

HALIFAX TOWNSHIP
102 Fisher Street
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
July 13, 2020 7:00 p.m.
Public Meeting and by Virtual Conference

CALL TO ORDER - Chairman Bechtel called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL - Supervisors Bechtel, Paul, Schreffler and McBurney are present along with Solicitor Bruce Warshawsky, Engineer Marc Kurowski, Secretary Wendy M. Wentzel, and Roadmaster Tim Belk. Supervisor Bruner was absent.

MEETING RECORDING – The Secretary is the only person recording the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – Benjamin Kirk from Flemish Down was present to seek support from the supervisors to add the land from the Flemish Down Plans north of the Appalachian Trail to the United States Tract. **Motion** was made by Supervisor Schreffler and second by Supervisor Paul to conditionally approve the change from the plans dated July 1, 2020 upon Engineer review. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0.

SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT

Paid Interim Bills – **Motion** was made by Supervisor Paul and second by Supervisor Schreffler to approve the paid interim bills thru July 13, 2020. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0. **Current Unpaid Bills** – **Motion** was made by Supervisor McBurney and second by Supervisor Paul to pay the unpaid bills through July 13, 2020. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0. **Minutes** – **June 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes** – **Motion** was made by Supervisor Paul and second by Supervisor Schreffler to approve the Meeting Minutes of June 8, 2020. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0. **June 23, 2020 Meeting Minutes** – **Motion** was made by Supervisor Schreffler and second by Supervisor Paul to approve the Minutes of June 23, 2020. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0. **Financial Report** – Placed on file for audit at a later period.

EMC REPORT – EMC Neiter provided the date for the fireworks which is scheduled for August 15th at dusk with a rain date of August 16th. Also shared was that the PPE needs were met. On June 4, 2020, a storm that came through the township caused property damage on Armstrong Valley Road. It was determined by the Weather Service that the damage was caused by straight line winds.

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS – The Planning Commission accepted for review the plans for Flight Source to construct a new building in Matamoras.

Kevin and Mike Ricker of Ricker Construction was in attendance and presented the Board of Supervisors with a sketch plan for the 25-acre parcel across from the Halifax High School. The sketch plan included two, three, four and five-unit structures. They explained that they have a sales agreement in place for this property and would like to develop it in phases with multi-unit housing structures. They will be submitting plans for approval at a later time.

ENGINEER REPORT – Engineer Report submitted for June. In discussing his report, the following actions occurred: **North Country** – **Motion** was made by Supervisor McBurney and second by Supervisor Schreffler to initiate enforcement action. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0. **Hershey Road Culvert** – **Motion** was made by Supervisor Paul and second by Supervisor Schreffler to have K & W Engineers advertise for bids the Hershey Road

Culvert for bid opening at the next Board meeting. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0. **HAWASA** – The Engineer will review the plans with the flood plain ordinance and provide a letter to HRG.

SOLICITOR REPORT – Solicitor Warshawsky submitted his report dated July 8, 2020 for services during June. The report will be placed on record. Bold text items are on the agenda.

ROADMASTER REPORT – Written report was submitted. Tar and chipping will begin next week weather pending. Patchwork for Middle Road - \$18,000 was the rough estimate. It will be under prevailing wage if done this year. Supervisors asked Roadmaster Belk to move forward and pull together the numbers for advertising.

SEO REPORT – Submitted and placed on record.

FRIENDS OF FORT HALIFAX – Report was submitted. Action Items: **Designated Vehicle Path to North River Campsite and Canoe/Kayak Launch** – **Motion** was made by Supervisor Schreffler and second by Supervisor Paul to approve the siting a designated vehicle pathway for Park visitors launching watercraft from Goose Landing and fishing and/or camping at the North River Campsite. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0. **Railroad Crossing – DCNR** Conference call took place on July 3rd. Bruce Henry of the Friends of Fort Halifax spoke to the Board. The cost to upgrade the railroad crossing would fall in the range of \$300,000-400,000. Supervisor McBurney was also on the call and stated that federal funding would require the crossing to be a public crossing and not private as it currently is. There was further discussion on the road into the Fort Halifax Park and what is needed to make that a public road.

NUISANCE REPORT – **Motion** was made by Supervisor McBurney and second by Supervisor Schreffler to send a formal nuisance complaint for high grass/weeds on the Farhat property on South River Road. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0.

205 Mountain Road – **Motion** was made by Supervisor Schreffler and second by Supervisor Paul to send a pre-nuisance letter contingent upon inspection by Roadmaster. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Fire Relief Monies - The Township received the remaining 2019 Fire Relief Funds from the State. These funds were withheld from distribution due to audit findings of the Halifax Ambulance. The Audit findings have been cleared and closed. **Motion** was made by Supervisor Schreffler and second by Supervisor Paul to release the monies in the amount of \$6,563.45 to the Halifax Fire Department. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0.

Insurance for Fort Halifax Structures - On the agenda for August.

OLD BUSINESS

Sycamore Trees – Andy Brought, Service Forester for the Weiser State Forest with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, was present to provide a report on the inventory of the sycamore trees along State Route 147 on July 2, 2020. He identified three of the Oriental Plane Trees as dead and another one as questionable on the north side of State Route 147 and three dead and one questionable on the south side of State Route 147. He advised mulching the young trees planted at Fort Halifax. Chad Lebo asked if a split pipe could be used. Mr. Brought agreed that would be ok to use with the mulch.

Smokee Bros - Stormwater Management – Motion was made by Supervisor Schreffler and second by Supervisor McBurney to have Solicitor Warshawsky send a letter and initiate enforcement action and seek a monetary penalty. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0.

A to Z Construction – Permitting – **Motion** was made by Supervisor McBurney and second by Supervisor Schreffler to send a Cease and Desist letter to A to Z Construction. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Halifax Fire Department – Township Sponsorship for gaming monies – Motion was made by Supervisor Schreffler and second by Supervisor Paul to co-sponsor a gaming grant application for the purpose of purchasing a new brush truck. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0.

Gainer Stormwater Management Exemption Request – Motion was made by Supervisor McBurney and second by Supervisor Paul to grant the exemption request for Stormwater Management per Engineer Kurowski's memo dated June 16, 2020. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0.

Snyder Stormwater Management Application – Motion was made by Supervisor Schreffler and second by Supervisor Paul to conditionally approve the Stormwater Management Plan submitted based on Engineer Kurowski's report dated July 9, 2020. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0.

J R Tobias Memorial Airport Stormwater Management Application – Motion was made by Supervisor Paul and second by Supervisor McBurney to conditionally approve the Stormwater Management Application based on Engineer Kurowski's report dated July 10, 2020. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0.

2845 Peters Mountain Road – Stormwater Concern – Motion was made by Supervisor Paul and second by Supervisor McBurney to send a letter to the owner of the parcel addressing the concern of the stormwater runoff. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0.

PennDOT - Municipal Winter Traffic Services Agreement – Motion was made by Supervisor Schreffler and second by Supervisor Paul to approve the execution of the 5-year Winter Maintenance Agreement between the Township and PennDOT. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Smokie Bros, A to Z Construction, Insurance coverage – Fort Halifax, North Country, 2845 Peters Mountain Road

ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 3, 2020 – Planning Commission Meeting – 7:00 pm

August 10, 2020 – Board of Supervisors Meeting – 7:00 pm

August 15, 2020 – Fireworks – at dusk, Rain date: August 16, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Supervisor Schreffler and second by Supervisor Paul to adjourn at 10:40 pm. Vote called. Motion carries 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy M. Wentzel
Secretary