

# LEHIGH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

October 25, 2022

- I. **CALL TO ORDER.** The Lehigh Township Board of Supervisors held their second monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 25, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Lehigh Township Municipal Building, 1069 Municipal Road, Walnutport Pa. 18088. Chairman Mike Jones called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

Present:       Cindy Miller  
                  David Hess  
                  Phil Gogel  
                  Mike Jones  
                  Jerry Pritchard  
                  Attorney David Backenstoe  
                  Alice Rehrig

Mike Jones requested a motion to amend the agenda to add the Lions Club sign to the agenda under old business at the request of Sandy Hopkins. Cindy Miller made a motion to add the Lions Club sign to the agenda. Jerry Pritchard seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried. Cindy Miller noted that in the future, the amendments to the agenda by motion should be limited to emergencies.

II. 2023 BUDGET

- A. Zoning Hearing Board Expenses. On behalf of the Zoning Hearing Board, Katherine Mack provided the Board with a letter outlining what the Board found during their investigation into the expenses associated with zoning hearings. Cindy Miller noted the Board had looked at the expenses and didn't feel it was necessary to add any additional line items to the budget. In her opinion, she doesn't feel it is necessary to break out the expenses of every individual hearing; we know the excess costs are associated with the legal fees. The fees we collect cover the expenses we are able to be reimbursed for. We are not able to charge the applicants for the legal fees and those are the fees that seem to have gone up. That is what the Board was trying to determine. She doesn't believe it is necessary to try to break out the Zoning Officer or Planning Secretary's time. Katherine Mack commented that wouldn't be necessary. She thought if they kept a log of their time it could be included.

Katherine Mack commented the Board asked them to do this and see what things actually cost and the amount of time and money the attorney and stenographer were spending. They felt it would behoove them and the Board to have it done this way. She spoke with Alice Rehrig and it can't be done as a line item in the budget, but it could be done through a spreadsheet which would be easy enough

to do. You would be able to see exactly how much it costs for what service for the zoning hearings. Because the Board asked and they spent a lot of time on the research, they wanted to follow it through.

Cindy Miller commented she didn't ask for a breakout of every single hearing. She asked for the legal fees to be itemized. We know what the stenographer fees are based on the bill. Katherine Mack noted that the stenographer just recently started breaking out her bill; she doesn't know what her company charges. Cindy Miller questioned the purpose of breaking out the expenses by hearing in a spreadsheet. Katherine Mack commented it is to determine if there is enough money being received to cover the costs of the hearings. She has checked with different townships and boroughs and they are charging a lot more than what we charge. She knows in speaking with the stenographer, it is difficult to get people to come out at night. They just don't want to do it and as a result, they are charging an exorbitant amount for this. She believes we have a very good stenographer and also personally believes they have a very good lawyer who knows what he is doing for zoning. He does spend time looking at the details.

Jerry Pritchard commented he thinks the problem is that things are kept too long in the system. People have the right to appeal, then it come back to us and things go back and forth. That is how you rack up the lawyer bills. Katherine Mack commented they are looking to keep the appeals and court expense separated. She knows that costs money too.

Cindy Miller commented when she looked at Attorney Caffrey's bills, he had things broken out. Attorney Ettinger is grouping things together and charging one amount and you couldn't tell what the costs were for the individual hearings. She understands he is going to be breaking the information out. She doesn't understand why breaking out the costs on the spreadsheet is important to the Zoning Hearing Board. Katherine Mack commented the Board asked them to look into it and they took the time to do so and are making a suggestion and hopes the Township will follow through.

Katherine Mack commented the other area where there is not enough money being charged was when there is a continuance. There have been multiple continuances; one was continued three times. Cindy Miller commented we just started charging for that this year and also questioned why the hearings need to be continued. Katherine Mack commented it is mostly because the applicant doesn't have enough information with them at the time of the hearing. Cindy Miller questioned why the application wouldn't just be denied. Katherine Mack commented if the Zoning Hearing Board were to do that, it could result in more appeals. Alice Rehrig commented in reviewing the resolution there should be a

fee of \$600 charged for a hearing that is continued and announced the night of the hearing. If a hearing is continued and it needs to be readvertised, there would be another \$750 fee charge. At one point, there was not a charge if the hearing was continued at the request of the Zoning Hearing Board the night of the meeting. She will need to check with Liz Amato if she is collecting the \$600 fee. Katherine Mack commented that is why the Zoning Hearing Board is asking for the detailed list of what comes in and what gets paid. That's how you run a business. Cindy Miller commented the amount of revenues coming in and expenses going out is not up to the Zoning Hearing Board, it is up to the Supervisors. Katherine Mack commented with the information, you will be able to make an informed decision as to whether or not you are charging enough in fees. The Board raised the fees for commercial appeals, but not residential and the appeals that they see coming in are residential. If you don't have the detailed information, you don't know if the fees are covering the expenses. You need details. You can't just throw the money under one pot. Alice Rehrig commented everything is already broken out. The year to date zoning hearing fees that were received to date totaled \$16,172.20 and the expenses that we can bill for were \$4,214.25 for the stenographer and the advertising expenses were \$2,951.80. The legal fees total \$20,987.45, but we are not able to charge for those expenses. Katherine Mack noted the zoning hearing board salaries would also need to be included in the total. Since the Board asked them to look into this, they did a thorough investigation and felt it would be beneficial for them, the Board, and the public to know what the costs are. Cindy Miller commented she thinks it may be futile to do it. She feels the Board need to better understand what the legal fees are because that is where the expenses are. Katherine Mack noted Attorney Ettinger will be breaking his bills apart more. Cindy Miller commented that is what she was looking for. Katherine Mack commented at the last meeting the Zoning Hearing Board was interested in putting the information into a spreadsheet as to the income and expenses. Alice Rehrig commented she can ask Chrissy Czonstka to enter the information into a spreadsheet when she enters the bills for payment. Jerry Pritchard commented the Board needs to know what they are being billed for, are we paying too much or are we being billed just right.

