

6:00 PM

August 10, 2015

SOUTH PYMATUNING TOWNSHIP VACANCY BOARD MEETING

A Special Meeting of the South Pymatuning Township Vacancy Board was held August 10, 2015 at 6:00 PM in the municipal building with Chairman Lindell Bridges, Supervisors Brian Geisel and Rose Lyons, Secretary/Treasurer Karen Presley, and Solicitor William McConnell, Jr. in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by Lindell Bridges and was opened with the Pledge to the Flag.

The purpose of the meeting was to fill a vacancy on the Board of Supervisors and Lindell Bridges asked visitors to keep their comments to that subject.

Public Comments:

Ed Wilson wondered if clearance was given by the Ethics Commission regarding whom he suspected was going to be appointed tonight. Mr. Wilson then said John Mastrian worked for the firm that performed the audits of the township and would be a good choice for supervisor. Mr. Wilson commented that he tried to contact Brian Geisel but did not get a response.

Lindell Bridges responded to Mr. Wilson that he did contact the Ethics Commission and received a response back from Robin Hittie, Chief Counsel, who determined that there is not a conflict of interest or an ethics violation regarding the possible appointment of Laurel Alexander.

Michaelene Harris said that Chip Mastrian would be an excellent candidate for supervisor.

Guyla Sump stated she spoke with a couple of attorneys who said it may be legal but not ethical to put Laurel into office. Mrs. Sump wanted to know the solicitor’s opinion and if he advised anyone on the Board. She said no candidate should be appointed, that it would be a political gain, and agreed that Chip Mastrian should be put into office.

Attorney McConnell said his advice would have been to contact the State Ethics Board and ask for an Advisory Opinion in regard to Ms. Alexander possibly being appointed to fill the vacancy, but Lindell Bridges had already done that.

Michaelene Harris said she also contacted two attorneys who stated that, morally, it would not be a good situation. She said they stated that candidates should not be nominated to fill a vacancy.

Attorney McConnell said he is not sure that is sound legal advice. He said attorneys are hired to give legal advice, not moral advice and he knows of no legal prohibition for an appointment of this nature.

Chuck Vranich talked about the fire department’s records, referring to a letter published in *The Herald*, and said the fire department’s books are open to anyone at any time. Lindell said that subject was off the topic of filling the vacancy.

Lindell Bridges called for a motion to appoint a successor supervisor. A motion was made by Brian Geisel to appoint Laurel Alexander. A motion was made by Rose Lyons to appoint Chip Mastrian. Lindell said he already addressed the conflict of interest issue and seconded Brian Geisel’s motion. Motion passed with Rose Lyons voting no. The motion made by Rose Lyons died for lack of a second.

A motion was made by Lindell Bridges and seconded by Brian Geisel to approve the Resolution appointing the successor supervisor. Motion passed with Rose Lyons voting no.

A motion was made by Lindell Bridges and seconded by Brian Geisel to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed with Rose Lyons voting no. Meeting adjourned at 6:18 PM.

Visitors in attendance:

Don Morrow	Martha Stambaugh	Michaelene Harris	Richard Harris	Barb Myers
Dennis Sump	Guyla Sump	Bob Layman	Pat Layman	Tom Lyons
Laurel Alexander	Chuck Vranich	Bill Klumph	Chris Nagy	Dee Hedglin
Gary Hedglin	Ed Wilson			

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Presley, Secretary/Treasurer