

**PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
August 14, 2024**

The regular monthly meeting of the Plainfield Township Board of Supervisors was held on Wednesday, August 14, 2024 at the Plainfield Township Municipal Building, located at 6292 Sullivan Trail, Nazareth, PA 18064.

Chairman, Ken Field, called the meeting to order at 6:00 P. M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

ROLL CALL:

The following Supervisors answered roll call: Chairman, Ken Field, Vice Chairman, Glenn Borger, Supervisor, Nolan Kemmerer, and Supervisor Kenneth Fairchild.

Also present were Township Manager, Paige Stefanelli, Township Solicitor, David Backenstoe, Township Representative for Keystone Consulting Engineers, Dave Crowther, and Administrative Assistant, Amy Kahler.

I. SECRETARY - AMY KAHLER:

1. Executive Session Announcement- Wednesday, August 14, 2024 from 5:00 PM- 5:50PM regarding Personnel Matters
2. Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes- March 13, 2024-DRAFT

ACTION: Motion was made by Nolan Kemmerer and seconded by Kenneth Fairchild to approve the March 13, 2024, Board of Supervisors minutes. Prior to the vote, Chairman, Ken Field, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public. Motion approved. Vote 4-0.

3. Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes- July 10, 2024-DRAFT
ACTION: Motion was made by Kenneth Fairchild and seconded by Ken Field to approve July 10, 2024, Board of Supervisors minutes. Prior to the vote, Chairman, Ken Field, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public. Motion approved. Vote 4-0.

4. Grand Central Sanitary Landfill (Waste Management) Monthly Update:

Township Manager, Paige Stefanelli, reviewed information due to Adrienne Forse, not being able to appear. She indicated they are averaging 2,800 tons a day. Ms. Stefanelli, indicated that the liner should begin to be installed at the end of this month beginning of September, weather permitting. Chili cook off is also scheduled for September 28, 2024.

5. Suburban EMS- Presentation by Representatives from Suburban-

Mr. Jeff Young Executive Director is retiring 9/18/24. Also in attendance was Director of Finance, Bryan Dunlap. Mr Jeff Young, indicated that we do have a great board. Ms. Barb Riley, whom currently works in Human Resources, will be taking over as Director. Mr. Bryan Dunlap, reported an update, to date, and currently has 438 responses within Plainfield Township. We have sent 58 calls to other agencies, of those, 8% was in Northampton County. The average response time is approximately 14minutes. Regional EMS Agency is their own backup. We are currently looking at different ways that we would be able to shorten the response times. Supervisor, Nolan Kemmerer, questioned why there was no longer a truck Plainfield Fire House, 24 hours a day. Mr. Jeff Young indicated that they were asked to leave. Mr. Young, said that they could have another vehicle available, but would not always be here 24/7. Mr. Young, said if they have a truck available and they receive an assignment from 911, they would not be able to replace that truck until it completes the assignment. Chairman, Ken Field, indicated that we might ask ve a truck parked within Plainfield Township. A Resident, asked Mr. Young and Mr. Dunlap, if it was an issue with staffing during COVID? Mr. Young indicated that yes it was correct, but that went for all medical fields. Mr. Young, said that we have started our own training center and when we put someone through training, they need to sign a contract to work for us for 24 months. Mr. Jeff Young, advised that we are now going back to having “chase trucks” that have a medic in them. Resident, Brianne Kemmerer, if an ambulance is unable to attend to a call, who makes the call to dispatch another ambulance? Also, what is your policy on response time. Mr. Bryan Dunlap, said that the County 911 Center makes the call, to another ambulance that would be close. Mr. Young, advised that operations will send an email with how the procedure works and also when there are any updates, along with any actual situations. Mr. Dunlap advised that we do have a station in Palmer, Bangor, Easton. Mr. Dunalp asked to provide them with any situations/instances that the response time was more than 14 minutes and they will look into the situations, and we can have a meeting in regards to any issues and/or concerns. Ms. Paige Stefanelli, said she will be in contact, once she gathers the information.

II. TREASURER - AMY RIGER:

1. Approval of the June 2024 General Fund Disbursements (\$298,209.27)

ACTION: Motion was made by Glenn Borger and seconded by Kenneth Fairchild to approve 2024 June General Fund Disbursements in the amount of \$298.209.27. Prior to the vote, Chairman, Ken Field, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public. Motion approved. Vote 4-0.

