

MINUTES FOR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 13, 2024

The regular meeting of the Pine Grove Township Supervisors was held on Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Supervisors present were Douglas Smith, Robert Nelson and Linda Farnsworth. Others present were Rich Barrett, Dave McJunkin and Julie Parmenter.

Douglas Smith called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

The meeting opened with the pledge to the flag.

Douglas Smith read over the agenda and asked if there were any comments from visitors or residents. There were no visitor's comments.

A motion was made to approve the minutes for the October 25, 2024 meeting by Bob Nelson. Linda Farnsworth seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Bob Nelson made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report dated November 13, 2024. Linda Farnsworth seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Bob Nelson made a motion to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$38,450.28 for the general fund, \$12,285.55 for the sewer fund, \$4,944.79 for the sewer II fund and \$13,699.94 for the water fund. Also, approval for payment of any utilities that may come due before the next regular scheduled meeting. The motion was seconded by Linda Farnsworth. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Dave reported on the Old State Road culvert issue. He advised that he is checking into acquiring a new sluice pipe and received an estimate of \$5,280. After much discussion on the subject, the Supervisor's decided to move forward with installing a new pipe at this location to provide stabilization to the road. In the meantime, we will contact the engineer to apply for the LSA grant which would provide a permanent repair. A motion was made by Doug Smith to purchase the pipe, acquire rental equipment and any additional help up to \$10,000. Bob Nelson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Dave informed the Supervisor's that the big truck is waiting for some parts. He has been told it is some type of timer that runs the fan. This part has to be ordered and will come from outside of the United States. They do not have an estimated arrival date on this.

Next was an update from the fire department. Rich Barrett briefed the Supervisor's on their calls and volunteer recruiting. He noted that they have a couple new people join recently. They have been keeping up with calls and even providing some support to New York. He enlightened them on the truck that was purchased a year ago is being worked into service. The old truck, that was replaced, was donated to a department in North Carolina with some supplies to help out after the storm.

Resolution #11-13-24 to prepare and submit the Statewide Local Share Account (LSA) grant for the Old State Road Culvert Project by Stiffler McGraw was considered. A motion was made by Linda Farnsworth to proceed with the submission of the LSA grant application. Bob Nelson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

The light on the flag pole was revisited. It was noted that the light is too bright and some complaints have been received. The secretary contacted Moonlight regarding getting a light that is not so distracting to replace the one that was installed. She was advised that once the current bill has been paid, they could come back, although there would be a service call charge for this. The Supervisor's decided to leave the current light there for the time being.

The recently attended Hazard Mitigation meeting was reviewed. This was attended by Rich Barrett and Doug Smith. After much discussion, Rich Barrett advised that he will be filling out the 2025 Risk Factor Assessment and the Hazard Mitigation Project Opportunity Form. Rich inquired as to what, if anything, the Supervisors would like to request on the Hazard Mitigation Project Form. There was some talk on a new generator for the office or one located at Northern Area Homes. It was determined that installing a generator at Northern Area Homes would be more appropriate. The secretary informed Rich that an email was received from Ashley Day with MCM Consulting asking for feedback on the status of Pine Grove Township's 2021 project. Rich advised that we could let her know that the radios were received and put to use. Although, when an update came through it made them obsolete. The secretary will provide feedback to Ashley regarding the 2021 project.

There were some sewer issues in town which were investigated by Pipe Works. An estimate was received for the repairs to the locations at 10 Race Street and 12 Race Street. An estimate to remove manhole cover, add extension rings and replace manhole cover back on extension came in at \$7,660.00. Linda Farnsworth made a motion to approve payment of \$7,660.00 for these repairs. Doug Smith seconded to motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

The battery backup for the pump station on Mill Lane has been replaced by Warren Webster. There is some question as to why the generator did not come on. There seems to have been no interruption of power so there is some concern as to why there was a power loss at this site.

Next was some talk on how to fund the EMS services. The Supervisors have contacted the solicitor regarding using a portion of the fire tax funds to support an EMS tax levy. In order to not raise taxes to cover this service, they are able to adopt a special EMS tax to come from the fire tax funds. The solicitor advised that they can do this by Resolution. The Supervisor's commented on the fact that they have not received any kind of accountability for the tax funds provided to the fire department. They did note that they hope to receive an annual accounting report in the near future. The Supervisors advised the secretary to have the Resolution prepared for the next meeting using a quarter mil to cover this cost.

There was a review on an employee who is on medical leave. The Supervisors have some concerns this might be a strain on the road crew being short one worker especially with winter coming. The Supervisor's inquired as to whether another new employee would need to be hired to help out with winter maintenance. Dave would like to check into a couple of options before and advertising is done.

The budget was reviewed and the supervisors agreed to advertise that the budget is available for public inspection.

Bob Nelson made a motion for adjournment at 8:43 PM. Doug Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Sincerely

