

North Buffalo Township
February 21, 2018

The North Buffalo Township Board of Supervisors met at the Municipal Building at 7:00 p.m., February 21, 2018 with Supervisors David Wolfe, Clark Whiteman and Jennifer Matarrese, Secretary Pam Bowser, and approximately eight township citizens in attendance.

Dave Wolfe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance and made the announcement that the meeting was being audio recorded.

Clark Whiteman made the motion to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2018 Supervisors' Meeting. Jennifer Matarrese seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Clark Whiteman made the motion to approve the bills as presented on the Bill List with General Fund checks #25692 through #25750 in the amount of \$30,676.88, General Fund electronic debits in the amount of \$18,882.71 and State Fund checks #659 through #661 in the amount of \$17,855.62. Dave Wolfe seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Dave Wolfe made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, with Jennifer Matarrese seconding the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

The monthly police report was not given due to the absence of Police Chief Jason Hufhand. Dave Wolfe reported that he was on duty but must have received a call. Dave Wolfe also reported that the ENRADD speed system is broken and unrepairable. The speed checks are currently being done with the stop watch.

Ford Cliff Fire Department gave their monthly fire response report.

Dave Wolfe then gave the road master's report. The road crew has been plowing snow, repairing equipment and sweeping up anti-skid. The salt delivery truck hit and damaged the township salt shed. Dave reported that he has been working with the salt company and the insurance companies to get the damages covered. Dave has been looking into getting bids for a storage shed and township building renovations. The supervisors discussed a John Deere tractor with boom mower that is for sale on Municibid. Dave Wolfe made the motion for a cap of \$50,000 bid on the John Deere tractor through Municibid. Jennifer Matarrese seconded the motion, all voted in favor and the motion carried.

Under unfinished business, the supervisors scheduled the road survey for Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at 8:00 am, weather permitting.

Under new business, Dave Wolfe announced that the supervisors met in executive session on February 21, 2018 at 8:00 am for the purpose of discussing the proposed township building renovations, the salt shed insurance claim, the Skyway Towers legal matter and planning board recommendations.

Dave Wolfe made the motion to cap the health insurance deduction from wages for full-time employees at \$100.32 per month (or \$46.30 per pay) effective with pay period beginning January 21, 2018. This deduction amount is 10% of the current cost of health insurance and the deduction amount will remain in effect until the collective bargaining agreement expiration date of December 31, 2019. Also give a \$0.25 hourly wage rate increase (in addition to the collective bargaining agreement increase) for full-time and casual-as-needed road crew employees effective with pay period beginning January 21, 2018 and to reevaluate for an additional \$0.25 increase in September/October. Jennifer Matarrese seconded the motion, all voted in favor and the motion carried.

Dave Wolfe announced that the 1997 Ford bucket truck was sold as is online through 422 Auction for \$3,000.00.

The supervisors then discussed recommendations from the North Buffalo Township Planning Board regarding the logging portion of the zoning ordinance. The supervisors felt that the costs were excessive for small logging jobs and asked the Planning Board to review the logging regulations in the zoning ordinance and make some recommendations. The Planning Board made three recommendations to the Board of Supervisors resulting from discussion at their previous meeting. #1 – for the township secretary to post all township ordinances on the computer for public access; #2 – to change Article XII, Section 14 of the North Buffalo Township Zoning Ordinance by adding sub paragraph F: In the event the logger states in writing with signature that the harvest will consist of twenty (20) trees or less on said property per year, the application process can be waived by the Supervisors or the Secretary at their discretion thereby eliminating 12.14.1 sections B, C, D, E and 12.14.2 A (1) and sections 12.14.3. All other provisions of the logging ordinance will remain in effect; and #3 – to waive the permit fee for the above motion concerning logging. After discussion, Dave Wolfe made the motion to reject Recommendation #1 due to the concern that some ordinances may be used against a neighbor for malicious intent and the supervisors wish to be selective in which ordinances should be posted online. Also noted was that all township ordinances are available to the public at the township office. Jennifer Matarrese seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion carried. Dave Wolfe made the motion to reject Recommendation #2. The supervisors propose number of truck loads versus the number of trees. Also there needs to be more research done to more clearly define the changes. Clark Whiteman seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion carried. Dave Wolfe made the motion to reject Recommendation #3 because there is a cost for paperwork and processing the logging permits. Clark Whiteman seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

The Board briefly discussed the renovations to the township building. One bid has been obtained and they will continue looking into other options.

The next item on the agenda was the Skyway Towers law suit. The Zoning Hearing Board Attorney, the Township Solicitor and Dave Wolfe met with a mediator in Pittsburgh. The Judge ordered the township to hire an expert to study the placement of the cell tower in an alternate location in the township where it would be in compliance with the township zoning ordinance. The supervisors received a preliminary contract agreement from CTC Technology & Energy, who would do the study. The contract was submitted to the board for signatures; however, there were no fees included in the contract. The fees were listed in a separate letter to Township Solicitor Charles Pascal dated February 16, 2018. Dave Wolfe made the motion to preliminarily agree to the contract with CTC Technology & Energy provided that the fees listed in the separate letter to the township solicitor be incorporated into Section 4 of the proposed contract and/or Appendix A of the proposed contract. Failure to do so will result in this preliminary approval being voided. Clark Whiteman seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

After public comment, Clark Whiteman made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Jennifer Matarrese seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Pamela L. Bowser
North Buffalo Township Secretary