

West Sadsbury Township Board of Supervisors meeting

January 3, 2023

Reorganization Meeting:

Darren DeVoe called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

The meeting was turned over to Township Solicitor, Helen Esbenshade, as temporary chairman for reorganization.

Ms. Esbenshade asked for nominations for Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Motion by John Keesey to name Darren DeVoe as Chairman. Motion carried. The meeting was returned to Darren DeVoe.

Motion by Keesey, seconded by DeVoe to appoint Ed Haas as the Vice Chairman, motion carried.

Motion by Haas, seconded by Keesey to name Helen Esbenshade of Lamb McErlane PC as the Township solicitor, motion carried.

Motion by Devoe, seconded by Keesey to name Patti Piersol as the Secretary/Treasurer, motion carried.

Motion by Haas, seconded by Keesey to name Jason Chapman as the Road Master, motion carried.

Motion by Haas, seconded by Keesey to name Ed Moore as Sergeant and Officer in Charge of the Police, motion carried.

Motion by Haas, seconded by Keesey to name Amber Smith as Police Corporal, motion carried.

Motion by Devoe, seconded by Keesey to name Frank Ruscio and Michael Sasso as Full-Time Police Officers, motion carried.

Motion by Haas, seconded by Devoe to name Donald McIvor, Craig Yeckley, Alan Manning, Ryan Barr, Paul McCullough, Marc Meshurle, Joseph O'Keefe and Kenneth Beam as Part-Time Officers, motion carried.

Motion by Haas, seconded by Keesey to name Keystone Valley Fire Department as the Fire Marshall, motion carried.

Motion by Haas, seconded by Keesey to name Scot Kreger as the Emergency Management Coordinator, motion carried.

Motion by Devoe, seconded by Haas to name John Keesey as the voting delegate to the State Convention (PSATS), motion carried.

Motion by Devoe, seconded by Keesey to name Bill Beers as Building Code Official and Zoning Officer, motion carried.

Motion by Devoe, seconded by Keesey to name Commonwealth Code Inspection Service, Inc. as the Building Inspector, motion carried.

Appointment of a deputy tax collector was tabled until a future meeting.

Motion by Haas, seconded by Keesey to name Becker Engineering as the Township's Engineer, motion carried.

Motion by Haas, seconded by Keesey to name Chester County Planning Commission as the Township's planning consultant, motion carried.

Motion by Devoe, seconded by Keesey to listed the depositories used by the Township as Meridian Bank, Citadel Federal Credit Union, Truist Bank and PNC Bank, motion carried.

Motion by Haas, seconded by Devoe to appoint Ashley Melasecca and Deidre Hosier as members of the Planning Commission, motion carried.

Motion to Haas to accept the resignation as Dave Markward as a member of the Planning Commission, seconded by Devoe. Motion carried.

Motion by Haas to appoint Benuel Stoltzfus as a member of the Planning Commission, seconded by Devoe. Motion carried.

Motion by Haas, seconded by Keesey to appoint Robert Hosier as a member of the Zoning Hearing Board with Charlie Myer as an alternate, motion carried.

Motion by Devoe, seconded by Keesey to appoint Kim Venzie as solicitor for the Zoning Hearing Board. Motion carried.

Motion by Keesey, seconded by Devoe to appoint Edward Haas as the township's representative to the Keystone Valley Fire District Board, motion carried.

Appointment of a representative to the Central & Western Chester County Industrial Development Authority was tabled until a future meeting.

The following rates were stated:

Mileage Rate: Per rate established by the Internal Revenue Service

Treasurer's Bond: \$1,250,000.

Millage Rate: 3.6 Mills (per resolution 2022-05 dated 12/29/2022)

Fire Tax Fund: 1.4 Mills (per resolution 2022-05 dated 12/29/2022)

Police Protection District: .518 Mills

Real Estate Transfer Tax: ½ of 1%

Local Earned Income Tax: 1.2%

Local Services Tax (LST): \$52 per year

DeVoe called the regular meeting to order. He asked if there were any comments on the agenda items. There were no questions.

Reading of the previous minutes from December 13 and 29 were approved as posted on the website, motion by Devoe and seconded by Keeseey, motion carried.

The Treasurer's report is not available at this early date.

Invoices to pay: Motion by Haas, seconded by Keeseey to pay the bills, motion carried.

Police Report: Sergeant Ed Moore gave the Police Report for December 2022. Moore also gave the Board his resume notebook in application for the position of West Sadsbury Chief of Police.

Zoning Officer Report: Devoe read the December report.

Fire Company Report: Chief Brian Gathercole gave his December Chief's report and the EMS report. Gathercole discusses shortages of staffing in the EMS division.

Roadmaster Report: Chapman provided his December report.

Tax Collector's Report: Devoe read the November report.

Engineer's Report: Becker Engineering suggested to the Board of Supervisors three financial security reductions.

Motion by Haas, seconded by Keeseey to reduce the escrow on 4451 Church Road by \$12,249.93 leaving \$ 2,000.00, motion carried.

Motion by Haas, seconded by Keeseey to reduce the escrow on 4991 Church Road by \$17,183.19 leaving \$6,500.00, motion carried.

Motion by Haas, seconded by Keeseey to reduce the escrow on 3852 Upper Valley Road by \$11,905.40 leaving \$5,800.00, motion carried.

**Old Business:**

Salisbury Township of Lancaster County sent a letter to West Sadsbury that they will defer the sewage plan to West Sadsbury (Chester County) for 5791 West Lincoln Highway.

The tax rates were done by Resolution 2022-05 on 12/29/2022.

Ordinance 2023-01 for the repeal of the Open Space tax, Haas made a motion to adopt, seconded by Keeseey, motion carried.

Meeting days and times were advertised in the Daily Local News on 12/28/2022. Haas stated that the Planning Commission meetings will be the fourth Tuesday of the month.

Resolution 2023-02, designation of Emergency Service Providers, motion by Haas, seconded by Keeseey to approve Keystone Valley Fire Department as fire and basic life support and establish Advanced Life Support service as closest available unit, motion carried.

PSATS Convention in Hershey PA, registration costs \$175.00 each until 3/30/2023 afterwards it will be \$225.00. All three Supervisors wish to attend.

Chester County Assessment Office 2023 valuations: real estate including mobile homes is \$155,269,180.00 with public utilities valued at \$109,890.00

The Township received Becker Engineering's proposed 2023 hourly rates.

There will be a special meeting on Wednesday, January 4, 2023 at 7:30 P.M.

**Comments on non-agenda items:**

Sam Glick of 5791 W. Lincoln Hwy stated he delivered paperwork to the Township for his project on October 31. Glick asked Casey Kershner of Becker Engineering what he meant that the project will be reviewed at the January meeting. Kershner stated that it could be reviewed at the Planning Commission's January meeting.

Officer Joseph O'Keefe noted he was speaking as the designee for the Police Association and read a letter in support of Ed Moore as Chief of the department as Chief Luke Fidler officially retired on January 1. Officer O'Keefe also brought to the attention of the Supervisors that the 2023 proposed budget is \$209,000.00 more than last year and it was done without input from any of the departments. The police requested additional computer hardware and two cars. These requests do not appear in the proposed 2023 budget. The police received notice from an individual regarding untruths allegedly spoken about the department on December 13 at WaWa and on other occasions. Devoe and Keesey engaged in a conversation with O'Keefe regarding the police and the incidents raised. O'Keefe offered Devoe to do a ride along.

Robert Hosier of Leike Road stated to the Supervisors that Bill Beers is not doing his job and urged the Supervisors to check up on him.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Piersol, Sec/Treasurer