

Liberty Township Board of Supervisors
39 Topper Road, Fairfield, PA 17320

October 4, 2016 Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes

Supervisor Comment:

The meeting began at 7:31 pm with Supervisors John Bostek and Bob Jackson and solicitor, John S. Phillips. Supervisor Mickey Barlow was on travel and was excused.

Mr. Bostek read a statement regarding LeeEsta Shafer's employment status, and stated that Ms. Shafer had been placed on paid administrative leave due to concerns that she had given herself an unauthorized raise. Mr. Bostek stated that CPA firm Smith, Elliott Kearns and Co. were hired to conduct a special audit to determine the cost of the loss. SEK will review pay back to 2012. Additionally, the township supervisors will do reviews with Mr. Jackson to review the police, Mr. Barlow the road department and Mr. Bostek the secretary's job. The township has notified the bonding agent and will seek repayment once the amount is known.

Solicitor Phillips said he and the supervisors had two executive sessions (9/16/16 and 9/29/16) to discuss personal matters per the Sunshine Act, related to Ms. Shafer. In response to a question, Mr. Phillips stated that LeeEsta was not immediately terminated because due process was proper under the law. Mr. Phillips reminded the supervisors not to go into detail about this legal matter.

A separate investigation as to potential criminal charges is being conducted by the Adams County District Attorney and the Pennsylvania State Police, Chief Briggs having recused himself.

Considerable public comment was received, including suggestions that "complete" and "forensic" audits be done.

Public Comment:

- Bill Johnson asked about building a subdivision on Wenschhoff and Pumping Station Roads. Regarding water and sewage, he was advised to talk to KPI.
- Mr. Johnson also advised roads need to be fixed due to flooding. It was noted that Wenschhoff Road is in a flood plain.
- Donna Powers brought township road paving. The contractor did not put on a tack coat as required by the contract. The township has not been invoiced nor paid for any of the work. The money, which is in the 2016 budget, will be held in a reserve account.
- George Brent stated the road signage regarding the paving of Steelman Marker Road was bad and the road was not marked appropriately.
- Mr. Swiat suggested Steelman Marker Road be closed during the winter. A sign should be on the top of the hill.

Reports:

The September meeting minutes, treasurer's report and payment of bills were deferred as the Pennsylvania State Police investigation rendered the office inaccessible.

Police Report:

- Chief Briggs gave his report. 308.75 was the total hours worked by the department. 2,230 total miles driven. And 147.4 gallons of gas were used.
- Phone scams are being reported. People are calling residents saying they are with the US government and asking residents to deposit money into accounts. This is a scam and the police were notified.
- The Fairfield Fire Department had an open house the weekend of October 8th.
- Unused drugs can be given to the FFD on October 27, 2016.
- We have a box in our office for unused drugs.

Mr. Jackson stated that Freedom Township will not renew the contract with Liberty Township to use our police force. George Brent questioned why we spend \$100,000 on our police department for one police chief and 5-part time police officers. Mr. Jackson stated our police force backs up the surrounding police forces in the area. Donna Powers, a former police dispatcher, explained the importance of having our own police department.

Planning Commission:

Judy Hogan reported there was no quorum for their committee. Don Topper volunteered. Mr. John Bostek made a motion for Don Topper to be on the Planning Commission and Mr. Jackson seconded the motion. Approved 2-0.

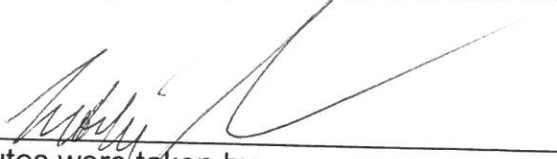
Old Business:

- None.

New Business:

- Mr. Jackson made a motion to terminate LeeEsta Shafer from township employment which was seconded by Mr. Bostek. Approved 2-0.
- Mr. Bostek made a motion to terminate LeeEsta Shafer as the township secretary and township treasurer which was seconded by Mr. Jackson. Approved 2-0.
- Mr. Bostek made a motion to appoint Mr. Jackson as the interim township secretary which was seconded by Mr. Jackson. Approved 2-0. Mr. Jackson declined any pay for the position.
- Mr. Jackson made a motion to appoint Mr. Bostek the interim township treasurer which was seconded by Mr. Bostek. Approved 2-0. Mr. Bostek declined any pay for the position.
- Mr. Jackson made a motion to bond Mr. Bostek as the interim township treasurer. Approved 2-0.
- The position of Secretary/Treasury will be advertised.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 after motions by Mr. Jackson and Mr. Bostek.


Minutes were taken by
Natalie Williams, Liberty Township Tax Collector