

SOMERSET TOWNSHIP

OCTOBER 9, 2024

A regular meeting of the Somerset Township Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at the Township Municipal Building. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Present: Joseph Cole & Mark Lohr

Absent: James Bockstoce

MEETING PUBLIC COMMENT - AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. William Pollock expressed concerns regarding the approval of the minutes. He requests that the residents are given a copy of the minutes to comment on, before they are approved by the Board. He stated this is a violation of the Sunshine Act. He stated when residents bring up issues, the name and subject need to be included in the meeting minutes, as well as written requests. He advised the Township that these are RTK violations, and he would like to get this all resolved so they do not have to file those violations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Lohr, to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2024, Meeting. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF CHECKS, WARRANTS & TRANSFERS

Motion: Lohr, 2nd: Cole, to approve the payment of the following checks:

CFS General Fund # 2532-2555 SHA Fund # 1875-1881

Procurement Card 10-10-24 and any other necessary transfers. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

BARNEY ESTATE SUBDIVISION

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Lohr to approve the Barney Estate Subdivision. Motion passed.

DISTRIBUTION OF VOLUNTEER FIRE RELIEF

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Lohr to distribute funds for the Volunteer Fire Relief. Motion passed.

GERMAN LUTHERAN CEMETARY MAINTENANCE

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Lohr, to approve the payment of \$300.00 to the German Lutheran Cemetery for maintenance. Motion passed.

REPORTS

Supervisors: No report given.

Secretary: Cole read the Treasurer’s Report.

Road Department: Lohr advised the crew is currently doing pipework on Lively and Meyers Road, as well as crack sealing and trimming trees.

PUBLIC COMMENT – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. William Pollock expressed several concerns regarding forced business into 95% of the Township, budgets not being followed or made public, financial reports not meeting deadlines, extraordinary increase in wages and benefit packages for Township Employees, proposed borrowing 1.3 million to fund water for only 35 residents, moving 3.2 million into a fund that is not FDIC Funded, a security system that will lock residents out of the building, RTK Requests not answered and having to be refiled, and residents who disagree with the Township Officials are subjected to hostile actions.

Mr. Mike Ornot inquired about the Township's spending. The Township Solicitor replied that the Secretary is working on getting the information on each fund. Mr. Ornot stated that we should not be going over budget but below. He advises that the Township get their finances under control and stop overspending.

Mr. Dennis Sowers questioned the Supervisors if they ever answer any questions being asked.

Mr. Lohr stated the Supervisors take the questions on advisement and usually address them at the next meeting. Township Solicitor stated that the Township follows the Sunshine Act, replies to RTK Requests, and all questions are answered. He also stated that Mr. Pollock comes to every meeting saying the Township is not. The Township Solicitor advised the residents that the 2025 Budget is currently being prepared and will be advertised at the next meeting for public comment and/or review. He stated the staff at the Township answer questions and address all concerns of the residents. He also advised that Mr. Pollock is always accusing the staff of not doing their job duties. Mr. Sowers stated the Somerset is a good community and he will continue to attend meetings. He also advised the Township, that they do not have to allow certain things, like a Kennel if it is not wanted.

ADOURNMENT

Motion: Cole, 2nd: Lohr, to adjourn the meeting at 6:11 p.m. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsey Strack
Recording Secretary