2. Approval of the June 2024 Treasurer's Report –

ACTION: Motion was made by Kenneth Fairchild and seconded by Nolan Kemmerer to approve 2024 June Treasurer’s Report. Prior to the vote,

Chairman, Ken Field, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public. Motion approved. Vote 4-0.

III. TOWNSHIP ENGINEER REPRESENTATIVE - DAVE CROWTHER:

1. Culvert Replacement Update

1. Heitzman Road-

Mr. Crowther, advised that the residents residing on Heitzman Road gave verbal approval. David Crowther, indicated that he has been in contact with DEP, they have indicated that we need to complete a Mercy Permit. Keystone Consulting Engineering, has reviewed the Ott Consulting Review letters, and will be adding guard rails.

2. Lefevre Road-

Mr. Crowther, indicated that verbal approval from residents is still needed. David Crowther, advised that the Keystone Consulting Engineer that specializes in culverts will review this site plan, and make necessary amendments to be able to re-route the water and where it goes etc.

Mr. David Crowther, indicated that once both roads have been approved for necessary repairs, they will go out to bid together.

2. Clarification of PennBid Awards- 2024 Township Road Projects

1. 2024 Bituminous Seal Coat & Fog Seal Project

2. 2024 FB-3 Wearing and Fog Seal Project

Mr. David Crowther indicated that for clarification AMS was the only bidding agency. Ms. Paige Stefanelli, Township Manager, indicated that we are looking for approval for AMS to complete both 2024 Bituminous Seal Coat & Fog Seal Project and 2024 FB-3 Wearing and Fog Seal Project.

ACTION: Motion was made by Nolan Kemmerer and seconded by Glenn Borger to approve 2024 Bituminous Seal Coat & Fog Seal Project and 2024 FB-3 Wearing and Fog Seal Project. Prior to the vote, Chairman, Ken Field, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public. Motion approved. Vote 4-0.

IV. TOWNSHIP MANAGER - PAIGE STEFANELLI:

1. Ordinance #138- Yard Sale Permits- Discussion-

Township Manager, Paige Stefanelli, indicated that this is an old ordinance. We are requesting that we repeal the ordinance. Ms. Stefanelli, advised that there were strict rules prior to COVID, once COVID happened, no one was coming into the office or required to pay. The Township Manager, indicated that the Township is not gaining anything from them, we were not requiring fees to be paid. Supervisor Glenn Borger, asked What happens if someone has 1 every weekend? Township Manager, Paige Stefanelli, advised that there is a

Zoning Ordinance that issue would fall under, and the referral would be processed by the Zoning Officer.

ACTION: Motion was made by Kenneth Fairchild and seconded by Ken Field to approve appealing the Ordinance #138, Yard Sale Permits. *Prior to the vote, Chairman, Ken Field, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.* Motion approved. Vote 4-0.

2. Approval of Plainfield Township Animal Control Officer-

Paige Stefanelli, Township Manager, indicated that this is to approve Slate Belt Animal Advocacy Group to be our Animal Control Officer. There is no increase, it is \$3,131.50 per quarter, which come to \$12,526.00 per year.

Resident, Jeff Stout, asked about how many calls a month do we receive?

Chief Hoadley advised that we receive approximately 4-5 calls a month.

Resident, Jane Mellert, asked if that amount is for Plainfield Township?

Chief Hoadley indicated that is for this Region. Chief Hoadley advised that the contract covers 24 hours, no matter what time it is, she will usually come out and handle whichever situation. She tries all avenues and covers all animals not just dogs and cats and lives local. She is also belongs to the State Dog Warden Association.

Resident, Jane Mellert, indicated that in the past that we would make the person that owns the animal, be responsible for the food etc. that needed to be given for the animal during the time that we had them. We could consider requesting payment.

ACTION: Motion was made by Ken Field and seconded by Glenn Berger to approve Slate Belt Advocacy Group as Plainfield Township Animal Control Officer. *Prior to the vote, Chairman, Ken Field, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.* Motion approved. Vote 4-0.

3. Planning Module for Material Recycling Facility at 910 W.

Pennsylvania Avenue (Grand Central Sanitary Landfill)- Withdrawal Request- Resolution 2024-12

Paige Stefanelli, Township Manager, indicated that Grand Central Sanitary Landfill, submitted a withdrawal request. Ms. Stefanelli, indicated that the Module was submitted to DEP and that they disagreed with the size of the holding tank on site. The Township Manager, indicated that the review from OTT Consulting Engineering indicated that they would need a tank to hold 1,600 gallons a day. Ms. Stefanelli indicated that a meeting with all parties to discuss how to reduce the amount of wastewater down to 800 galloons a day

was had. Mr. Dave Allen indicated during that meeting they would reduce the employees, they cut back hours, and a bathroom. Ms. Stefanelli, indicated that they are currently under a new general agreement, and they have submitted the new plan, and they will be submitted the new plan to DEP.