Katherine Mack commented the Zoning Hearing Board is pleased with Attorney Ettinger's services. He brings questions that were not brought up before. He provides guidance; he is quiet when he needs to be quiet and speaks up when he needs to speak up, and he is well prepared. Cindy Miller commented the question is the summation that he is handing out. She knows the Zoning Hearing Board likes it, but at the same time, is the Zoning Hearing Board learning the ordinances and the process or using it as a way to get through the hearing. Katherine Mack commented from what she understands, that is the way it is done now. In fact,

there are some Township's that have pages and pages of information because they want to have the court cases in front of them before the hearing takes place. They do extreme preliminary work with their attorney. Cindy Miller commented it is a matter of what he is charging. Katherine Mack commented he is charging the same rate as what the previous attorney did. Mike Jones commented the rate may be the same, but the hours seem to have increased. Katherine Mack commented it may be that he is more thorough. Mike Jones commented that is why the Board wanted to see the breakdown on the bills so they could see where the money is going. Katherine Mack commented the hours may be something that could be included in the spreadsheet that gets presented to the Board. She doesn't know how Alice Rehrig presents that to the Board on a monthly basis. Alice Rehrig commented it depends upon how much time the Board wants spent on creating the information. Katherine Mack commented there is someone on the Zoning Hearing Board who enters information into spreadsheets; it would only take five minutes. Cindy Miller commented she doesn't know why it would need to be done. We know the costs. In reviewing the bills, she saw that there was a difference between the way the two attorneys handled their billing. That is what she was looking at. She didn't need the in depth, by hearing because we knew the other expenses were. Jerry Pritchard commented the more we go round and round with the attorney, going to court, the more the costs will go up. It's not just with the Zoning Hearing Board solicitor; that's the way it works. Katherine Mack commented the decisions the Zoning Hearing Board make are what causes the appeals. If their decision is not what someone likes, they appeal it. That is when the money racks up.

Phil Gogel commented he was at the last zoning hearing. He agrees with what Katherine Mack said. There are other municipalities who get presented with way more information regarding the background and the answers that should be given and the questions. He believes our Zoning Hearing Board is doing an outstanding job as far as using their own brain power to figure things out rather than relying on the attorney as a crutch. If they relied solely on the attorney, that would up the bills so much more.

With regard to the 2023 Budget, Alice Rehrig commented she had used the same revenues and expenditures for the Zoning Hearing Board budget as 2021. Since there is no way of knowing how many zoning hearing cases will be before the Board in a given year, she used the year end totals of 2021 because that was a fairly active year for zoning hearings.

Phil Gogel commented there were some discussions regarding range fees when other departments use our range. Would the fees be sent through the budget or by resolution? Alice Rehrig commented that would be done through a resolution, usually at the

beginning of the year. Besides increasing the user fees for departments, he would like to see the fees for events set by a percentage of the fee set for that event. If someone comes in and does training at the range and is charging \$600 per man, we should at least be getting half of that. He feels a fee of 50% of the fee would be more fair than a \$15 per person fee. The last time the range was upgraded, we had \$15,000 worth of work done at the range to get it where it is today. We can't really count on getting things for free from people in the future, so we may want to start a fund to upgrade the range so if they need something there is funding available. Mike Jones commented he can agree with adjusting the fees, but can't see collecting half the money. Jerry Pritchard commented if someone has to give half the fees to the Township, they will just go somewhere else and then you get nothing. Phil Gogel commented people come to our range because it is nice; 15 per person is too cheap. Mike Jones commented he would agree it is too little for an event, but believes the 50% would be excessive. He also questioned if the instructors bring any type of supplies. He can agree with waiving fees if we have officers attending the class. Phil Gogel commented he doesn't believe that we should ever waive the fees just because you have officers participating. If you are doing \$300 per head and only one or two officers are participating, you are losing a lot of money. At a minimum we should always have two seats provided for our officers. The range is being used and abused and eventually we will have to upgrade and do maintenance. It shouldn't be up to the residents to pay for another municipality utilizing our range. The Board agreed the fees for the range should be increased and will continue the discussion when the Chief is present.

Alice Rehrig noted she received the final rates on the medical insurance and workers comp. The medical insurance is increasing by 11.4 percent based on the utilization of the insurance. The Workers Compensation premium rates are the same. The increases in the budget are the result of payroll increases and an increase in the experience mod because of claims. The experience mod went from 1.085 to 1.145 which caused an overall increase of \$5,000 in premiums.

The State Aid for pension was different this year. When the unit values were released, they included an adjusted rate. The unit value was \$4,919 and the adjusted rate was \$5,180. This is the first time an adjusted rate was listed for the unit value. Since there is no way of knowing if the adjusted rate would continue, the lower rate of \$4,919 was used for the budget.

The purchases that are listed in the memo that was provided with the budget are the same items that were listed in the Capital Improvements Plan a few weeks ago.

There still has not been any information released as to whether or not the Township was successful in receiving any of the grants that were submitted so nothing has been

included in the budget. If any grant rewards are received before the budget is advertised, the budget will be adjusted to include them.

If possible, Alice Rehrig would like authorization to advertise the budget at the next meeting. Mike Jones noted the next meeting will be on Election Day. It was agreed that the start of the November 8, 2022, meeting would be delayed until 8:00 p.m. and then the Department reports would take place at the second meeting in November.

Cindy Miller questioned the contribution to the Fire Truck Fund and how it relates to the Capital Improvements Plan. Is there a commitment by the Board to the payment schedule that it proposed in the plan? Alice Rehrig commented the budget would permit a contribution of \$200,000 to the Fire Truck Fund. The payment schedule listed in the Capital Improvements Plan is a demonstration to show how the \$1.4 million dollars would be generated to pay for a ladder truck if authorization were given to order the truck and it were delivered in 2025. Phil Gogel commented there are a lot of dynamics that come into play. There are grants and Rick Hildebrand also submitted for grants that he hasn't heard back from. Jerry Pritchard questioned if Rick Hildebrand thought they could bring a truck in for \$1.4 million. Rick Hildebrand commented he thought it would be difficult right now. Cindy Miller commented she doesn't believe now is the time to purchase equipment. Jerry Pritchard commented he spoke to someone who runs four fire houses and he told him that now is not a good time because the prices are skyrocketing. Rick Hildebrand commented the prices have been rising and continue to do so. He doesn't know that it is going to stop. Rick Hildebrand commented the Fire Company formed an apparatus committee at the time they brought the concerns of the maintenance expenses of the ladder truck to the Board. The committee has been meeting on a very regular basis to try to have specs ready to put them out to bid and get feedback on those specifications. This will give them the first peek as to where they are going to be at. He also spoke with the vendor who provided the quote for the Monroe County Grant and questioned if there was a lot of fluff provided on the quote and he indicated that there was not too much fluff included. Cindy Miller questioned if the specs of the new ladder truck are basically the same as the current truck they have. Rick Hildebrand commented the length of the truck is no different, but the ladder will be a little bit longer. They did a study some time ago with various ladder trucks. Based on our residential setbacks, they need a 100 foot ladder to get to the roof line of houses, particularly in the areas of curbed developments and a few other areas. He doesn't believe the length of the ladder will be an overwhelming number in the cost of the truck. The current truck is 75 feet and they are looking at the 100 foot ladder so it is one additional section of ladder. Based on the manufacturer, you could have a 105 foot or a 109 foot, but it is basically a 100 feet ladder. There are also some ladders that are stronger than others; some will give you 500 pound at the tip and others will only give you 300 or 400 pounds at the tip. There is a lot that goes into this and there are a lot of moving parts. They have spent hundreds of hours trying to do the best they can do with all the information that needs to go into this.

