

**Newlin Township
Board of Supervisors
Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2021**

Call to Order: The Board of Supervisors' monthly meeting convened at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, October 11, 2021, at the Township Garage located at 1751 Embreeville Road. Present were Supervisors Bill Kelsall (Chair), Bob Pearson and Jim Cornell, and Secretary/Treasurer Gail Abel.

Announcements: Mr. Kelsall announced there would be an executive session after the meeting to discuss a legal matter.

Comments: Ed Lewis, who resides on Harveys Bridge Road, said people are using their properties as a dumping station within the flood plain. The refuse washes downstream during floods and becomes someone else's problem. He also said that numerous people are driving unlicensed all-terrain vehicles onto Harveys Bridge Road. He recognized that the Township lacks enforcement capabilities, but asserted that Newlin should take a stance opposing both practices.

Minutes: Ms. Abel presented the minutes of the September 13, 2021, Board Meeting and the November 1, 2021, Budget Work session. Mr. Pearson's motion to approve those minutes was seconded by Mr. Cornell and unanimously approved.

Financial Report: Ms. Abel presented the monthly Financial Report: As of September 30, 2021, the Township had \$1,606,609.08 on deposit, including \$1,144,455.57 in general and unrestricted funds. Overall, this represents a net increase of \$27,788.53 since August 31, 2021. Mr. Pearson's motion to accept the Financial Report was seconded by Mr. Cornell and unanimously approved.

Payment Authorization: Ms. Abel presented a list of pending bills, invoices, and other recurring/routine payments totaling \$117,372.01 - \$69,595.20 from the General Fund, \$8,879.40 from the Open Space Fund, \$18,227.41 from the Fire & EMS Tax Account and \$20,670 from the State Liquid Fuel Fund - and requested payment authorization. Mr. Pearson's motion to authorize the payment of the listed items was seconded by Mr. Cornell and unanimously approved.

Snow Removal Bid Approval: Mr. Pearson announced that bids for the 2021-2022 snow season were advertised in the Daily Local News on September 14th & 22nd. The ad was also on the Township website. Ms. Abel provided the sole sealed bid, from D.T. Taylor Excavating. Mr. Pearson reviewed the bid, which offered a Tandem axle dump truck with plow and spread @ \$220.00/hr; a 6500 Single Axle Dump Truck with 10' power angle plow and spreader @ \$185.00/hr; and a 4x4 Truck with 8' plow @ \$130.00/hr. Mr. Pearson's motion to accept the D.T. Taylor Excavating bid for the 2021-2022 Snow Season was seconded by Mr. Cornell and unanimously approved.

Laurel Road Discussion: Mr. Pearson advised that as planned and discussed at several of the Supervisors' previous monthly meetings, the Township had purchased three properties on Laurel Road, at an aggregate appraised value of \$1,610,394.28, as an alternative to relocating

or reconstructing Laurel Road (at an estimated cost of \$4 million to \$10 million) following the washout of a portion of the road during a 2014 flood of the West Branch of Brandywine Creek. He explained that while one of the owners had initially suggested the buyouts, the Board's decision was based on its determination that the purchases were the most cost-effective way to prevent the homes on those properties from becoming stranded by a future Laurel Road washout. He confirmed that the structures on the properties would be demolished, so as not to encourage trespassing and misuse.

He said that the Supervisors next expected to vacate a portion of the road extending from the southern end of the washout northward toward Strasburg Road, with the northern endpoint as undetermined. Richard Mitchell, 615 Laurel Road, voiced concerns about the impact this action might have on his property, and a discussion ensued. Mr. Pearson pointed out that no final metes and bounds decision had been made and that the matter would be discussed at future Board meetings as more definitive plans emerge.

FEMA/PEMA Hazard Mitigation Grants and Other Matters relating to Hurricane

Ida: Mr. Cornell advised that the Township had received a last-minute notification from Chester County Department of Emergency Services that Hazard Mitigation Grants were available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") through the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency ("PEMA"), and that the deadline to initiate the application process was less than a week away. In the ensuing discussion, Ed Lewis, 625 Harveys Bridge Road, suggested that the Township seek funds to remove the millrace dam on Brandywine Creek near Embreeville Mill. Mr. Cornell agreed that if the owner of Embreeville Mill were to respond favorably to the idea he would initiate the application process.

The discussion extended to the Embreeville Bridge closure on Rte 162. Mr. Cornell agreed to confirm to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation ("PennDOT") the township's desire for prompt repair of the bridge, and to ask PennDOT to explore Rte 162 modifications slightly North of the Embreeville Bridge in order to reduce heavy groundwater flows over the road during heavy rains.

Ms. Abel announced that on September 10, 2021, President Biden had granted a major Disaster Declaration for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania triggering the release of Federal funds, covering up to 75% of "eligible expenditures", to help people and communities recover from Hurricane Ida damages. She noted that Chester County's Department of Emergency Services will hold briefings to explain the process and that consistent with past Disaster Declarations, the Township would submit claims for "eligible expenditures".

Adjournment: Upon Mr. Pearson's motion, seconded by Mr. Cornell, the meeting was adjourned.

Time: 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Abel, Secretary