Township Resident asked how long until they make these changes? Township Manager, advised that the holding tank is temporary, they need to stay within the 800 galloons a day to connect to the public sewer.

ACTION: Motion was made by Nolan Kemmerer and seconded by Kenneth Fairchild to accept the withdraw of the Planning Module for Material Recycling Facility. *Prior to the vote, Chairman, Ken Field, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public. Motion approved. Vote 4-0.*

4. Plainfield Township Recreation Trail Knitters Hill Road Trailhead Reconfiguration-Discussion

Township Manager, Paige Stefanelli, indicated that we were unaware of a grant for the Trail. Mr. Rob Knight from DCNR, advised that the grant expires in December 2024. Ms. Stefanelli, advised that with the grant we will be looking at the following items: current parking lot which is all stone, benches, seating areas, maps/signs, we were also thinking of paving the parking lot, adding ADA spaces, and updating other areas. Ms. Stefanelli, advised that Phase 1 we will be bidding out to Keystone Consulting Engineering. Township Manager, Paige Stefanelli, indicated that we are looking to see if we can expand the parking lot/Rehab. Township Manager and Keystone Consulting Engineering will be meeting to discuss plans and time frame.

ACTION: Motion was made by Kenneth Fairchild and seconded by Glenn Borger to approve Keystone Consulting to proceed with Phase 1 of the Recreational Trail Knitters Hill Road Trailhead Grant project . *Prior to the vote, Chairman, Ken Field, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public. Motion approved. Vote 4-0.*

Resident Jane Mellert indicated that back in 2012, Kevin Horvath from Keystone Consulting Engineering Inc was working on a plan and the plans etc. should be able to be located in the office.

5. PC-2022-009- Posh Properties Coffee Shop with Drive-Thru- Recreation Fee Assignment for Land Development Plan- \$5,669.09

Township Manager, Paige Stefanelli, indicated that Posh Properties, Coffee Shop, has started construction and they have obtained all necessary permits.

There was a Recreational Fee that was to be added during the permitting process, and it was not. Ms. Paige Stefanelli, indicated that we had reviewed information with Mr. Posh, and he was in agreeance with submitting payment ASAP. This calculation is a formula based on square footage etc. This amount was figured out and is \$5,669.09. Mr. Posh remitted payment.

ACTION: Motion was made by Glenn Borger and seconded by Kenneth Fairchild to approve \$5,669.09 as the Recreation Fee assigned for the Land Development. *Prior to the vote, Chairman, Ken Field, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.* Motion approved. Vote 5-0.

6. Gall Road Tractor Trailer Banning Discussion

Township Manager, Paige Stefanelli, has indicated that she has received numerous called in regard to the about of tractor trailers that are using that road for access. Ms. Stefanelli, indicated that the residents complaining do reside on Gall Road, the residents are indicating that there is road damage, however, I did not see any, but I am not a Traffic Engineer. Township Manager, Paige Stefanelli, did speak with Keystone Consulting, and Keith Lau indicated that we could do a Traffic Study, and this is what would need to be done at a minimum to move forward with banning tractor trailers from that road. Ms. Stefanelli, indicated with that a traffic study is not cheap. I wanted to bring it to your attention since there are complaints, you are legally able to order a traffic study, we are not seeing that they are speeding.

Chairman, Ken Field, asked Dave Crowther, Keystone Consulting Engineering, if a weight limit could be placed on a road, due to the amount of tractor trailers being on a residential road if there is subsequently a large amount of damage? Mr. Dave Crowther, indicated that he can review the information/area with Keith, whom specializes in Traffic Engineering.

Chief Hoadley, indicated that this was the first that he is hearing anything about issues/trouble of traffic trailer on Gall Road. Chief Hoadley advised that he will have an Officer go sit and report back the status.

Chairman, Ken Field, indicated that he would greatly appreciate it and any information would be helpful. Mr. Field also indicated maybe it was a wrong turn situation but we still will look into it.

7. Stephenson Equipment, Inc. Rental Contract- Leeboy Belt Loader

Ms. Paige Stefanelli, indicated that we are just giving you an update. We are in the process of receiving it, but a hose blew. We will be getting a brand new one and are first on the list. We are not sure if the price will increase, if it does increase, we will bring it back before the board for a vote.

