

LEHIGH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

January 9, 2024

- I. CALL TO ORDER. The Lehigh Township Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on January 9, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Lehigh Township Municipal Building, 1069 Municipal Road, Walnutport Pa. 18088. Vice Chairman Jerry Pritchard called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

Present: Cindy Miller  
David Hess (via telephone)  
Jerry Pritchard  
Janet Sheats  
Attorney David Backenstoe  
Mike Muffley  
Alice Rehrig  
Scott Fogel  
Frank Zamadics

Absent: Mike Jones

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Minutes of December 12, 2023. David Hess made a motion to approve these minutes. Cindy Miller seconded the motion. David Hess, Cindy Miller, and Jerry Pritchard voted aye. Janet Sheats abstained. Motion carried.
- B. Minutes of January 2, 2024. Cindy Miller made a motion to approve the minutes. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

III. APPROVAL OF BILLS.

- A. General Fund Checks 27367 to 27452. Cindy Miller made a motion to approve these bills. David Hess seconded the motion. Cindy Miller questioned Checks 27382 and 27383 were the result of accidents. Alice Rehrig confirmed they were the result of vehicles being held in the Township impound area. Cindy Miller also questioned Check 27409 pertaining to signs. Alice Rehrig commented it was for the large Christmas Tree Lighting Sign and three other signs that were placed throughout the Township. Jerry Pritchard questioned the check to Suburban Propane and if it was for propane. Alice Rehrig commented it was for diesel fuel through the State contract. All voted aye. Motion carried.

IV. PLANNING RELATED ITEMS

A. Extension of Time

1. David C. Wasko, Riverview Self Storage Preliminary/Final Plan. The developer granted the Board an extension of time until July 31, 2024. Jason Buchta of Ott Consulting was present to represent the plan. They are in the process of completing a jurisdictional determination with the Army Corps of Engineers. This process can take four to six months to complete. In addition, they are trying to get a meeting scheduled in the field with PennDOT. Cindy Miller made a motion to accept the time extension for the David C. Wasko Plan. David Hess seconded the motion. Janet Sheats questioned if this was the first extension for the plan. Cindy Miller commented they have had one before, but this is a relatively new plan. Mike Muffley commented they also got the Township involved with a preliminary review early on in their process. All voted aye. Motion carried.
2. John & Dennis Moyer Preliminary/Final Lot Consolidation Plan. The developer granted the Board an extension of time until April 30, 2024. Dennis Moyer was present to represent this plan. They will be appearing before the Zoning Hearing Board on January 18 for a special exception and their engineer needs additional time to address engineering comments. Cindy Miller made a motion to accept the extension of time for the John and Dennis Moyer Plan until April 30, 2024. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

B. Plan for Approval

1. Edward Foster Lot Line Adjustment. Brad Rock of Lehigh Engineering was present to represent this plan. This is a lot line adjustment between two neighbors. The subdivision was started because it was learned that a retaining wall was built across a property line. The Fosters are the new property owners and are trying to rectify things with the neighbor and the neighbor is in agreement with what is being proposed. In addition to the revised plan that was submitted, the monuments have been set and he will be providing the elevations. Cindy Miller made a motion to approve this plan subject to the outstanding items in the Planning Commission's letter dated December 14, 2023, and the Township Engineer's review letter dated December 11, 2023. David Hess seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.
2. Engineer's Report. Mike Muffley did not have anything specific to report for the meeting. There were no new plans submitted and the Planning Commission did not have a January meeting.

V. DEPARTMENTAL/ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

- A. Recreation Report. Sandy Hopkins reported the Recreation Board held their meeting after the tree lighting and discussed some items they want to add and change for this year to improve the program.

Sandy Hopkins has also reached out to Dr. Shelly regarding holding another Pet Inoculation program in June.

Katherine Mack questioned if the retaining wall will be placed to bid. Alice Rehrig commented it depends upon what the final cost would be and whether or not the Public Works Department does the work. Katherine Mack questioned if there was a time table on this. Frank Zamadics commented it depends upon when the schedule permits. There also were discussions this morning about starting with the gates for the yard waste center.

Katherine Mack questioned if there is a date as to when the engineering plans for parks will be put to bid. Cindy Miller commented a date has not yet been determined.

Jerry Pritchard questioned when the lines for pickle ball will be completed. Frank Zamadics commented he is planning on lining both courts in Danielsville in early spring.

