

The monthly meeting of the Bear Creek Township Board of Supervisors was held at the Bear Creek Township Municipal Building on Monday, February 6, 2023 at 6:00 PM. Mrs. Koval called the meeting to order. Roll was called. Mr. Petlock, Mr. Krumsky and Mrs. Koval were present. Mr. Suchocki and Mr. Popple were absent. Pledge to the flag followed.

Attorney Vinsko announced an Executive Session was held on January 23, 2023.

MINUTES: The minutes from the January 3, 2023 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Mr. Petlock to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Krumsky. Vote: Mr. Petlock, Mr. Krumsky and Mrs. Koval; yes.

Treasurers Report: For month ending January 2023, total income was \$77,506.35. Total expenses were \$66,756.38. Cash at the beginning of the period was \$1,868,036.03. Cash at the end of the period was 1,875,252.75.

RECEIPTS: Deposits for the month of January 2023 were \$78,077.89. A motion to approve the receipts, subject to audit was made by Mr. Petlock, seconded by Mr. Krumsky. Vote: Mr. Petlock, Mr. Krumsky and Mrs. Koval; yes.

DISBURSEMENTS: Expenses for the month of January 2023 were \$70,861.17. A motion was made by Mr. Petlock to approve the disbursements, subject to audit, seconded by Mr. Krumsky. Vote: Mr. Petlock, Mr. Krumsky and Mrs. Koval; yes.

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT: Mr. Watkins reported for the month of January: 1 building permit, 1 Certificate of Occupancy, 1 subdivision and 1 UCC permit were issued for a total of \$1298.50. One new complaint was addressed.

Mr. Petlock asked about the trailer/camper on Bear Creek Blvd that has been there for the last several years. Mr. Watkins said they removed the deck and it doesn't appear that anyone is living in it. Attorney Vinsko is to send a compliance notice.

Mr. Petlock also asked about the sewage issue at the bottom of 115. Mr. Watkins said the resident is working with the SEO to correct the matter.

FIRE DEPT REPORT: The fire report for January was not available.

STATE POLICE REPORT: The report was not available.

ACT 537 REPORT: No update.

ROAD DEPARTMENT: Mr. John Krumsky reported the no truck signs requested by Mr. Wasilewski have been installed on Pittston Blvd. The Laurelbrook signs are up and the lights are working. One Forest Park sign has been installed and the other will be up soon depending on weather. The resident of Park Road does not want the township to do anything with the road. Attorney Vinsko will contact the resident because this road is

deeded to the Township. All agreed that much work would need to be done if the township were to consider plowing and maintaining it.

Mr. Krumsky reminded the Board that if they are ordering a new truck, it needs to be done soon. After comparing quotes, the Board decided to go with the International.

Resolution 14-2023: Mr. Petlock made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2023 International CV 515 Chassis not to exceed \$ 82,000 from Allegiance, seconded by Mr. Krumsky. Vote: Mr. Petlock, Mr. Krumsky and Mrs. Koval; yes.

ROAD DEPARTMENT FINANCES: For the month of January 2023 total expenses related to the Road Department were \$20,070.09. The largest expenses were payroll and vehicle expenses.

OPEN RECORDS REPORT: Two requests were made and both answered.

PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS: None

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:

Resolution 15-2023: A motion was made by Mr. Petlock approving BHW Construction Consultation Services, Inc as the Third Party UCC Inspection Agency for Bear Creek Twp., seconded by Mr. Krumsky. Vote: Mr. Petlock, Mr. Krumsky and Mrs. Koval; yes.

Resolution 16-2023: A motion was made by Mr. Petlock to retain Steve Egenski as the township Sewage Enforcement Officer, seconded by Mrs. Koval. Vote: Mr. Petlock, Mr. Krumsky and Mrs. Koval; yes.

Resolution 17-2023: A motion was made by Mr. Petlock to approve the franchise agreement between Bear Creek Twp and Breezeline, seconded by Mrs. Koval. Vote: Mr. Petlock, Mr. Krumsky and Mrs. Koval; yes.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Attorney Vinsko reported:

Everest Infostructure: Proposal coming.

Forest Park/Aqua: No update. John Krumsky stated the roads are terrible in Forest Park and the road crew is frequently stopped by residents to complain about road conditions. Mrs. Koval said Oakridge Road needs to be addressed with the side collapsing.

Property Cleanup Ordinance: No update.

SBA tower offer: Proposal coming.

Roger Southward matter: Attorney Vinsko will give the Secretary copy of the letter.

Weiss Road/Liquid Fuels: No update.

Fire Department Water Issue: No update

OLD BUSINESS:

DPW Building: Work is continuing on the structure. It is about 70% complete.

Mountain Lake Abandoned Home: No update.

CORRESPONDENCE/NEW BUSINESS:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

John Parsons: Mr. Parsons from Bear Creek Village and a member of their Council was looking for documentation and information regarding the Rising Light Ridge camp project. The entrance to the camp is situated in the Village (borough) and many in their community have expressed concerns about safety due to the increased traffic that is expected. Matt Anderson from Rising Light Ridge was present and he and the Board answered questions from Mr. Parsons and explained how far they are in the process.

