

MINUTES OF THE OLEY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 13, 2023

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Oley Township Municipal Building by Jeffrey Spatz with Supervisors Mark Hoch and Edwin Pollock in attendance. Solicitor Kenneth Picardi was also in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was observed.

The meeting agenda was posted in the meeting room and the township website twenty-four hours prior to the start of the meeting. No public comment was heard on any of the listed agenda items.

There being no changes to the October 9, 2023 regular minutes, a motion was made by Jeffrey Spatz and seconded by Mark Hoch to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2023 meeting as presented. Jeffrey Spatz – yes; Mark Hoch – yes; Edwin Pollock – yes. All in favor...motion carried. There being no changes to the October 13, 2023 special minutes, a motion was made by Edwin Pollock and seconded by Jeffrey Spatz to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2023 special meeting as presented. Jeffrey Spatz – yes; Mark Hoch – abstained; Edwin Pollock – yes. Two in favor, one abstained...motion carried.

The police department report for the month of October 2023 was read indicating 193 calls for the month. Drew Geary asked if the motorcyclist that was speeding on Covered Bridge Road was arrested. Chief Ray Serafin said the operator of the motorcycle was eventually stopped in Exeter Township and arrested.

The road department report for the month of October 2023 was read. LTL Consultants is in the process of obtaining a permit to work in the stream at the Reider Road bridge and the Mill Road bank stabilization, this may take some time before this permit is received. If we decide to repair the Reider Road bridge we could put this and the Mill Road bank stabilization into one bid package as one project, our engineers estimate to complete both projects would be \$109,000. A motion was made by Edwin Pollock and seconded by Mark Hoch to repair the Reider Road bridge. Jeffrey Spatz – yes; Mark Hoch – yes; Edwin Pollock – yes. All in favor...motion carried. Duane Howard said for winter maintenance he will need access on private property where the Reider Road bridge is closed to turn trucks around since this is a dead end. A motion was made by Jeffrey Spatz and seconded by Edwin Pollock to authorize our Solicitor to prepare a temporary seasonal access easement on Reider Road to perform winter maintenance. Jeffrey Spatz – yes; Mark Hoch – yes; Edwin Pollock – yes. All in favor...motion carried. Received quote from Clark Industrial Supply in amount of \$3,404 for service to the Case Loader. Mr. Howard feels this quote is high, he will contact Powerco for a quote, this will be tabled until next month. Received request from Joe Galazin to have a radar speed sign installed between 556 and 564 Bertolet Mill Road for vehicles speeding between Hoch Road and Bortz Road. It was noted that Bertolet Mill Road is a State road. Mr. Spatz said he is reluctant to pull one of our signs from a township road to put on a State road. Chief Serafin said he can put one of Central Berks signs on this roadway. Mr. Spatz said he was told by our former Police Chief that arrests could not be made on the section of Main Street between Route 73 and Lynx Drive due to the distance from Route 73, school mornings the speeding on this section is very bad. Chief Serafin said he

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will check if this information is valid. Received quote from Lee Tree Care in amount of \$4,650 daily to remove dead ash trees along Water Street. Mr. Howard said all these trees are in the road right-of-way and they would be able to remove between twenty to twenty-five trees daily. A motion was made by Jeffrey Spatz and seconded by Mark Hoch to authorize Lee Tree Care to remove dead ash trees along Water Street at a cost not to exceed \$9,300 and transfer \$2,500 from the street sweeping portion of the budget to tree removal. Jeffrey Spatz – yes; Mark Hoch – yes; Edwin Pollock – yes. All in favor....motion carried.

The Fire Chief's report for the month of September 2023 was read indicating a total of 25 calls. There was no report for the month of October 2023.

There was no Ambulance Chief's report for the month of October 2023.

Every five years the Berks County Hazard Mitigation Plan gets updated and must be accepted by each individual municipality. A motion was made by Mark Hoch and seconded by Edwin Pollock to adopt Resolution #639-23 to adopt the Hazard Vulnerability Assessment and Mitigation Plan Update for Oley Township. Jeffrey Spatz – yes; Mark Hoch – yes; Edwin Pollock – yes. All in favor....motion carried.

The Allen & Susan Standhardt property located at 15 Rose Virginia Road is in violation of unsafe structures and equipment, sanitation, and weeds, working to clean up property. The Kevin S. Mitchell property located at 3339A Friedensburg Road is in violation of unsafe structures and equipment, temporary safeguards, sanitation, accumulation and disposal of rubbish or garbage, electrical facilities, and electrical equipment, citations issued and DEP given all information regarding outdoor storage of chemicals. The BSRE Holdings, LLC property located at 41 Moravian School Road is in violation of sanitation, motor vehicles, accumulation of rubbish or garbage and disposal of rubbish, property posted.