Depending upon how much fluff was added into the quote that was received for the Monroe County Grant, he believes it will go beyond the \$1.4 million. Cindy Miller commented if it is more than the \$1.4 million, she doesn't know where the Township will come up with the money in that time frame. Rick Hildebrand questioned if the Monroe County money would help with this. Cindy Miller commented she is hoping we get what we asked for but the last few times we applied, we were cut back. Rick Hildebrand commented the pricing of any of the specialty built equipment has increased at a ridiculous amount. When he first started in this, they received a brand new truck in 1983 for \$120,000. It has been more than a 10 fold increase. Almost all of the apparatus are pushing close to the \$1 million mark. There is a lot of detailed technology and safety factors that goes into the trucks and drives the costs in addition to the NFPA standards. When they were building the mini pumper truck for the FEMA grant, they had a vendor that worked with them until the 11<sup>th</sup> hour and the had to stop because they couldn't meet the NFPA standards because they were not certified. They need to be compliant, especially when they are dealing with federal grants and the safety factors and the other company couldn't meet the NFPA standards. If the Board would like, he can provide detailed specs of what they are trying to put together. They are looking at the main workhorse for the Township for the next 25 to 30 years. With the pumper that was in question, they upgraded the federal grant they received into a more capable smaller unit to take pressure off the engine so there is not as much wear and tear on the pumper. They can leave the older truck in the station when they have a follow up to an accident or similar incidents. He thinks it may be beneficial to have some type of planner look at this in a larger scope and try to figure out where it's going. Cindy Miller commented even if there was a professional who came in to plan, she doesn't know how it would help or make a difference because we have the money that we have. With the unanticipated flip flop of equipment, the Township is trying to play catch up to get the equipment that you need in the priority the Fire Company wants. Jerry Pritchard questioned when the Fire Company expected to have the specs complete so that we know what we are expecting. Rick Hildebrand commented they expect them to be done in December and there is roughly a two year build time. Cindy Miller questioned if they will lock in the price. Rick Hildebrand commented some will and some won't. One company has stated they will never go back to providing a price to a customer. Another company told a department in Massachusetts that they needed an additional \$200,000 or they would drop the order of the truck. Mike Jones commented the truck that was ordered through the grant hasn't even gone to build yet, so there could be almost a three year window. Rick Hildebrand commented the larger pieces of equipment have their own manufacturers for chassis so it is not as challenging as waiting on a commercial manufacturer like Ford.

Phil Gogel commented there is a line item of \$1,000 listed for litigation expenses and the memo indicates it is expected that we will need to pay a deductible for a claim. He thought all the claims had been cleared up. Alice Rehrig commented there is one remaining claim that is outstanding.

Phil Gogel questioned the need for the amount of labor attorney expenses that were included for 2023. Alice Rehrig commented the police contract expires January 1, 2024, so we will be in negotiations next year so there is the possibility of more involvement by the labor attorney so she included extra funds if they are needed.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Minutes of October 11, 2022. Cindy Miller made a motion to approve the minutes. David Hess seconded the motion. Phil Gogel commented he did have some minor corrections, but didn't have them with him and requested the minutes be table until the next meeting. Cindy Miller withdrew her motion. Jerry Pritchard commented going forward, he would prefer to have the corrections at the meeting they are scheduled to be approved so we don't have to keep pushing them to the next meeting. Phil Gogel commented he normally provides the corrections to Alice Rehrig in advance, but was not able to do so this time.

IV. APPROVAL OF BILLS.

A. General Fund Checks 26203 to 26242. Cindy Miller made a motion to approve these bills. David Hess seconded the motion. Mike Jones questioned if the car wash coupons are new and what they were for. Alice Rehrig commented they were not new; the coupons are for getting the police cars washed. All voted aye. Motion carried.

B. State Fund Checks 1568 and 1569. David Hess made a motion to approve these bills. Cindy Miller seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Cherryville Intersection. Alice Rehrig reported the contractor has installed the push button extensions to the pole. They are waiting on their concrete contractor to make the final repairs. Cindy Miller commented we need to get a completion date and that is when it needs to be done by and we need to hold to that date. This needs to get done. It's been dragging on and we will eventually get caught and have to answer to the State and she doesn't want to put the Township in that position.

As far as the Turkey Hill portion of the project, there has been another round of activity with PennDOT. They will need to do another submission back to PennDOT

B. Maintenance Building. There were no updates on the grants.

- C. Roadside Mower Invoices. Deer Country is still holding fast that they want payment for both of the outstanding amounts and will be following their process for collections of the full amount of \$4,814.05. Phil Gogel commented they gave us a price to repair the mower after they had everything ripped apart and on the floor and even had Frank Zamadics down there to look at everything. Attorney Backenstoe commented he can understand the costs associated with ripping the mower apart. He has the problem with them calling and saying your mower is fixed, but when we go to pick it up, it is not fixed, especially after they wrenched it and broke things further. Mike Jones commented that's why they reduced the second bill by only charging half the labor and not all the parts. The Board agreed that they would stick with what they were offering--to pay the balance on the first invoice.
- D. Chapter 170 Amendment. Alice Rehrig provided the Board with another draft of proposed amendments to Chapter 170. The changes are basically that the Township doesn't regulate ranges and recommends that any personal ranges meet NRA standards. The Township will follow the current State Laws where a firearm cannot be discharged within 150 yards of a dwelling and a bow and arrow cannot be discharged within 75 yards of a dwelling. Cindy Miller commented she agrees with the way it is written. Attorney Backenstoe commented overall the proposed changes are acceptable. He has minor wording changes he would like to make. If the Board is satisfied with the content they could authorize it to be advertised and he will work with Alice Rehrig on the wording changes. David Hess made a motion to approve the changes and authorize the advertisement of the ordinance. Cindy Miller seconded the motion. Paul Nikisher questioned if the Township was liable as a result of the changes that are being made. Attorney Backenstoe commented the Township would be less liable under this version. Linda Roman commented she has a problem with the distances that are listed in the ordinance. Mike Jones commented they are the same distances that the State uses. Linda Roman commented there is a distance for a safety zone. Mike Jones commented the safety zone for firearms is 150 yards. Cindy Miller commented she read through the Commonwealth laws; there is no safety zone listed in the law. The only thing she found was the game laws and from a school. All voted aye. Motion carried.
- E. Used Fire Engine. Rick Hildebrand questioned how the Board felt about purchasing a used fire engine and moving it up before the ladder truck. They looked at the financials on this and are gun shy on used apparatus as outlined in the maintenance expenses that were provided by the treasurer. When they purchased the ladder truck, it was pampered and didn't run any calls, then it was brought up here and sees real work and is used hard. These factors made them run gun shy on used apparatus, along with not knowing one hundred percent, what

the position of the Board was on this. They haven't been out to see it, but in reviewing the numbers, most of the life expectancy of the truck is pretty much expended.

