

LEHIGH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

September 24, 2024

- I. CALL TO ORDER. The Lehigh Township Board of Supervisors held their second monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 24, 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
Janet Sheats
Jerry Pritchard
Alice Rehrig
Attorney Josh Mazin

Absent: Mike Jones
David Hess
Attorney David Backenstoe

- II. 2025 BUDGET AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS. Andy Gildner of Keystone Technology was present to review updates to the technology plan. The firewalls, servers, workstations, and laptops in both the Administration and Police Department are approaching end of life and should be replaced. The priority would be given to the servers and firewalls. Several workstations, particularly in the Police Department are operating on Windows 10 and should be upgraded to Windows 11. If the workstations are going to be replaced in 2025, the upgrade wouldn't be necessary as the new workstations would come with Windows 11. A hosted server is being recommended for more stability and reliability, particularly in the event of disaster recovery. It is his understanding that the MDTs and Police computers are able to be purchased through a grant and that the Township is waiting to hear on a second grant for the administration servers and computers.

It is also recommended that a second internet provider be brought in to run in tandem with the current provider. This will enable operations to continue in the event service from one of the providers goes down. The continued access is particularly important for the Police Department. It is also suggested that the equipment be hosted in the Police Department since it is a 24/7 operation.

Cindy Miller questioned if everything from the previous plan was completed. Mr. Gildner commented everything was completed except for the dual internet access and a common data closet. Now that the wireless bridging is in place, it makes sense to complete the dual internet providers. Generally, the technology plan will keep repeating itself as equipment reaches end of life.

Board of Supervisors Minutes
September 24, 2024

Cindy Miller questioned if Public Works will be tied into the plan. Mr. Gildner commented they have already been incorporated into the Township's network. He also noted that even though there would be a common network closet, the Police Department data needs to be kept separate because of their CJIS certifications.

One of the requirements from the FBI is that all departments must be on multifactor authentication by October 1, 2024. This has been completed for the Police Department and it would be his recommendation that it be implemented for the Administration as this is a best practice for security. It is also expected that it will become a requirement of cyber insurance carriers.

It is also suggested that the Board consider utilizing a dedicated tablet or other mobile device for accessing their Township emails. This would separate the Township emails from their personal devices, which is important for Right to Know requests or if there is litigation involved.

Consideration should be given to switching the email platform from GoDaddy to either Google or Microsoft. It will give better retention rules as well as doing a better job with the MFAs.

Budgeting for a new telephone system is also suggested. The current system is Avaya and is also reaching end of life as Avaya no longer makes on premise systems.

Backup power is also suggested for both the Municipal Building and the Police Station, particularly the Police Station since that would be considered the data hub for the Township and since they are here 24/7. Alice Rehrig questioned if there would be enough space to house all the equipment in the Police Station. Andy Gildner commented that will need to be discussed with the Chief. If there are going to be two generators, then it may be best to put the equipment in the Municipal Building; however, the requirements of CJIS will need to be kept in mind. If data needs to be secured, it is easier in the Police Department. Alice Rehrig noted if a VOiP system is used, it will eliminate the need for the underground cabling and the old copper wiring on the phone lines. With the VOiP system, the phones could start at the Police Station. The VOiP phones and a hosted computer system will also allow staff to move the phones to an area where there is power and internet for a temporary basis.

Cindy Miller questioned what was determined with the cameras at the recycling center. Can the camera see what we need it to see? Andy Gildner commented the gates just came online today. Alice Rehrig commented right now, it depends upon where the car enters the sight. If they stay to the right, it gets harder to see and the camera may need to be adjusted. Once the cards are activated, it will force people to stay to the left and that

area seems to be able to capture the license plate. Cindy Miller questioned if we are able to see the back area of the site. Alice Rehrig commented we may need an additional camera back there, but we would have to get power to the back. Andy Gildner suggested it may be just as effective and less costly to have a camera mounted higher with an optical zoom.

