

**PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
AUGUST 11, 2021**

The regular monthly meeting of the Plainfield Township Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at the Plainfield Township Municipal Building, which is located at 6292 Sullivan Trail, Nazareth, PA 18064.

Vice-Chairman, Glenn Borger, called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

**ROLL CALL:**

The following Supervisors answered roll call: Vice Chairman Glenn Borger, Supervisor Jane Mellert, Supervisor Stephen Hurni and Supervisor Joyce Lambert. Chairman Randy Heard arrived at approximately 7:07 P.M. Also present were Township Manager Thomas Petrucci, Township Engineer Jeff Ott, P.E., and Solicitor David Backenstoe.

**I. TOWNSHIP SECRETARY– THOMAS PETRUCCI:**

1. Approval of the July 14, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes (DRAFT):

**ACTION: Motion was made by Joyce Lambert and seconded by Stephen Hurni to approve the July 14, 2021 regular meeting minutes as presented.**

*Prior to the vote, Vice-Chairman, Glenn Borger, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

**Motion approved. Vote 4-0.**

2. Approval of Pen Argyl Municipal Authority Sewer Connection Agreement – Nicholas and Whitney DePue – 1011 E. Birch Avenue:

**ACTION: Motion was made by Jane Mellert and seconded by Stephen Hurni to approve the Pen Argyl Municipal Authority Sewer Connection Agreement for Nicholas and Whitney DePue for the single family residential home proposed to be located at 1011 E. Birch Avenue.**

*Prior to the vote, Vice-Chairman, Glenn Borger, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

**Motion approved. Vote 4-0.**

## II. TREASURER – KATELYN KOPACH:

1. Approval of the July, 2021 General Fund Disbursements (\$234,675.18):

**ACTION:** Motion was made by Joyce Lambert and seconded by Stephen Hurni to approve the July, 2021 General Fund Disbursements in the amount of \$234,675.18.

*Prior to the vote, Vice-Chairman, Glenn Borger, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

**Motion approved. Vote 4-0.**

2. Approval of the July 2021 Treasurer’s Report:

**ACTION:** Motion was made by Joyce Lambert and seconded by Stephen Hurni to approve the July, 2021 Treasurer’s Report.

*Prior to the vote, Vice-Chairman, Glenn Borger, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

**Motion approved. Vote 4-0.**

3. Approval of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2021 Non-Uniformed Defined Contribution Plan Statement:

**ACTION:** Motion was made by Stephen Hurni and seconded by Joyce Lambert to approve the 2nd Quarter 2021 Non-Uniformed Defined Contribution Plan Statement as prepared by Girard Pension Services.

*Prior to the vote, Vice-Chairman, Glenn Borger, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

Jane Mellert inquired as to whether a Non-Uniform Pension Committee meeting will be scheduled with Girard Pension Services to review the draft Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO), and Tom Petrucci responded that he will coordinate the scheduling of this meeting prior to the September 8<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisors meeting.

**Motion approved. Vote 4-0.**

4. Approval of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2021 Non-Uniformed Defined Benefit Plan Statement:

**ACTION:** Motion was made by Stephen Hurni and seconded by Joyce Lambert to approve the 2nd Quarter 2021 Non-Uniformed Defined Benefit Plan Statement as prepared by Girard Pension Services.

*Prior to the vote, Vice-Chairman, Glenn Borger, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

**Motion approved. Vote 4-0.**

*Chairman Randy Heard arrived.*

5. Approval of Transfer of \$4,991.46 from Non-Uniformed Defined Benefit Plan to the Non-Uniformed Defined Contribution Plan:

**ACTION: Motion was made by Stephen Hurni and seconded by Randy Heard to approve a transfer of \$4,991.46 from the Non-Uniformed Defined Benefit Plan to the Non-Uniformed Defined Contribution Plan.**

*Prior to the vote, Chairman, Randy Heard, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

**Motion approved. Vote 5-0.**

Stephen Hurni inquired if the issue with the Ameriprise fund which contains Real Estate Investment Trust securities was still ongoing, and Tom Petrucci responded in the affirmative. The Township is still not able to liquidate the funds at this time.

