

**PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORKSHOP MEETING
AUGUST 23, 2018**

The regular monthly workshop meeting of the Plainfield Township Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, August 23rd, 2018 at the Plainfield Township Municipal Building, 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, Jane Mellert, and Joyce Lambert. Chairman, Randy Heard, and Stephen Hurni were excused from the workshop meeting.

Also present was Township Manager, Thomas Petrucci and Administrative Assistant, Paige Gerstenberg.

I. SECRETARY–THOMAS PETRUCCI:

1. Pennsylvania Municipal League Representative Presentation:

Mr. John Brenner and Mr. Harry Krot from the Pennsylvania Municipal League were in attendance at the meeting. They both spoke about the training opportunities that the league has to offer and how it works. The Pennsylvania Municipal League is comprised of townships, boroughs and cities. It is a non-profit organization as well. Mr. Brenner stated that the training is state contracted and that the state provides the funds for the training. Mr. Krot also noted that there are many additional programs that they offer including internships. The Sustainable Pennsylvania program seems to be a very popular program currently. All of the training can be done electronically. The website is pml.org that the Pennsylvania Municipal League uses. Mr. Brenner stated that members have the opportunity to be very collaborative and work together online with other individuals.

It was stated that when a municipality applies for a state grant, having this membership along with training will move your application up for a better chance of receiving the grant. The internships that are currently being provided are paid internships provided by the state. There is also a monthly newsletter that is given out which has a lot of updates on current legislation.

In total, this league has been around since 1900. Their largest city is Philadelphia and their smallest is the Township of Parker which has approximately only 700 people. Vice Chairman, Glenn Borger, questioned whether all training is done online. Mr. Brenner

stated that most of the training is done online. Mr. Krot added that there are places that you can travel to in order to attend classes as well. At the training sessions that are traveled to, there are many individuals that now attend to that training at approximately 500 people. There are 6 districts within the Pennsylvania Municipal League. Conferences include food and opportunities for networking. Additionally, this league offers some of the same things as PSATS. The Pennsylvania Municipal League also has a municipality utility alliance program which provides for cheaper electric and gas.

Mr. Brenner stated that in the long run, it is well worth the cost and members have excellent networking capabilities considering that not everyone always has the answer to every issue. This year, their annual conference will be held in Cranberry Township. Next year's conference will be in Gettysburg. There are many opportunities to get involved. Mr. Brenner stated that the best advice he can give the Board is to get involved and put yourself out there for the best opportunities.

Township Manager, Tom Petrucci, asked about school resource officer grant opportunities. Mr. Brenner stated that there are grant opportunities which are mainly federal grants that are available. There are limited state grants currently available that Mr. Brenner is aware of.

Supervisor, Jane Mellert, questioned whether they do advocacy through the state especially with biosolids. Ms. Mellert stated that she believes Townships should have more say in the regulation of biosolids. She added that there should be legislation that would allow Townships to have more say on these matters. She questioned Mr. Brenner and Mr. Krot if they were aware of this ongoing issue. Mr. Brenner stated that he is not too familiar, but one of his colleagues would be able to gather more information for Ms. Mellert. He added that he is aware of major preemption issues. Mr. Brenner will investigate this topic further and will provide Ms. Mellert with additional information.

Township Manager, Tom Petrucci, added that with respect to wireless issue, PSATS and the Pennsylvania Municipal League are not fully on the same page with this matter. Mr. Brenner stated that there has been many things going on with this matter and that there is a large sum of money and lobbyists involved. Mr. Brenner added that this will most likely pass, but he noted that the Pennsylvania Municipal League will do everything in its power to protect local economy and fight for the community. Mr. Brenner and Mr. Krot concluded their presentation by stating that there is a labor law update which is given once a month as well and that the Pennsylvania Municipal League is here to help and serve communities.

2. Executive Session Request by Township Manager (Personnel Discussion):

The Board of Supervisors resolved to go into Executive Session starting at 7:52 A.M. in order to discuss matters relative to personnel. The Board went back into regular session at 8:00 P.M.

Following the Executive Session, Township Manager, Tom Petrucci, reported that he would begin negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding between the Teamsters Union/Road Department and Plainfield Township in order to create a Temporary Road Department Foreman position. Once the draft MOU is completed, he will bring that back before the Board members in order for the governing body to approve the MOU. Therefore, no action is required from the Board of Supervisors at this time.

Vice Chairman, Glenn Borger, asked if there were any general matters that the Board could discuss that were not originally placed on the agenda. Mr. Petrucci reported that the Batts Switch Road Culvert Replacement CDBG grant project is underway. The project is currently experiencing a minor delay due to the fact that a large tree needs to be removed within the Township's easement area. The tree should be removed by August 24, 2018, but the associated costs of removing the tree were not factored into the original scope of work. A second Change Order for the project will be required, and there will be additional costs added to the project, unfortunately. Township Manager, Tom Petrucci, explained that once the area was excavated where the culvert wing walls were going to go, the depth of the excavation caused the root ball of the tree to be significantly impacted. If the tree were not removed, it would present a safety issue for the remainder of the project and in the future.

Supervisor, Jane Mellert, questioned whether the double yellow lines were applied correctly on Books Hill Road. She observed that the double yellow lines did not seem to follow the yellow plastic markings that were originally placed on the road following the road paving. Mr. Petrucci explained that the plastic markings affixed to the road were only temporarily placed down to provide motorists with guidance as to the center line in the interim period between when the road was paved and the double yellow lines were applied. They were not meant to be applied as a permanent guide for the double yellow lines.

A discussion was held concerning the Slate Belt COG Animal Control Program. It was reported that the individual that the COG had appointed to the currently vacant Animal Control Officer position had already resigned before even formally taking on the duties of the position. It was noted that external social media influences played a factor in his decision to resign from the position. The Board members expressed concern with how stray dogs will be handled in the future. Township Manager, Tom Petrucci, noted that until such time a new Animal Control Officer is appointed, both Township and Slate Belt Regional Police Department personnel would need to work in tandem to take care of dogs that are placed in the Township kennels. A major concern identified by the Board members is how dogs whose owners are not located will be handled. Shelters typically charge up to \$150.00 in order to take a stray dog. Mr. Petrucci recommended that the Board institute a fee to house dogs that are placed in the kennels and subsequently picked up by their owners. The fee would help cover the costs of animals that need to be placed

into shelters. Consideration of the kennel fee resolution/policy will be placed on the September 12, 2018 regular Board of Supervisors meeting agenda.

CITIZEN'S AGENDA/NON-AGENDA:

1. **Bonita Linton-** Ms. Linton stated that she was the new Recovery Coordinator. She stated that she works at the NHS off of Sullivan Trail. It was suggested by her colleagues to attend the Board of Supervisors meetings going forward in order to gain more knowledge of what is going on within the Township and to address any concerns that residents may have. She noted that she will return next month at the Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Having no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, motion was made by Joyce Lambert and seconded by Jane Mellert to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved. Vote 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Petrucci, Township Manager/Secretary
Plainfield Township
Board of Supervisors

These minutes were prepared with the assistance of the Administrative Assistant of the Township, Paige Gerstenberg, under the direction of the Township Manager/Secretary.