The remaining items in the Capital Improvements Plan were reviewed. The technological updates that have been recommended by Keystone Technology have been incorporated into the draft of the budget with the exception of two generators.

Janet Sheats questioned when the air conditioning unit was installed in the Municipal Building. Alice Rehrig commented it was installed in 2008. It has always had a problem keeping up with the cooling in the summer, but since the meeting room has been disconnected from the system, it is keeping up. The issue with the system is that it is loud when the fan runs, and the outside unit does rattle and make noise. The price listed in the budget is based on an estimate from last year. Janet Sheats questioned if the Police Station is now working. Alice Rehrig commented that unit has been repaired.

Janet Sheats questioned the cost of the phone system and if grants are available. Alice Rehrig commented you will not be able to get a grant for a hosted system. The cost she included in the budget may be on the higher side. When looking at the actual handsets, there may be ways of reducing costs.

Under the office portion of the budget, the only item that has been included in the budget that is not listed on the plan is an AED for the building.

It was noted that the multifactor authentication will need to be looked into further regarding the Supervisors ability to access their emails since they are not accessing their Township emails from Township equipment.

Alice Rehrig noted she has a grant submitted to Northampton County for all the computers and the meeting room monitors and if successful, the grant that was received through the Lehigh Northampton Gaming grant can be used as a match to the County grant.

Janet Sheats questioned the replacement radios that are listed in the budget. Alice Rehrig commented the radios are not anticipated to be purchased. The value of any radio that is scheduled for replacement is being included as transfer to the radio fund for when the County finalizes the switch to digital radios. Once the County makes their final determination as to what system they are using and when the switch will occur, we could also apply for grants for radios. Janet Sheats commented she has heard the County will be offering grant funding as well.

Board of Supervisors Minutes
September 24, 2024

For the Police, items that are not outlined in the Capital Improvements Plan are one time additional supplies of replacement AED pads, a replacement battery for the Total Station, and the replacement of expired items in the personal trauma bags.

There are additional training classes being requested for the Sergeants and sending an additional officer to FTO school. The Board requested additional information on the training classes.

Replacement of the chairs in the department is being requested. They were initially scheduled for 2027, but they are in poor condition and should be replaced earlier. A set of double lockers and lock out tools are also being requested.

A new in car camera is being requested. The Capital plan had the camera being replaced with the vehicles; however, all the cameras are reaching end of life. The replacement camera that is being requested will be covered mostly by a grant. There also was a grant submitted to the County for replacement of the remaining cameras.

For the Public Works Department, there was a suggestion for an AED for their building and an allowance was included for additional items that may be needed for the building.

Most of the Recreation items that are in the budget are saving for future projects or grant match for park improvements. Jerry Pritchard commented he believes the tennis court in Danielsville should be a priority and there should be adequate funding provided.

Janet Sheats questioned if we know what is in the Fire Tax Fund. Alice Rehrig commented right now, she doesn't have a total. She did note that the estimated funding has been reduced because there are certain properties, Authority properties and State Game Land properties, which are exempt from any type of tax. In the case of Bethlehem Authority, they pay the Township a payment in lieu of taxes which has been adjusted based on the total millage. There will be an increase in the amount of money we are getting for the State Gamelands, but it most likely will not be that significant.

Alice Rehrig noted that by 2027, we will be required to have an ADA accessible website. The cost will be an annual fee of \$390 and a one time set up fee of \$400.

Janet Sheats also requested that a meeting be set up between the Board of Supervisors and the Fire Company so that they can update the Board on their operating revenues and expenses as well as where things stand with the Fire Tax.

For the next meeting, Alice Rehrig will provide an outline of the entire budget.