6. Approval of Non-Uniformed Defined Contribution Plan Refund/Rollover- \$10,164.29:

**ACTION: Motion was made by Stephen Hurni and seconded by Randy Heard to approve a transfer (refund rollover) of \$10,164.29 from the Non-Uniformed Defined Contribution Plan to former employee Mr. Ryan Hester. This amount represents the amount that Mr. Hester was entitled to receive as a result of being 75% vested, per Section 4.8 of adopted Plainfield Township Ordinance No. 2013-359.**

*Prior to the vote, Chairman, Randy Heard, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

**Motion approved. Vote 5-0.**

7. Approval of Non-Uniformed Defined Contribution Plan Forfeiture- \$3,205.65:

**ACTION: Motion was made by Stephen Hurni and seconded by Randy Heard to approve the forfeiture of \$3,205.65, which is the amount of Mr. Hester's pension fund that was not vested, from the Non-Uniform Defined Contribution Plan.**

*Prior to the vote, Chairman, Randy Heard, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

**Motion approved. Vote 5-0.**

8. Approval of Real Estate Tax Refunds: 1045 State Park Road - \$349.53 and 521 Frable Street - \$64.48:

**ACTION: Motion was made by Stephen Hurni and seconded by Glenn Borger to approve real estate tax refunds for 1045 State Park Road in the amount of \$349.53 and 521 Frable Street in the amount of \$64.48.**

*Prior to the vote, Chairman, Randy Heard, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

**Motion approved. Vote 5-0.**

### **III. TOWNSHIP ENGINEER – JEFF OTT, P.E.:**

Jeff Ott did not have any specific items requiring official action from the Board of Supervisors. There were no questions presented to Mr. Ott from either the Board members or members of the public.

### **IV. TOWNSHIP MANAGER – THOMAS PETRUCCI:**

1. Slate Belt Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan – Monthly Update:
  - Tom Petrucci announced that an infrastructure roundtable discussion is scheduled for August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6:00 PM at the Weona Park Community Center.
2. Plainfield Township Act 537 Official Plan Update – Monthly Briefing:
  - Tom Petrucci announced that a sub-committee of the Planning Commission that was formed to work on the Act 537 Official Plan will be meeting in the near future.
3. Plainfield Township MS4/Stormwater Management Program – Monthly Briefing:
  - No update was provided.

4. Consideration of Award of Contract- Little Bushkill Stream Restoration Project Phase I – Little Bushkill Creek Site 3 Emergency Permit – Flyway Excavating, Inc. (\$32,732.00):

The bid tabulation was tallied as follows:

Reference Number	Description	Type	UOM	Quantity	Extended Estimate	Flyway Excavating Inc.	CMR Construction Inc.	Stonewood Landshaping, Inc.	Bi State Construction Co., Inc.
Bid Price Ratio						100%	52.13%	35.36%	32.10%
Total Extended						\$32,732.00	\$62,782.00	\$92,548.00	\$101,945.00
Default Item Group						\$32,732.00	\$62,782.00	\$92,548.00	\$101,945.00
1	Mobilization and Demobilization	Base	Lump Sum	1		\$5,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$8,000.00
2	Material/Fill Disposal	Base	Lump Sum	1		\$500.00	\$1,500.00	\$4,000.00	\$5,100.00
3	Disturbance and Flag Conservation Area Posts	Base	Lump Sum	1		\$2,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$8,000.00	\$4,000.00
4	Site Grade Survey and Layout	Base	Lump Sum	1		\$500.00	\$1,500.00	\$6,000.00	\$7,000.00
5	Staging Area	Base	Sqaure Foot	1,500.00		\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$4,500.00	\$7,500.00
6	Installation of Erosion and Sediment Control Structures - Filtersock	Base	Linear Foot	175		\$1,750.00	\$875.00	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
7	Installation of High Visibility Orange Construction Fencing	Base	Linear Foot	266		\$532.00	\$532.00	\$798.00	\$1,995.00
8	Log Grade Control Structure (Log, Gripple Fasteners, Cable, Rock, Geotextile, Backfill)	Base	Lump Sum	6		\$18,000.00	\$38,700.00	\$48,000.00	\$54,000.00
9	Lawn Restoration / Stabilization Hydroseeding	Base	Square Foot	750		\$2,250.00	\$1,875.00	\$3,750.00	\$4,500.00
A1	General Items Not Specified	Base	Lump Sum	1		\$100.00	\$3,500.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
A2	Payment Bond	Base	Lump Sum	1		\$300.00	\$900.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,250.00
A3	Performance Bond	Base	Lump Sum	1		\$300.00	\$900.00	\$2,000.00	\$100.00