Joe Winkelbauer commented the NFPA automotive standard indicates that fire apparatus should be retired after 20 years based upon how it is used and the frequency of the use. Other studies, including the more effective one from Executive Fire Officer at the National Fire Academy in 2001, also indicate that most of the fire apparatus get retired and put into a reserve state after ten or fifteen years depending upon what they are. Ladders usually go at ten; pumpers go at fifteen. You can sometimes stretch it an additional five years, but the last five years of the life are held in a reserve status until some type of replacement is found. Not knowing the purchase price of the 2010 engine, he took the standard life of 20 years and amortized it in a way he was familiar with, although some run past 20 years to squeeze an additional life out of them, but that is when you usually see things go downhill as far as all kinds of things breaking. You get no value back. It is just an expense at that point. Prior to coming to Lehigh Township, he was involved with Neffs Fire Company. When they bought their 2015 engine, the cost was \$550,000. He looked at the charts and how that depreciated, you can correlate the numbers between this piece of equipment and the 2010 piece of equipment, to develop a sticker price for 2010. It is already starting out much lower. No matter what the equipment is, by the time you get to ten to twelve years of the apparatus life, you are almost at 25 percent of the original cost and over 50 percent of the useable life. The price of \$150,000 is well over the value the apparatus would be worth. This along with other variables come into play, such as how it was used, if it wasn't used, and once you transition a used piece of apparatus you have additional costs to make it your own, which would add another \$48,000. When you factor in the maintenance costs, there would be an additional \$18,000 in maintenance, you are positive for the first year, but not for long. The question becomes what are you doing with the apparatus. If you are not going to be using it for a couple of years and then selling it, the used apparatus just becomes another expense. This used piece of apparatus only has eight years of life remaining in what NFPA considers to be in the spectrum of usable life. If you take the depreciation of the price the equipment is being offered for, you can see where the costs are buckling out.

Rick Hildebrand commented he didn't know with the timing and with the extras that may come at them in accomplishing the ladder truck, he didn't know if this was something that was even going to be entertained at this point with any seriousness. It would probably be five or six hours for them to drive to where it is at and look at it with any great detail. It would be just for them to eyeball it; they wouldn't even be taking a mechanic. It wouldn't give them a good indication of

whether they had quarry water sitting in it and not move water. It will just rot the inside of the pumps. Since the last meeting, they had national certification and their guys were taking certified driving courses over at the Kmart parking lot. The night before, they went through the truck and they had a truck that didn't work anymore. The primer system rotted out and they had to take it off the ladder truck while it wasn't being used. This is just another example of the costs of repairs they have. He doesn't know if the timing is right. Joe Winkelbauer commented it may be better to use the \$150,000 as a down payment for something.

Cindy Miller commented it sounds like the Fire Department wants all new vehicles, which she understands. If this is the case, when we work on the Capital Plan, we may really need to look at the years when we are supplying equipment because we are looking at a ladder truck in 2025 and then the engine which was originally planned for 2025, is going to be requested a few years later. She doesn't know how the Township is going to come up with \$3.2 million in five years. She said that right from the beginning. There is already the equivalent of a 1 mill fire tax included in the budget. When you look at the \$200,000 into equipment, the workers comp, the fuel and insurance, you are at \$250,000 which is 1 mill. Some people say, do the fire tax; others say don't do it. She knows the Fire Company wants the fire tax. With the \$250,000 included in the budget, we are already there. In addition, the Fire Company still receives the pass through funding of \$65,000 in Fireman's relief. She wants people and the Board to be clear and understand what we are already doing. She is usually the one racking her brains out with the budget and working on grants to try to figure out how we are going to do all of this and at the same time being begged by residents to not raise taxes.

Rick Hildebrand commented they just identified that the plan is failing. If the Township fails with the municipal budget, do you turn the lights out and send the people home? Cindy Miller commented the municipal budget hasn't failed. The Township did not have to include the fire company in the capital plan; the Township decided to do that. She knows the comment comes up of what happens if you have to go to a paid service; before you go to a paid service, you would probably see a regionalization. That is probably what would happen first. Rick Hildebrand commented if there is a house fire five miles away and people are stuck inside, they won't get out then. Cindy Miller commented she is not saying the Township is not supporting the Fire Company. She is just stating the reality of the money. Mike Jones commented they are not saying the Fire Company doesn't matter, but he doesn't know how they are going to go out and find this money. Rick Hildebrand commented he is not making the prices up; he is not

buying taj mahals. He is trying to get things that are at current standards. If the Township can't afford it, what do we do? Jerry Pritchard commented he spoke with someone who runs four fire stations. Right now, they have a freeze on purchasing apparatus because of the numbers. He understands the Fire Company is saying we need it and Cindy Miller is saying we can't afford it. Somehow these two items need to add up. It doesn't seem like our Fire Company wants to put a freeze on things until the numbers come down. Joe Winkelbauer commented the numbers won't come down, that's the problem. Unfortunately, if you put a freeze on it, the numbers will only be quadrupled or higher. That is why they are trying to get things in motion now, to prevent the higher costs later. Cindy Miller commented we may be able to do the ladder truck, but doesn't know how we would do the engine a few years later. Rick Hildebrand commented today's number for the pumper is \$850,000. You are projecting that number down the road without an escalator on it. You are losing the whole entire budget. Cindy Miller commented she understands, but in 5 years you are requesting \$3.2 million. She doesn't see where that is going to happen with just the Township putting the money into it. Rick Hildebrand commented the Fire Company bought the used apparatus to try to appease the budget and the funding, but what they did was create a quagmire because now the truck broke down and it requires significant repairs. They thought they were getting away with an \$8,000 repair, but the projected number is close to \$20,000 for that truck. That is \$200,000 out of their fundraising money in the last four years that they have to put out in maintenance. They can't afford it either. They are spending all of their fundraising money on the repair of used apparatus or broken apparatus. There is a responsibility for the community to set up. You say all of the residents do not want this. They held public meetings on a fire tax at the fire house and very few people came out and very few spoke against it at that meeting. The reality of a 1 mill fire tax is less than \$100 per household. Cindy Miller commented whether or not there is a fire tax, it is still \$250,000 which is what you are getting now out of the general fund. The issue she has with a fire tax is that when there is a higher tax base, the amount automatically goes up and there is no control over that amount. Once the amount is set, it will keep on increasing. Rick Hildebrand commented the Fire Company does not get any money from the Township. The money from the Township goes directly to apparatus. There is never a check given to the Fire Company for any money. Cindy Miller commented the Township would have to be careful in giving money to the Fire Company so they don't get in trouble like Emmaus did and have the Fire Company considered employees. Rick Hildebrand commented Emmaus was paying their people. They never asked for a penny to be given to them; just provide the apparatus. Cindy Miller commented that is what the Township is trying to do.