Katherine Mack commented she reviewed the audits since 2018. She noticed that the legal costs for Attorney Backenstoe and the labor attorneys and litigation have been rising but the amount budgeted does not seem to be increasing. She is wondering if there are plans to increase the amount in the budget because of the pattern of increasing costs. Alice Rehrig commented there is no pattern for the labor and litigation costs. The reason for the costs is different in each year. There is no way of determining what litigation may be coming or what other issues may arise.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. September 10, 2024. Janet Sheats made a motion to approve these minutes with noted corrections. Cindy Miller seconded the motion. Cindy Miller noted the following corrections to the minutes: Page 4, 3rd sentence should read Tax Collectors Association website, not Tax Collector's website; Page 9, last paragraph, 5th line, the word "clear" should be eliminated. All voted aye to approve the minutes with the noted corrections.

IV. APPROVAL OF BILLS.

A. General Fund Checks 28093 to 28136. Cindy Miller made a motion to approve these bills. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. Janet Sheats questioned which vehicle was repaired under Check 28101, it seems like we are having a lot of vehicle maintenance. Alice Rehrig commented it was Truck #5, one of the older vehicles which is scheduled for replacement. All voted aye. Motion carried.

B. State Fund Checks 1611 & 1612. Cindy Miller made a motion to approve these bills. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Maintenance Building. The Certificate of Occupancy has been issued. The final paving has also been completed. The contractors are in the process of submitting the final documentation as far as warrantee information, certified payroll, performance bonds, etc. Once the final paperwork has been submitted, the final payment of the retainage will be released.

Janet Sheats questioned when the old fuel station needs to be taken care of. Alice Rehrig commented the next inspection is in July. She is in the process of obtaining quotes for the removal of all the tanks.

Cindy Miller questioned when the Public Works Department will be moving into the building now that the CO has been issued. Alice Rehrig commented they have started. They currently are installing some shelving and then will be moving the trucks over later in the week and continue to move supplies over as they are able.

Paul Nikisher questioned what the plans are for the old building. Jerry Pritchard commented it will be used for storage. Alice Rehrig also noted if there is a messy project, it can be done in the old building rather than the new. Cindy Miller commented the master plan was to tear the building down, but that is to be determined.

B. Ordinance for Review

1. Ordinance 2024-3, Amending the Zoning Ordinance pertaining to off street parking requirement for Medical Marijuana Facilities. This is the revised ordinance pertaining to the parking requirements for medical marijuana facilities. It will be placed on the next agenda for additional review and possible authorization to advertise the ordinance for adoption.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. 2025 Pension MMOs. In accordance with Act 205, the required minimum obligations to the pension plans need to be presented to the Board by September 30. The required obligation for the Non-Uniformed Pension Fund is \$51,819 and the Police Pension contribution will be \$202,844. We are expecting State Aid in the amount of \$200,000 for next year.
- B. Employee Appreciation. Janet Sheats made a motion to continue with the employee appreciation as in the past. Cindy Miller seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.
- C. Newsletter Article. Jerry Pritchard commented the Board needs to come to an understanding as to what they want to place in the newsletter regarding this and how they want to move forward with the new tax collector. Janet Sheats commented she is not in favor of putting all the information in the newsletter. She is not in favor of putting anything regarding the audit in the newsletter as it states in the audit that it is subject to a Right to Know request and that it should be maintained as such. Jerry Pritchard questioned if the Township would be permitted to put excerpts from the audit in a newsletter. Attorney Marzin commented he would want to check with Attorney Backenstoe first, but it would be a public record. Cindy Miller commented she reviewed the shorter version that was created and there was very little referenced regarding the audit.

Janet Sheats proposed the following “Mary Louise Trexler resigned her position as Lehigh Township Tax Collector and the Board of Supervisors accepted it on August 13, 2024. Per state law the Board of Supervisors appointed Suzanne Hawke as Lehigh Township Tax Collector for the remainder of Mary Louise Trexler’s term. Hours of operation and times will be forthcoming and can be found on the Township’s website. Residents who wish to view the audit of the Tax Collector may

do so by filing a Right to Know request.” You are letting residents know an audit was done and if they want to know what was in the audit, they can file a Right to Know request.

