

**FREEDOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 12, 2019
7:00 P.M.**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Allen Beckett, Chairperson
Matt Young

TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS PRESENT

Zachary Gulden, Township Manager
Linus Fenicle, Township Solicitor
Brandon Guiher

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

Mary Buchheit, Ed Buchheit, Brenda Snyder, Barbara Underwood, Janet Christiansen, Coleen Reamer, John Javor, Herb Milligan, Paul Buchheit, Dan Ohler, & Bob Gordon

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Beckett called the Board of Supervisor's Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Snyder asked why the agenda did not include a description about Resolution 2019-04. Mr. Gulden stated it does not need to include a description, but he will do so next time.

Ms. Underwood stated: "I am Barbara Underwood, and with me this evening are Robert Gordon and Coleen Reamer. We are each former presidents of the Adams County Council of Government (COG). We are here this evening in response to a recent solicitation mailer sent by Greenmount Community Fire Company to Freedom Township residents and some Cumberland Township residents. This mailer contained incorrect and false statements involving COG and the fire tax. Quoting from the mailer "Since Freedom Township opted out of the COG, means we receive no funding from a fire tax, Cumberland Township, however, is a member of the COG, but we have not yet fully received all monies due to us." Our desire is to educate the residents/taxpayers involved. Per the County of Adams, 16 of the 34 municipalities in the County have enacted a fire tax. Not all of these municipalities are COG members. The amount of the fire tax varies. For those who do have a fire tax, how they distribute these monies is up to each municipality. However, fire tax money must have a separate budget line item, and a separate account, and cannot be used for a municipal expense other than fire department related, and fire department distribution. Some municipalities do not have a fire tax, but do donate to their local fire company in a different manner as they see fit. A municipality does not have to be a member of the COG to enact a fire tax. Conversely, because a municipality is a member of COG does not mean that municipality will enact a fire tax. Because of the incorrect, and false information presented by the Greenmount Community Fire Company in their recent mailer to residents/taxpayers, we are requesting a retraction be sent to those same

resident/taxpayers. Requests for information are always welcome regarding COG. Thank you for your time.”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Beckett made a **MOTION** to approve the Minutes of the May 8, 2019 meeting. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Mr. Young. The motion carried unanimously (2-0).

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,749.55 FOR CONSIDERATION

Chair Beckett made a **MOTION** to approve the financial report and bills in the amount of \$11,749.55. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Mr. Young. The motion carried unanimously (2-0).

ROAD REPORT

The road crew completed the following tasks in May:

- Mowing & trimming along roadways and at Township lot.
- Installed street name and other misc. signs. Replacing old worn out and cracked signs.
- Set up and took down voting booths and equipment.
- Picked up oil and filters for new mower at Messicks. Road mower parts delivered from Stephenson Equipment.
- Changed oil and filter on new lawn mower and misc. maintenance on road mower.
- Looked at dump truck at New Oxford. Not set up for our use.
- Closed Pumping Station Road at Scott Road – tree and wires down in Cumberland Township.
- Return PA One calls.

Road Crew Employee	Hours Worked	Mileage
Mike Wenschhof	122	0
Ed Wenschhof	68	0
Allen Beckett	0	0

Chair Beckett made a **MOTION** to approve May’s Road Report as submitted. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Mr. Young. The motion carried unanimously (2-0).

EMS & FIRE REPORTS

Adams Regional Emergency Medical Service (AREMS) had a total of 3 calls to Freedom Township for the month of May.

The Greenmount Fire Department had a total of 9 calls for the month of May. Their calls included: 3 residential fires, 1 commercial fire, 1 outside investigation, 1 motor vehicle accident,

1 residential fire alarm, & 1 utility wires down. Of those calls, 2 were in Freedom, 3 in Cumberland Township, 1 in Biglerville Borough, and 3 in Frederick County, MD.