**ACTION: Motion was made by Glenn Borger and seconded by Stephen Hurni to approve awarding the Little Bushkill Stream Restoration Project Phase I contract to Flyway Excavating, Inc. in the amount of \$32,732.00 in accordance with the bid proposal that was submitted in response to the above-referenced bid opportunity, which was advertised in the *Express-Times* on July 6, 2021 and July 12, 2021. The bids were opened on July 23, 2021 at 4:00 PM.**

*Prior to the vote, Chairman, Randy Heard, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

Randy Heard inquired as to the specific location of this project, and Tom Petrucci responded that the location is the Recreation Trail bridge located near Old Bangor Road. The area of the bridge is experiencing erosion and scouring.

Resident Robin Dingle inquired if the scope of work will utilize bio-engineering practices, and Tom Petrucci responded in the affirmative. The project will utilize a log grade control structure.

**Motion approved. Vote 5-0.**

5. Authorization to Hire Professional Planning Consultant:

In accordance with previous official action taken by the Board of Supervisors, Tom Petrucci sought and obtained proposals from two (2) professional planners to provide the Board of Supervisors with recommendations concerning the draft/proposed Warehouse/Wholesale and Storage Distribution Uses Ordinance. Proposals were received from both Urban Research and Development Corporation (URDC) (Charlie Schmehl) and Gilmore and Associates (Judy Stern Goldstein). The Board reviewed several criteria for the proposals, including relevant prior experience and cost.

It was noted that Judy Stern Goldstein possessed previous experience working on specific warehouse criteria, as well as multi-municipal comprehensive plans. The Board members highlighted the fact that both professional planners are extremely experienced. Plainfield Township has relied extensively on Mr. Schmehl in the past; Ms. Goldstein was also strongly recommended by Bushkill Township.

**ACTION: Motion was made by Stephen Hurni and seconded by Glenn Borger to hire Gilmore and Associates (Judy Stern Goldstein) in accordance with the proposal dated July 23, 2021 and subject to the execution of a Professional Services Agreement which caps the total cost of the project.**

*Prior to the vote, Chairman, Randy Heard, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

**Motion approved. Vote 5-0.**

6. Engine-Brake Retarders Prohibition Request to PennDOT: S.R. 0191 (Bangor Road):

Tom Petrucci reviewed the requirements of the Township to submit a formal request to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) to prohibit the use of engine-brake retarders along S.R. 0191 (Bangor Road). The requirements are summarized as follows:

***Engine Brake Retarders Prohibition Policy***

*In accordance with §4103 of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code, the Department has the sole authority to regulate the use of engine brake retarders. Therefore, any municipality that plans to prohibit the use of engine brake retarders must first obtain the permission of the Department in accordance with the following procedure:*

*1. The municipality requests authorization to enact an engine-brake retarder prohibition, in writing, to the appropriate PennDOT Engineering District Executive.*

*2. The District Traffic Unit will review the request in accordance with the criteria for Prohibition Approval in Publication 46 Chapter 11.8 and prepare a written response to the municipality regarding the Department's decision (typically one month).*

*3. If approved, the municipality must enact an ordinance – PennDOT will not enact any engine brake-retarder prohibitions. Once PennDOT receives the legal ordinance, final approval will be granted and guidance will be provided to the municipality on the type, quantity and location for required signing. The municipality is responsible for procuring, erecting and maintaining the required signing, using official signs in accordance with the requirements of Publication 236.*

