. Jeff Smith made a motion to appoint Lorraine Wallett as Township Auditor, Barry Schrope second the motion. Barry stated he also spoke with Ms. Wallett.

Barry Schrope advised the township has had a State Liquid Fuels account audit done by the Department of the Auditor General for the year 2022 and there were no findings (copy on file).

Barry Schrope stated bills for the recreation board have been coming into the township. Vicki Jenkins stated the current authorized signers on the rec board account are Phyllis Krieger and John Weldon. Jeff Smith stated he believes Vicki will need to be one of the authorized signers because of being bonded. Vicki said the rec board bond will also need to be discussed since they don't have a treasurer. Barry stated he believes all 3 supervisors should be authorized signers on the rec board account if they get another treasurer. Vicki said there is over \$30,000 sitting in an account at Member's 1st that no one can touch right now and stated the supervisors should take the money out and put it in the capital reserve account the supervisors have control of. Jeff Smith made a motion to close the recreation board checking and savings account at Member's 1st and move that money to the capital reserve account for Wagner Park at Mid Penn Bank and change all billings for Wagner Park to be sent to the Township Office, Barry Schrope second the motion.

Barry Schrope stated last month the supervisors contacted 3 CPA firms to see if they could do an audit of the rec board account and one came back a no due to scheduling and the other two did not reply. Barry said the solicitor suggested authorizing the preparation of an advertisement to solicit formal responses. Barry Schrope made a motion to advertise to solicit formal responses for a CPA audit, Jeff Smith second the motion.

The draft letter Lester Nace, Zoning Officer prepared for Donald Strickler on Montebello Farm Road was discussed. Lester stated he hand delivered the last letter to Mr. Strickler and discussed the logs being on the right of way and the signs in the right of way. Lester advised the logs will be removed in the near future and the signs will be removed if the neighbor does not push snow onto his property anymore. Lester stated he spoke with the neighbor as well and both property owners are in agreement. Lester prepared another letter (copy on file) to Mr. Strickler for the supervisors to review and sign if in agreement with what he said. Barry Schrope stated he believes it was well written for both people involved and had no problem signing it. Jeff Smith agreed.

Jeff Smith thanked Sue Flickinger for her time served as auditor and Barry Schrope for his years of service.

Vicki Jenkins stated she received a letter from the tax assessment office for a property in the township that had a fire and was reassessed and due a refund from the county, township and school. Vicki advised the township will owe \$6.98 back to the resident and this will show in next month's check list.

Vicki Jenkins stated from last month's meeting the supervisors asked her to send a letter to PennDOT regarding the request for school bus stop ahead warning signs. Vicki advised she has done that but is still waiting on a reply.

Vicki Jenkins stated she has received the health insurance and dental insurance renewal rates for their review. Vicki advised the dental insurance is on a rate pass until 2025 so the rate will remain the same.

Vicki Jenkins thanked Barry Schrope for his years of service.

Kraig Nace of the Duncannon EMS stated the November call numbers report will be forthcoming, their Santa Claus breakfast is this Saturday and bingo is still going on. Kraig stated as always, they appreciate all of the support from the residents and leadership of Wheatfield Township and also thanked Barry Schrope for all his support over the years and that he has always been an advocate for EMS services in the county. Kraig also welcomed Phil Vogel to his new position starting in January.

Barry Schrope stated the last ambulance Duncannon EMS purchased was purchased by Wheatfield Township in lieu of not raising their donation for 5 years. Kraig Nace advised 2023 would be year number 5. Barry stated the supervisors did raise their contribution to EMS services for 2024.

Ron Hummel stated he lives on Pine Hill and when he moved there the township had a tremendous supervisor named Buzzy Mullen who made sure they plowed the road up past Domer Wolfe's house so he could get into his place and over the years he has had a lot of success working with the supervisor's and he would like to mention that Jeff Smith and Dexter Potter have done super work on Pine Hill Road for them. Ron said he doesn't understand all of logistics of the issue with what is going on, but he would think that the end result would be when there is an audit done and that he worked for the school district and when the audit came down and if there was a difference of 5 cents, they needed to know which way. Ron said in all of his years living in the township he has only attended about 4 township meetings and maybe just being inquisitive with what's going on and every meeting he has going to he remembers and he thinks he'll remember this meeting; it was a Monday night wedding.

Dave Jenkins thanked Barry Schrope for his years of service.

Rich Parrish stated he believes Lorraine Walleth will be an asset to the township.

Garry Rowe stated he understands the auditors will take care of the money stuff but if we know that the township paid to have a job done a certain way and the contractor did it a different way and did it cheaper by not using the right product which isn't going to last nearly as long as the other product, shouldn't this be an issue the supervisors are addressing too. Barry Schrope stated according to the solicitor when the CPA does an audit it will be more than a money audit, they will actually come to the township and go over the project and prints and will look at receipts that were given or not given.

Dexter Potter asked the supervisors about the repairs that are needed to the little red dump truck. Dexter stated Hoover Bros. sent an email of what will be needed. Jeff Smith and Barry Schrope reviewed the email. Jeff stated he will contact Hoover Bros. and get a quote for the bare minimum stuff needed for inspection.

Jeff Smith made a motion to approve the checks from the General Fund for the month of November. They were as follows:

6424 – 6459, 110223, 10-2023, 110623 and 010-2023

Barry Schrope second the motion to approve the checks.

There being no further business Jeff Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Barry Schrope second the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki L. Jenkins
Twp. Secretary