Jerry Pritchard commented he thinks for now we need to get through the ladder truck. Rick Hildebrand commented they don't know because the projected cost is \$1.8 million and there is only \$1.4 million planned. We are hoping a grant comes through. Can the Township afford the \$1.4 million today That's not even covering today's cost. Phil Gogel commented looking at the numbers to make everything work, it would be really nice if they looked at the truck and give a good thorough assessment. That seems to be the only stop gap. He knows there is a maintenance associated up to \$12,000 per year. At that time, if there were maintenance costs, the Fire Company could always come to the Board for funding for maintenance on that vehicle. He doesn't believe the Board would have too much of an issue with that because they know that this buys time for the future. He knows it was stated there is a 15 year life expectancy on that type of vehicle, but always push our vehicles beyond. Rich Hildebrand commented we run the vehicles to the point where there is zero value left and everything is maintenance driven. Phil Gogel commented he knows the Fire Department does a good job, but this may realistically be the only past forward at this time. Rick Hildebrand questioned if the Board is serious about putting out \$150,000 or more out right now, ahead of trying to do a ladder truck, what does it do to the ladder truck? Phil Gogel commented the Fire Company could go look at the truck and if everything is okay, explain the valuation they came up with and offer them \$125,000. That would give you to \$20,000 for the paint job. Rick Hildebrand commented the paint would probably be more. Phil Gogel commented it would get you close to the amount.

Mike Jones questioned if the Fire Company ever looked at used ladder trucks again. He just googled ladder trucks and found a 2016 for \$600,000. This truck only has 400 hours and 8,000 miles. It would be 1/3 of the price that is being looked to be spent on a new one and only six years old. He understands that the Fire Company doesn't want old junk, but he doesn't know where \$3.2 million is going to come from. Joe Winkelbauer commented it's not buying old junk that is the problem. It's that particular apparatus for the state that it is in and the age is the problem. Rick Hildebrand commented his main concern is are you willing to do this ahead of the ladder truck and what does it do for replacing the ladder truck? What they've done is obtained a grant to take the pressure off the engine in the event that if the engine goes further and further down the road, although the price will continue to increase.

Cindy Miller commented as far as the ladder truck, she is hoping we get the \$750,000 that was requested. If we get that, we are fine and don't have a problem.

Phil Gogel questioned if the federal grant money could be used towards a different truck. Rick Hildebrand commented the grant is vehicle specific. They can enhance the vehicle, but they can't change the primary functions that it must be off road wildlands capable. They can increase the pump size and make it more of a pumper than just a pickup truck with a skid unit on the back. That is how they are able to take the pressure off the engine and run this as a regular pumper behind the ladder truck.

Rick Hildebrand commented the Fire Company only has one piece of equipment for each category for firefighting. The rest of the equipment is pickup trucks for various odds and ends, such as medical and fire police. If we don't have a plan to account for this equipment over the course of time and timing, he thinks we need to revisit the plan. Cindy Miller questioned how do you revisit the plan, it still comes out to \$3.2 million no matter how you look at it. We can bring in professionals and have them tell us to plug the numbers in here, but that doesn't mean the Township can come up with the money. That is her concern, coming up with \$3.2 million without an escalator factored into it. Rick Hildebrand commented if the cost is there, they can't change those factors. From the time he sat on the Board and years prior to that, it has been zero increases. Cindy Miller commented a half mill increase would only generate \$125,000 when we are looking at \$1.8 million. Rick Hildebrand commented the no increases have taken every department's line item to zero where there is no fat in their budget to compensate for any increases. We are at a point now where everything goes up inflation wise, we have to readjust every year and do it without any increases. He's telling the Board the apparatus plan is not working and we've got to come up with something. Cindy Miller commented it is working for the other departments. It's not working for the Fire Department because everything is so expensive. Rick Hildebrand commented it is a price that is associated with a specific thing and he can't change the price or the specific thing. The community needs what the community needs. Jerry Pritchard questioned why it needs to be brand new. It seems like if it is not brand new, you don't want it. Rick Hildebrand commented it's because he believes they made a good faith investment in a used piece of equipment before, but the experience of the Township and the use of the equipment requires something for the longer term. Mike Jones commented the ladder truck was almost 20 years old when you bought it eight years ago. Rick Hildebrand commented there were only 20,000 miles on it and it had low hours. It was everything. They had three independent mechanics. One was an emergency vehicle technician that does firetrucks day in and day out of that flavor, that specific truck, that specific manufacturer. He is a Township resident and not part of the firehouse. He told them they were nuts if they don't pick up that truck because it was such a gem. They went to nth degree to make sure they were not wasting \$120,000, and they are upside down on this. Everything they

raise at the fire hall is going into the maintenance of this. Mike Jones commented it also could have been bad luck. You can't discount every single vehicle because of one bad experience. Rick Hildebrand commented they also considered where it was located. It was located on the other side of the Airport. They don't run that many calls. That truck didn't see that many calls. What you are looking at with the 2016 ladder truck could be part of an equipment replacement plan of a major city where the truck was used hard. There may not even be a pump on it. There could be a lot of what ifs on it. Until you find the one that is it and you take the time, effort, and resources to make it a piece of equipment for this committee you could wind up in the same boat that you are today.

Cindy Miller questioned if we need all the high end bells and whistles on the ladder truck when we spec it. Rick Hildebrand commented they can assess that when they look at it. It is obviously going to come back higher than anyone expects. They thought about \$1.4 million as a starting point, but he believes that number has escalated over time and they did not have any escalators factored into it to bring it up to today's inflation. They try to look at that truck that they will hang onto it for 20 plus years. The stuff that changes in that time frame is huge. He spoke of cavs before. Cavs is using foam to your advantage. We don't have hydrants out here; everything has to be trucked in. Cavs mix air, foam, and water together to make a shaving cream like substance. If you fill a room with this, the fire goes out. You can spray water into a room for an hour and the fire won't go out. It's less damage, quicker, and lightweight; it saves on the strain of the firefighters when they are dragging hoses. There are things that look forward as far as technology goes. To say that they want to build a bare bones piece of equipment, what does that do to the morale of the fire department that is donating hundreds and thousands of hours of time for free. This is the only pay that they get to do what they do and come out 24 hours a day. It is their equipment; that is what they pride themselves on. That's why the trucks look the way they do. They shine, they are all the same color. It's a pride thing. There is nothing else that drives them other than the fact that they like what they do and they like the equipment they work with. So, you are essentially eroding the whole system by not keeping up with it.

