

BRIAR CREEK TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

Work Session Meeting

September 16, 2024, at 7:00PM

Briar Creek Township Municipal Building, 150 Municipal Rd., Berwick, PA 18603, Columbia County, PA

The Board of Supervisors Meeting of Briar Creek Township, Columbia County, PA was held at the Township Municipal Building on September 16th at 7:00 PM. Present were the following: Supervisors C. Fisher, M. Sitler, J. Gallagher, D. Sarge, Road Master S. Rauch, Police Chief T. Frace, and Secretary/Treasurer S. Johnson, BAJSA Representative Melissa Fisher, Resident – Bret Politz, Shawn Brandt (New Leaf Solar).

AGENDA & MINUTES

- Call Meeting to Order by C. Fisher at 7 PM.
- Pledge of Allegiance completed by all those present.
- Public Participation (limited to 5 minutes per person; inappropriate language will not be tolerated)
 - B. Politz addressed concerns about trying to schedule a closing on the blighted property at 381 Summerhill Road due to his work schedule. B. Politz is going to investigate getting a P.O.A. to get this process completed.
 - S. Brandt of New Leaf Solar came on behalf of the Ruckle Hill Road Solar 1, LLC project to ask if we would consider extending the zoning conditional use time limit to 5 years in accordance with Briar Creek Borough instead of 1 year like stated in zoning of Briar Creek Township. This subject was tabled until we received further information from our solicitor.
- Announcements
- Pass the minutes from the following meetings:
 - 03SEPT2024 Supervisors Meeting
 - J. Gallagher made a motion to pass the minutes from 03SEPT2024. D. Sarge seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.
- Treasurer's Report
 - J. Gallagher made a motion to pass the Treasurer's Report. D. Sarge seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.
- Police Report
 - Back the Blue event was successful. The event brought in a grand total of \$18,976.00. Briar Creek Township received \$6,051.00 plus shirt sales to be deposited into donation fund. \$436.00 was set aside to purchase candy for the upcoming Trunk or Treat.
 - Police Contract Arbitration Letter
 - M. Sitler made a motion to accept the Police Contract. D. Sarge seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.
- Maintenance Report
 - Bridge Updates
 - Yost Hollow Road Inspection – approve additional costs from LIVIC Civil of \$5100.00 to do the load analysis and load postings on the engineer

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report for the Yost Hollow Bridges. This will give us information on how we proceed with restricting lanes and keeping the bridge closed. This will be a stamped engineer copy for Bridge #1 & Bridge #3. S. Johnson needs to plan for A. Keister to come to the next supervisors' meeting to discuss options and answer questions.

➤ 7th Avenue Bridge – no updates

- Chipper Repair

➤ Took chipper to Stevenson Equipment in Pittston. Something with the hydraulics wasn't working properly. The chipper is also in need of new knives. The estimated cost to repair is \$5022.00.

- M. Sitler made a motion to approve the cost for repairing the chipper. J. Gallagher seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

- BAJSA Report

- M. Fisher presented Briar Creek Township with the Sewer Authority Joinder Agreement. Currently BAJSA is made up of 5 municipalities (Berwick Borough, Briar Creek Township, Briar Creek Borough, Salem Township & Mifflin. BAJSA informed us that South Centre is interested in joining. The joinder agreement must be signed by all five municipalities to proceed.

- M. Sitler made a motion to approve the BAJSA report. J. Gallagher seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

- Planning Commission Report

➤ M. Sitler made a motion to accept the 08JUL2024 & 12AUG2024 Planning Commission Report. J. Gallagher seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

- Fire Company Report

- Volunteer Fire Relief Association state aid expected 18SEPT2024 in the amount of \$18,569.42
- For checks and balance purposes C. Fisher said he will start including fuel usage in his fire company reports.

- Present Bills for Payment: Check #s (25000) to (25016) / Electronic Payments 03SEPT2024 through 16SEPT2024.

- M. Sitler made a motion to approve the bills for payment. J. Gallagher seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

- Correspondence

- Bloomsburg Recycling requesting a donation for 2025 – to be considered when the budget is prepared
- Board of Appeals – accessed values hearing of property taxes on 15OCT2024 – call to get more information.

- Ongoing Business

- Blight Property Maintenance hearing has been continued to 24SEPT2024 at 6 PM.

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- 2 Hartman's Court – no further updates
- Review Proposed Changes to Handbook. Make a motion to revise and/or approve.
 - Tabled. Provide supervisors with current handbook for comparison for changes.
- Adjustments to the ARP proposed project(s) for approval
 - Discussion held and decisions tabled
- New Business
- For the good of the order
 - T. Frace met with K. Thakore NCT Supervisor regarding the new police contract. K. Thakore is having it put on the next agenda for discussion.
- Adjourned at 8:52 P.M.
 - J. Gallagher made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 P.M. M. Sitler seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.