Linda Roman commented she thinks what was read was fine but thinks it should be included as how someone would file the Right to Know request.

Cindy Miller commented she was fine with the abbreviated version that was provided to the Board, but we need to talk with the new tax collector regarding the transition into the position. She knows they are working well together. Cindy Miller also spoke with the PA Tax Collector Association regarding this. Janet Sheats commented she believes Ms. Hawke has completed the necessary requirements.

Suzanne Hawke commented she has taken the certification, completed her background check, and has provided Alice Rehrig with the Oath of Office, an email address, and phone number for the newsletter. The bonding paperwork has been filed and we are waiting for the bond to be finalized. Janet Sheats commented at this point she thinks we should put the ball in the tax collectors court and let her do her job without any micromanaging from the Board.

Monica Brown commented she doesn't believe you necessarily want to include what is in the audit, but what happened.

Paul Nikisher commented he thought we had some great candidates for the position and believes the right one was picked. He agrees it is nice to encourage her and work with her and forget about the past. Let the past go; move forward. It is also good that you are letting people know an audit is available if someone wants to see it. The problem with exposing only some it is that it could be cherry picked, which isn't good. Janet Sheats commented if someone is really interested in what the facts are, they do the Right to Know request and obtain a copy. Jerry Pritchard commented the people with the issues should be the ones who are interested in the report. Things will not get corrected overnight, but we are off to a good start.

Katherine Mack commented she believes the Board should be dwelling on the positive, not the negative. The Township needs to move forward and look at the good that has come from it. We now have a tax collector who is working with the previous tax collector and things are moving forward and corrections are being made and problems are being solved. The newsletter should reflect the good things that have happened in the Township. She believes we have a good person. Mary Trexler put in 40 years and is also a good person who made a couple of mistakes, apologized for them and

Board of Supervisors Minutes
September 24, 2024

corrected them. She did not steal money. She made some mistakes with her bookkeeping and handing in reports on an untimely basis. It is time to move on. We don't want to crucify people.

Jerry Pritchard questioned when the newsletter needs to be finalized. He would like to see a full board here for the discussion. Alice Rehrig commented the newsletter was supposed to be completed two weeks ago. The deadline for submitting articles was in August. Janet Sheats commented people are going to be wanting the newsletter for their leaf collection. We have tied up the newsletter because of this. Cindy Miller commented this is one of the biggest things that has happened in this township. We are having a transition of a new tax collector. The public has the right to know that.

Mary Trexler commented with all the serious health issues in her family, she had to resign. She couldn't keep going and didn't want to accept that and be a failure. That is why she resigned; she just couldn't do it anymore and take care of her family members. She did the best she could. She and Suzanne Hawke are working well together and comparing things to make sure. She believes people and the Board will be pleased with her. She resigned because the issues within her family, not because of an audit.

Janet Sheats commented as a community we need to do better and stop tearing people down. Monica Brown commented she doesn't believe we are tearing people down; we are in a transition. The Township people have a right to know what is happening in a situation where the Township does not have reports that are up to date and affecting the Township as a whole. People should be made aware that the Board and Manager have endeavored to keep everything up to date, even though it is not. Janet Sheats commented that putting the issues in the newsletter could cause unnecessary worry. Jerry Pritchard commented putting details in the newsletter will not determine who did or didn't pay their taxes, it will just create an unnecessary storyline. The only way to determine who did or didn't pay their taxes is to let Mary Trexler and Suzanne Hawke work together and get it cleaned up.

Janet Sheats made a motion to approve the statement she read be included in the newsletter. There was no second. Motion dies.

Janet Sheats made a motion that the newsletter go out without the information other than updated contact information. There was no second. Motion dies.