- B. Public Works Report. Frank Zamadics commented he has set everything up with Bethlehem Vo-tech to send applicants there for a basic skills test. The cost will be \$200 per person and we can send as many applicants as we would like. The Board had no objection to Frank Zamadics moving forward with the testing.

Jerry Pritchard questioned how the snow removal went over the weekend. Frank Zamadics commented overall, it was not too bad. They did have three trucks go down and a flat tire on the loader. A plow broke on one of the trucks which required some welding, another truck required a new brake chamber, and the third truck is having some transmission issues. He believes it is shifting issues due to the electronics. Wayne Kleintop questioned why it took so long to get to Best Hill. People were getting stuck. Frank Zamadics commented they got around the best they could with three trucks going down. The tandems do the main roads and the single axle trucks the developments. It is difficult getting around with everyone on the street. It takes them about five hours to do one loop through the Township. Chief Fogel commented the plows also help the officers get to where they need to go. They had three crashes that the Maintenance Department helped them get to.

- C. Police Report. The two officers who are in field training are doing very well. They will be going in their own vehicle in the next few weeks. The two cadet officers

started the Police Academy last week. He spoke with the Sargeant at the academy and he reported things were going well. They will be in the academy until June. Once they are through the academy, the Department will still be one officer short. At some point, the Board will need to determine when and how they want to move forward with hiring the 12<sup>th</sup> officer. If it is going to be an individual who needs the academy, the next class starts either in May or July, depending upon which academy they would go through. A final decision will not be needed until March or April.

- D. Municipal Authority Report. Phil Gogel reported there was nothing new happening with the Authority. Everything is at a standstill.

Cindy Miller noted the Municipal Authority received a \$2.2 million grant for the Pennsville Waste Water Treatment Plant. Hopefully that means they will be able to get started on the project. Phil Gogel commented they won't know when he's ready to start until he tells them. The grant doesn't expire until 2025 or 2026.

- E. Fire Company Report. Rick Hildebrand questioned if the recognition of the Fire Marshall, Fire Chief, and Fire Commission should have taken place during the reorganization meeting. Alice Rehrig commented that is not something that is required for that meeting. Janet Sheats commented for the purpose of letting the public know who the officers are, it should be stated as part of the Fire Report so it is in the minutes and people know who they are.

The Officers of the Fire Company are:

President:	Roger Spadt
Fire Commissioner:	Rick Hildebrand
Fire Chief:	John Haggerty

Rick Hildebrand commented they will be doing the final inspection of the truck that was purchased through the FEMA grant on February 5 and 6; delivery will take place shortly thereafter. The manufacturer would like to put it on display for about three days in Harrisburg in May which is after they take possession. Since the Township is contributing towards this truck, he wanted to make sure there was no objection by the Board if this were to take place. Typically, when this occurs, they can negotiate with the manufacturer for equipment or discounts. The Board questioned who pays for the fuels and is responsible in the event something was to happen. Rick Hildebrand commented they would be responsible for the fuel while in possession and he also believes that the vehicle will be covered under the manufacturer's insurance if something were to occur while in transit or in Harrisburg. Janet Sheats commented she would want to see what is negotiated before approving this. The Board agreed to hear what it negotiated and would like verification regarding the insurance.

The Fire Company had 491 calls in 2023. 218 of them were EMS/Rescue related and 273 were fire related. They provided mutual aid 95 times and received mutual aid 24 times. These numbers are indicative of the volunteers they have. They are able to take care of all of their emergencies other than a large brush fire and structure fire with their personnel. Several other departments are banding together to make their calls. Their average response time is six minutes.

