

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 16, 2023
UPPER NAZARETH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Scott Sylvainus. The meeting was live streamed for anyone wishing to hear.

Pledge of Allegiance

Board members present were, Kristin Mullen, Michael Rinker, Brian Sayago, and Scott Sylvainus. Also present were Township Solicitor Gary Asteak, Township Engineer, Sean Dooley, Township Manager, Lisa Klem, Police Chief, William Cope, Road Superintendent, Shawn Shupe, and Treasurer/ Recording Secretary, Deanne Werkheiser. Robert Disbrow was absent.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Resident David Beaumont, Tatamy Road, stated that he has spoken to his neighbors about the flooding issues. In 2022 some of his neighbors had conversations with the engineer regarding a study. Is there a report? Sean Dooley stated it is on the agenda to be discussed. David asked about the lawsuit from Faust. Is that still going on? What will be done with the retention of water since it is not working now? Can a drain be added to go into the swale? He questioned the amount of water coming from Industrial Drive. They are creating more parking that will cause more issues. He also questioned why property flooding is secondary to roadway flooding. Scott responded that many of his issue would be addressed under the Engineers report.

Resident Chris Morgano, 2nd Street, stated he was here about the paper roadway (Central Avenue) that abuts his property. Gary Asteak stated this has been done before. It can be conveyed via ordinance. Keystone is working on costs. Five properties front the alleyway. All of the can make the claim. He suggested that Mr. Morgano speak with his neighbors to make sure they are all for this. Chris Morgano stated he has started speaking to them. Gary responded that we would vacate the property, then the residents can claim correction of deeds. All neighbors should agree to this. Gary instructed Mr. Morgano to send another letter and that we can send him the costs to proceed. Sean Dooley questioned the dead end at 3rd Street. Isn't this used for plowing? Shawn Shupe replied yes, the biggest issue is snow maintenance. He has to push the snow between two driveways. A brief discussion ensued regarding not vacating all the land so that area can be used during plowing. Shawn will review the area.

Resident Roger Herman, Tatamy Road, stated that Itterly was supposed to make the road even when they put the sewer in. When it floods people are driving into his yard to avoid the water. Isn't there anything we can do to stop this issue? It is like a swimming pool.

Resident Tina Laubach, Friedenstahl Avenue, stated the water is so bad. It surrounds us completely. What happens if we get a sinkhole? The water is coming from the roads. People speed through the water. It is dangerous. The water is coming from Faust, Mt. Vernon, Friedenstahl, and 2nd Street. There are lots of stones at the stop sign at 2nd and Mt. Vernon. This has been going on for years. Scott responded this is part of the study that is being done.

Resident Debra Getz, 1st Street, stated she is getting too old to clean up her basement every time it rains. She has been there for 40 years. It just keeps getting worse. It should not take this long to find a solution.

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APPROVALS

Gary Asteak stated that the agenda needs to be amended to include Charles Chrin Real Estate Trust request to change zoning added under Solicitor.

Motion was made by Michael Rinker, seconded by Kristin Mullen to approve the amended agenda. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion was made by Kristin Mullen, seconded by Brian Sayago to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 2, 2023. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion was made by Michael Rinker, seconded by Brian Sayago to approve payment of the bills. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion was made by Kristin Mullen, seconded by Michael Rinker to approve the July 2023 Financial and Treasurer's Report. Motion approved unanimously.

SUPERVISORS COMMENTS

Brian Sayago stated that at the last meeting we approved the traffic study with Bushkill Township. The owner of the property wants to make changes for a wall. Gary Asteak replied he put in a three foot wall which was not permitted. It obstructs vision at the intersection. Brian replied that it seems like the owner doesn't want to sell. Gary replied the study is to see what options we have to make the intersection safer. Brian replied the property is not in Upper Nazareth Township.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

Sean Dooley stated that he had several items.

Sean Dooley stated the board has copies of the Farmview Drainage Report stage two. There were a few surprises but what we expected. Tatamy Road is higher than the surrounding areas. Relative to the swale that is available, we looked at the length of the drain compared to the slope. Can we get the water to the drainage ditch? We can drain the area or convey the water from the area, which requires proper slope to convey the water in a big enough pipe with enough slope. You want to convey the water because just draining will not help the residents with repetitive loss. We are looking to convey the water into the quarry or into going into the bottom of the ditch, which would need to go deeper. It is difficult to get to the quarry. We will need permission from the quarry, Pen DOT, and DEP for either a trench or possible boring. He estimates the cost to be 1.5 million dollars to do this project. It will be a multiyear project. The issues go back to 1905. If there was an easy fix it would have been done by now. The 1905 and 1925 plans did not include stormwater management. Michael Rinker stated the cost would go up since that is an estimate at today's prices. We are looking at five to eight years for the project at 1.5 to 2 million dollars. Sean replied that is correct. Michael asked what the options are if DEP and the quarry say no. Sean responded to deepen the ditch and enclose it. We cannot guarantee it will correct the issues with all the flooded basements. Brian Sayago asked if we could put in another detention pond. Sean replied that is in the study. There is quite a bit of

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water flow from Industrial Drive, if you can acquire land in that area it may help. Brian asked if there are other locations that can be purchased to help. Sean replied they only focused on certain options and open areas. For that you would need to acquire occupied property. Brian stated he thinks we should pursue the suggestions in the report and seek approvals from the quarry, Penn DOT and DEP. Sean stated he would like to have an audience with the quarry. Brian stated he will make the introduction. Sean stated going into the quarry would give the needed slope and pipe size to mitigate during a storm not just after. Resident Roger Herman stated the ditch stays dry because the water can't get to it. The Nazareth Borough's stormwater connection to the quarry was briefly discussed.

