

## East Rockhill Township Board of Supervisors

December 26, 2017

### Regular Business Meeting Minutes

The regular business meeting of the East Rockhill Township Board of Supervisors was held at 7:00p.m. on December 26, 2017 in the Township meeting room at the East Rockhill Township Municipal Building, 1622 North Ridge Road, Perkasio, PA 18944.

Present:	David Nyman	Chairperson
	Gary Volovnik	Vice-Chairperson
	Jim Nietupski	Member
	Marianne Morano	Township Manager
	Patrick Armstrong, Esq.	Township Solicitor
	Steve Baluh, P.E.	Township Engineer
	Jeff Scholl	Public Works Director

The meeting was called to order at 7:01p.m. by Mr. Nyman with the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **Public Comment #1**

- Jan Mauer, 2107 N. Rockhill Road, expressed concerns on behalf of son who is property owner with regards to Rockhill Quarry activity including noise, well impact and 6:30am start.
- Kirill Gidasov, 2048 N. Rockhill Road, expressed concerns with regards to Rockhill Quarry blasting, water system, receiving a well pre-test, geological structures, asbestos in rock, air quality and noted Resource Protection zoning surrounds the quarry site.
- Ryan Gottshall, 2201 N. Rockhill Road, expressed concerns with regards to Rockhill Quarry noise levels, working hours, truck noise, blasting, trucks on Rich Hill Road, truck traffic, amount of traffic, speed enforcement, blasting, impact on wildlife and pollution. Mr. Gottshall is starting a petition. It was recommended State Representative Staats receive a copy.
- Rick Gibson, 1609 West Rock Road, expressed concerns with regards to Rockhill Quarry pretesting well water and future use on site. The Quarry has maintained Zoning Permits for extraction use only.
- Jeannine Gravel, 2198 N. Rockhill Road, expressed concerns with regards to Rockhill Quarry tree clearing.
- Kyle Anderson, 111 Rockhill Road, expressed concerns with regards to Rockhill Quarry blasting, Texas Eastern Pipeline and reactivating the railway.
- John Edwards, 1934 N. Rockhill Road, expressed concerns with regards to Rockhill Road safety, 300 employees anticipated and the traffic impact, speeding, safety of pedestrians walking on side of road, drivers have been airborne over bridge.
- Sam Gehring, 2198A N. Rockhill Road, expressed concerns with regards to Rockhill Quarry as he has driven a truck for 45-years, hours of operation, neighbor blasting call list, was rock moved per DEP quarry permit every year and drivers are paid by the ton not the hour.
- Lowell Lysinger, 1551 Pinewind Drive, provided documentation on the salamanders that cross in the vicinity of Rockhill Quarry.
- Bruce Costa, 1476 West Rock Road, expressed concerns with regards to Rockhill Quarry well impact and surface rights.
- Sandy Hippauf, 29R Rockhill Road, expressed concerns with regards to Rockhill Quarry truck route and height of railway bridge.

- Ray Coffey, 2204 N. Rockhill Road, expressed concerns with regards to Rockhill Quarry questioned the timeline of operation. The Township became aware they were on the site December 19, 2017.
- Ryan Gottshall, 2201 N. Rockhill Road, expressed concerns with regards to Rockhill Quarry and DEP directed him to contact the Township.
- Ryan Fuhrmeister, 2020 N. Rockhill Road, expressed concerns asked if any of the Township Supervisors lived near the Quarry.
- Scott Sidle, 1914 N. Rockhill Road, expressed concerns with regards to Rockhill Quarry asking if R.E. Pierson would be invited to a Township meeting, and stated that more people live in the vicinity of the Quarry than the last time it was active. Yes, if they would like to attend it is not required at this time.
- Kim Manser, 2201 N. Rockhill Road, expressed concerns with regards to Rockhill Quarry and requested strobe lights instead of back-up beepers on trucks, berm installed, quarry provide homeowner notification. She asked what power the township has, noise, traffic, hours, light pollution, and have annual tonnage required by the State DEP permit been removed from the site.
- Dan Soliday, 1300 West Rock Road, expressed concerns with regards to Rockhill Quarry and requested increased police enforcement of speeding and DOT truck checks. If lighting is installed would land development be required. Is there an asphalt plant proposed and bog turtles could be on the site.
- Francen Schmidt, Upper Tohickon Watershed Association, with regards to Rockhill Quarry had concerns of the Quakertown Swamp impact.
- Ray Cofe, 2203 N. Rockhill Road, expressed concerns with regards to Rockhill Quarry's current owner who has a 10-year lease with Hanson Aggregates and will they sell to outside agencies.
- Sandy Lehrman, 1470 West Rock Road, with regards to Rockhill Quarry, she received a blasting notice door hangar and knew of one other person who received it. The Township made a copy.
- Peg Seachrist, 1564 West Rock Road, with regards to Rockhill Quarry asked if the Township meeting with DEP would be open to the public. As this would be an administrative meeting with DEP and Township staff, it would not be a public meeting. Updates would be provided on Township website and DEP could be invited to a future public meeting if deemed appropriate.