1. Approval of Fire Company Activities. Cindy Miller requested the list of activities be updated to what events are actually taking place. There are several items on the list that are not taking place. The list gets provided to the insurance company. Alice Rehrig commented the list doesn't physically get handed to the insurance company, but should a claim arise outside of a firefighting activity, they want verification that the activity was approved by the Board. If the Board doesn't approve it, workers comp will not cover the claim. Janet Sheats commented she reviewed the workers comp statute and it states that the majority of the state list the activities that they may do because they will still need to get approval from the Fire Station. Providing a list of potential activities for approval will alleviate the need for the Fire Company coming to the Board for every activity that they plan on doing. The statute also has a clause that states activities that are deemed necessary by the Fire Commissioner or Chief. Janet Sheats made a motion to table this until next month when an updated list is received. Cindy Miller seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Maintenance Building. David Hess questioned if the building is still progressing on schedule. Alice Rehrig confirmed that it was.
  1. Livengood Excavators Payment Request #4. Cindy Miller made a motion to approve Payment Request #4 to Livengood Excavators in the amount of \$86,136.22. Jerry Pritchard seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.
  2. Livengood Excavators Payment Request #5. David Hess made a motion to approve Payment Request #5 to Livengood Excavators in the amount of \$94,914.40. Cindy Miller seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.
  3. Shannon A. Smith, Inc. Payment Request #4. Cindy Miller made a motion to approve Payment Request #4 to Shannon A. Smith in the amount of \$22,4019.10. David Hess seconded the motion. Janet Sheats questions what work was included in the payment. Alice Rehrig commented it was for the fans and louvers. All voted aye. Motion carried.

4. Vision Mechanical, Payment Request #4. Cindy Miller made a motion to approve Payment Request #4 to Vision Mechanical the amount of \$15,915.67. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.
5. Billitier Electric, Change Order to supply conduit to Fuel Station. This change order is to add the necessary conduit and valves for the fuel station to Billitier's contract. Having them run the conduit as part of their contract will prevent the work that has been completed from being dug up later when the fuel station is installed. Cindy Miller made a motion to approve the Change Order in an amount not to exceed \$15,390. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.
6. Bracy Construction, Change Order for additional concrete. This change order is for the additional concrete that will be needed to meet the manufacturer's specifications for the water tank for the fire suppression system. Cindy Miller made a motion to approve the proposed change order for concrete in an amount not to exceed \$2,054. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. David Hess questioned why the concrete wasn't bid at the correct depth when they initially bid the project. Alice Rehrig commented the bids were written with general bid specifications for the water tanks. Bracy's initial bid would have been based upon the general specifications. When the specific designs for the tank were done by Pittsburgh Tank, they are requiring a thicker concrete pad. Because the initial bid specs were general in nature, Bracy would have had no way of knowing that the manufacturer was going to have a greater requirement than what was specified because the tank was part of the plumbing contract. David Hess commented he believes the plumber should be eating the cost of the concrete because he is the one who is providing the tank which requires the greater amount of concrete. Phil Gogel commented he believes the pad was designed wrong. The bid specifications should have been based upon the know size of the tank and the gallons that were required. The weights of these items should have been known. Alice Rehrig commented until the final designs were completed by the specific manufacturer, there was no way of knowing the exact requirements. Mike Muffley noted that when the project is put to bid, you cannot specify a specific manufacturer because it is part of the public bid. The architect is using a general tank for the specifications. Once the bid is awarded, it goes to the submittal process where the contractor preparing the submits from the vendors and products they selected and then the final design is developed. Once that final design is developed, you find out what is different from what was in the bid specifications. Cindy Miller commented if we don't approve the additional concrete, they will not be any warranties if there is a problem. Jerry Pritchard, Cindy Miller, and Janet Sheats voted aye. David Hess was opposed. Motion carried.

- B. Planning Commission Solicitor. Attorney Corriere provided a letter indicating he would like to continue as Solicitor for the Planning Commission. He would continue with his current rate of \$125 per hour and \$250 per meeting. Cindy Miller made a motion to retain Michael Corriere as Planning Commission Solicitor. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. Jerry Pritchard questioned if he is inserting himself enough into the conversations that are taking place at Planning. It seems as though the Planning Commission is doing all the work. Cindy Miller commented the Planning Commission should be doing most of the leg work as a commission. The Solicitor is there as an advising consultant. All voted aye. Motion carried.
- C. Treasurer's Bond. Alice Rehrig provided the Board with information on increasing the Treasurer's Bond. Increasing the bond by \$250,000 will cost \$125 and increasing the bond by \$500,000 will cost an additional \$250. Cindy Miller made a motion to increase the Treasurer's Bond to \$1,250,000. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Resolution 2024-1, Appointing Certified Public Accountants for 2024 Audit. Cindy Miller made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-1. David Hess seconded the motion. Katherine Mack questioned why the resolution was never on the website in previous years when a CPA has done the audit for years. Attorney Backenstoe commented the Board has previously voted to hire a CPA to do the audit. A resolution is no different than a vote; just more formal. Katherine Mack commented the law states it must be a resolution. People elect the Board to represent them and to follow the law. Jerry Pritchard questioned why Katherine Mack is just now bringing this to the Board's attention now after all the years of coming to the meetings. Katherine Mack commented she has now decided to read the law. For many years she had a full time job and worked at that job with great enthusiasm. Then when she retired, she and her husband were in a serious accident and for 15 years she took care of her husband who had brain damage, wiped his ass, changed his diapers, dressed him, fed him, and took him places. She didn't have time. She figured the people who are doing this should be following the law. Now, that her husband is deceased, she has decided she was going to pay more attention to what is going on. She has always been involved with the Township. She has been on the Zoning Hearing Board for 40 years. Now she is looking at the law. She sees things, looks at things and is now calling it out. She believes the Board needs to be specifically following the law as elected officials. All voted aye. Motion carried.
- B. Resolution 2024-2, Reenacting Earned Income, Per Capita, Real Estate Transfer Taxes. Cindy Miller made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-2. David Hess seconded the motion. Randy Braun questioned if there were any new taxes with the

