

Incorporated March 12, 1738

TINICUM TOWNSHIP

Bucks County

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

163 Municipal Road
Pipersville, Pennsylvania 18947

JAMES HELMS, CHAIRPERSON
ELEANOR BRESLIN, VICE-CHAIRPERSON
RICHARD ROSAMILIA, SUPERVISOR

Tinicum Township Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes October 17, 2023

Supervisors Eleanor Breslin, Jim Helms, and Richard Rosamilia were present with Township Manager Teri Lewis, Township Solicitor Steve Harris and Township Engineer Steve Baluh. The meeting, held in the Tinicum Township building meeting room, was live-streamed on Zoom and recorded. There were approximately 16 people present, and 10 people viewed it online.

Chairperson Helms called the public meeting of the Tinicum Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:30 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. Emergency Services

Report from Police Chief Madden

Chief Madden, Tinicum Township Police Dept., presented the following report for September 2023:

- 293 Incident Reports
 - 88 service-related, 39 crime/investigative (including 1 criminal mischief report, 1 DUI arrest, and 1 theft report), 158 traffic, 6 training, and 2 court.
- 3 Reportable Traffic Accidents in September
 - A two-vehicle accident at Cafferty and E. Dark Hollow Roads was the result of a driver proceeding through a stop sign without clearance.
 - A single vehicle crash on Jugtown Road was the result of vehicle catching the edge of the road.
 - A two-vehicle crash on Durham Road was the result of an improper turn.
- 5-Year Reportable Accident Average
 - Over the past 5 years, for the month of September, there have been an average of 2.2 reportable accidents.
- Speed Enforcement
 - Additional speed enforcement locations have been instituted around the township to address speeding concerns reported to the department.
- Traffic Studies Completed
 - The traffic studies were conducted on Ridge Valley, Stagecoach and Hollow Horn Roads. The results were given to the Board of Supervisors. Due to the unique features of the road, the studies were conducted using “safe running speeds”. A safe running speed study places an officer in a car; the road is marked off by cones approximately 2/10^{ths} of a mile apart; another officer times at each cone. Five passes were made on each road to determine the safe running speed. The results are as follows:
 - Ridge Valley Road: Data collected on this dirt road indicated a safe running speed of 20 – 22 MPH. No further analysis would be required to establish a uniform safe running speed limit of 20 MPH.
 - Stagecoach Road: Data collected on this dirt road indicated the safe running speed as 24 – 26 MPH, suggesting a uniform safe running speed limit of 25 MPH.
 - Hollow Horn Road: Data collected indicated the safe running speed as 37 MPH. No further analysis would be required to establish a uniform safe running speed limit of 35 MPH.

Motion to authorize Steve Harris to draft an ordinance to set the speed limit at 20 MPH on Ridge Valley Road, 25 MPH on Stagecoach Road, and 35 MPH on Hollow Horn Road for review by the Board of Supervisors.

Motion by: Rosamilia. Second by: Helms. Voted upon and passed.

The Board decided to have speed studies conducted on all dirt and gravel roads in the Township.

B. Announcements

Executive Session

The Board held an executive session prior to the meeting from 6:30 p.m. to 7:20 p.m. to discuss potential litigation.

2nd Annual Trunk and Treat at Tincum Community Park: Saturday, October 28

The Parks and Recreation Board will hold the 2nd Annual Trunk and Treat event on Saturday, October 28. The rain date is Sunday, October 29. There will be costume and decorated trunk contests. Any interested volunteers should contact the Township Admin Offices to be put in touch with the Parks and Recreation Board or email candyinthepark@tincumbucks.org.

2024 Budget Work Session

On October 5th, the Board met with the Manager and Public Works Director from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. to open communication for the 2024 Budgetary Requirements of the Township. No decisions were made. Future budget work sessions will be advertised on www.Tincumbucks.org and announced at the next budget meeting, scheduled for November 1st at 6 p.m.

Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Mini Grant Wetlands Project in Tincum Community Park

The Board thanked all of the volunteers and Kind Earth Growers who participated in the planting of native wetland plants in Tincum Community Park on the previous weekend.

Crop-Duster Incident Update

The Board stated that it is awaiting responses from letters sent to the property owner, the farmer leasing the property, the crop duster company, and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regarding the crop-dusting incident that occurred on October 3rd, during which some type of seed material was distributed on a field and neighboring residential property. Lewis said she received a call from the FAA stating the letter would be forwarded to the appropriate FAA contact.

C. Old Business

Headquarters Road Bridge Update

The Board stated that the report proposal regarding the determination of the load-bearing capacity of the Headquarters Bridge abutments had been received from Doug Bond of McMullan Associates. The Board stated that the proposal summary stated that a rehabilitation of the existing masonry structure would support up to 18 tons.

Resident Shawn Sanders asked if the report would be available to the public and stated that the understructure of the stacked stones of the bridge appeared to be in poor condition. The Board stated the report would be made available upon request. The Board noted that the bridge was a stacked stone and masonry structure, and the weight limit had previously been unrestricted.

Resident Anita Nolan asked what the weight of a fire truck was. The Board stated that the fire trucks weigh approximately 20 tons, and consequently, rehabilitation of the bridge could not support the fire trucks or dump trucks. It was noted that it would support ambulances and school buses.

The Board plans to discuss the report further.

Cryptocurrency / Intensive Digital Computer Operations Ordinance Status

The Cryptocurrency and Intensive Digital Computer Operations Ordinance is under review by the Bucks County Planning Commission and is on the Tincum Township Planning Commission agenda for October 24.

Subdivision Ordinance Amendment

Motion to send the Subdivision Ordinance Draft Amendment to the Tincum Township Planning Commission and Bucks County Planning Commission for review.

Motion by: Helms. Second by: Breslin. Voted upon and passed.

Conditional Use CU 2023-3 Decision and Operation and Maintenance Agreement for Vergara 27 Swamp Creek Road, TMP 44-006-095.

Harris stated that the Operations & Maintenance Agreement was prepared and forwarded to April Vergara for signature. Harris requested the Conditional Use Decision be signed by the Board of Supervisors.

D. New Business

Real Estate Tax Waiver Penalty for Steven Gidumal

Due to the issues with the 2022 tax collector, the Township put a process in place for individuals requesting tax relief in which the township would authorize a request to be sent to Bucks County. The Board stated that Mr. Gidumal is requesting relief because he did not receive his tax bill.

Motion to send the Real Estate Tax Penalty Waiver Request from Steven Gidumal, 651 Headquarters Road, Ottsville 44-014-001, 014-002, 014-008 to Bucks County.

Motion by: Helms. Second by: Rosamilia. Voted upon and passed.

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Land Preservation Grant Opportunity Presentation

Land Preservation Chair Luke Sorenson stated he learned about a Highlands Conservation Act Grant Program opportunity from the Tincum Conservancy. The Highlands Conservation Act works to conserve the land and natural resources, including critical watersheds, in the Highlands region of Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania. The deadline for the grant is November 19, 2023. Sorenson said that they had identified a property owner who would be a good applicant for the approximate \$300,000 grant, because the property is adjacent to game lands, has wetlands, is near streams, and meets other criteria that would qualify the property as high-scoring.

Motion to authorize Tincum Land Preservation Chair Luke Sorenson and/or Tincum Conservancy designee to submit an application to the Highland Conservation Act Grant Program.

Motion by: Helms. Second by: Breslin. Voted upon and passed.

E. Regular Business

Minutes

Motion to approve the Board of Supervisors minutes of October 3, 2023.

Motion by: Helms. Second by: Breslin. Voted upon and passed.

Treasurer's Report & Budget Recap

The Treasurer's Report and Budget Recap for September were presented to the Board and were posted on the meeting room bulletin board.