Randy Braun questioned what the warrantee is on a brand new truck. Rick Hildebrand commented there are various components. Each one has their own specific warrantee. Randy Braun commented he deals with a lot of industrial equipment and they only have a 30 day warrantee. Even if you get a five year warrantee, you will have all the maintenance expenses after five years.

Rick Hildebrand questioned if the Board wanted him to go further down the road to look at this. He doesn't know if this is a serious consideration on the Board's

behalf, especially with the tightness of where things are without the grant. Mike Jones commented he would provide the information he had on the used ladder truck. It may be worth looking into.

Rick Hildebrand commented when you look at the overall appearance of ladder truck and the mechanics of it, it doesn't scream it is broken, but the reality of it is they are putting a lot of money into that truck. That is what is causing all the drama. They dodged the bullet of spending \$50,000 on the engine and got away with \$20,000 because one of the guys is doing it at his place of employment. It got to the point where they couldn't run the truck and it was out of service. If the pumper were to break down they would be high and dry. They have spent everything they have on these two pieces of equipment. The new mini pumper they got on the grant can't get here fast enough. He didn't know how much the Board wanted to muddy the water with trying to go after some of the other stuff that may not be a long term answer, but a maintenance issue that becomes their problem.

Linda Roman commented she believes it is time to sell something. Everyone in the Township is having the same problem. When the well is dry, it's dry. When she runs out of money, and needs money, she has to sell something. Something has to give. Mike Jones commented the Fire Company cannot sell something that would give them enough money for a truck.

Katherine Mack questioned if COVID money could be used to help fund the truck. Cindy Miller commented the Township has been using the COVID money for the match for grants. Katherine Mack questioned how long it has been since the Township raised taxes. Cindy Miller commented it has been about nine years, but what are we going to raise, .5 mills. Katherine Mack commented raising the taxes would be a start. How do you keep the budget increasing? Is it because we are getting new residents and new revenue? Alice Rehrig commented it is mostly because the earned income tax has increased. Katherine Mack commented that would be an indication that there are more people moving in, more people employed and a greater tax base. Why not consider raising the taxes. Cindy Miller commented people are telling her they don't want their taxes raised. Katherine Mack questioned what happens when there is a house fire a noone comes? She sees the fundraisers the Fire Company has; they have wonderful fundraisers and work hard for their money. She believes the Board needs to support them with either a tax increase or a fire tax. Yes, it won't match what is needed for next year, but if you keep it in place, it will add up. Cindy Miller commented if they do a fire tax, the money that is currently taken out of the General Fund will no longer be allocated to the Fire Company. The workers comp, fuel and everything else would come out of the fire tax. Katherine Mack

questioned why you couldn't make it a per capita tax, then everyone is paying the same. Cindy Miller commented what she was saying was that whether or not there is a tax, it is the same amount of money. Katherine Mack commented the fire tax should be in addition to what they currently are getting.

Jerry Pritchard questioned what percentage of the letters that are sent out in a fund drive come back to the Fire Company. Rick Hildebrand commented they receive less than 30 percent back from the fund drive. The fund drive goes to heat the building and keeps the lights on. They have to pay for everything, 100 percent of everything that goes on up there. They don't receive any type of town funding for that. They receive a little bit of help with the parking lot and some other things they may do as a project and they are appreciative of that. Outside of that, they raise all the funds for the equipment, gear, etc. We are talking about the cost of a truck, but the Fire Company has equipment on that truck that costs hundreds of thousands of dollars on top of that. That is what they are doing with their fundraising money, along with maintaining the trucks. They are at a point where the drain is going into the apparatus and why the used stuff is not as desirable when something new will give them better reliability and less maintenance for a much longer period of time than purchasing something that is used. He is not saying they wouldn't entertain a piece of equipment, but the reality of it is it gets expensive on the firehouse to offset the price for the Township because the plan isn't keeping up with it. Mike Jones commented his thought was if the 2016 ladder truck would work out for them, they could technically get a newer ladder truck and a new engine for the \$1.4 million. This would be something that would be doable. Rick Hildebrand noted the tanker is a 2003, so they are already 19 years into that truck. We are pushing the equipment further down the road and that is when maintenance becomes an issue. Rick Hildebrand commented a lot of this will be driven by what happens with the grant that was applied for. He believes the decisions should be based upon whether or not the grant comes in, what it comes in for, and whether it is a reality or not. He doesn't know if it is a good idea right now to go after a piece of equipment to replace the pumper when the truck that was ordered off the federal grant will take a lot of the pressure off the current pumper. Joe Winkelbauer noted the maintenance costs on the smaller pieces of equipment are much less compared to the larger trucks. Joe Winkelbauer commented when you look at an engine versus a ladder truck, you will get more bang for your money with a ladder because it has a dual purpose. You can run it as a ladder or an engine and maximize your efforts. It is the most versatile piece of equipment.

Marc Kacsmer questioned how many residences there are within the Township. Cindy Miller commented it is around 6,000 households. Marc Kacsmer commented that is \$42 per household. He gives more than that in the mailer plus

supports their fundraisers. He is completely against the fire tax but is completely for supporting the fire company. He would say to anyone who is in favor of the fire tax to sit down and think about it logically. Give them \$100 or \$200 every year. It helps them, saves you as a tax payer and definitely helps the Township.

- F. Lions Club Sign. Sandy Hopkins commented the Lions Club is now proposing a 4 foot by 4 foot sign for the shed in Berlinsville Park and provided the Board with a revised sketch of what is being proposed. It would be her recommendation that the sign be centered on the side of the building rather than being hung from the top.

She also was in touch with Tom Iasello to give her some direction as to what is needed for a sound system. She will have more information at the next meeting.

David Hess made a motion to approve the four foot by four foot sign the Lions were proposing for the refurbished shed in Berlinsville. Phil Gogel seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Lori Meyers, Request for waiver of foundation location and elevation survey.  
Ms. Meyers was not present at the meeting, but provided the Board with an email requesting a waiver of the foundation location and elevation survey which is required under the grading section of our ordinances. This item is not something which is typically waived. Mike Muffley also provided comments regarding the survey is required and the waiving of this requirement. Cindy Miller commented she read through the request and doesn't believe a waiver should be given. The problem that exists is between a resident and their engineer; this is not something that the Township should be involved in. The Township engineer is also recommending against the waiver.

Phil Gogel commented he understands what the engineer is saying ,but there is a lot of work and cost involved in moving a foundation. Cindy Miller commented not completing the requirements of the grading plan is between their engineer and them because they had a falling out with their engineer, it has nothing to do with the Township. She doesn't want to set a precedence.

Katherine Mack commented Lori Meyers started this project during COVID and is unable to move into that house. It keeps getting delayed and now winter is coming again. The house is finished and passed all the inspections.

