

WATSON TOWNSHIP MEETING
SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

The Watson Township Board of Supervisors held their monthly meeting on September 19, 2024, at 7:00 pm at the Watson Township Municipal building, with James Seltzer, James Potter, and Richard Macklem present.

Also present: Wilbur Moore, Allen Green, Nick Klaras, Kay Fetzer, Rick Glace, and Zoning Officer Brent Petrosky

Chairman James Seltzer called the meeting to order, and Brent Petrosky led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Seltzer asked if there were any questions or comments on the August 15, 2024, monthly meeting minutes, there being none, Supervisor Macklem made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Supervisor Potter, MCU.

The Board reviewed the Treasurers Report and Supervisor Potter made a motion to approve the report as submitted; seconded by Chairman Seltzer, MCU.

Correspondence: Request from Lee Ann Snyder for a “Bus Stop Ahead” sign near Park Road on Rte. 44.

It was the consensus of the Board of Supervisors to forward the request to PennDOT for consideration.

Roadmaster’s Report

Roadmaster Rick Macklem provided the Roadmaster’s Report as follows:

- Al Green finished mowing along all township roads
- Contractor completed Oil & Chip work on Fillman & Ridge Road
- The culvert pipe on Fillman Road is collapsing and should be replaced
- Resident Richard Lange contacted Representative Hamm about concerns with water ponding along Rte. 44 by Verizon and the area has now been filled in with stone
- Installed new pressure tank for the pump at the township building
- Received an estimate from Patriot to trim the tree canopy along all of the township roads that was over \$40,000
- Met with John Reese of Pine Creek Township about hiring PC Twp to clean the ditches along West Side Road and Furnace Run Road
- Dennis Norman recommended Jeff Brooks for the Township Engineer. Macklem contacted Jeff Brooks, and he is interested in the position. His hourly rate for drafting work is \$79.00 per hour and engineering work is \$179.00 per hour

Roadmaster Macklem also spoke to the Supervisors about applying for the Local Share Grant through DCED, which is a zero-match grant, again this year. He suggested the Township apply for grant funds for two projects: (1) demolish the Trading Post Building and building a garage and provided measurements of the existing building (48 ½ ft. long x 44 ½ ft. deep); and (2) purchase a new Ford F350 truck to assist with snow plow and stainless-steel salt spreader.

Zoning Officer's Report

Zoning Officer Brent Petrosky provided the monthly Zoning Report for the month which included notifying James Wood about the camper parked at Pine Creek Manor in Torbet in violation of the Short-Term Rental ordinance.

Mr. Wood responded to the notice indicating that he was unaware of the camper being at the rental property and that he is taking steps to address this and to try to make sure it is not a problem in the future.

Brent also reported he contacted Mike Edwards about his sign advertising his contracting business placed near the Venture Inn about a permit.

Zoning Officer Petrosky provided information from the quarterly Rails/Trails meeting on September 17, 2024, talking points included:

- Decrease in complaints about e-Bikes
- Issue with no cell phone service and individuals being injured on the trail and are unable to obtain medical assistance
- Issue with individuals sleeping inside the Jersey Shore rail/trail restroom in the winter and with graffiti – Lycoming Regional Police Officers are addressing that problem
- Not many issues with flooding due to Hurricane Debby
- Tioga County access opening ceremony in Wellsboro October 17th at 1:00 pm
- Problems in the parking areas of Black Walnut Bottom with e-Bikes crashing into camper mirrors, etc.
- Pine Creek Challenge runner's marathon was held at the beginning of September on the rail/trail
- Park Rangers reported that more youth are wearing bike helmets
- An average of 217 people use the trail daily
- In Tioga County there is a problem with individuals parking on private property
- Weeds to be sprayed around gates on the rail/trail
- Jerry Walls reported that the rail/trail brings \$4.2 billion dollars into Lycoming County i.e. hotels, restaurants, gas
- Plans to extend the rail/trail and will preserve the character of the villages consistent with PA Wilds
- Trailhead at Williamsport will be completed in June 2025

During the Rail/Trail meeting Brent spoke to Tom Casilio of the Bureau of Forestry about cutting the grass and weeds at the Whitetail Rail/Trail access and Tom said that the area is supposed to look "natural" and would be mowed twice a year and after a few years the weeds would dissipate.

The Supervisors discussed complaints received from residents about the weeds at the Whitetail access area and Supervisor Macklem made a motion that the Board of Supervisors send a letter to Representative Hamm about vegetation control at the Whitetail Rail/Trail Access; seconded by Supervisor Potter, MCU.

EMC Report

EMC Denny Buttorff was not present for the meeting.

Old Business

Short-Term Rental Ordinance Amendment

The Supervisors reviewed the amendments to the Short-Term Rental Ordinance and Supervisor Macklem made a motion to approve Short-Term Rental Ordinance No. 09-19-2024 as amended; seconded by Chairman Seltzer, MCU.

New Business

Resolution 2024-09-19

Chairman Seltzer made a motion to approve submission of a Statewide Local Share Assessment Grant Application and designate Supervisor Macklem to execute documents & agreements pertaining to the grant of \$76,202.76 to purchase a Ford F350 Truck with snow removal equipment; seconded by Supervisor Potter, MCU.

Resolution 2024-09-19-A – Auditor Compensation

Supervisor Macklem made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-09-19-A increasing the Auditor's compensation from \$10.00 per hour to \$18.00 per hour in accordance with Act 10 of 2024 enacted by the General Assembly; seconded by Chairman Seltzer, MCU.

Kissell Subdivision

The Supervisors reviewed subdivision plans for Craig Kissell's property on West Side Road subdividing four and one-half acres into two lots, one 2.442-acre lot and the residual parcel would be 2.101 acres with existing house and garage.

A discussion was held and it was noted that a Sewage Planning Module was not submitted with the subdivision and it should be reviewed by the Watson Township Planning Commission. It was the consensus of the Board that Supervisor Macklem, Chairman Seltzer and Zoning Officer Petrosky meet with Mr. Kissell to look at the property being subdivided.

Fall Road Tour & Budget Work Session

The Board of Supervisors scheduled the Fall Road Tour for October 25, 2024, at 10:00 am and the Budget Work Session will immediately follow the Road Tour.

Invoices

Chairman Seltzer made a motion to approve the invoices as presented and the invoice from Russell Standard in the amount of \$44,897.28; seconded by Supervisor Potter, MCU.

Public Comment

Resident Kay Fetzer requested that the bushes at the intersection of Route 44 and Ridge Road at the Allen property be trimmed back to improve visibility of oncoming traffic stating she has had several instances where she almost pulled out in front of oncoming vehicles.

A discussion was held and Chairman Seltzer noted if they are not on the township right-of-way, there is nothing the Supervisors can do. It was agreed that Roadmaster Macklem check to see if the bushes are within the township right-of-way.

Rick Glace asked if the township had a noise ordinance because he is having an issue with the neighbor's rooster crowing at all hours of the day.

A discussion was held regarding decibel levels and Chairman Seltzer indicated he would review the noise ordinance and then reach out to Mr. Glace directly about the issue.

Public comment was also entertained throughout the meeting.

Adjournment

Supervisor Macklem made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Supervisor Potter, MCU.

Chairman Seltzer adjourned the meeting at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Darlene S. Macklem

Darlene S. Macklem, Secretary