Payroll Report

Motion to accept the Payroll Report for the period ending October 6 in the amount of \$37,692.63.

Motion by: Helms. Second by: Breslin. Voted upon and passed.

Disbursements

Motion to approve the following disbursements as written.

Motion by: Helms. Second by: Rosamilia. Voted upon and passed.

General Fund	Amount	Memo
Allan Myers	\$9,176.00	DSA Tankhannen
Allan Myers	\$3,680.50	DSA Tankhannen
Wex, Inc	\$2,612.73	Police Fleet Fuel
Wex, Inc	\$323.78	Police Fleet Fuel
Madden Mead	\$80.06	Reimbursement
B. Jeannie Kauffman	\$220.00	Stenography Services Cond Use
Gary Bickel's Garage	\$182.00	Police Fleet Repairs
PennTeleData	\$766.04	Internet Modems (2 months)
Leaf	\$59.21	Police Copier
Met-Ed	\$494.81	Electricity Police and Admin
Met-Ed	\$30.90	Electricity Traffic Light
Met-Ed	\$187.99	Electricity Garage
Harris and Harris	\$3,745.00	Harris and Harris
Grim, Biehn and Thatcher	\$1,038.50	ZHB Legal Services
Help Now	\$75.00	Police IT
B. Jeannie Kauffman	\$180.00	Stenography Services Cond Use
Service Electric Cable TV	\$534.78	Service Electric Cable TV
Balasio Excavating and Grading	\$91,792.39	Tankhannen Rd DSA Project BCCD
Holicong Locksmiths	\$137.58	Service Call Garage
ET&T Eastern Telephone and Tel	\$205.00	Service Call Telephone
Davidheiser's	\$60.00	Speed Timing - Callbration
Met-Ed	\$49.94	Electricity Park
Prime Development Group	\$11.55	Real estate tax refund 44-014-084
Del Val Workers Compensation Trust	\$5,360.00	Workers Compensation Insurance
Allied Administrators for Delta Dental	\$766.24	Allied Administrators for Delta Dental
Hartford Insurance	\$593.00	Life and Disability Insurance
Aflac	\$47.64	Supplemental Insurance
Payroll	Amount	Memo
Account Edge Sure Payroll	\$37,047.42	Pay period end 10-6-23
Escrow	Amount	Memo
Pugliese, Keith and Louise	\$4,893.40	Refund of Escrow (driveway & septic)
Harris and Harris	\$323.00	Harris and Harris
Open Space	Amount	Memo
Del Val Regional Finance	\$10,638.60	Open Space Bond
Harris and Harris	\$253.75	Legal Services
Harris and Harris	\$113.75	Legal Services

Motion to advertise the appointment of Hutchinson, Gillahan & Freeh, PC, auditors to examine the books and perform the audit of Tincum Township for the fiscal year 2023.

Motion by: Helms. Second by: Rosamilia. Voted upon and passed.

F. Zoning

1. Zoning Hearing Board Application ZHB 2023-7: Scott Solazzo & Jessica Smith
140 Mount Airy Road, Pipersville. TMP 44-022-060-006. Zoned Residential Agriculture. 6.1 AC.
The applicant requests relief to allow a 6-foot fence, previously installed without Township permit, in the front yard setback where a maximum height of 4-foot is permitted.

- Application Received: 8/31/23
- Board of Supervisors Decision to send to Planning Commission: 9/19/23
- Planning Commission Review: 9/26/23
- Board of Supervisors Decision to Solicitor to Zoning Hearing: 10/3/23
- **Zoning Hearing Board Hearing: Wednesday, 10/25/23**

2. Zoning Hearing Board Application ZHB 2023-5: Mark Calloway
1247 River Road, UBE. TMP 44-009-004. Zoned Residential Conservation. 1.93 AC.
The applicant requests relief to construct a pole barn in setbacks and floodplain.
 - Application Received: 7/17/23
 - Extension Request Letter Received: 7/19/23
 - Board of Supervisors Decision to send to Planning Commission: 9/5/23
 - Planning Commission Review: 9/26/23
 - Board of Supervisors Decision to send Solicitor to Zoning Hearing: 10/3/23
 - **Zoning Hearing Board Hearing: Thursday, 10/26/23**