adoption of this resolution. Cindy Miller commented there are no new taxes. This resolution reenacts the Earned Income Tax, Per Capita Tax and Real Estate Transfer Tax and is required to be adopted each year. All voted aye. Motion carried.

- C. Resolution 2024-4, Establishing Rates for Sewage Enforcement Services. Cindy Miller made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-4. David Hess seconded the motion. Janet Sheats questioned if it was the same as last year or if there was an increase. Alice Rehrig commented there was about a \$5 increase in each of the categories. This is to keep the fees consistent with the rate schedule that was provided by Keystone Consulting. These fees keep the costs with the users of the services rather than by all the tax payers. All voted aye. Motion carried.
- D. Existing Public Works Building. Cindy Miller commented she was approach by an individual in our community who was approached by Second Harvest Food Bank to help find a place where they could open a food bank in the community. Churches have been approached; some are too small; some don't want to. They are now in the process of looking for a building. Cindy Miller has been helping her to try to find a place for this. Unfortunately, the Second Harvest Food Bank does not have money to buy or pay significant rent. They had asked about our existing public works building since we will be moving them to a new building around April and it would give them time to work on things and be ready to go in April. Cindy Miler told them she would put it on the agenda for discussion. She didn't know if the entire building was going to be used after the new building is complete. The Food Bank needs space for racks, refrigeration and long tables and an area to receive delivery and have people come up for them to hand out food.

Jerry Pritchard commented he has been thinking about the storage. He does not believe in tearing down a structure that doesn't need to be torn down. David Hess questioned if this was only going to be certain times of the year or all year round. Cindy Miller commented it would be all year round. Jerry Pritchard commented he thinks the Township needs to figure out what space they need and then we can make a determination what is available. Frank Zamadics commented they would still be using some of the garage area for storing the smaller equipment and for smaller projects such as painting picnic tables. This way they wouldn't need to drag them into the area where they will be working all winter. Not everything will fit in the new building since the size was cut back. There is some seasonal equipment that is currently sitting out that he would like to get under roof. Cindy Miller commented she didn't know if the Board would consider the request or if it would be a flat-out no. They also haven't seen the current building. David Hess commented he wouldn't be opposed to talking to them for more details. The Board agreed this is a needed



service for the community. She is also hoping someone else will also have an idea for a location. She has also spoken to some businesses for ideas and some have also offered to help out.

Janet Sheats commented this is not something that will happen right away. Another option would be to do what Northampton has done and create a blessing box. It is a wooden structure with doors where people can put in what they can and people can take out what they need as far as non-perishable items. Perhaps something like this could be installed by the Police Station. Cindy Miller commented her only concern is after talking to people at the food banks, the people dropping things off at food banks have good hearts, but they are dropping off expired items. David Hess commented he has seen this at his church as well. Janet Sheats commented purchasers need to be aware and check dates when they purchase things. This could be done as a temporary measure and if no one is taking things out, is there that great of a need. Cindy Miller commented it is her understanding that people are going up to Carbon County and Washington Township. They are traveling for food.

Sandy Hopkins commented she agrees that we could use something like this in the community. Her concern is whether the Food Bank realizes the condition of the building and that it is in need of a lot of repairs. She is not sure it is in condition to hold a food bank.