Received letter dated November 1, 2023 from HARB recommending that the Board of Supervisors of Oley Township issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to Kimberly Bechtle for property located at 311 Main Street for replacement of four side exposure windows only with Viwinco two over two windows. This application was reviewed and discussed. A motion was made by Jeffrey Spatz and seconded by Edwin Pollock to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness to Kimberly Bechtle for property located at 311 Main Street for replacement of four side windows only with Viwinco two over two windows. Jeffrey Spatz – yes; Mark Hoch – yes; Edwin Pollock – yes. All in favor....motion carried.

Received request to re-approve the Rota-Mill Land Development Revised Final Plan since the township approved this plan on May 8, 2023 and it is now ninety days past that approval date and the county will not record the plan. A motion was made by Mark Hoch and seconded by Edwin Pollock to re-approve the Rota-Mill Land Development Revised Final Plan, plan number 210032, dated April 11, 2023. Jeffrey Spatz – no; Mark Hoch – yes; Edwin Pollock – yes. Two in favor, one opposed....motion carried.

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Louis Carambot of 5813 Oley Turnpike Road is requesting to install a 2,000 gallon holding tank since there is no room for an on-lot septic system and this existing church is a commercial use. A motion was made by Mark Hoch and seconded by Edwin Pollock to authorize our Solicitor to prepare the Holding Tank Agreement for the Louis Carambot property located at 5813 Oley Turnpike Road. Jeffrey Spatz – yes; Mark Hoch – yes; Edwin Pollock – yes. All in favor....motion carried.

Kim Mazur of Entech Engineering was in attendance representing Oley Township Municipal Authority relative to an electric pole relocation for the new water storage tank project on Old State Road. Mr. Mazur said the electric pole is presently located on the property of Matthew & Laurel Walker at 601 Old State Road and Met-Ed will be relocating the pole into the road right-of-way of Old State Road and Met-Ed will obtain the necessary Street Occupancy Permit.

Received the Land Development Agreement and Financial Security Agreement for the Oley Township Municipal Authority New Water Storage Tank Land Development, but we have not yet received the Letter of Credit in the amount of \$366,676.93. A motion was made by Jeffrey Spatz and seconded by Mark Hoch to authorize the Chairman and Secretary to execute the Land Development Agreement and Financial Security Agreement for the Oley Township Municipal Authority New Water Storage Tank Land Development, subject to receiving the appropriate Letter of Credit. Jeffrey Spatz – yes; Mark Hoch – yes; Edwin Pollock – yes. All in favor....motion carried.

A motion was made by Jeffrey Spatz and seconded by Edwin Pollock to appoint Kevin D. Bieber as a member of the Oley Township Municipal Authority to complete the unexpired term of Carmen S. Italia, Jr. ending on December 31, 2026 conditioned upon his resignation from his elected auditor position for Oley Township. Jeffrey Spatz – yes; Mark Hoch – yes; Edwin Pollock – yes. All in favor....motion carried.

The tax collector submitted individuals to be exonerated for the 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 per capita taxes. A motion was made by Jeffrey Spatz and seconded by Mark Hoch to exonerate the tax collector from collecting the 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 per capita taxes for the individuals as listed. Jeffrey Spatz – yes; Mark Hoch – yes; Edwin Pollock – yes. All in favor....motion carried.

Atty. Picardi reviewed the changes that were made to the draft Traffic Calming Policy. Mr. Spatz said this is the first step in the process of traffic calming. A motion was made by Jeffrey Spatz and seconded by Edwin Pollock to adopt Resolution #640-23 to adopt the Oley Township Traffic Calming Policy of 2023. Jeffrey Spatz – yes; Mark Hoch – yes; Edwin Pollock – yes. All in favor....motion carried. Duane Howard said we should look into grants or funding for the installation of traffic calming measures.

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The discussion on the amount of deductible the employees are to be responsible for on the health insurance program was tabled from our last meeting. A motion was made by Jeffrey Spatz and seconded by Edwin Pollock that the employer (township) will be responsible and reimburse to the employee the total deductible for the employee healthcare program with the employees being responsible for all the co-pays. Jeffrey Spatz – yes; Mark Hoch – yes; Edwin Pollock – yes. All in favor....motion carried.

Atty. Picardi said he has heard from Alsace Township and Exeter Township that they will not cover the costs associated with the process for the modification of the Oley Township Agricultural Security Area for the three applications received which are in their municipalities, he has now wrote to each of the applicants and awaiting their response as to whether they would agree to pay for the costs associated with this process.