The Board had copies of the Engineers report. Sean Dooley stated that he had nothing to point out.

TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR

Attorney Gary Asteak stated that we received a petition from Charles Chrin Real Estate Trust for a zoning amendment for property along Tatamy Road. This is for a small scale industrial development with a small section is in Palmer Township. This has been discussed for years. They would like to proceed at least in Upper Nazareth Township. Gary suggested that it goes before the Planning Commission to give their comments then it will come back to the Board of Supervisors. Gary stated he is waiting for a few documents from them.

Motion was made by Michael Rinker, seconded by Kristin Mullen to send the Zoning Amendment request to the Planning Commission once all documents are received. Motion approved unanimously.

Gary stated that the property that was recently purchased now has tax exempt status.

ADMINISTRATION

Manager Lisa Klem stated that she is requesting approval to bring payroll in-house since we recently purchased QuickBooks subscription. The new product will allow for in-house payroll to be done. She stated she is requesting approval to do this starting in 2024. Brian Sayago stated just because we can doesn't mean we should. A brief discussion ensued over the ability of staff to do payroll in-house.

Motion was made by Michael Rinker, seconded by Kristin Mullen to approve moving payroll in-house through to QuickBooks. Motion approved 3 to 1. Brian Sayago opposed.

Manager Lisa Klem stated that the Board had copies of the draft 2024 budget. She would like to set the dates for Budget Workshop meetings. Lisa stated workshop have been advertised as 6:00 PM prior to meetings as needed. She suggested September 6, 2023, at 6:00 PM and September 20, 2023, at 6:00 PM. We may not need the workshop on the 20th.

Motion was made by Kristin Mullen, seconded by Brian Sayago to approve September 6th and September 20, 2023, for Budget Workshop meetings. Motion approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT REPORTS

July 2023 Reports submitted from Fire and Zoning.
No Police or Public Works reports were submitted for review.

Motion was made by Michael Rinker, seconded by Brian Sayago to approve the July 2023 Fire and Zoning Reports. Motion approved unanimously.

PLANNING & ZONING

Scott Sylvainus stated the Board had copies of the draft minutes from the July 27, 2023, meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS

Shawn Shupe stated he had nothing to report at this time. Scott Sylvainus stated he had a question about Gun Club Road. The sock and rocks are still there even though they reseeded the area. Michael Schallock stated that this was done to temporarily stabilize the area. It will be removed when the job is completed.

MS4

Sean Dooley stated that the draft MS4 report is being submitted for the Boards review. Comments should be submitted to him by September 7, 2023. Lisa Klem stated she will send them out to the Board.

RECREATION

Leibert Field Fence. Lisa Klem stated that costs were received to put up a fence that will separate the walking path from the parking lot, helping to keep the equipment safe, now that we invited the public into the area. The Costars quote is for \$11,975.00 for a fence with no gates and \$19,195.00 for a fence with two double swing gates. Brian Sayago stated he was against putting money into this location, we need a new location. Michael Rinker replied there is no other location for a Municipal Building. Brian responded we should find a site centrally located. Kristin Mullen replied there is no central location due to the shape of the Municipality. Lisa stated that any upgrades we do to the building will increase its value if it were to be sold. Scott Sylvainus stated that with the addition and upgrades we are doing, this building should be good for another 20 years. A brief discussion ensued regarding growth and Municipal needs.

Motion was made by Scott Sylvainus, seconded by Michael Rinker to approve the Costars quote of \$11,975.00 from Anchor Fence for a fence with no gates at Leibert Field. Motion approved 3 to 1. Brian Sayago opposed.

Lisa Klem stated that she sent information to the Board regarding a Fitness Court at Leibert Field. This would give options on this side of the Township. There are half court and full court options. Half court price ranges \$130,000.00 to \$155,000.00 and full court price ranges \$250,000.00 to \$270,000.00. We received recreation fees from the Tadmor project. Shawn

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Shupe is looking into a large pavilion with bathrooms and a possible pickleball court for Tuskes Park. He is waiting on the cost estimates. Electric is already in place.

Kristin Mullen stated Movies in the Park is August 26, 2023. They will be showing Super Mario Brothers. Painting in the Park is August 27, 2023. A link will be posted on the Website.

EAC

No meeting was held.

PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief William Cope stated he had nothing to report.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Michael Rinker stated he had nothing to report.

SAFETY COMMITTEE

Michael Rinker stated he had nothing to report.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Jeff Fassl was not present.

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Kristin Mullen, seconded by Michael Rinker to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deanne Werkheiser,
Recording Secretary

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