3. Zoning Hearing Board Application ZHB 2023-9: Paul Wieand
196 Red Hill Road, Ottsville. TMP 44-014-021-001. Zoned Residential Agriculture. 17.1 AC.
The applicant appeals the decision of the Zoning Officer and in the alternate requests a use variance to allow rental of a cottage and rental of an undisclosed number of barn units.
 - Application Received: 9/29/23
 - Board of Supervisors Decision to send to Planning Commission: 10/17/23
 - Planning Commission Review: 10/24/23
 - Board of Supervisors Decision to send Solicitor to Zoning Hearing: 11/21/23
 - **Zoning Hearing Board Hearing: 11/30/23**

Motion to send ZHB 2023-9 Wieand to the Tinicum Planning Commission for review.
Motion by: Rosamilia. Second by: Breslin. Voted upon and passed.

4. Zoning Hearing Board Application ZHB 2023-10: Brian Dougherty
58 Bridge Four Lane, Pipersville. TMP 44-025-020. Zoned Residential Agriculture. .22 AC.
The applicant requests relief from floodplain regulations requiring an HVAC system, installed by the previous owner without a Township permit, to be elevated above Regulatory Flood Elevation (RFE).
 - Completed Application Received: 10/10/23
 - Board of Supervisors Decision to send to the Planning Commission: 11/21/23
 - Planning Commission Review: 11/28/23
 - Board of Supervisors to send Solicitor to Zoning Hearing: 12/5/23
 - **Zoning Hearing Board Hearing: 12/14/23**

5. Conditional Use Application CU 2023-3: April Vergara
27 Swamp Creek Road, Erwinna. TMP 44-006-095. Zoned Residential Agriculture. 1.46 AC.
The applicant requests Conditional Use approval for a new drip micro-mound septic system, previously installed without Township permit, in the rear yard setback.
 - **Board of Supervisors Hearing: 10/3/23–Granted with Conditions**

G. Public Comment Session

Resident Keith Pugliese requested a speed survey for Stover Park Road, which is a state road. Pugliese said the road is unmarked, meaning it is 55 mph, except for two 35 mph turns. He said he had spoken with Chief Madden and Public Works Director Doug Skelton, and they had recommended that he bring it before the Board. Lewis said that the Township would need to do a speed study. Chief Madden said they would have to make a request to the state. The Board said that they could put in a request to the state. Pugliese said the state said they would need a survey from the Township. He said he could provide the contact's name to Chief Madden. The Board agreed and said they would follow up and provide an update at the next meeting. Lewis asked if the Board was asking the Chief to move forward with a speed study. The Board said they are requesting the state do it, but if the state requests the Township do it, they will bring it to the next meeting.


H. Continuance

Motion to continue the meeting to November 1, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. for a Preliminary Budget Discussion Meeting.

Motion by: Helms. Second by: Breslin. Voted upon and passed

The next meeting of the Board of Supervisors is scheduled for November 21, 2023, at 7:30 P.M.


TINICUM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Jim Helms, Chairperson



Eleanor Breslin, Vice-Chairperson



Richard Rosamilia, Member

Incorporated March 12, 1738

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**Tinicum Township Board of Supervisors
Preliminary Budget Discussion Meeting
November 1, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.**

Supervisors Eleanor Breslin, Jim Helms, and Richard Rosamilia were present with Township Manager Teri Lewis, Police Chief Nicole Madden, Bedminster Township Emergency Management Coordinator Mike Tuttle. The meeting was held in the Tinicum Township building meeting room. The meeting, held in the Tinicum Township building meeting room, was live-streamed on Zoom and recorded. There were approximately 3 people present.

