

7:00 PM

April 8, 2015

SOUTH PYMATUNING TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING

The Regular Meeting of the South Pymatuning Township Board of Supervisors was held April 8, 2015 at 7:00 PM in the municipal building with Chairperson Rose Lyons, Supervisors Brian Geisel and Roy Masotto, Solicitor William McConnell, Jr., and Secretary/Treasurer Karen Presley in attendance.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge to the Flag.

A motion was made by Rose Lyons and seconded by Roy Masotto to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2015 Regular Meeting and to dispense with the reading of them. Motion passed unanimously.

Tri-County Industries has scheduled a bulk pick up for the week of April 12th and a leaf pick up for the week of April 26th on normal collection days.

Rose Lyons announced that an Executive Session was held on March 16, 2015 to discuss personnel and legal issues.

Public Comments:

Kurt Toth asked whose responsibility it is to clean up debris from the road after an accident. He said there has been debris on Ivanhoe Road at Buckeye Drive for over a month. He asked if lines will be painted on Orangeville Road and Buckeye Drive. Rose Lyons said that is done through the Agility Program. Mr. Toth said a sign should be installed regarding the recycling bin.

Bill Klumph said lines should be painted on Trout Island Road.

Don Morrow asked if any of the supervisors took the required courses for the township to be eligible for disaster funds. Rose said she completed the courses.

Jason Schenker asked for the proposed agreement with the fire department to be explained. Attorney McConnell gave a summary of the agreement. Mr. Schenker said that since the proposed agreement calls for the fire department to receive 2.5 mills in 2018, they would be approaching 3 mills with everything else that is paid by the township. He said at 3 mills, the issue would go to the voters. Mr. Schenker asked how the supervisors planned to fund the contract without raising taxes. He also asked why it wasn't being put on the ballot as neighboring Greenville just did for 2.25 mills. He didn't understand why the entire membership of the fire department would just "walk away" if they didn't get a four year contract.

Sara Schenker said it would be fiscally irresponsible to sign a contract for four years when the budget is only being projected for one year.

Tina Babnis said the residents are thankful for the volunteers and want the best for the fire department. She asked what their expenses were beyond what the township paid so residents could better understand why additional money is needed.

Laurel Alexander said the fire department has never given a clear answer as to why they need the money. Ms. Alexander had a listing of fire department expenditures which showed how much and to whom a check was written, but didn't show what the check was for. She said the township has a lot of expenses coming up, such as hiring a part time employee for public works and she mentioned the township truck that broke down. She talked about Act 600 regarding the police pension since we now have three full time police officers. Ms. Alexander would like to see money put into the softball fields. She felt it was a bully tactic by the fire department threatening to shut down when they are already funded for this year. Ms. Alexander said the supervisors asked the fire chief for a list of fire department members and it took a whole year to receive the list.

Lindell Bridges asked why the fire department is threatening to shut down when they are funded for this year. He said he has nothing against the fire department, but is concerned about the finances of the township.

Kurt Toth said there should be an itinerary for the road department.

Lindell Bridges said he agreed with Laurel Alexander that the fire department should add a line to their expense report showing what a check was for.

Martha Stambaugh asked why supervisors wouldn't just try a one year contract with the fire department first, before committing to more years.

7:00 PM

April 8, 2015

SOUTH PYMATUNING TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING

A female volunteer said that no one pays for her gas or time to go to the fire station. She said she was on an emergency call today and was glad she could help. She also said the fire department has utility bills and \$15,000.00 per year is not enough to run the department.

Steve O'Brien said the equipment in the fire department costs a lot more than average equipment. He said a lot of the equipment and gear is old and needs replaced. Mr. O'Brien said the department is almost out of money and they need the contract for guaranteed funding and for legal protection. He said the road and police department contracts are made with the expectation that they can be covered.

Tom Lyons asked what the budget was for the police department.

Jason Schenker had the figure, saying the police budget for 2015 is \$341,761.00. He said that the fire department is asking for \$92,784.25 in 2018, which is 48% of the township's tax revenue. He said the fire department also receives approximately \$15,000.00 from the state.

Michaelene Harris asked how much it would cost if we had to hire outside fire protection. Rose Lyons said no one was interested in providing services to the township, so the supervisors had no cost figures. She said the mutual aid agreements stop at midnight tonight for Transfer and Sharpsville if the contract is not signed.

Brian Geisel said he talked to Pymatuning Township and they will still answer the mutual aid calls, as will Sharpsville.

Roy Masotto said that West Salem, Sharon, and Sharpsville will come if called.

Don Morrow suggested reopening the contract after two years and reevaluating it.

Leroy Stambaugh asked if the fire department was going to guarantee the township in the proposed contract that they would respond to every call. Rose said that can't be done because most of the volunteers work.

Ed Wilson said if meetings are going to be this large, supervisors should make arrangements to accommodate all the people. He then said when somebody asks for money, you ask what they are going to do and how they are going to spend it, saying this was accountability. Mr. Wilson wants the supervisors to resolve the issue with the fire department and said they are responsible for providing fire protection to the township.

Brian said the supervisors agreed to a one year contract with the fire department and now they want a four year contract or they will cease fire protection.

Attorney McConnell said in Pennsylvania it is illegal for police departments, fire departments, prison guards, court house employees, and municipal employees to strike.

Tom Lyons said the fire department gave the supervisors a proposed budget.

Roy Masotto suggested a two year contract.

Kurt Toth said he doesn't like to be strong-armed and said the fire department received their funding for this year.

Rachel Doddato said the fire department fulfilled its reporting requirements to the township.

Brian Geisel said that he changed his mind about signing the four year contract but would agree to a two year contract.

Mark Hoffman said the supervisors have been delaying signing the contract and it is needed to obtain grants or loans.

Rose Lyons said she supports the four year contract.

Police, Fire, and zoning reports were read.

A motion was made by Rose Lyons and seconded by Brian Geisel to pay the bills totaling \$70,031.03. Motion passed unanimously.

7:00 PM

April 8, 2015

SOUTH PYMATUNING TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING

Rose tabled the agenda item regarding hiring a part time Public Works employee, saying the supervisors will be meeting in the next couple of weeks to discuss it.

A motion was made by Rose Lyons and seconded by Roy Masotto to adopt a Resolution acknowledging the requirements to participate in the 2015 Mercer County Joint Seal Coat Bid Program, with Rose Lyons being the delegate and Brian Geisel the alternate delegate. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Rose Lyons to enter into a Fire Protection Agreement with South Pymatuning Volunteer Fire Department and South Pymatuning Volunteer Fire Relief Association. The motion died for lack of a second. Rose told the other supervisors to contact Frank Janetti at the 911 Center to let him know their contingency plan for fire protection.

Attorney McConnell asked for clarification from the fire department members. He asked them if they were all resigning and Rachel Doddato said the department stands, but they don't have a contract. Attorney McConnell asked if that meant the township had access to use the fire protection equipment. Ms. Doddato said no, that the equipment belongs to the volunteer fire department. Attorney McConnell then asked if it they were indicating publicly that they were going to cease providing fire protection services and that the township would not be permitted access to the fire equipment in the station and the answer was yes.

Rose stated the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Visitors in attendance:

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Laurel Alexander | Lindell Bridges | Tina Babnis | Sara Schenker |
| Jason Schenker | Lorene Fragle | Joyce Geisel | Beth Anzur |
| Michael Burckart | Tom Lyons | Eleanor O'Hare | Sheila Lyons |
| Martha Stambaugh | Leroy Stambaugh | Richard Kamovitch | June Vodenichar |
| Mary Ann Jones | Barb Meyer | Michaelene Harris | Richard Harris |
| Becky Ague | Mark Ague | Ethan Koser | Troy Titus |
| Erica Titus | Dennis Sump | Guyla Sump | Brad Sarchet |
| Don Morrow | Linda Chalupka | Curt Springer | Kevin Pollock |
| Roselene Yambrovich | Frank Bertolasio | Jim Keating | Steve Andrusky |
| Chris Nagy | Amy Higgins | Bob Sabo | Sam Sabo |
| Bonnie O'Brien | Linda Pagliaroli | Jean Hornyak | Stephen O'Brien |
| Sheryl Wilson | Lucia Pompa Yanak | Chuck Vranich | Patricia Detky |
| Nicholas Detky | Joe Christoff | Sue VanZanten | Ed Wilson |
| Bob Layman | Matt Patrick | Kristin Patrick | Bill Klumph |
| Mark Hoffman | Mike Derr | Rachel Doddato | Kurt Toth |

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Presley
Secretary/Treasurer