Request from Ross Stiver & Amanda O’Driscoll to post “No Fishing, No Diving, No Loitering” signs on Fisher Mill Road bridge. Duane Howard said Berks County does not have a problem with posting signage at the bridge but it cannot be attached to the bridge structure. Mr. Stiver said there are people fishing from the bridge in the pedestrian/bicycle lane which is hazardous. Mr. Spatz asked if we could look at addressing the trespassing on private property, he would like to look at the area before we agree to post signage. Mr. Stiver said he has all his property posted for “No Trespassing”. Atty. Picardi said we would need to adopt an ordinance to post signage, he will review all the information and have a recommendation until our next meeting.

Received Road Occupancy permit applications from Service Electric Cablevision to set poles and underground conduit on Bortz Road, New Hope Boulevard, Fox Chase Lane, Cedarcrest Lane, Candlebrook Lane, Bertolet Mill Road, Coach Lane, Carriage Circle, Wagon Way, Dale Drive, Surrey Court, Shay Lane, Cricket Slope Drive, Meadow Springs Lane, Southfield Drive, Middlecreek Drive, Meadowlark Road, and Misty Lane for fiber optic cable installation. Service Electric Cablevision executed our Escrow Agreement and provided us with a \$30,000 bond as financial security for the reconstruction, repair and inspection of all these roadways. A motion was made by Jeffrey Spatz and seconded by Mark Hoch to authorize the Chairman and Secretary to execute the Escrow Agreement with Service Electric Cablevision to set poles and underground conduit on eighteen roadways in our township subject to confirmation from the Township Engineer that the \$30,000 financial security is adequate for this project. Jeffrey Spatz – yes; Mark Hoch – yes; Edwin Pollock – yes. All in favor....motion carried.

At our budget meeting there was discussion for the replacement of the diesel fuel pump since it is very old and should something break we no longer can get parts to make repairs, we could use the remaining American Rescue Plan Act funds for this purchase. Duane Howard is obtaining costs for this fuel pump replacement.

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Lisa D. Schaeffer is the new Supervisor-Elect and would like permission to attend the PSATS Boot Camp for Township Officials and Staff at a cost of \$199. A motion was made by Jeffrey Spatz and seconded by Edwin Pollock to authorize the registration fee of \$199 for Lisa D. Schaeffer, Supervisor-Elect, to attend the PSATS Boot Camp. Jeffrey Spatz – yes; Mark Hoch – yes; Edwin Pollock – yes. All in favor....motion carried.

The financial report was called for and read. A motion was made by Mark Hoch and seconded by Edwin Pollock to accept the financial report and pay all the bills and salaries. Jeffrey Spatz – yes; Mark Hoch – yes; Edwin Pollock – yes. All in favor....motion carried.

Public comment:

1. Sharon Moll – On November 7, 2023 the speeding was bad on Covered Bridge Road and she called the police but they never showed up, the police do not sit much at the Bethany Church on this roadway anymore, also the school bus is speeding on this roadway. Mr. Spatz said she should report the school bus speeding to the Oley Valley School District for them to address with the bus driver or the bus contractor.

2. Stephen Levan – Expressed concern with the Sacred Oak Preservation Fund balance, is there enough in this account to maintain the tree. Mr. Spatz said at this point there are enough funds in this account, he hopes to have a good turnout in June 2024 to build up this fund.

3. Gregory Moll – Concerned with speeding on Covered Bridge Road between Route 73 and the covered bridge, the police need to pull people over for speeding, we should contact GPS to have them remove this portion of Covered Bridge Road from their route since it is a historic covered bridge on this roadway.

4. Benjamin Raker – He suggests to get the speeding school buses on video and forward to him, he will have this issue addressed by the school board.

5. Tyler Spier – Was it discussed for the 2024 budget to increase police coverage. Mr. Spatz said we have authorized extra funds for special speed details this year already.

6. Leigh Urwiler – Said if we could ask State Police to assist our police in performing speed details. Chief Serafin said he will reach out to the State Police.

The next regular meeting will be held Monday, December 11, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.

A motion was made by Jeffrey Spatz and seconded by Mark Hoch to retire to executive session at 9:05 p.m. relative to personnel matters. Jeffrey Spatz – yes; Mark Hoch – yes; Edwin Pollock – yes. All in favor....motion carried. A motion was made by Jeffrey Spatz and seconded by Edwin Pollock to reconvene the meeting at 9:35 p.m. Jeffrey Spatz – yes; Mark Hoch – yes; Edwin Pollock – yes. All in favor....motion carried.

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A motion was made by Jeffrey Spatz and seconded by Edwin Pollock to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 p.m. Jeffrey Spatz – yes; Mark Hoch – yes; Edwin Pollock - yes. All in favor....motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley M. Moyer
Secretary/Treasurer

Cc: J. Spatz
M. Hoch
E. Pollock
K. Picardi
D. Allebach
N. Ulrich