It was noted that the Quarry owner has maintained a mining permit with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and a permit with East Rockhill Township for the existing use on an annual basis. It is believed that the last time the quarry was active was 1981. The Township anticipates that the quarry operator and/or owner of the quarry will submit a 2018 zoning permit application and a traffic study for the extraction use. Police will begin enforcement of speeding activity. As information is known, the Township website will be updated accordingly. Real-time news notification to email is available by signing up on the website homepage.

### **Announcements:**

Upcoming Meetings were announced. Township Offices will be closed all day January 1, 2018 in observance of New Year's Day.

An Executive Session will follow the Regular Meeting to discuss ongoing litigation (Pennridge Development Enterprises Conditional Use Appeal).

**Approval of Minutes and Bills Payable:**

**Approval of Minutes from November 28, 2017 Regular Meeting**

**On motion** by Mr. Nietupski, seconded by Mr. Volovnik, to adopt the meeting minutes from the Board of Supervisors' November 28, 2017 Regular Meeting. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

**Payment of 2017 Unpaid Bills dated December 20, 2017 in the amount of \$175,566.16 and 2018 Unpaid Bills dated December 20, 2017 in the amount of \$6,962.47.**

**On motion** by Mr. Volovnik, seconded by Mr. Nietupski, to approve payment of 2017 Bills List dated December 20, 2017 in the amount of \$175,566.15. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor. Mr. Nietupski noted the purchase of a 2018 dump truck was on the general fund unpaid bills list.

**On motion** by Mr. Nietupski, seconded by Mr. Volovnik, to approve payment of 2018 Bills List dated December 20, 2017 in the amount of \$6,962.47. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

**Planning Commission Report: Anne Fenley**

The Planning Commission welcomed new member Joe Chellew. They reviewed the Foreman Farm, 1200 Butler Lane Planning Module for an on-lot sewage disposal system to treat effluent from the proposed four bedroom dwelling and a convenience bathroom and laundry in the horse barn. The existing house will continue to be served by a separate on-lot system. The Planning Commission Chairperson's was authorized to execute the document.

**On motion** by Mr. Volovnik, seconded by Mr. Nietupski, to approve the Planning Commission Report. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

**Pennridge Wastewater Treatment Authority Report:**

The November 20, 2017 minutes, December 11, 2017 draft minutes and November 2017 flow reports are on file.

**On motion** by Mr. Nietupski, seconded by Mr. Volovnik, to acknowledge receipt of the Pennridge Wastewater Treatment Authority Report. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

**Pennridge Regional Police Commission Report: Chief Blake**

Chief Blake shared the November 2017 Pennridge Regional Police activity report. The report is on file.

**On motion** by Mr. Nietupski, seconded by Mr. Volovnik, to approve the Police Commission Report. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

**Township Manager's Report: Marianne Morano**

**Zoning Hearing Application for Faith Baptist Church 700 North Main Street:** The applicant is seeking a variance from §27-304.13.b.(1) of the Zoning Ordinance which limits the maximum potential time period for a permit by right for a temporary structure, I-3 use to 12 months.

The Applicant is seeking to extend the permitted time for modular classroom units. The hearing is scheduled for January 17, 2018 7:00pm. Wally Alderfer, school board member and Kevin Cripe were present. It was noted the original request for the temporary trailers was 10 years and they were granted 5 years. A long-term plan was provided with the Zoning Hearing application and annual inspections have been performed by Township staff.