Janet Sheats questioned if it is known what amount of square footage they need. Cindy Miller commented she had asked them and they felt they would need between 1,000 and 2,000 square feet. She asked if anyone has any ideas regarding this, that they contact her. She would like to see this for the community. Janet Sheats will also send a picture of what a blessing box looks like to Frank Zamadics.

- E. Appointments/Resolution 2023-4. David Hess commented this resolution was adopted last year and was questioning whether it was followed because it states that the Board of Supervisors shall conduct public interviews and it was his understanding that there were not any interviews conducted at the last meeting. Cindy Miller commented the resolution was followed. The individuals had the opportunity to speak, but the Board did not have any questions of the candidates. David Hess commented he felt the candidates should have at least had to introduce themselves. Jerry Pritchard commented he believes if someone was on the Board for a period of time, you will know what they have done. He believes new candidates should introduce themselves because they have never been on a board before. David Hess commented when he and Cindy Miller sat down and drafted the resolution, he believed in the process that was outlined in the resolution and feels it should be followed. Attorney Backenstoe commented it is up to the Board as to how they want to handle the interviews. In some townships, they have provisions such as this where

they invite the candidates to come to a meeting and state their name, tell the Board a little about themselves, and why they want to serve on a board, but it is up to each Board as to how they want to handle the process.

Phil Gogel commented the rules were just made up last year and he doesn't believe they were followed. Jerry Pritchard commented the resolution was created because the Board winged it last year and picked someone out of the crowd last year that didn't know it was coming, blind sighted them and took the township by storm. Phil Gogel commented that was fine because there were no rules. He nominated that person because he felt they were the best person for the job. Now there are rules and you need to follow them. Janet Sheats noted that the resolution doesn't dictate how many questions they must ask.

Jerry Pritchard commented going forward, if someone really wants the position, they need to signal the Chairman and be recognized, stand up and tell the Board why they want the position, otherwise the Board is just going off of a piece of paper. Barry Haydt commented if people are introducing themselves, then the public could also ask them questions. Katherine Mack commented people weren't given the opportunity to speak at the last meeting and someone new was appointed as an alternate and they were not asked to introduce themselves. She doesn't believe people realized they had the opportunity to speak. The meeting has to be made meaningful for the people who are attending the meeting.

Sandy Hopkins questioned what the Board will be doing for the appointments going forward. Will there be interviews or just letters of interest? Cindy Miller commented she thinks it will be up to the Board. The resolution states shall interview. Paul Nikisher commented he believes people should state what they have to offer to the community. If they don't have anything to offer, then pass the position to someone else. Janet Sheats commented as far as the vacancies, the Board needs to determine how they will handle this going forward. Attorney Backenstoe suggested having the applicants state their name and why they are interested in serving on the Board. Janet Sheats commented she would also like to have the time to evaluate the questions she may have and the information that is provided. Attorney Backenstoe commented the Board can choose to make a decision at that meeting or table it to the next meeting.

- F. Letter of Resignation. A letter was received from Kristin Soldridge indicating she was resigning from the Planning Commission effective December 31, 2023. Cindy Miller made a motion to accept the letter of resignation and advertise the vacancy. Jerry Pritchard seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

G. Township Auditor. Sandy Hopkins provided the Board with a letter indicating that she was written in as auditor and she will not be accepting the position as it is unnecessary when there is a CPA conducting the audit. Attorney Backenstoe commented if she is declining the position, then there is a vacancy, and the Board should attempt to fill the position within the next 30 days. If it is still vacant after 30 days, then the vacancy Board would have 15 days to fill the position. If it is not filled at that point, then technically, you are supposed to petition the court. If the Board has appointed a CPA Firm to do their audit, the auditors may not do an audit. Attorney Backenstoe also noted that there is a debate as to whether or not it is needed or necessary if there are no working Supervisors and a CPA doing the audit. PSATS also issued an opinion that if you didn't have anyone who wanted to take it, it is no harm, no fowl. If you are strictly following the Second Class Township Code, you are supposed to fill the position. Janet Sheats commented when the advertisement is done, she would like to see it include what their role is since there is a CPA doing the audit. Cindy Miller commented the only duty they would have would be to reorganize according to the Second Class Township Code.