*4. Enforcement of the engine brake-retarder prohibition is the responsibility of the police agency that provides enforcement services for the municipality.*

### ***Criteria for Prohibition Approval***

*In order to prohibit engine brake retarders; District Traffic Units shall ensure that all of the following are satisfied:*

*1. The roadway is not a limited access facility or a ramp exiting from a highway with a posted speed or 85th percentile speed of 55 mph or greater.*

*2. The average downhill grade does not exceed 4 percent within any 500-foot section of highway (i.e., the change elevation of the road is never greater than 20 feet in any 500-foot section of a downhill).*

*3. A reduced speed limit or reduced gear zone does not exist for trucks due to a hazardous grade determination.*

*4. The posted speed limit or 85th percentile speed is less than 55 mph.*

*5. There is no history of runaway truck crashes in the past 3 years.*

*6. There is no discernible pattern of rear-end crashes in the past 3 years where a truck was the striking vehicle.*

Peter and Kathy Gheller (1504 Bangor Road) were in attendance to voice their support of the Township submitting this request to PennDOT. They communicated various issues to the Board of Supervisors concerning the use of engine-brake retarders, including loud noises and vibrations which impact their quality of life on a regular basis.

Following discussion, the Board of Supervisors took official action.

**ACTION: Motion was made by Jane Mellert and seconded by Stephen Hurni to approve a request to be sent to the PennDOT District 5 Executive for consideration of allowing the Township to enact an engine-brake retarder prohibition along S.R. 0191 (Bangor Road).**

*Prior to the vote, Chairman, Randy Heard, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

**Motion approved. Vote 5-0.**

7. Review of Draft Ordinance: Regulations for Consumer and Display Fireworks:

As directed by the Board of Supervisors during the July 14, 2021 regular meeting, Tom Petrucci prepared a draft ordinance to regulate fireworks (both consumer and display fireworks) in Plainfield Township. The ordinance was drafted in consideration of the discussion which took place during the July 14th meeting. The key provisions of the ordinance are summarized as follows:

- All regulations and restrictions concerning consumer fireworks that are set forth in Act 43 of 2017 (the “Pennsylvania Fireworks Law”), would be incorporated by reference. This adoption shall include any future amendments to this legislation or any successor legislation adopted by official act(s) of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania General Assembly.
- Using, firing off, igniting or dispensing any consumer fireworks from public property would be prohibited.
- The use of consumer fireworks within Plainfield Township would be restricted to the following holidays only: New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day (July 4<sup>th</sup>), and Labor Day.
- The use of consumer fireworks within Plainfield Township would be restricted to the following time periods on permitted days only: Between the hours of 6:00 PM EST to 10:00 PM EST, with the exception of New Year’s Eve, which has an extended time period restriction of 6:00 PM EST to 12:30 AM EST.
- The use of display fireworks would require direct municipal approval by the Plainfield Township Board of Supervisors, in its sole discretion.

Resident Paul Rinaldi, Jr. inquired as to why the Township developed this draft ordinance. Tom Petrucci responded that the request to implement fireworks



restrictions first emanated from the Planning Commission. While the Township Municipal Office is not necessarily receiving a number of complaints, there is a general consensus that this is a known issue across the Township. There are known occurrences of fireworks being discharged late at night or early in the morning.

Jane Mellert expressed the sentiment that today's fireworks are more intense than in previous years.

Tom Petrucci stated that the options for the Board of Supervisors to consider are identified as follows:

- Advertise this draft ordinance for adoption.
- Review this draft ordinance further and place the consideration of adoption on a future Board of Supervisors meeting agenda.
- Refer the draft ordinance to the Planning Commission for review and comment.