**On motion** by Mr. Nietupski, seconded by Mr. Volovnik, to recommend Board support of the application and grant a 5-year time extension for the temporary trailers. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

**Resolution 2017-21 Street Light Assessment.**

**On motion** by Mr. Volovnik, seconded by Mr. Nietupski, to adopt Resolution 2017-21, setting the Street Light Assessment at \$41.00 per designated property for 2018. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

**Resolution 2017-22 Fixing the East Rockhill Township Fees for 2018.**

**On motion** by Mr. Nietupski, seconded by Mr. Volovnik, to adopt Resolution 2017-22 setting the fees for 2018 as presented. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

**Resolution 2017-23 adopting a Final 2018 Budget** was presented. The budget does not contain a tax increase.

- Kathy Weidner, 132 Bridgeview Drive, asked why there was a \$40,000 reduction to state aid for pensions. Mrs. Morano noted Pennridge Regional Police Department directly receives the state aid payment which did not occur in prior years. Mrs. Weidner was concerned about a planned decrease in road work. She was assured that the Township has a seven (7) year road plan and that overlays would occur on Axehandle Road, Muskrat Road, portion of West Rock Road and a portion of Branch Road. She also questioned the sewer rate increase of \$40. This increase was not anticipated to change for at least four years.

**On motion** by Mr. Volovnik, seconded by Mr. Nietupski, to adopt Resolution 2017-23 adopting the Final 2018 Budget in the amount of \$3,815,771 in revenue and \$3,815,771 in expenses for all funds. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

**Resolution 2017-24 Fixing the Real Estate Tax Rate for 2018.**

**On motion** by Mr. Volovnik, seconded by Mr. Nietupski, to adopt Resolution 2017-24 fixing the Real Estate Tax Rate for 2018 at 6.725 mills for general purposes; 1.0 mill for Fire Protection; 1.26 mills for Police Building Debt Service; 1.25 mills for Capital Improvement. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

It was noted 2018 is the fourth year without a tax increase.

Mrs. Morano updated the Board at the last meeting Mr. Weikel asked when the pole on Ridge Road damaged from an accident would be reinstalled. It is to be repaired by Perkasio Borough electric department and Mr. Weikel has been notified.

**On motion** by Mr. Nietupski, seconded by Mr. Volovnik, to approve the Township Manager Report. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

**Public Works Report: Jeff Scholl**

Mr. Scholl updated the Board on Public Works activities in November 2017. Of note, a dump truck needed extensive repair which is slated to be replaced in 5 years; fall leaf collection has been completed with a total of 67 loads. The report is on file.

**On motion** by Mr. Volovnik, seconded by Mr. Nietupski, to approve the Township Public Works Report. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

**Engineer Report: Steve Baluh, P.E.**

**Subdivision Plan Review Status.** Review dated December 4, 2017 is in the Board's packets. No action is necessary.

**West Rock Road Grant Application.** A revised application has been resubmitted to Bucks County Conservation District taking into consideration prevailing wage for the off road work. Review of the grant submission will occur in January, 2018.

**On motion** by Mr. Volovnik, seconded by Mr. Nietupski, to approve the Township Engineer report. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

**Solicitor Report: Patrick Armstrong, Esq.**

Mr. Armstrong requested an Executive Session to discuss the status of the Penridge Development Enterprises litigation.

**On motion** by Mr. Nietupski, seconded by Mr. Volovnik, to approve the Township Solicitor report. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor.

**Department and Emergency Services Reports**

**On motion** by Mr. Volovnik, seconded by Mr. Nietupski, to acknowledge receipt of the Department and Service Reports. With no additional discussion, all present voted in favor. Copies are on file.

**New or Other Business – Supervisors' Items**

- Mr. Nietupski suggested the Township Comprehensive Plan be updated. Mrs. Morano will obtain a proposal from Bucks County Planning Commission.

**Public Comment #2:**

- Anne Fenley, 1500 Branch Road, asked what work was occurring on Branch Road. Bucks County is dredging the creek.

**Adjournment**

**On motion** by Mr. Nietupski, seconded by Mr. Volovnik, to adjourn into Executive Session. With no additional discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:14p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Morano  
Township Manager