

WATSON TOWNSHIP MEETING
JULY 20, 2023

The Watson Township Board of Supervisors held their monthly meeting on July 2023, at 7:00 pm at the Watson Township Municipal building, with James Seltzer and Allen Green present.

Also Present: Rick Macklem, Wilbur Moore, Dennis Buttorff, EMC, Dennis Killion, Denise Bower, Vanessa Bower, Nick Klaras, and Zoning Officer Brent Petrosky

Chairman Seltzer called the meeting to order, and Supervisor Allen Green led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Seltzer asked if there were any questions or comments on the June 15, 2023, monthly meeting minutes, there being none, Supervisor Green made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Chairman Seltzer, MCU.

Chairman Seltzer asked if there were any questions on the Treasurer's Report, there being none, he made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted; seconded by Supervisor Green, MCU.

Correspondence:

1. Letter from Norman Engineered Designs re: Richard Miller property.
2. Notice of Act 13 Distribution in the amount of \$73,908.76.

Roadmaster's Report:

1. Mowing
2. Cleaned berms and ditches
3. Repaired water leak at the ball field
4. Replaced pipe on Fillman Road
5. Mulched playground
6. Repaired PTO guard on tractor

Roadmaster Green also reported speaking to a sales representative about LED lights noting that the Board discussed upgrading the fluorescent lights to LED lights and now the fluorescent tubes can be replaced without removing the valves.

Employee Rick Macklem provided pricing from Jo's Equipment for a battery-operated Stihl brand commercial pole saw, weed eater, and chainsaw with interchangeable battery. Prices are as follows:

Stihl Pole Saw	-	\$570.00
Stihl 15" weed eater	-	\$380.00

Stihl 16" chainsaw	-	\$420.00
Battery	-	\$380.00
Battery Charger	-	\$110.00

If the equipment is purchased separately, the cost would be approximately \$1,850.00, if purchased as a package the township would receive a 15% discount of \$278.00 lowering the cost to \$1,572.00.

Chairman Seltzer made a motion to purchase the equipment as a package deal; seconded by Supervisor Green, MCU.

Chairman Seltzer discussed the possibility of contracting with Pine Creek Township to clean out ditches and/or contacting Cummings Township about using their equipment to clean out ditches.

It was noted that Chairman Seltzer and Employee Rick Macklem will be attending the Dirt & Gravel Road Training Program in Wellsboro on September 6th & 7th.

Zoning Report

Zoning Officer Brent Petrosky provided the monthly zoning report which included:

Permits:

1. Permit issued to replace deteriorated, pre-existing deck/porch for property of Carl Stone at 1347 Torbert Lane.
2. Special Event Permit issued for the Barn at Pine Creek for a picnic scheduled for August 5, 2023.
3. Permit issued for an inground pool for property owned by Adam Heverly at 122 Westside Road.

Pending:

1. Short Term Rental Permit for property owned by Michelle Moore at 5865 State Route 44 North. Verification of septic capacity to determine the number of people permitted to stay at the residence at one time.
2. Permit for Darlene Runner at 1371 Ridge Road for ReNu Energy to install solar panels.
3. Permit for Martha Welshans to convert the barn into a residence has expired and property owner will be charged one-half the cost of the original permit (\$350.00) to renew permit.

Dennis Norman, P.E. reviewed the letter he sent to the Supervisors regarding the Richard Miller property, explaining the potential buyer wanted to know if he would be able to develop the property which is located in the Floodway.

According to Dennis, it is unlikely that a new lot could be developed even if Lots 1, 2 and 3 were combined with an Add-Lot Subdivision creating a non-conforming lot of less than one acre. A structure would have to be elevated, require a new well and on-lot septic system, meet sewage separation distance requirements, which all must be outside of the Floodway.

An addition and improvements can be made to the existing residential structure subject to the Floodplain Management Ordinance. Any addition would be required to meet current Floodplain regulations and the total of all the improvements cannot exceed 50% of the value of the current structure. Otherwise, the entirety of the improved structure would need to be brought into compliance with the Floodplain Management Ordinance.

Emergency Management Coordinator Report:

Emergency Management Coordinator Dennis Buttorff reported that the County Emergency Manage coordinator position is vacant and if there were a disaster this would create an issue as the County EMC deals directly with FEMA and PEMA. He said due to Homeland Security requirements, the individual that holds that position must be professional level certified.

EMC Buttorff also reported that the tower on Hesker Hill is not yet live and on the severe storm expected in our area later in the evening, noting that the last report indicated the storm was headed for Coudersport, Lock Haven, State College and Williamsport.

Old Business:

West Side Road

Chairman Seltzer announced that the Supervisors held an Executive Session with Dennis Norman, P.E. at 6:30 pm prior to the regular monthly meeting to discuss options to repair West Side Road including soil nailing or massive concrete blocks. The Board also discussed applying for grants to help pay for the road work.

New Business:

Tax Collector Fee Ordinance

It was the consensus of the Board to move forward with drafting a Tax Collector Fee Ordinance.

Petition Requesting the Naming of Private Road

The Supervisors received two Petitions Requesting the Naming of Private Road, one submitted by Shawn Branton and the other submitted by Denise and Vanessa Bower to name a private road located off of Route 973 to access their properties.

A discussion was held with property owners in attendance that live along the private road and after reviewing various suggestions, the property owners agreed to name the private road Hubbard Hollow.

Supervisor Green made a motion to approve naming the private road Hubbard Hollow; seconded by Chairman Seltzer, MCU.

Invoices:

Supervisor Green made a motion to approve the invoices as presented; seconded by Chairman Seltzer, MCU.

Public Comment

Nick Klaras of Becca's Path spoke regarding complaints made about his property and indicated that he has all the documents and paperwork indicating that he is following the township's zoning and agricultural guidelines. He said the property is considered a farm and he has met with DEP officials' numerous times, and they have been helpful, adding that he has until August 15th to have a Manure Plan in place.

Mr. Klaras indicated that the plan must show that the manure is being removed from the property on a regular basis. It also must indicate where the animals are located on the property and must meet state and local acreage requirements for grazing, noting that he does not let his animals graze, he feeds them.

According to Mr. Klaras, DCNR Officials have also been to the property and allow him to mow the field on the back of Becca's Path and he can pick up the grass and use it, but he is not allowed to bale it.

In conclusion it was noted that Nick Klaras has been doing his due diligence with regard to fulfilling DEP requirements and providing the proper documentation.

The Supervisors indicated that the township has taken the position that there is nothing required of the township as DEP guidelines must be followed and DEP is monitoring the situation.

Other Public comment was generally entertained throughout the meeting.

Adjournment:

Chairman Seltzer made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Supervisor Green, MCU.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene S. Macklem

Darlene S. Macklem
Secretary