Mr. Gulden stated that the Township received a thank you letter for donating the John Deere lawn mower from the Greenmount Fire Company. He also stated that he agrees with Ms. Underwood's statement. There was incorrect information in the Greenmount Fire Department mailer, and sounded like the Township does not donate any money to them. He stated that the Township collects \$61,000.00 a year in property taxes, and we currently allocate \$14,400.00 a year to the Greenmount Fire Department. This is almost 24% of the property tax collections. Mr. Gulden also stated that the COG has nothing to do with the fire tax.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Award the 2019 Natural Dam Bridge project to JVI Group, Inc. in the amount of \$41,999.98 for consideration.

Chair Beckett made a **MOTION** to issue the Notice of Intent and Notice of Award conditionally upon bond approval by the Township Solicitor. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Mr. Young. The motion carried unanimously (2-0).

B. Open the bids for the Bullfrog Road & Gordon Road sealcoating projects.

The Township received one bid from Hammaker East, LTD. Their bid for seal coating Bullfrog Road was \$13,275.00, and the bid for seal coating Gordon Road was \$16,650.00.

Mr. Young made a **MOTION** to conditionally approve the sealcoating contract with Hammaker East, LTD in the total amount of \$29,925.00 upon bond approval by the Township Solicitor. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Chair Beckett. The motion carried unanimously (2-0).

C. Approval of a letter to be sent to Representative Moul requesting PennDOT reduce the speed on the Emmitsburg Road from 55 to 40 MPH for consideration.

Mr. Young made a **MOTION** to approve the letter to be sent to Representative Moul requesting PennDOT reduce the speed on the Emmitsburg Road from 55 to 40 MPH for consideration. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Chair Beckett. The motion carried unanimously (2-0).

D. Electric Vehicle Charging Station Project

1. Approval of a contract with Hull's Electric Service, Inc. in the amount of \$4,548.00 for installation of the wiring and concrete slab for consideration.

Mr. Young made a **MOTION** to approve the contract with Hull's Electric Service, Inc. in the amount of \$4,548.00 for installation of the electric vehicle charging station wiring and concrete slab for consideration. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Chair Beckett. The motion carried unanimously (2-0).

2. Approval of a contract with the Electric Vehicle Institute for consideration.

Mr. Gulden requested that this item be tabled until a future meeting.

Mr. Young made a **MOTION** to table the approval of the contract with the Electric Vehicle Institute. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Chair Beckett. The motion carried unanimously (2-0).

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of Resolution 2019-04 for consideration

Mr. Gulden said that PennDOT has determined that we cannot use Liquid Fuel's money in order to pay for the Natural Dam Road bridge project. Since we have only budgeted \$25,000.00 in 2019 from the General Fund for bridge and highway maintenance, the Board will need to transfer unencumbered monies in the General Fund in the amount of \$16,999.98 to the General Fund road fund account. Mr. Gulden said we have a healthy General Fund, and this transfer will not cause any budgeting problems.

Chair Beckett made a **MOTION** to approve Resolution 2019-04. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Mr. Young. The motion carried unanimously (2-0).

OTHER BUSINESS

None

STAFF REPORTS

A. Manager / Zoning Officer

Mr. Gulden said that 13 zoning permits have been issued to date. Other large projects completed during the month include: processed one subdivision request (Futurestake, Inc.), worked on the electric vehicle charging station project, and continued to meet with the Planning Commission on updating the zoning ordinance.

B. Solicitor

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Snyder asked for the results of the recent community survey. Mr. Gulden stated it is located on the Township's website.

Ms. Reamer stated that five municipalities from the Adams County Council of Governments are participating in the Comcast franchise contract renegotiation, which include Freedom Township, Hamiltonban Township, Abbottstown Borough, Butler Township, and Reading Township. She said Attorney Wiser will be in direct contact with each municipality in order to determine the Township's contract needs.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Chair Beckett made a **MOTION** to adjourn. The Motion was **SECONDED** by Mr. Young. Chair Beckett adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.