8. License Plate Reader (LPR) System for Slate Belt Regional Police Department- Grant and Installation Update-

Ms. Paige Stefanelli, has spoken with contractor and are almost ready to install and in hand will finish and close out the grant. Ms. Stefanelli advised that we did submit a request to extend till April 2025, but will not need it, just wanted to be on the safe side. Ms. Stefanelli, said we should have the project completed by December, the install will be at Moorestown Road and Sullivan Trail. Ms. Stefanelli said there will be 4 cameras going in the different directions. Chairman, Ken Field, Can you please provide why these cameras are necessary etc.

Chief Hoadley advised that the cameras will be there and take snap shots of licenses and will be able to alert the Polic Department in real time, if there is a license that is triggered for stolen, etc. This information is only alerted to the Police Department and not utilized for anything or any other Department.

V. ROAD REPORT, PLANNING and ZONING REPORT, RECREATION BOARD AND FIRE COMPANY and AMBULANCE REPORTS:

1. Planning and Zoning Report- TABLED
2. Road Department Report- June 2024-
3. Recreation Board Report- May 2024 (changes); June 2024
4. Fire Company and Ambulance Report- June 2024

ACTION: Motion was made by Glenn Borger and seconded by Ken Field to approve the 2024 Road Department Report, May 2024 (changes) and June 2024 Recreation Board Report, and June 2024 Fire Company and Ambulance Report. Prior to the vote, Chairman, Ken Field, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public. Motion approved. Vote 4-0.

VI. SLATE BELT REGIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

1. Slate Belt Regional Police Department Monthly Report- August 2024
 - a. No meeting was held for SBRPC for July 2024
2. Feasibility Project- TABLED

ACTION: Motion was made by Kenneth Fairchild and seconded by Nolan Kemmerer to approve August 2024 Slate Belt Regional Police Department Monthly Report. Prior to the vote, Chairman, Ken Field, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public. Motion approved. Vote 4-0.

VII. CITIZEN'S AGENDMNON-AGENDA-

(Only persons who have signed the Sign in Sheet by 6:15 PM will be allowed to speak There is a 5-minute time limit for speakers):

- **Tim Egan**

Tim Egan, the Athletic Director of the Boys and Girls Booster Club questioned the status of the installation of the score board for the field behind the Municipal Building. Mr. Egan, indicated that this was approved by the Recreation Board and that the electric was also going to be donated. Mr. Egan indicated that they indicated that the swale might be an issue, but they did not hear anything further nor has the score board gone in. Mr. Egan would like to know what the next step would be?

Supervisor, Glenn Borger, indicated that he will contact Tony, on the Recreation Board and Township Manager, Paige Stefanelli, indicated that she will contact Wind Gap Electric and have the situation moved forward.

- **Jane Mellert**

Ms. Jane Mellert, inquired about the status of the 2- Bay Garage Grant? Township Manager, Paige Stefanelli, advised that we had to start over with the whole entire process, due to no one bid on the project.

Ms. Mellert also asked with now being out of the Comp Plan, can we consider asking Pen Argyl Borough and Wind Gap Borough?

Chairman, Ken Field, advised that is the plan, if those letters have not been completed already, they will be by the Township Manager.

VIII. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REPORTS:

1. **Ken Field**

- Nothing to report.

2. **Glenn Borger**

- Nothing to report.

3. **Nolan Kemmerer**

- Supervisor, Nolan Kemmerer, requested that when we send a letter to Pen Argyl Borough and Wind Gap Borough, that we include Borough Managers along with all members of the Board.

ACTION: Motion was made by Nolan Kemmerer and seconded by Ken Field to approve sending a letter to all members of the Board, the Borough Manager asking if they would be interested in joining Plainfield Township Comp Plan. Prior to the vote, Chairman, Ken Field, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public. Motion approved. Vote 4-0.

4. Jonathan Itterly

- Nothing to report.

5. Kenneth Fairchild

- Nothing to report.

IX. SOLICITOR'S REPORT - (DAVID BACKENSTOE, ESQ.)-

1. Discussion of DRAFT- Biosolids Ordinance-

Mr. Backenstoe reviewed the basics of the Biosolid Ordinance and indicated that you need to understand the law. In the Environmental Rights section, it indicates that we are beneficiaries to the property. Solitor, David Backenstoe, indicated that with the law and Ordinance in place it will not prohibit the spread of Biosolids, but it will limit and regulate the spread of Biosolids. In the law it indicates that we as beneficiaries, need to protect our air, land, and water.

