

**FREEDOM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
December 9, 2020
7:00 P.M.**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Allen Beckett, Chairperson
Paul Kellett, Vice-Chairperson
Matt Young

TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS PRESENT

Zachary Gulden, Township Manager
Linus Fenicle, Township Solicitor
Ed Wenschhof, Road Superintendent

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

Ed & Mary Buchheit

CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice-Chair Kellett made a **MOTION** to approve the Minutes of the November 4, 2020 regular meeting. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Mr. Young. The motion carried unanimously (3-0).

APPROVAL OF BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,555.41 FROM THE GENERAL FUND, TRANSFER OF \$5,000.00 FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE CREDIT CARD ACCOUNT, & TRANSFER \$25,000.00 FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR CONSIDERATION

Vice-Chair Kellett made a **MOTION** to approve the bills in the amount of \$9,555.41 from the General Fund, transfer of \$5,000.00 from the General Fund to the credit card account, & transfer \$25,000.00 from the General Fund to the Capital Reserve Fund. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Mr. Young. The motion carried unanimously (3-0).

ROAD REPORT

The road crew completed the following tasks in November:

- Clear trees, limbs, & debris from roads due to windy conditions. Clear leaves & trash pickup.
- Closed Middle Creek Road due to tree and wires on roadway between Gordon Road and Wenschhof Road for approximately 6 hours on 15th. Adams Electric made repairs to restore power.

- Took down voting equipment and reset meeting room.
- Placed stones in side ditch on Middle Creek Road near Warthen's driveway.
- Grading stones on Gordon Road.
- Installed plow lift on International Truck. Misc. shop work.
- Misc. signs delivered from Chemung Supply.

Road Crew Employee	Hours Worked
Mike Wenschhof	95
Ed Wenschhof	22

Vice-Chair Kellett made a **MOTION** to approve November's Road Report as submitted. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Mr. Young. The motion carried unanimously (3-0).

EMS & FIRE REPORTS

Adams Regional Emergency Medical Service (AREMS) did not submit the monthly report. Mr. Gulden stated that AREMS donated an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) for placement at the Township building.

The Greenmount Fire Department did not submit the monthly report. Chair Beckett expressed concern that the fire department has not submitted their reports for many months. Mr. Young expressed concern that the fire department has not applied for the County's COVID-19 grants. He sees other fire departments apply and receive money, but not Greenmount, so he does not want Greenmount to ask the Township for extra money for COVID related expenses and loss of revenue.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Approval of Resolution 2020-11 for consideration – 2021 budget.

Vice-Chair Kellett made a **MOTION** to approve Resolution 2020-11. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Mr. Young. The motion carried unanimously (3-0).

B. Approval of Resolution 2020-12 for consideration – Appointment of Joyce Beckman of Lockwood Business Support Service to conduct the 2020 audit in place of the elected auditors for consideration.

Vice-Chair Kellett made a **MOTION** to approve Resolution 2020-12. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Mr. Young. The motion carried unanimously (3-0).

C. Approval of Resolution 2020-13 for consideration – PSATS Unemployment Compensation Group Trust Fund participation.

Vice-Chair Kellett made a **MOTION** to approve Resolution 2020-13. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Chair Beckett. The motion carried unanimously (3-0).

D. Approval of the 10-year Comcast franchise agreement for consideration.

Mr. Gulden stated that the franchise fee is increasing from 3 to 5 percent, and the Abbottstown Borough, Hamiltonban Township, and Freedom Township were able to negotiate a Public, Educational, and Governmental (PEG) fee of 0.25% for the first 5 years and 0.50% for the last 5 years of the agreement. The PEG fee will go directly to support Community Media. The increase in the franchise fee will generate an additional approximately \$4,000.00 per year for the Township, which is used in order to help maintain Township rights-of-ways.

Vice-Chair Kellett made a **MOTION** to approve the Comcast franchise agreement as submitted. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Mr. Young. The motion carried unanimously (3-0).

E. Approval of the purchase of a 2021 Ford Super Duty F-550 4x4 with E.M. Kutz uplift from Hondru Ford (COSTARS) in the amount of \$93,012.00 (Capital Reserve Fund) for consideration.

Chairman Beckett and Vice-Chair Kellett expressed concerns for making the purchase at this time due to expected revenue declines from the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Gulden stated the Township has been saving for the new truck since 2018, and the money would come from the Capital Reserve Fund. He also applied for a grant from the PA Department of Environmental Protection in the amount of \$56,000.00 for the purchase of the new truck, and he has not heard of the outcome as of yet. Mr. Wenschhof stated that the current 1994 truck needs replaced, because it drives very rough. Chairman Beckett and Vice-Chair Kellett agreed that they would agree to purchase the new truck if the Township receives the grant. The Board agreed that it is necessary to repair the current truck, because the replacement would take at least six months to receive. Safety must come first. No vote was taken.

F. Open the bids for the 2021 stone contract.

The Board opened three bids and provided the bids to staff for review.

G. Liberty Township Police contract.

Vice-Chair Kellett made a **MOTION** to direct the chairperson to sign the Liberty Township Police contract for 2021. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Mr. Young. The motion carried unanimously (3-0).

Chair Beckett stated the purpose of the police presence is to reduce speeding.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of Resolution 2020-14 for consideration – 2020 Adams County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Chair Beckett made a **MOTION** to approve Resolution 2020-14. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Mr. Young. The motion carried unanimously (3-0).

OTHER BUSINESS

None

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Gulden stated no zoning permits were approved in November.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Vice-Chair Kellett made a **MOTION** to adjourn. The Motion was **SECONDED** by Chair Beckett. Chair Beckett adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.