David Hess made a motion to accept the letter from Sandy Hopkins indicating that she is declining the position of elected auditor. Cindy Miller seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Jerry Pritchard made a motion to advertise the vacant auditor position. Cindy Miller seconded the motion. The successful party would serve until the next municipal election. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Katherine Mack noted the current auditors did not hold a meeting the day after the reorganization meeting. Will there be a meeting of the auditors?

H. Manager's Report. Alice Rehrig noted the Township received \$25,000 from the GroNor Grant to continue with the security upgrades for the Township Buildings. She will start working on obtaining updated proposals for this project.

I. Solicitor's Report. Attorney Backenstoe did not have anything specific to report.

Katherine Mack questioned if it was resolved as to who was going to be make the changes for the Recreational Marijuana ordinance. Attorney Backenstoe commented he spoke with Attorney Corriere when the issue occurred and he stated he would be taking care of it.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT. Katherine Mack questioned if the way the Township is handling executive session is proper based upon the new laws. The new law states that a vague reason is no longer appropriate. You need to provide specificity. The reason must be meaningful. It must be more than some generalized term which tells the public nothing. You can't just state personnel or litigation. Jerry Pritchard commented his concern is that things would go back and forth with questions and we would end up trying a whole legal case in the audience. Cindy Miller noted that if a decision is made, it is made in the public meeting and if no decision is made, it is stated as such. Attorney Backenstoe commented when it comes to litigation, it is dependent upon the type of litigation and you need to be careful what you say. You don't want to give up the nature of any litigation strategy or theory. If an issue hasn't been initiated, but is threatened, and is readily identifiable, you need to be very careful how you would word that because you won't want it to become a matter of litigation. For personnel, it has to be personnel. It needs to be about a particular person or issue; not a policy. Executive sessions are only for deliberation. Any official action must occur during the public meeting. Cindy Miller commented based on what Katherine Mack is saying, "personnel" is too vague. Attorney Backenstoe disagreed. If you are discussing personnel, you could state you are discussing an employee of the Township, but you can't discuss the person or the nature of the matter. For pending litigation, you could state it involved "Millman versus Lehigh Township" or something similar to that. You would not discuss the details as to whether it was an injunction, answers, or deposition. You cannot disclose the specific nature. Paul Nikisher commented he always questioned for what when the Board went into an executive session. He would want to know why because when the Board goes into executive session, it costs the taxpayer money. He does like the discussion that took place at the meeting tonight. Cindy Miller commented when the Board says they are going into executive session and gives whatever information they are able to, the public needs to understand that they cannot ask the Board any questions because they cannot talk about it. Attorney Backenstoe commented an example would be that the Board was going into Executive Session to discuss a collective bargaining agreement. The Board cannot disclose more than it was to discuss a collective bargaining agreement. The Board can't discuss what took place in an executive session because they could subject themselves to liability, disclose legal scenarios, prejudice a person's personal rights. Someone could have complained about an employee and the Board went into executive session to discuss it. They cannot discuss that outside the room where the executive session was held. Whatever is said in executive session is basically sacred. You are discussing a person's rights; their personal rights which could play out at a hearing at some point. With regards to litigation, you need to be careful. You could identify the case you are going to discuss, but you cannot identify theories, issues, and concepts. If disclosed, they could put the Township in jeopardy or peril. Cindy Miller commented she is asking that the public respect their position when they say what they have, what it is, and they can't talk about it.

Supervisor Minutes  
January 9, 2024

Katherine Mack suggested that when there are newly elected Supervisors, their oath of office be administered during the public meeting. Janet Sheats commented it comes down to personal choice. Katherine Mack commented it should be offered as an option to the newly elected supervisors. It would give people the opportunity to meet them. Janet Sheats commented may be in the future, the newly elected parties could be welcomed so people know who they are. Attorney Backenstoe commented he has seen the swearing in of supervisors go both ways. Some have done it right before the reorganization meeting other prefer to take the oath in advance of the reorganization meeting. Although they are not officially seated until the first meeting in January, they are permitted to participate in an executive session and prefer to take their oath ahead of time.

Charlie Perich commented the Spring 2023 newsletter lists all the staff and committees on the back, but there is nothing listed about the auditors. In order for the newsletter to be complete, it should list all elected and appointed positions. The newsletter should be complete.

- IX. ADJOURN. David Hess made a motion to adjourn. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.