

BRIAR CREEK TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

Supervisors Meeting

September 6, 2022 @ 7PM

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

The Briar Creek Township Supervisors Meeting was held at the Township Municipal Building on September 6, 2022, beginning at 7:00 PM at the Township Municipal Building. Present were the following: Supervisors M. Sitler, C. Hess, and T. Prutzman, Secretary/Treasurer M. DeStefano, Police Chief T. Frace, and Road Master T. Albertson. Residents M. Barwick and K. Parker were also present.

AGENDA & MEETING MINUTES

- M. Sitler called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
- Pledge of Allegiance was completed by all present.
- Public Participation
 - M. Barwick of Shickshinny Valley Road discussed the zoning violations he received regarding his property including his food pantry. The Supervisors stated that complaints had been received and the Zoning and Codes Official is required to investigate these. Although there were sympathetic, they stated that all residents must abide by the laws and encouraged Mr. Barwick to discuss his concerns with Zoning and Codes Official L. Frace to see what may or may not be acceptable in rectifying the situation. The Supervisors also shared their concerns about the issue of food safety ensuring that there is no adverse impact to the community.
 - K. Parker stated she was here to see how government works.
- Pass the minutes from the following meeting:
 - 08AUG2022 Combined Supervisors Meeting & Work Session Maintenance Report – Deferred until the next meeting.
- Maintenance Report – T. Albertson presented his report for August. A motion to accept this report was made by C. Hess and seconded by T. Prutzman. Motion passed 3-0.
 - A. Eldred of CCCD – Suggested Stream Crossing Project at Davis Hill Road right off Kachinka Hollow Road: The Supervisors appreciated the engagement but do not want to add to the Township's financial burden. The primary focus is on garnering funding for and completion of the Yost Hollow Bridge Culvert. Road Master T. Albertson does regularly monitor the area and keeps it clean from debris, etc.
- Police Report – T. Frace presented his report for August. A motion to accept this report was made by C. Hess and seconded by T. Prutzman. Motion passed 3-0.
 - Approval and Signature - Seatbelt grant extension with Highway Safety Network, Inc. – Motion to approve was made by M. Sitler with a second by C. Hess; motion passed 3-0.
 - Policy Award – Chief Frace stated that the PD received this award from Lexipol for achieving Gold Standing and 100% compliance.
 - PD staffing and PD ride-a-longs for a potential new PD staff member were discussed. The Supervisors deferred to Chief Frace for personnel operational decisions.
 - Chief Frace stated that a \$5000 donation was made by the Slavonic Club.
- Sewer Authority Report – The Sewer Authority Report for August submitted by M. Fisher was reviewed. A motion to accept the report was made by C. Hess and seconded by T. Prutzman. Motion passed 3-0.
- Sewer Enforcement Report – No activity to report for August.
- Zoning & Codes Report – The Zoning & Codes Report for August submitted by L. Frace was reviewed. A motion to accept the report was made by C. Hess and seconded by T. Prutzman. Motion passed 3-0.
- Planning Commission – The Planning Commission Report for August submitted by R. Samsel was reviewed. A motion to accept the report was made by C. Hess and seconded by T. Prutzman. Motion passed 3-0.
- Fire Company Report – The Summerhill Volunteer Fire Company report for August submitted by C. Fisher was reviewed. A motion to accept the report was made by C. Hess and seconded by T. Prutzman. Motion

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passed 3-0.

- M. Sitler relayed that SVFC had offered the YMCA use of their property for their next food giveaway.
- Present Bills for Payment: Checks #24161 to 24194/Electronic Payments 09AUG2022 through 06SEP2022 – A motion to pay the bills was made by M. Sitler and seconded by C. Hess. Motion passed 3-0.
- Budgets: General Fund, State/Liquid Fuels Fund, ARP Fund – The budget status for each account was reviewed.
 - 2023 Budget – MD noted that input was requested from T. Frace and T. Albertson for inclusion into the draft proposed 2023 budget, which is planned for initial review at the October 3rd meeting.
- Correspondence – The Board reviewed the list of correspondence received to date through 06SEP2022.
- Ongoing Business
 - Berwick Hospital Status & Zoning – This was further discussed whereas any changes made to the building and its uses within the Township boundaries would need to follow the Zoning Ordinance. The fate of the hospital is pending a decision by its owner.
 - Zoom Room – Selection of Conferencing Platform
 - Retraction of decision to contract with Zoom – The Township can use MS Teams without further expense; and therefore, a motion to retract the decision to contract with Zoom was made by T. Prutzman and seconded by C. Hess. Motion passed 3-0.
 - ARP Funds
 - 2nd Distribution Status – Funds distribution was delayed and is expected later this week.
 - Codification – This will be added to the Work Session agenda for further discussion.
 - Exterior sign, drop box are still slated for purchase via ARP funding.
 - BoS Input re: projects/expenditure planning & earmark USD allocations –It was noted that some ARP funding may be necessary to support the Yost Hollow Road Culvert replacement.
- New Business
 - 2022 Run for the Diamonds - 24NOV2022 – The Run for the Diamonds is an annual event and the Supervisors agreed to make this a blanket approval from year to year.
 - Removal of exterior Zoning Office sign – The Township no longer has an in-house ZO; services are contracted. The exterior ZO sign is causing confusion and is recommended to be removed from the exterior of the Township Building.
 - 2023 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) – Review and approval is scheduled for work session on 12SEP2022
- For the good of the order
 - C. Hess raised concerns about the dilapidated property at 6th Ave. and Warren St. [property address: 1154 6th Ave.] He shared pictures of the condition of the building, which was condemned in 2018. Discussion was held regarding the area and safety. The two buildings (#1138 and #1154 on 6th Ave.) with violations were filed with the Magistrate. It was agreed that the bus stop on the corner near this building be relocated. M. Sitler indicated he would contact the Solicitor about what else can be done.
 - M. Sitler suggested changing the date of the next Work Session due to Supervisor availability. It was agreed to reschedule this for September 19th, 2022 at 7PM. A motion to advertise the meeting change was made by T. Prutzman and seconded by C. Hess. Motion passed 3-0.
- Adjournment – A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 PM was made by C. Hess and seconded by T. Prutzman. Motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully,
Michelle DeStefano
Secretary/Treasurer