Mary Trexler commented she had turned in her March report, but it was wrong, and she couldn't move forward with her coversheet. She was told there was a deposit for \$17,000 that was missing, but it really was not missing and it turned out the deposit

was on the April statement. Alice Rehrig couldn't identify the deposit because she was looking for a different number. The money was there. Now she can move ahead. She called Alice Rehrig on Friday and told her she has been slammed for not doing reports, but she couldn't move on because the statement didn't work out. She did provide her with the work, but the coversheet was wrong, but it really wasn't. The problem has been fixed. She has been fined \$4,000 last year which was overkill. She shouldn't have been charged that much. It came out of her pay, and she didn't even know it. She has paid her fine and publicly admitted that she has not gotten her reports in in a timely manner. She has publicly apologized and is making up for everything.

Janet Sheats commented we need to get this behind us. We have a new tax collector who is doing a wonderful job. She is finding stuff. No one has condoned Mary Trexler's actions but let the tax collector do her job.

Cindy Miller commented there was a version of an article that was circulated amongst the Board and the other two members of the Board agreed with it. Just because she doesn't agree with Janet Sheats' version, doesn't mean she didn't agree with the other one that was circulated. **Cindy Miller questioned who wrote the second article.** **Alice Rehrig confirmed that she had written the second article.** Janet Sheats commented she didn't agree with the one that was circulated. Cindy Miller noted that just because either version was not agreed upon, doesn't mean that something shouldn't go into the newsletter. Janet Sheats commented that if an individual wants to submit something, they can, but it shouldn't come from the Board of Supervisors.

After further conversation, the following statement was agreed upon: "As many residents may be aware, Mary Trexler has resigned from her position as Lehigh Township Tax Collector. This position is an elected position, not an employee of the Township. The Tax Collector is custodian of the records, although the records officially belong to the Township. Even though the tax collector position is its own business, there are still state requirements for reporting to the taxing agency. On September 10, 2024, the Board of Supervisors appointed Suzanne Hawke as the Tax Collector. Mary Trexler and Suzanne Hawke have been working together as Ms. Hawke transitions into the role of tax collector. Her office hours will be posted on Township website (www.lehightownship.com) once the transition is complete. Residents who wish to view the forensic audit of the Tax Collector may do so by filing a Right to Know Request. (Form located under the forms tab of the website)."

Janet Sheats made a motion to include the above referenced statement in the newsletter with information on filing a right to know request. Cindy Miller seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

- D. Tax Collector Closeout Audit. Cindy Miller commented a close out audit needs to be done per state law for the period in which the previous tax collector was in office. Alice Rehrig commented she will obtain a price from Kunsman Corporation. A lot of the cost will be based upon the information that is provided for the audit.

Cindy Miller commented her question to Kunsman is why they didn't finish the 2023 forensic audit? The audit states that it was inconclusive which doesn't make sense to her. Katherine Mack questioned why the bill was paid if the audit was inconclusive? They should come back and finish the audit.

Cindy Miller commented the audit must be done by law; the Board doesn't have a choice in the matter. The prior tax collector is to create a duplicate outstanding tax report which they are currently working towards. This report gets turned over to the new collector. In the interim, the audit still must be done. If the duplicate outstanding tax report cannot be generated by the prior tax collector, then they will need to dig in and start looking at the checks. We are hoping it doesn't get to that point. The audit needs to be done now. The new collector started the day of her appointment to the office. Any monies that have not been deposited, will need to go to the new collector, but she cannot handle money until she is bonded. The prior tax collector holds her records until the final audit is complete. Alice Rehrig commented she should have the bond in a day or two.

Janet Sheats made a motion to authorize a closeout audit to be conducted on the prior tax collector for 2024. Cindy Miller seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

- E. Manager's Report. Alice Rehrig reported the gates at the yard waste facility are now functional. They will be set up for now to open at 7:00 a.m. and close at sunset. Janet Sheats questioned if people have inquired about the cards. Alice Rehrig commented there have been inquiries. Now that the gate is functioning, she can start working on the cards.
- F. Solicitor's Report. Attorney Mazin did not have anything specific to report on behalf of Attorney Backenstoe.

- VII. PUBLIC COMMENT. Paul Nikisher commented there will be a Flag Wave at Lorah's Farm on September 29th and the Dream Come True event will be held at Becky's Drive-In on October 5th.

Lish Howard, a resident of Allen Township, raised a concern about a banner which was installed over Wood Drive that was installed on telephone poles within the Township right of way. She finds this banner excessive. Cindy Miller commented she has the

definition of right way from our ordinance. The definition has nothing to do with politics, whether you are republican or democrat. The definition of right of way is “The surface of and space above and below any real property in the municipality in which the federal government, commonwealth, municipality or municipal authority has a regulatory interest, or interest as a trustee for the public, as such interests now or hereafter exist, including, but not limited to, all streets, highways, avenues, roads, alleys, sidewalks, tunnels, viaducts, bridges, skyways, or any other public place, area or property under the control of the federal government, commonwealth, municipality or municipal authority, and any nonexclusive public or utility easements established, dedicated, platted, improved or devoted for utility purposes. Private rights-of-way and other government-owned lands not listed above shall not be considered a right-of-way. The phrase "in the right(s)-of-way" means in, on, over, along, above and/or under the right(s)-of-way.” Based on the definition, the area of the road is a right of way. Jerry Pritchard questioned what the Township interest would be. When someone put the stones along the road and we wanted to have the Road Department remove them, Attorney Backenstoe commented we needed a reason to take them out. What is our reason? Cindy Miller commented the poles are in the right of way and the banner is over the street. Ms. Howard commented the poles are located closer to the roadway than what the PPL poles are. PPL needs a permit to erect their poles within the Township right of way. Cindy Miller noted it doesn't matter what the sign says, based on the definition of right of way, anything over or along the side of the road is in the right of way. What does that mean? Janet Sheats commented she thinks the Zoning Officer needs to go out and look at it. Cindy Miller commented in order for her to go out, someone needs to file a written complaint with the Zoning Officer. Janet Sheats commented her other issue is safety. We don't know how it was installed.

BJ, who is a Township resident, believes it is inappropriate to have the banner over a roadway, regardless of what it says. If something is over the roadway, it is Township property and it should represent everyone. It shouldn't be used for a political or business purpose. When looking at the construction, the poles are held down by ratchet straps. He doesn't know if there are footers or anything else, but it does not seem like it is stable, so there is a safety concern. It was done without a permit. It should be permitted and done correctly. Turn the sign sideways, he wouldn't be having the same debate as having it go over the road. Cindy Miller noted when it comes to political and religious signage, they are protected under the First Amendment, Freedom of Speech. If someone has them on their personal property, it is allowed. Right now, we need a determination as to whether or not it is in the Township right of way.

Jerry Pritchard commented when there is a marathon, they put banners across the roadway. You either permit them across a roadway or you don't. Janet Sheats

commented she believes they get a permit and she also believes they use existing PPL poles and obtain permission. Wayne Kleintop commented the sign is not on a PPL pole. The pole is six feet in the ground.

Janet Sheats commented she thinks at this point, we need to speak with the Zoning Officer and let her decide how it falls within the ordinance. Ms. Howard commented she spoke with the Zoning Officer and was told the Board would probably be discussing it this evening and her inclination was that the Board would be requiring it to be removed after the election, which is justice delayed. Can she come in and file a complaint? The Board indicated it needs to be a Township resident.

Wendy Kleintop commented she doesn't agree with someone coming into our Township who is not a resident and complaining about something. When this started, her neighbor, Danny Ziegenfuss, called her husband and asked him if he would want to go halves on a banner. He said sure. They didn't pick the words; they just said they would go halves. The posts are not telephone poles; they are her son's. The poles are on their property, not the right of way. There are a lot of cases where fences are installed on the right of way as well as mailboxes. The complaint is because it is a Trump banner, and it is immature. If it is wrong, they will take it down, November 5th. Cindy Miller commented this is not the only complaint. There have been multiple phone calls. Ms. Kleintop commented she asked Danny Ziegenfuss if he got a permit and if it was allowed, and he said yes. He is now in Italy for two weeks.