Phil Gogel questioned if she is now required to remove or move a portion of the house. Alice Rehrig commented part of the requirements of the grading plan is

that an as built survey be provided when the foundation is complete that would show the location of the actual foundation and the elevation of it in order to demonstrate that it was built in the location and at the height that was shown on the grading plan so that when they do the final lot grading everything will be tied together as shown on the approved grading plan. The verification of the location of the foundation also demonstrates that the foundation was installed according to zoning. Right now, there is an individual who is going before the Zoning Hearing Board because their builder put the foundation in the wrong location and it does not meet setback requirements.

Phil Gogel commented his thought process when he reads her email is that she may not know everything that is required when you build a house today. When he built his house back in 2000, all he needed was a permit where the zoning officer came out and said the location looks good. He then built the house and the only other thing he needed was an electrical inspection. Now we have a tremendous amount inspections and he doesn't expect someone who is building their own house to know everything. He doesn't know if it is correct to give them a waiver because we got hung up on that with zoning before.

Katherine Mack commented the Zoning Hearing Board wouldn't have anything to do with this as far as the survey is concerned. Lori Meyers did tell her the other day that there were some surveyors at her house; maybe this is in process now. It is a modular home that was set on the foundation by Becker Homes. They are basically the ones who set everything up. Cindy Miller commented she knows she had Lehigh Engineering for the plan, where are they in this? Katherine Mack commented they did most of the subdivision. Alice Rehrig commented Ken Hahn did the subdivision, but she went to Lehigh Engineering for the grading plan. Katherine Mack commented she had a lot of trouble with Lehigh Engineering. Cindy Miller commented she understands, but as a Township we shouldn't be getting involved in that. Mike Muffley commented our engineer is not recommending that this be waived.

Phil Gogel questioned what happens if the Board does nothing. Mike Jones commented she needs to get the survey done before she can get her certificate of occupancy. Phil Gogel commented he thought he read the foundation was in the wrong location. Alice Rehrig commented that wasn't determined. The spot survey of the location of the foundation will show where it is located on the lot, but that is what she is asking the waiver for.

Cindy Miller made a motion to deny the waiver request based upon the engineer's letter dated October 24, 2022. Mike Jones seconded the motion. David Hess noted he will need to abstain because he did work for Ms. Meyers. Phil Gogel

commented he is still uncertain about this. Mike Jones commented everyone who builds a home has to do this. There was some type of fall out between Ms. Meyers and her engineer so now they won't do it and she has to find a new engineer and they are currently backed up so she is requesting a waiver so that she doesn't have to complete the survey. Randy Braun questioned if a temporary waiver could be granted to allow her to move in. Mike Jones commented it couldn't be done because if there is a problem, what do you do. Cindy Miller, Mike Jones and Jerry Pritchard voted aye. David Hess abstained. Motion carried.

- B. Zoning and Saldo Amendments—Possible outsourcing. Cindy Miller commented the ad hoc committee is taking very long to get through the Zoning and SALDO amendments. The office staff only has so many hours in a day to work on this and it is taking very long. She is asking the Board to consider bringing in some type of temporary clerical staff to take care of the writing and what needs to be done for the updating of the Zoning and SALDO because Lori Lambert and Liz Amato don't have a lot of time to work on it and it is going to take forever. Jerry Pritchard commented when we started this process it was stated that it would take a long time. Mike Jones commented his concern with this is it is his understanding that they only get through one thing a month. Katherine Mack commented they are only meeting one time per month. They asked if people wanted to meet more; Cindy Miller was one who didn't want to meet more. Cindy Miller commented she doesn't want to meet more; she already has enough meetings each month. Katherine Mack commented they will never get done if they don't get through this. Cindy Miller commented it's not only that. Liz Amato and Lori Lambert only have so much time in day. Katherine Mack commented they were asked to go through all the definitions on their own. Cindy Miller commented they are doing that. Katherine Mack commented it shouldn't be up to them; the committee should be doing that. They have to come back and then they have to go through it and check everything and go through it anyway. There has to be a more efficient way to do this. She made some recommendations at the beginning on how to do it and divide the labor, but that is not what the committee wanted to do. Someone needs to speak up because it is taking long. Cindy Miller commented normally Townships hire consultants to do this. They bring a consultant on and they take care of it. The Township decided they didn't want to bring on a consultant because it is very expensive to do that. She is suggesting someone from a clerical perspective to dig into this and spend their time on it. Katherine Mack commented they would need to be at the meetings. The problem is there is someone on the committee who argues for their personal perspective and that is absolutely wrong. When a personal perspective comes in and they argue from a personal viewpoint because it effects them or their family, it is wrong. Phil Gogel commented it is hard to disassociate the two. He does agree with Katherine Mack, but that is the way government works. The Board's

meetings sometimes get out of hand because they argue. He believes the committee is doing a good job; just keep plugging away.

Cindy Miller commented this needs to get done. The longer it going on with the old Zoning and SALDO in place, the worse it will get for the Township moving forward in the future. Phil Gogel commented when an immediate fix is needed the Board amends the ordinances. Cindy Miller commented we can't keep doing that. We need to get through the whole ordinance. Phil Gogel commented when the immediate need was presented to address the project at the Seminary, we worked on it and got it done. Cindy Miller commented the immediate need is to get is done. The Zoning Ordinance is from 20 years ago. We are working with such outdated zoning it is pathetic. All she is asking is to get someone who is dedicated to work with the committee and get this done; Lori Lambert and Liz Amato don't have the time to dedicate to this. David Hess noted there would be an expense associated with this. Mike Jones questioned why it couldn't be divided up amongst the committee. Katherine Mack commented the Chairperson wants everyone to give input for each idea as it is being discussed. Cindy Miller commented that is how it should be. Jerry Pritchard noted it seems like it is starting to get petty amongst the committee. Katherine Mack commented that because it was taking so much time to get through the definitions and getting into lengthy discussions, the Chairperson suggested that Liz Amato and Lori Lambert do the definitions on their own with the Township Engineer. At the meeting, Katherine Mack questioned when they would get the time to get together to spend the time going through everything and suggested they give Liz Amato and Lori Lambert some comp time or overtime to do the work. Cindy Miller commented the question is does she want the overtime to do that. Katherine Mack also noted the committee is meeting in October, then they are not meeting until the end of November. Then it will be Christmas and people won't want to meet again. Mike Jones questioned if the committee is not meeting on the same day every month so that people know when they need to be here. Cindy Miller commented they do, but people have vacations; it is a group of volunteers, plus people have jobs.

Katherine Mack questioned what the hired person would be expected to do. Cindy Miller commented they would need to go through the ordinances the way that Liz Amato and Lori Lambert are doing. Katherine Mack questioned what qualifications that person would need to have. The Township Engineer was able to provide the committee with a lot of insight on this.

