

THE TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2017

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The September 2017 Regular Business Meeting of the Tobyhanna Township Board of Supervisors was held on September 11, 2017 at the Tobyhanna Township Government Center Building, 105 Government Center Way, Pocono Pines, Pennsylvania, 18350.

Present were Supervisors Anne Lambertson, John Holahan, III, Heidi A. Pickard, Brendon Carroll, John Kerrick, Solicitor Jonathan J. Reiss, Esquire, and Township Manager John Jablowski Jr.

1. Chair Anne Lambertson called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. It was determined that a quorum was present.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. A moment of silence was held in remembrance of September 11, 2001.
4. Announcements
  - a. The Board of Supervisors held an executive session from 6:00PM to 6:55PM on September 11, 2017 to discuss litigation.
5. Minutes
  - a. Brendon Carroll moves to accept the meeting minutes for the August 7, 2017 Work Session. John Holahan seconds. Vote: All in favor; minutes accepted.
  - b. John Holahan moves to accept the meeting minutes for the August 14, 2017 Regular Business Meeting. John Kerrick seconds. Vote: All in favor; minutes accepted.
6. Treasurer's Report
  - a. Heidi Pickard motions to approve the Treasurer's Report at \$349,063.18. John Holahan seconds. Vote: John Kerrick and Anne Lambertson abstain due to conflict of interest associated with checks in the bill pack. John Holahan, Brendon Carroll, and Heidi Pickard vote in favor; motion carries.
7. Solicitor's Report
  - a. Jonathan Reiss presents Ordinance 537, withdrawing from the UCC Joint Board of Appeals. John Holahan motions to open a hearing, Heidi Pickard seconds; hearing is opened. A question is posed why are we withdrawing from this. Jonathan Reiss answers that this board is confusing and nonfunctional. No one

was ever appointed to counsel, and the next ordinance would create a Board of Appeals with clearer rules. John Holahan motions to close the hearing, John Kerrick seconds; hearing is closed. John Holahan motions to adopt Ordinance 537, Heidi Pickard seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

- b. Jonathan Reiss presents Ordinance 538, creating a Township Board of Appeals. Heidi Pickard motions to open a hearing, Brendon Carroll seconds; hearing is opened. A question is posed as to what the new board will consist of. Jonathan Reiss states that this board will consist of five members and two alternatives who are qualified in the ways of construction, architecture, or engineering. A member of the public asks if this is similar to the variance committee. Brendon Carroll replies no, this board would deal with someone disagreeing with the decision of the building inspector. John Kerrick motions to close the hearing, Heidi Pickard seconds; hearing is closed. Heidi Pickard motions to adopt Ordinance 538, Brendon Carroll seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

Jonathan Reiss states that at a future meeting, the board will need to appoint people to the Board of Appeals.

## 8. New Business

- a. Fiscal Year 2018 Minimum Municipal Obligation to the Township of Tobyhanna Non-Uniformed Employees Pension Plan. John Jablowski states that the minimum contribution from the township is \$31,303. This money is normally reimbursed by the state. At this point, the Tobyhanna Township pension plan is 135% funded. Because we are doing well, we may jeopardize our funding from the state. It is a balancing act to ensure we continue to acquire state aid.
- b. Commercial Blvd. & SR 115 Decorative Traffic Signal Pole Reimbursement Agreement. John Jablowski explains that the project as a whole will cost \$1.7 million. This agreement would provide approximately \$29,700 for village-oriented, decorative traffic poles. John Holahan motions to approve the agreement and authorize the chair to sign it, Heidi Pickard seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
- c. Presentation of American Flags – Congressman Matt Cartwright & Robert Morgan. Robert Morgan presents two flags that were flown over the United States Capitol on June 28, 2017. The board sincerely thanks him.
- d. Consider awarding the bid for the 2003 Ford Explorer. John Jablowski states that the township received two bids, the highest being \$720.00 from Toler Excavating. The bids were opened on September 5<sup>th</sup> at 12:17PM. John Holahan motions to accept the bid of \$720.00 from Toler Excavating, Heidi Pickard seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.

- e. RKR Hess Agreement – Act 537 Plan Revision for Transfer of Waste Water Treatment Plant. John Jablowski states that the township sold the sewer plant to Aqua June 30<sup>th</sup>, and has since cashed the check. A few weeks ago, the DEP informed the township that they had a list of items they needed updated to approve the sale of the sewer system. In order to conform with this list of demands, RKR Hess needs an addition \$5,400. John Holahan motions to authorize RKR Hess to proceed, Heidi Pickard seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
- f. Request for Waiver of Land Development – Kalahari Resorts Luggage Room Addition. John Jablowski states that Kalahari is adding a 1,000 sq. ft. addition to their luggage room, and requests a waiver of land development requirements. John Holahan motions to approve the waiver, Heidi Pickard seconds. Vote: Anne Lambertson abstains, all else in favor; motion carries.
- g. Pocono Mountain Regional Emergency Medical Services (PMREMS) Request Letter of Support for an LSA Grant for Stretchers. Heidi Pickard states that the PMREMS is applying for a \$70,000 grant to help defer the cost of motorized stretchers. John Kerrick motions to approve the letter of support, Brendon Carroll seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries. As an aside, Heidi Pickard states that EMS has received 138 calls from Tobyhanna Township this month, and a total of 558 in the region.
- h. Laminated Materials Minor Subdivision Plan. Brick Linder from Linder Engineering presents a minor subdivision of land owned by Laminated Materials. The subdivision would turn three parcels into two, and shift the lot line so the existing driveway is on the main parcel. The Tobyhanna Township Planning Commission has recommended this go before the Board. John Holahan motions to approve the application for the final minor subdivision plan, and to approve the requested waivers set forth in Bob McHale’s letter, dated September 1, 2017, with the understanding that approval is subject to compliance with that letter. John Kerrick seconds. Vote: all in favor; motion carries.
- i. Pocono Summit Volunteer Fire Company (PSVFC) Informational Presentation – John Jablowski. John Jablowski states that the Commonwealth is in a volunteer crisis. In the 1970’s, the Commonwealth had over 300,000 volunteers. As of 2012, that number was around 50,000. The problem is not necessarily with firefighting, it is with fire administration and how the operation is run. The police were called in March 2017 to settle a PSVFC meeting. Since early 2017, PSVFC was taken off of primary dispatch. At no time will any resident of Tobyhanna be without fire service. There is over \$17 million dollars in equipment and apparatus on the mountain. The functional daily population of Tobyhanna Township is about 30,000. It was a difficult decision for the Board, but they believe they acted correctly.

An unnamed member of the public asks about the cost of acquiring an ABC extinguisher for every household. John Kerrick says that they are about \$15 each, which would mean a \$120,000 minimum. He is concerned that many citizens are unfamiliar with the operation of an ABC extinguisher.

An unnamed member of the public asks about response times between Pocono Summit and other fire companies. John Jablowski responds that on numerous occasions, Station 41 showed up prior to Station 33. According to the Monroe County Control Center, there has been no significant delay in response time. Dual dispatch means that two fire companies are dispatched to the same location.

An unnamed member of the public states that a lot of the information provided in this PowerPoint and the press conference was wrong.

Jason Gonzalez states that he was a spectator to an incident when PSVFC arrived fifteen minutes ahead of Tobyhanna Township Volunteer Fire Company (TTVFC). John Jablowski inquires about the date of the event. Mr. Gonzalez responds that it was in June or July. He has pictures on his phone but doesn't know the date of the occurrence. He disagrees with the township's decision to deactivate the PSVFC.

An unnamed member of the public asks for a copy of the PowerPoint presentation. John Jablowski says yes, it will be provided to you.

Jason Gonzalez asks if the public can vote on the presentation given. John Jablowski responds no, this was informative. Gonzalez poses another question about homeowner's insurance, stating that he gets a break because he is close to a fire company, and is worried about his insurance increasing. Jablowski responds that insurance companies give the discount based on being within four miles of a fire station, and within a 1,000 feet of a hydrant. Pocono Mountain Volunteer Fire Company is nearby, so everyone is still within four miles of a fire station.

An unnamed member of the public asks if there is any way PSVFC could be reinstated. John Jablowski responds with maybe, we can hope. Members should be training, not being burned out by fundraising. The reason behind the shutdown was administrative problems.

An unnamed member of the public asks after out-of-pocket expenses for volunteer firemen. John Jablowski responds that it depends on the company.

Jason Gonzalez asks that if the problem is with the fire administration, why not train PSVFC admins under TTVFC, so the PSVFC can continue to run their station. John Jablowski replies that would be a solution, but everyone is their own legal entity. The township cannot require training for administration, and cannot dictate operations.

An unnamed member of the public states that he spoke with Mr. Kinsley, a founding member of the PSVFC, who told him the story of how the PSVFC was founded. The aforementioned unnamed member of the public states that it is a sad day when a fire company closes.

9. Public Comment

- a. John Holahan commends John Jablowski and Anne Lamberton for their exceptional presentation at the Monroe 2030 Economic Summit.
- b. Heidi Pickard thanks the founders of the PSVFC. The decision to deactivate the company was not an easy one.
- c. Frank Cacchione states that the new director would like to pick up activities where they left off concerning the Clymer Library, during a meeting separate from the one this coming Thursday.

10. Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.

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Minutes recorded by Julia Heilakka