Mr. Parsons also asked for an update on the Laurel Run Bridge project. Mrs. Koval explained that the project has been delayed and will be put out for bid in 2023 and construction is expected to start in 2024.

Mrs. Koval also updated those in attendance about the Giants Despair/Truck issue and explained the different options that were presented at a meeting. She also shared a letter she received requesting a study for traffic changes in the problem area.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Koval, seconded by Mr. Petlock. Vote: All present were in favor.

Respectfully submitted:

Paula Weihbrecht, Secretary

The organizational and regular meeting of the Bear Creek Township Board of Supervisors was held at the Bear Creek Township Municipal Building on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 6:00 PM. Mr. Popple called the meeting to order. Roll was called. Mr. Petlock, Mr. Krumsky, Mr. Suchocki and Mr. Popple were present. Mrs. Koval was absent. Pledge to the flag followed.

Mr. Popple, as temporary Chairperson, declared all positions vacant.

Resolution 9-2023: Mr. Popple made a motion to appoint **Mrs. Koval as Chairperson**, seconded by Mr. Krumsky. Vote: Mr. Petlock, Mr. Krumsky, Mr. Suchocki and Mr. Popple; yes.

Resolution 10-2023: Mr. Petlock made a motion to appoint **Mr. Popple as Vice-Chair**, seconded by Mr. Krumsky, Vote: Mr. Petlock, Mr. Krumsky, Mr. Suchocki and Mr. Popple; yes.

Resolution 11-2023: A motion to appoint the following was made by Mr. Popple, seconded by Mr. Suchocki. Vote: Mr. Petlock, Mr. Krumsky, Mr. Suchocki and Mr. Popple; yes.

Roadmaster: John Krumsky

Secretary/Treasurer: Paula Weihbrecht

Open Records Officer: Jeffrey Popple

Zoning Officer: John Watkins

SEO Alternate: John Watkins

Engineer: Pennoni Associates

Solicitor-Board of Supervisors: Vinsko & Associates

Solicitor-Planning Board: Vinsko & Associates

Solicitor-Zoning Hearing Board: Angelo Terrana

EMA Primary: Jason Krumsky

EMA Secondary: Ed Jasulevich

Regular Meeting Day: The First Monday of each month

Regular Meeting Time: 6:00 PM

January 3, 2023

Reorg/Regular Meeting

Secretary-Planning Board: Karen Kollar

Secretary-Zoning Board: Paula Weihbrecht

Planning Board Member: Richard Kresge

Zoning Hearing Board Member: Jim Smith

Vacancy Board Member: Willard Kresge

Convention Voting Delegate: Ruth Koval

Depository General Fund: FNCB

Administrator of Pension Plan: Township Secretary/Treasurer

A motion was made by Mr. Popple to approve **Resolutions 1, 3, 5, 6,7 and 8** as follows, seconded by Mr. Petlock. Vote: Mr. Petlock, Mr. Suchocki, Mr. Krumsky and Mr. Popple; yes.

Resolution 1-2023: A resolution establishing the Bear Creek Twp. fee schedule for 2023.

Resolution 3-2023: A resolution setting the Township *Per Capita* Tax rate at \$0.00.

Resolution 5-2023: A resolution establishing a millage rate for Bear Creek Township for 2023 to retain the millage rate at .4412 and further that the Bear Creek Volunteer Hose Company shall be awarded ¼ mil (.1103) for 2023.

Resolution 6-2023: A resolution retaining the Bear Creek Township Homestead Exemption at a value of \$20,000 property reduction.

Resolution 7-2023: A resolution reappointing Bear Creek Volunteer Hose Co. as primary fire and rescue unit in Bear Creek Township.

Resolution 8-2023: Ambulance Service- A resolution continuing the current arrangements with the primary BLS responder being Plains Twp., which does not include the WHP development. White Haven Ambulance is the primary BLS for the WHP development. Plains Twp. Ambulance will remain the primary ALS responder for the entire Bear Creek Township.

Resolution 12-2023: A motion was made by Mr. Petlock and seconded by Mr. Krumsky to (1) Require at least 2 Supervisors to sign all checks and necessary bank papers, (2) Pay mileage at IRS approved rate for township travel, (3) Appoint each Supervisor to do labor as needed, to the extent not prohibited by 2nd Class Township Code.

Resolution 2-2023: A resolution keeping the existing UCC fee schedule until a decision is made about a third-party inspection agency. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Krumsky, seconded by Mr. Popple. Vote: Mr. Petlock, Mr. Suchocki, Mr. Krumsky and Mr. Popple; yes.

Regular Meeting:

MINUTES: Minutes from the December 5, 2022 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Mr. Petlock to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Popple. Vote: Mr. Petlock, Mr. Krumsky, Mr. Suchocki and Mr. Popple; yes.

Treasurers Report: For month ending December 2022, total income was \$50,393.18. Total expenses were \$43,921.50. Cash at the beginning of the period was \$1,861,310.17. Cash at the end of the period was 1,868,036.03.