Cindy Miller questioned if the ordinances were available in Word. Alice Rehrig commented she was able to obtained the ordinances in Word. Cindy Miller commented that will help, but she is saying that they still need help whether this

person does it on their own or sits with either Lori Lambert or Liz Amato one at a time. Phil Gogel commented he doesn't want to create another paycheck. Cindy Miller commented if the Board doesn't want it done fast, then they don't want it done fast. Katherine Mack commented she believes this is also something that should be discussed with the committee, not just the Board. The burden of doing all the definitions should not have been placed on Liz Amato, Lori Lambert, and the Engineer. That was a lot to ask of them which is why she brought up giving them comp time or extra pay. She knows they have limited time; perhaps there needs to be an assistant zoning officer. Mike Jones suggested it be discussed at their meeting as to what could be done to relieve the burden from the three of them. Katherine Mack commented maybe you could get away with secretarial help to take the dictation and notes; if you expect someone to operate independently, they will need some type of experience in zoning or engineering. David Hess commented if it goes back to the committee and they feel it is necessary to hire someone it will come back to the Board and he is not in agreement with hiring someone. Jerry Pritchard questioned if some of the pettiness stopped, would that help move the process along. Cindy Miller commented it wouldn't help enough. Phil Gogel commented he thinks the committee should regroup and keep working though it slowly. Cindy Miller commented you also run the risk of people dropping out of the committee.

Katherine Mack questioned how long it took to get the Comp Plan? Cindy Miller commented it took over a year, but it is still not done. Katherine Mack commented the updates were part of the overall Comp Plan.

Katherine Mack noted that she thought Lori Lambert and Liz Amato were pretty far with the definitions. Cindy Miller commented they came to her and said there is no way they can keep doing this. Katherine Mack commented they need to tell that to the committee, then maybe the committee can make a recommendation.

- C. Draft Ordinance 2022-3, Establishing Speed Limit on West Walker Road— Authorization to advertise. Cindy Miller made a motion to authorize the advertisement of Ordinance 2022-3. Phil Gogel seconded the motion. Alice Rehrig noted the actual date the ordinance would be schedule for adoption would be November 22, 2022. All voted aye. Motion carried.
  
- D. Approval of Payment Application by Grace Industries. This is the first and final payment request for the Cinchona Road culvert project. Cindy Miller made a motion to approve Payment #1 to Grace Industries in the amount of \$133,768.69 as recommended by our Township Engineer. David Hess seconded the motion All voted aye. Motion carried. Alice Rehrig noted that the Engineer had also

indicated that the contractor was very cooperative in working through the contract and meeting all the required construction deadlines for the permits.

- E. Repairs to Police Explorer. Last month the Chief reported that a deer had run into the side of one of the patrol cars. He obtained an estimate of \$966.14 to repair the vehicle which was the 2022 Ford Explorer. Besides the dent in the car, it did crack a headlight and pushed the door out of alignment. Phil Gogel made a motion to authorize the repairs to the 2022 Ford Explorer for \$966.14. Jerry Pritchard seconded the motion. Mike Jones questioned if this would be going through insurance. Alice Rehrig commented it wouldn't be because it is below our deductible. All voted aye. Motion carried.
- F. Manager's Report. The Chief provided a book with information and highlights from National Night Out if anyone would like to review it.

Alice Rehrig noted she is working on a 902 Recycling Grant that is available through DEP for the access gates and cameras at the yard waste site. The DEP grant provides funding up to 90 percent for a project. She will be requesting funding in the amount of \$34,000 from DEP. If we are successful with the GroNorCo grant and this grant, the funding from this grant could be used to offset the Township required match under the GroNorCo grant. This grant is due into DEP by Friday and is expected to be awarded next spring. This grant is unique in that we are able to start the project at our own risk before the grant is awarded.

Mike Jones commented it seems that the Lions were overlooked in the various articles about National Night Out. Alice Rehrig will talk to the Chief to make sure they are acknowledged for what they did with National Night Out.

- G. Solicitor's Report. Attorney Backenstoe reported he is continuing to work with Mike Muffley on the final agreements for Northwoods and Turkey Hill. The plans for both projects still need to be tweaked before they can be completed and the agreements cannot be finalized until there is a final revised plan. They will also need final cost estimates, letters of credit, and insurance.
- VII. PUBLIC COMMENT. Phil Gogel commented he thinks we need to be more mindful of people who do things for the Township and the community, such as Aunt Mary's Tree Farm donating the tree for the Christmas Tree Lighting for the second year in a row. David Hess commented the Rec Board did discuss this and they will be getting a sign to place by the tree indicating who donated the tree. Phil Gogel commented he thinks it is important to recognize the people who do things for us; it makes them feel good and also helps push business their way.

Katherine Mack commented there was discussion about the School District and the proposal to build a new school and the effect on the taxes. She started thinking about how it is unfair to the low income or retirees and was wondering if there is anything the Township does where it allows people with low income to get a rebate on their property tax. Cindy Miller commented she doesn't believe the Township can do that. Attorney Backenstoe commented the taxes must be uniform. You can't just exempt certain properties. Phil Gogel commented the Municipal Authority is looking into a program to help get money for water and sewer for people with low income.

Linda Roman commented she has been trying to get two garages to come out and take a look at her truck where the Township's tree has fallen on it, but hasn't gotten any of them to respond. She questioned if the Township is considering taking down the dead trees along Cinchona Road. Alice Rehrig commented Frank Zamadics looked at the trees and they are not something that the Township can take down. He will be marking the trees and then we will be obtaining estimates for having them removed. Katherine Mack commented if the tree is dead and it is Township's land, it is their responsibility, not hers. Linda Roman commented she said she would take care of the repairs, but requested the Township remove the trees. Katherine Mack commented it should be the Township's liability. Alice Rehrig commented typically when there is a situation where the Township may be liable, the insurance company will require the individual to file a claim through their insurance. Municipal insurance is handled differently than private insurance.

Randy Braun questioned if the Fire Company looks at the ladder truck and really like it, could there be additional funding included for the maintenance. Mike Jones commented the Township typically does not pay for the maintenance. Phil Gogel commented there wouldn't be any harm in asking. Mike Jones commented his idea behind the used ladder truck was that it was only six years old and it would be available to the Fire Company in a few weeks rather than having to wait for two years.

Paul Nikisher commented he is glad that the Fire Company is held accountable, but his hat is off to the volunteers. We need to give them the equipment they need to keep everyone safe.

Paul Nikisher reminded everyone there is a School Board meeting coming up on November 10. They are proposing to build a \$75 million school. People need to show up and speak up regard this. It's our tax money and our children's future with regard to the safety of where it will be located.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION. The Board went into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. No action was taken.

Supervisor Minutes  
October 25, 2022

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