The personnel that have worked on gathering and researching on this topic and assisted in the construction of the Ordinance, is Earth Justice, non-profit and Steven Lasee, they are very knowledgeable of the issues and concerns that are associated with the spreading of Biosolids. Mr. Backenstoe, indicated that with the construction of this Ordinance, all of the testing and research has been done for Plainfield Township. This Ordinance can not be used for Wind Gap, Bushkill, or any other Municipality. Mr. Backenstoe advised that they need to do the testing, research and implementation their own Ordinance based on the information they have founded for their particular areas.

When a party wants to initiate the spreading of biosolids on a property, there are numerous tests that they need to pass and regulations that they will need to follow. We as beneficiaries, need to understand when the chemicals of the Biosolids touch the earth and are placed on the land, they will never go away. Mr. Backenstoe, indicated to reference the lawsuits that are currently taking place in Maine and in Texas, Maine has banned the spread of Biosolids all together.

Mr. Backenstoe, Township Solicitor reviewed some of the post important sections, such as, Section 18.304, closing the gaps. This is very important as there are different areas, levels that need to be monitored.

Section 18.306, in this section it is very particular in that Biosolids can not be spread within 1,000 feet of wetlands/wells. It is also listed within the Ordinance particular levels, during testing, prior to the spread of Biosolids, that need to be bet, to be able to spread it on the land.

Solicitor, David Backenstoe, indicated that implementing this Ordinance does not prohibit the spread of Biosolids on our land, and can only be spread if all regulations and procedures have been filed/tested/reviewed by necessary personnel.

Mr. Backenstoe, also listed and spoke about the particular situations if someone does spread Biosolids, without final approval from all parties, there could be legal action and any remediation that will need to happen, this will be at the cost of the person that has applied/ or not applied to spread Biosolids.

Mr. Backenstoe, indicated that our next step, if you all are in agreement, we will vote, and then move onto the Planning Commission, for their approval and vote.

Chairman, Kenneth Field, questioned if I am correct, the testing, etc. is placed on the applicant? PFAS is serious and will probably be impossible to remove if placed on our land.

Mr. Backenstoe, advised that is correct and it is noted within the Ordinance, that the applicant will be responsible for all payment to have all testing completed. If the applicant is permitted to spread the Biosolid then they need to make sure that they have all the correct permits and approvals.

Resident Mr. Allen Gumney, asked how does this now work with the situations arising with Nazareth Borough Municipal?

Mr. Backenstoe, advised that the Township has not received any applications for permits. Remember, this Ordinance is not put into place to ban the spread of Biosolids, this is to make sure if there were an applicant that would like to spread biosolids, that it is done in a safe and suitable area. Based on the geography of the property, could mean that it does not fit the criteria of the Ordinance, and that the property would not be appropriate.

Resident Allen Gumney, thanked the Board and Congratulated on moving forward and completing the Ordinance. Mr.

Gumney, also asked who will be completing the testing?

Mr. Backenstoe, indicated that it will be a actual testing facility, with reports that will be submitted from the test results.

Resident Debra Mouisset, indicated that she is very much appreciative of the steps that we have taken to complete the Ordinance. She proceeded to say this is a forever thing and will not go away even for our children, but also lets remember those same great experts could be the issues in the future and we need to protect everything going forward.

Mr. Backenstoe indicated that we can not complete an Ordinance refusing the spread of Biosolids as that will be refused immediately. With placing testing, geographical information within the Ordinance that they must follow, if they choose not to follow, proceed with the permits etc., then there will be legal action, or how the necessary personnel feel fit.

Resident Jane Mellert, indicated that this is a different approached but appreciates all of the hard work that has gone into this and that it has been completed. Ms. Mellert, feels that there will be other Municipalities that will follow suit.

Mr. Backenstoe, said that he appreciates everyone's words and we will have this moved forward.

ACTION: Motion was made by Glenn Borger and seconded by Nolan Kemmerer to approve moving the BioSolid Ordinance to the Planning Commission. *Prior to the vote, Chairman, Ken Field, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.* Motion approved. Vote 4-0.

ACTION: Motion was made by Kenneth Field and seconded by Glenn Borger to approve advertising of the Biosolid Ordinance. *Prior to the vote, Chairman, Ken Field, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.* Motion approved. Vote 4-0.

X. ADJOURNMENT-

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM.