

Supervisor Meerman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance. Board members present: Helen Dietrich, Mike Dunnuck, Troy Goodno and Nanita Sammons. The meeting was available to residents remotely via zoom. Fire Chief Sheridan was also present.

Agenda Approval-

Motion by Meerman to approve the agenda with the following addition: Duties agreement for Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer position. Second-Dunn, motion carries.

Public Comment-

A resident has concerns about the handling of her FOIA request.

Consent Agenda-

Approval of Minutes from November 8, 2021

Financial Report/Payment of checks 175639-17667 and ACH transactions 937-951 and Direct Deposit Payroll DD3917-DD3952 and tax payment/dues totaling \$91816.09

Budget amendment for account 101-000-502-201 Federal Grant ARPA \$107,651.50.

Budget amendment for account 101-265-989.201 Capital Outlay-ARPA \$107,651.50

Motion by Dunnuck to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Goodno, motion carries.

Township Reports-

Community Policing-41 calls for the month of November

Fire Department-Chief Sheridan reported there were 13 calls in November. There is a new member and he is enrolled in the fire academy. Mark McDonald will step down as lieutenant and Rob Haack will take the position. Galen Rosel will step down as medical officer, Deb Burgtorf will take the position. Asked if there is a protocol to sell the Tahoe. Board responded to put on Facebook Marketplace for one month. Radios will be re-programmed on December 17th. Parking lot is complete. Department Physicals will take place in December. Chester Township Fire Dept is applying for a grant with Hudsonville Fire Dept for SBCA equipment. The NEOFCA fundraiser and auction will take place on March 12th. Santa was in Conklin on December 11th. 150 people showed up. Thank you to Coopersville Cares and Marian Kelly for donations to the event.

Planning Commission-At the November meeting the board voted to recommend to send the Lawful Nonconforming Lots, Uses, Structures and buildings ordinance to the Township Board. Mr. Goodno gave a brief history as to why the ordinance was reviewed. The proposed ordinance is not stricter than the current ordinance in regards to the 60% rule. Residents can go through the Zoning Board of Appeals to obtain the ability to rebuild. The draft contained language to eliminate over time all nonconforming properties which was removed.

A Special use land division proposal was reviewed, two splits were requested, one was allowed.

Migrant Farm Labor Housing was reviewed, Farm Bureau gave a presentation. A draft ordinance will be reviewed based on feedback from the Planning Commission. There will be an extra meeting on January 3rd at 7pm.

Senior Services-Four Points Community Services will give a presentation to the board in January.

Zoning Department-Report attached.

Unfinished Business-

Employee Handbook review-Tabled.

New Business-

Lawful Nonconforming Lots, Uses, Structures and Buildings Ordinance.

-A resident commented that the 60% rule has the potential to be a hardship to some members of the community. Would insurance coverage be available for these lots?

-A resident said that his residence is in an industrial zone which is nonconforming. When trying to get a loan the bank wants to know if the Township will issue a re-build letter.

-A resident is worried about the ability to rebuild after a fire. Would like notification.

-A resident said his property was re-zoned., and nothing is allowed on his property except mobile homes.

He is worried about the ability to re-build his home after a fire.

-A resident stated that he is opposed to the 60% rule. If homes are destroyed you would have to wait for the township to decide if you could rebuild. Well and septic are issues on small parcels. The township assessor is not the person to make the decision if house is legal at the time to build. Zoning should be for the future not penalize the past.

Motion by Meerman to adopt the ordinance as read and send a strong recommendation to the Planning Commission to revisit Section A.2.b. Second by Goodno. Role call vote.

Dietrich, no; Dunnuck, yes; Goodno, yes; Meerman, yes; Sammons, yes. Motion carries.

St Patricks Day Celebration-The Marne American Legion along with the Conklin legion would like to have a beer tent on Grove St or Main St. The board was in favor of the idea and will re-visit at the January meeting.

PLM-Crockery Lake Weed Control. Betsy Ludwick from the Crockery Lake Association presented the weed control contract. Motion by Meerman to approve the contract for three years, Second by Dunnuck, motion carries.

Road Projects 2022-The cost to repave Conklin is \$292,503. The roads in Conklin and around Crockery Lake are the responsibility of the Township. Ottawa County takes care of all other roads.

Lighting Estimates-Two estimates were submitted for the Hall portion of the building. Motion by Meerman to accept Hersh bid with the caveat that we do not have a supply of ballasts on hand. Second by Dietrich, motion carries.

American Classic Dumpster-email received and read.

Treasurer Training Pay. Motion by Meerman to pay Mrs. Coxon \$25.00/hr. to train the new Treasurer for up to 60 hours through December 31 of 2022. Second by Dunnuck, motion carries.

Board of Review Appointee-Motion by Meerman to accept Cheryl Kooiman to the Board of Review. Second by Dunnuck, motion carries.

Duties agreement for Treasurer-Motion by Goodno to adopt the additional duties for the Treasurer. Second by Meerman, motion carries.

Deputy Treasurer Position-Motion by Meerman to hire Lisa Denhof for the additional duties as Deputy Treasurer. Second by Dietrich, motion carries.

Public Comment-

-There is no contact for the Trustees on the Web Site.

-The next meeting will be in January of 2022

-Asked if The Zoning Board of Appeals regulations could be re-written as to allow lee-way for variances.

-Is the light on 24th and Crockery Shores going to be installed?

Board Member Discussion-

Goodno asked if Meerman could contact Road Commission about cleaning up trees in the road right-of-way.

Meerman welcomed Nanita Sammons to the Township Board.

Adjournment-

Motion by Goodno to adjourn at 8:51 p.m.

Helen Dietrich

Chester Township Clerk

(Any document referenced in these minutes is on file in the Clerk's office