Cindy Miller commented if there is a written complaint filed, the Zoning Officer will look into this. In the meantime, she does believe there needs to be a legal interpretation regarding the right of way. Attorney Mazin commented there is case law about First Amendment rights and the case law is complicated and it should be studied more thoroughly before answering off the cuff.

Cindy Miller commented there are two things going on. One is the right of way and the other is that it is a political sign above the roadway. Lish Howard commented she comes from a construction family and that sign is dangerous and now there is a liability to the Township because you are on notice.

Katherine Mack commented she has heard numerous times that nothing can be done until a complaint is filed which is an internal activity decided upon. According to the Zoning Manual, under administration and enforcement, it states it is the duty of the Zoning Officer to inspect properties to determine compliance with all provisions of Chapter 180, Zoning, including conditions attached to variances, special exceptions, conditional uses, and curative amendments. She doesn't know why the Zoning Officer always has to have a complaint to check on zoning issues. That is part of her duty. If she sees a problem, it should be addressed. Someone shouldn't have to file a complaint for everything that

does or doesn't happen in the Township. It doesn't follow the Municipalities Planning Code. Jerry Pritchard commented he believes she does go out on her own. Katherine Mack commented she has heard her testify that she has been told by the Board to not engage in active enforcement of ordinances or zoning violations. As Chairperson of the Zoning Hearing Board, she has a concern with this. Cindy Miller commented she knows people don't want to file written complaints, which she doesn't understand. If you are going to complain, put it in writing. Katherine Mack commented for the Board to tell the Zoning Officer to not engage in active enforcement is wrong. Cindy Miller commented she believes this is being taken out of context and being read into. Katherine Mack commented this is testimony. Cindy Miller commented the Zoning Officer was told she should have something is writing. Katherine Mack commented if she sees something, shouldn't she be doing something about it. It is her job. It was an opposing attorney who asked her how many times she drove by a property and saw it happen. She said she drove by it many times. When asked why she didn't do anything, she said she was told by the Board not to engage in active enforcement of violations. That was her interpretation. Maybe that needs to be cleared up with the Zoning Officer. Cindy Miller commented the Board will stand by complaints need to be in writing. Residents file verbal complaints and then people go after the Zoning Officer and blame her because it came by way of a verbal complaint. The reason the complaint was done verbally was so that the individual doesn't want to take responsibility and accountability for that complaint. You don't hide behind the Zoning Officer. If you have a problem with something, you put it in writing. That is the way it should be. Janet Sheats commented it should be asked of Liz Amato at the next meeting. Cindy Miller commented the Board stopped the questioning of the staff by residents was eliminated by the Board. Jerry Pritchard commented the first question that was asked was about legal fees. We can keep the ticker going by going around and turning over everyone to zoning and let the lawyers get paid. He really believes she has done her job.

Linda Roman commented she believes it is getting close to crossing a line. It is a political sign, and it should come down after voting. People should be talking to people as who and why they would vote for someone; but you don't have that. People just take the sign instead. Cindy Miller noted that it is illegal to take down or remove signs.

Monica Brown commented if the Zoning Officer sees a building going up without a permit and even though no one complained about it, she would hope that the Zoning Officer would be able to do something about it without a written complaint. The neighbors may not know the building went up without a permit. Jerry Pritchard commented the Zoning Officer should be able to do that and he does believe she does.

Marc Kerscmar commented he saw the Hometown Hero signs going up throughout the Township and thinks they look great.

Board of Supervisors Minutes
September 24, 2024

Dennis Herschman questioned if there was going to be an open house for the new public works building. Cindy Miller commented the Board needs to discuss it further. Janet Sheats will talk to Frank Zamadics.

- VIII. ADJOURN. Janet Sheats made a motion to adjourn. Cindy Miller seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.