**ACTION: Motion was made by Jane Mellert and seconded by Randy Heard to approve sending the draft Regulations for Consumer and Display Fireworks Ordinance to the Plainfield Township Planning Commission for review and comment.**

*Prior to the vote, Chairman, Randy Heard, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

**Motion approved. Vote 5-0.**

8. Approval of Resolution #2021- 18– Approval of Multi-Municipal Grant Application-Grow NORCO- Due September 10, 2021 – Municipal Police Department Support (Matching Funds Requirement of \$1.00 for every \$2.00 awarded):

The Grow NORCO program allows for grant applications of up to \$50,000.00 (with a \$1.00 matching funds requirement for every \$2.00 awarded) in support of police expenditures. It is the goal of the Slate Belt Regional Police Department (Plainfield Township, Wind Gap Borough and Pen Argyl Borough) to submit a grant application for consideration of the Northampton County Department of Community and Economic Development to help offset the known operational costs of the Department (ex. a police vehicle) within next year's budget.

**ACTION: Motion was made by Jane Mellert and seconded by Randy Heard to approve Resolution #2021-18 as submitted.**

*Prior to the vote, Chairman, Randy Heard, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

**Motion approved. Vote 5-0.**

9. Approval of Resolution #2021- 19 – Approval of Grant Application- Grow NORCO- Due September 10, 2021 – Matching Funds Requirement of \$1.00 for \$1.00 awarded):

Plainfield Township may also apply to the Northampton County Department of Community and Economic Development for Grow NORCO funding to support local municipal projects.

**ACTION: Motion was made by Jane Mellert and seconded by Randy Heard to approve Resolution #2021-19 as submitted.**

*Prior to the vote, Chairman, Randy Heard, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

**Motion approved. Vote 5-0.**

10. Review of Amendment to Open Space Plan “Additional Ways to Preserve Open Space”- DRAFT dated August 3, 2021 (Recommendation of Environmental Advisory Council):

In accordance with the approved 2021 Action Plan for the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), the EAC and Township Manager developed an amendment to the current Plainfield Township Open Space Plan.

While the current Open Space Plan allows the Township to expend Open Space Earned Income Tax (EIT) funds on open space purchases other than agricultural easements, the policies and procedures to do so were not specifically delineated. In order to ensure transparency and an equitable review of all potential open space acquisitions, the draft amendment to the Open Space Plan provides a specifically defined set of policies, procedures, recommendations/guidance, and application evaluation criteria.

Tom Petrucci highlighted the fact that the amendment to the Open Space Plan does not require the Township to make any open space expenditures; it sets forth the methods to do so, if the Board of Supervisors is so inclined. Ostensibly, the Board would be taking action on recommendations rendered by the EAC.

Tom Petrucci outlined the following options for the consideration of the Board of Supervisors:

- Do nothing. Keep the current Open Space Plan “as is”.
- Authorize the Township Manager and Solicitor to draft and then advertise the required ordinance to amend the Open Space Plan.

**ACTION: Motion was made by Glenn Borger and seconded by Randy Heard to authorize the Township Manager and Solicitor to draft and then advertise the required ordinance to amend the Open Space Plan.**

*Prior to the vote, Chairman, Randy Heard, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

Public comment was received and discussion occurred- both of which are summarized as follows:

- Resident Chuck Piazza asked what was meant by “loan interest”. It was stated that the Township would most likely never have to take out debt service to acquire open space based on current Open Space EIT funding levels.
- Stephen Hurni postulated whether it would be prudent to ask the residents of the Township if they are still in fact inclined to continue to collect the Open Space EIT.
- Resident Robin Dingle stated that if the collection of Open Space EIT ceased, the Township would likely collect funds for something else. She would prefer to pay for the Open Space EIT.
- Stephen Hurni stated the Township may experience a future scenario where the collection of Open Space EIT should cease and additional funding would need to go to the Fire Department.
- Dave Backenstoe stated that a referendum would need to be placed on an upcoming ballot (either the primary or general election) to either reduce or repeal the collection of Open Space EIT. The language of the referendum needs to be sent to the Northampton County Elections Office at least thirteen (13) Tuesdays prior to the election date.
- Resident Chuck Piazza questioned whether the Township could currently purchase open space properties without adopting this proposed amendment,

and Tom Petrucci responded in the affirmative. However, he clarified that the amendment gives the Township well-defined parameters and policies to assist the decision-making process. The amendment prioritizes conservation easements as opposed to fee simple acquisitions in order to preserve environmentally sensitive lands while still keeping properties on the tax rolls (the property owner gives consent to preserve key portions of properties that are environmentally sensitive while retaining ownership of the property).

- The proposed amendment would cover specific instances that would not be covered under the Northampton County Farmland Preservation Program for agricultural properties. It was noted that the Northampton County Farmland Preservation Program does not cover purchases of certain farmland properties that do not meet the County and State criteria, as well as general open space acquisitions. The Township itself would be responsible to administer the preservation of these properties. Solicitor Backenstoe noted that many municipalities typically partner with organizations such as Wildlands Conservancy to handle open space property acquisitions on a case-by-case basis.
- Jane Mellert expressed concern about the minimum acreage for farmettes (if they are under 10 acres). Tom Petrucci stated that the language in the Open Space Plan was revised to give more flexibility to evaluate properties on a case-by-case basis. Jane Mellert stated that it would be a very unusual circumstance to preserve a property that is less than ten (10) acres due to the fact that the property would not be eligible for the Commonwealth's Clean and Green favorable tax assessment program. The Open Space Plan was written in order to require that farmettes should be at least ten (10) acres, but language was also added as follows (so as not to potentially miss out on a special circumstance- at the discretion of the governing body):

*It is identified that not all properties may be able to meet these specific dimensional requirements, and the Township Board of Supervisors (in direct consultation with the Environmental Advisory Council and/or the Northampton County Farmland Preservation Board) shall reserve the right to amend these figures on a case-by-case basis, in the best interest of the Township and to accomplish the overall goals of this section.*

- Jane Mellert noted that parcels that are subject to farmland preservation typically need a larger tract to conduct adequate agricultural operations. Jane did identify that there are some organic farms that you can farm without a large amount of land, but the intent of the program was to preserve highly ranked properties. Randy Heard noted that the Township is trying to identify other areas that should be preserved and protected other than farmland. Jane

Mellert stated that those areas were identified on the Township's Official Map. Robin Dingle stated that farmettes should be specifically defined- noting that there are many different types of farms now (ex. hydroponics). The Township should consider the evolution of the industry, and that the proposed language gives the Township some flexibility in considering these types of properties/agricultural operations in the future.

- In response to a question from Stephen Hurni, Tom Petrucci stated that there is about two-thousand (2,000) acres of eligible farmland left to preserve in Plainfield Township.
- Glenn Borger noted that the Township is not blanket approving anything- this is all to be considered on a case-by-case basis. This is a starting point on which to commence the program and then evaluate it on an ongoing basis.
- Wanda Gruber announced that she recently saw equipment on a local Township roadway (including a combine and tractor) on its way to Lower Nazareth Township.
- Tom Petrucci recapped the fact that the EAC had already extensively reviewed the proposed amendment to the Open Space Plan in accordance with the direction received by the Board of Supervisors by way of the approved 2021 EAC Action Plan, and that the required ordinance to amend the plan would incorporate the entire sixty (60) plus pages of the amendment itself. The EAC has been working on the amendment since the beginning of 2021 and has now taken action to recommend that the Board of Supervisors move forward with the amendment to the Open Space Plan.

After concluding the discussion on this subject matter, the Board of Supervisors then took an official vote.

**Motion approved. Vote 5-0.**

**BOARD AND FIRE COMPANY AND AMBULANCE REPORTS:**

1. Planning and Zoning Report- July, 2021
2. Road Department Report- July, 2021
3. Fire Company and Ambulance Report- July, 2021
4. Recreation Board Report- July, 2021

**ACTION: Motion was made by Randy Heard and seconded by Glenn Borger to approve the July, 2021 Reports as listed and presented.**

*Prior to the vote, Chairman, Randy Heard, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

**Motion approved. Vote 5-0.**

**SLATE BELT REGIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:**

1. Slate Belt Regional Police Department Monthly Report- July, 2021:

**ACTION: Motion was made by Randy Heard and seconded by Glenn Borger to approve the July, 2021 Slate Belt Regional Police Department Monthly Report as listed and presented.**

*Prior to the vote, Chairman, Randy Heard, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.*

**Motion approved. Vote 5-0.**

**CITIZEN'S AGENDA/NON-AGENDA:**

1. *Alex Cortezzo, Fire Chief-* Fire Chief Cortezzo announced that the Plainfield Township Fire Company had a busy month in July. The Company, among other things, provided traffic control for the Farmer's Fair event and assisted the Slate Belt Regional Police Department with a DUI checkpoint.

Following up with a memorandum that he had distributed to the Board of Supervisors, Chief Cortezzo also requested that the Township set up a meeting to discuss the future funding of the Plainfield Township Fire Company. Chief Cortezzo expressed the sentiment that he is concerned with the future of firefighting- especially given the proliferation of larger industrial facilities that are being constructed and approved for development in the Township in recent years. His primary concern is ensuring the safety of the volunteers that are fighting the fires and protecting life and property. Tom Petrucci, Stephen Hurni and Jane Mellert will meet with Chief Cortezzo to discuss a long term fiscal plan. Chief Cortezzo stated that the annual donation made to the Fire Company by the Township each year is extremely beneficial in keeping operations running.

Jane Mellert inquired as to whether there is any new technology that can fight fires- including drone technology- that can distribute water to sites quicker. Chief Cortezzo stated that getting water to sites is largely dependent on the availability of tanker trucks and the reliance on mutual aid from other departments.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REPORTS:**

1. *Glenn Borger, Vice Chairman-* No report.

2. **Joyce Lambert-** No report.
3. **Jane Mellert-** Resident Chuck Piazza had brought up to her that there is an accessibility issue at the green upper building at the Farmer's Grove facility. This is a tripping hazard due to the fact that the plywood ramp being used to provide access to the concrete pad of the building does not provide for a good transition. Tom Petrucci concurred that this needs to be repaired, and he will communicate with the Road Department to ascertain if this is something they could fix utilizing their resources.
4. **Stephen Hurni-** Mr. Hurni reported that the Slate Belt Council of Governments (COG) did not hold a meeting in July. Mr. Hurni commended the Slate Belt Regional Police Department with the level of professionalism and competency they demonstrated when overseeing a recent DUI checkpoint.
5. **Randy Heard, Chairman-** Chairman Heard inquired as to the status of the secure bay garage at the Plainfield Township Municipal Building. The project will need to be moved to 2022 due to the lack of proposals received; however, it is noted that the price will continue to increase the longer this issue drags on. Tom Petrucci will obtain price quotations for a pole building garage that is aesthetically pleasing. Resident Nolan Kemmerer inquired as to why the Township could not utilize Pen Argyl's garage facility in the interim time period. The Borough had previously proposed to rent out their garage in the amount of \$1,500.00 per month. Jane Mellert stated that it would make more sense to purchase a facility in lieu of paying \$18,000.00 per year for the rental of a garage facility. Nolan Kemmerer inquired how much the Township would charge the Department for the use of the secure bay garage, and Tom Petrucci responded that there is no definitive answer to provide at this time due to the fact that the entire Lease Agreement for the police station is currently being negotiated.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT- DAVID BACKENSTOE, ESQUIRE:**

Solicitor Backenstoe stated that he has observed that Zoning Officer Sharon Pletchan, Building Code Official Paige Stefanelli, and Township Manager Petrucci have spent a tremendous amount of time enforcing the ordinances of the Township. He commended these Township officials on their ongoing diligent and thorough code enforcement efforts that have been conducted in their respective roles/positions.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Having no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, motion was made by Glenn Borger and seconded by Joyce Lambert to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Petrucci  
Township Manager/Secretary  
Plainfield Township  
Board of Supervisors