Supervisors Helms called the continuance budget meeting of October 11, 2023, to order at 6:00 p.m.

A. Departments: Police Department

Chief Madden provided quotes of \$26,097 body cameras for the officers and the in-car tech storage system software. The current in car storage system is becoming obsolete. \$10,000 a year for 5 years which includes service and updates. Breslin recommended that Chief Madden look into grants for the equipment. Lewis stated that the items are in the budget but it does not mean it is final until approved by the Board. Helms stated that it appears everything will be subscription based in the future and will be a continued cost for the Township and any grant monies would be helpful.

B. Department: Point Pleasant-Plumstead EMS

Point Pleasant-Plumstead EMS Chief Mike Tuttle and Assistant Deputy Chief Pat Gambone were present. Tuttle said they are seeking to acquire (2) power cots, which are safer for both the patient and staff as the current stretchers must be raised manually. He said that Plumstead Township stated they would make the first year's payment of \$40,000 and he was contacting other municipalities for financial assistance. Tuttle said that he was looking into a 3-year financing plan at \$40,000 per year plus interest. He said it is a federally mandated program to have the power cots, so when new trucks are ordered in the next 3 they would be able to with them to the new ambulances. \$6,000 installation cost. Tuttle stated that last year there were 336 EMS calls in Plumstead and 211 EMS calls in Tinicum.

Later in the meeting, Helms noted that it would be worth investigating what the interest rate would be for the financing plan. He said that if all the municipalities agree, it would make sense to budget the funds and avoid paying high interest rates.

C. 2024 Budget Rough Draft Review

Lewis presented the current draft for the 2024 budget to the Board as follows:

- \$2,744,050 Combined Operating Fund and Capital and Equipment
- \$436,300 Liquid Fuels
- \$865,800 Open Space
- **Total combined budget expenses: \$4,046,150**

Lewis stated that the Operating Revenue (including Capital and Equipment) reflects a 7% increase, offset by a similar projected and end-of-year carryover revenue increase. The combined total shows no

noticeable increase over 2023. The 2024 Budget as proposed includes best estimates for the requirements of the township.

Lewis said that no tax increase is projected with the current proposed budget. She noted that monies from the American Rescue Funds and the FEMA Hurricane IDA Emergency Expenditures were received in 2023 which reimbursed the Township for those large expenses in the previous years.

D. General Fund Revenue

As discussed in the first budget meeting, the projected investment income was increased \$40,000 as a result of increased interest rates.

E. General Fund Expense

Lewis reviewed the following budget adjustments:

- Hospitalization is projected to increase by 8%.
- Accountant Fees for audit is projected to increase an additional \$250, as per quote.
- The Board reviewed the projected equipment needs of the Public Works and Police Department to provide the best service possible to the community.
- An estimated 3% for non-union employees was budgeted for the police department contract items, subject to Board of Supervisors decisions. It should be noted that the amount included in the budget does not guarantee employee increases.
- The police contract will expire at the end of 2024 and negotiations begin six months in advance of the expiration. Accordingly, additional funds were allocated to the legal section.
- The public notice advertising expense was increased approximately 20% due to a trend in the number of public notices that the Township is legally required to advertise.
- The Zoning Expense and Engineering expense was increased due to the number of requested variance reviews.

F. Public Works

This budget includes provisions for the standard equipment and materials to maintain Township roads and bridges including Tohickon and Red Cliff Bridges. In addition, funds were set aside for:

- A boom/sickle reach mower and tractor use to maintain the right of ways. Should the Board agree to the \$90,000 purchase.
- The construction of a \$80,000 three-bay shed to protect Public Works equipment.

G. Police Budget

As discussed at the previous budget meeting, provisions for the following items were included:

- Body camera equipment.
- Updated LED lighting which will save energy and improve working conditions for the department.
- Necessary equipment updates, as well as best estimates for standard expenses, and labor contract requirements.
- Wireless/Bluetooth microphones.

H. