

September 6, 2016

The Strasburg Township Board of Supervisors held their regular meeting on Monday, September 6, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. at the Strasburg Township Municipal Building, 400 Bunker Hill Road. Present were Peggy Dearolf, Michael Weaver and Thomas Willig; Administrator Mark Deimler.

Guests: John Rintz, Brent Landis, J. Fred Witmer, Gerald McCracken, Caryn Husowech, Warren Rush, Daniel Burke, Barbara Rathbone-Frank, Lunda Houck, Ann Johnson, Joyce Nettke, Terri Nettke, Eric Eberly, Doug Keene, Haley and Kelli Keye, James Foose, Patti and Allen Means, Barry Longenecker, Lois Skiles, Amanda Schaedler.

Public comment was invited. There was none.

On a motion by Weaver/Dearolf, the Board unanimously voted to adopt the minutes of August 1, 2016 as submitted.

On a motion by Dearolf/Weaver, the Board unanimously voted to approve bill listings for payment: Payroll and taxes in the amount of \$12,656.03; General Fund checks #21083-21123 in the amount of \$54,196.20 ; Liquid Fuels check #1763 in the amount of \$131,661.00; Sewer Fund checks #118-119 in the amount of \$13,199.95; Escrow Fund check #1020 in the amount of \$300.00.

On a motion by Weaver/Dearolf, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Treasurer's report as submitted.

On a motion by Dearolf/Weaver, the Board voted unanimously to approve the amended July 2016 Treasurer's report.

Deimler gave background for the proposed zoning ordinance amendment pertaining to kennels stating the Township's goal is to protect animals and residents by bringing illegally operating dog kennels "into the light" and make them subject to regulation and inspection. He further stated the Township does not have the right to enter private property without probable cause and wants to make the ordinance more enforceable. Weaver stated the matter came before the Planning Commission for review while he was a sitting member and the sole purpose is to address the health and welfare of the residents and animals. One aspect is the regulation of animal waste disposal. Deimler stated the proposed amendment would decrease lot size and setbacks, require holding tanks for waste containment, require annual registration renewal and allow unannounced inspections.

The floor was opened for discussion:

- Kelli Keye – 6 Eagle Drive, Lampeter - stated she rescued two dogs from Strasburg Township incurring great cost to return them to health. Deimler

stated the breeder has been sent a notice of violation and must apply to both the Township Zoning Hearing Board and Department of Agriculture for permission to operate.

- Caryn Husowech - 2 Creekview Drive, Strasburg – stated the result would be proliferation of kennels and the current ordinance should be enforced.
- John Rintz – 348 Sawmill Road, Strasburg – stated his neighbor has been operating a kennel for years in defiance of Zoning Hearing Board decisions and the current ordinance should be enforced.
- Ann Johnson – 1580 Ridgeview Avenue, Lancaster – stated the amendments would make it easier to bring breeders into compliance, but kowtows to the breeders. The amendments do not have consequences for the existing breeders to punish them.
- Joyce Nettke – 2428 Bachman Road, Strasburg – reiterated Rintz’s comment about his neighbor continuing to sell puppies against Zoning Hearing Board conditions, recommended the Township track operators on the internet selling as Lancaster Puppies and Greenfield Puppies, the Zoning Officer should be directed to aggressively pursue scofflaws, noted her perception of selective enforcement, thanked the Board for the waste management and inspection components of the proposed amendments. Deimler commented he has checked the internet and a lot of the advertised puppies are located in Paradise Township.
- Barry Longenecker – Providence Township – began by stating ordinances are complaint driven and residents should make the call with any information on suspected illegal activity; continued, stating relaxing existing standards makes no sense; criteria should be harder to meet rather than easier; all applications should be special exceptions; screening and fencing should be limited to avoid hiding animals; provided a sample ordinance for review.
- Warren Rush -833 North Old Road, Strasburg – stated it was a mistake to approve any more kennels.
- Lois Skiles – 263 Stoney Hill Road, Eden – recommended enforcing current laws and not decreasing lot size or setbacks.
- Terri Nettke – 981 Gypsy Hill Road, West Lampeter – recommended enforcing current ordinances to gain compliance, not reducing the lot size or setbacks and supported the waste management and inspection components.

- Doug Keene – 239 South Jackson, Strasburg Borough – noted the noise and smell coming from a licensed kennel on a neighboring property.
- Paul Dochat – 300 Sawmill Road, Strasburg – stated opposition.
- J. Fred Witmer – 1734 Beaver Valley Pike, Strasburg – recommended making Township residents the police force and “putting some meat” into the existing ordinance; noted sound travels farther at night and lot sizes should not be reduced.
- Barbara Rathbone-Frank – 324 Mindy Avenue, Strasburg Borough – asked if animal welfare people had been asked for input; residents’ complaints are the first step with photographs to help prove probable cause.

The Board thanked all in attendance and closed the discussion to take care of the remaining agenda items.

On a motion by Weaver/Dearolf, the Board voted unanimously to approve Deimler to conduct a traffic study for James Foose, 850 Winter Hill Road, to provide the information necessary to erect a traffic sign on a State maintained road warning of a hidden driveway. Foose agreed to compensate the Township for any cost associated with the study.

On a motion by Weaver/Dearolf, the Board voted unanimously to approve the stormwater management plan for 701 Deiter Road on condition all comments contained in the Solanco Engineering letter of August 4, 2016 are satisfied.

On a motion by Weaver/Dearolf, the Board voted unanimously to approve the land development plan for the Strasburg Railroad on condition all comments contained in the Solanco Engineering letter of August 17, 2016 are satisfied.

The option of a payment plan for the Refton WWTP connection fees was discussed and the following criteria were proposed:

- Both the USDA and PennVEST assistance must have been applied for and rejected
- A two-year loan at 6% interest would be offered

The Secretary was directed to find out the turnaround time for the USDA and PennVEST applications and contact a Refton resident who had applied to USDA to see if she was approved. Deimler will provide the Township solicitor the proposed criteria and the matter will be revisited at the October 3, 2016 meeting.

The merits of a transition from docStar to LaserFiche as the Township document management system was discussed with the Board agreeing it is a prudent move saving money in the long run.

On a motion by Weaver/Dearolf, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 114 Strubel Road lot add-on plan for Amos Smucker PC 2016-5.

On a motion by Weaver/Dearolf, the Board voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 2016-11 pertaining to the 101 Strubel Road, Aaron Smucker sewage planning module.

On a motion by Weaver/Dearolf, the Board voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 2016-12 pertaining to the 4500 Twin Elm Road, John Ebersol sewage planning module.

On a motion by Weaver/Dearolf, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) for the 2017 pension.

On a motion by Weaver/Dearolf, the Board voted unanimously to approve Bike Millersville's use of the Township parking lot as a rest stop and the temporary installation of a portable toilet.

Administrator's Report:

- The Refton WWTP project should come out on or under budget with a late September or early October completion
- Dove Rivers of Life Church is seeking the Board's thoughts on providing a paved drop-off area in front of the church on Main Street Refton. It is presented posted no parking. The Supervisors do not oppose.

Zoning Officer's Report: Sixteen (16) permits issued with receipts in the amount of \$5,341.35; Fifteen (15) complaints received with fourteen (14) closed

Sewage Enforcement Officer's Report: one (1) probe and five (5) inspections performed, four (4) permits issued and one (1) notice of violation sent with receipts in the amount of \$950.00

There being no further business before the Board, the Supervisors adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

Judith G. Willig
Township Secretary