RECEIPTS: Deposits for the month of December 2022 were \$59,672.27. A motion to approve the receipts, subject to audit was made by Mr. Popple, seconded by Mr. Suchocki. Vote: Mr. Petlock, Mr. Krumsky, Mr. Suchocki and Mr. Popple; yes.

DISBURSEMENTS: Expenses for the month of December 2022 were \$52,946.41. A motion was made by Mr. Popple to approve the disbursements, subject to audit, seconded by Mr. Krumsky. Vote: Mr. Petlock, Mr. Suchocki, Mr. Krumsky and Mr. Popple; yes.

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT: Mr. Watkins reported for the month of December: 3 Zoning Permits, 1 building permit, and 2 Certificates of Occupancy along with 3 UCC permits were issued for a total of \$1056.50. One new complaint was addressed.

Mr. Petlock asked about the sewage issue on Route 115. Mr. Watkins said the SEO got the results and it was enough to send notice to the property owner.

FIRE DEPT REPORT: The fire report for December included 13 calls, the majority being motor vehicle accidents.

STATE POLICE REPORT: The report was not available.

ACT 537 REPORT: No update.

ROAD DEPARTMENT: Mr. John Krumsky reported the road crew has been plowing and treating roads as needed.

He asked about Park Road in Forest Park. An individual in Forest Park asked about Park Road being plowed. It is an unpaved road that belongs to the township. Mr. Krumsky said the road would need to be brought up to spec before they could maintain/plow it.

January 3, 2023

Reorg/Regular Meeting

There is one home on the road but it could be accessed another way. Mr. Popple suggested this matter be discussed further in an executive session.

Mr. Krumsky asked what was the status on the Laurelbrook signs. Mr. Popple stated he spoke with the company redoing the signs and we will have them by January 15th. Mr. Popple asked if there was anyone present that wanted to speak about the signs.

Linda Pacewicz from Laurelbrook was in attendance. She said many are asking where the signs have been so long and also felt the entrance to the development looked unattractive without them. She also stated people were missing the entrance without the signs and it appears the lights that shown on the signs are no longer on.

Mr. Popple explained it was he who decided to have the signs re-done, they needed to be reconditioned and painted. He is hoping they will be done soon as promised by Mozip.

Ms. Pacewicz also mentioned the condition of the roads in Laurelbrook. The edges and shoulders are crumbling and need to be addressed. Mr. Popple asked Mr. Krumsky if he and his crew could handle these repairs. Mr. Krumsky said it is beyond their capabilities and the work should be contracted out.

Ms. Pscewicz also asked about Service Electric and if their non-compete agreement with the township will ever come to an end. Attorney Vinsko explained that it is not a non-compete but a franchise agreement which is a service agreement. Any company can do the same.

Mr. Petlock asked what can be done to make Aqua move forward with Forest Park. Can we just go ahead and do our paving and force them to repave after their work is done. Attorney Vinsko said we will probably need to just go ahead and give them notice. All of this will be discussed in the executive session.

ROAD DEPARTMENT FINANCES: For the month of December 2022 total expenses related to the Road Department were \$17,546.14. The largest expenses were payroll and vehicle expenses.

OPEN RECORDS REPORT: No new requests.

PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS: None

Mr. Petlock asked if there was anything come in from Rising Light. Attorney Vinsko spoke with George Albert and explained that everything with Rising Light so far has been preliminary work. Once the actual development planning begins we will be sure they are notified.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES:

Resolution 13-2023: A Resolution adopting Act 57. This resolution amends the local tax collection law and requires taxing districts that impose taxes on the assessed value of real property to adopt a resolution or ordinance directing the tax collector to waive additional charges for real estate taxes in certain situations.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Mr. Popple and seconded by Mr. Petlock. Vote: Mr. Petlock, Mr. Suchocki, Mr. Krumsky and Mr. Popple; yes.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Attorney Vinsko stated that all the matters on his report will be covered at the upcoming executive session.

Everest Infostructure: No update.

Forest Park/Aqua: No update.

Property Cleanup Ordinance: No update.

SBA tower offer: No update.

Roger Southward matter: Attorney Vinsko will give the Secretary copy of the letter.

Weiss Road/Liquid Fuels: No update.

Fire Department Water Issue: No update

OLD BUSINESS:

DPW Building: Mr. Petlock stated that the project is progressing. Mr. John Krumsky said the concreted floor and apron are finished. The steel building will be coming soon. They do not have info on the pole barn yet.

Mountain Lake Abandoned Home: Mr. Watkins asked Attorney Vinsko what the next steps would be since the citation has gone unclaimed? For the most part the home is secure. Attorney Vinsko will send a letter from his office.

January 3, 2023

Reorg/Regular Meeting

CORRESPONDENCE/NEW BUSINESS:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ray Wasilewski: Mr. Wasilewski from Old East End Blvd stated there has been a lot of strange traffic on his road including tractor trailers. Vehicles are riding in the ditch and causing damage. He would like to be put on the list for repair. John Krumsky said they will take care of it in the Spring.

Mr. Popple announced the Board will hold an executive session on January 23rd at 5:30 PM.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Petlock, seconded by Mr. Popple. Vote: All present were in favor.

Respectfully submitted:

Paula Weihbrecht, Secretary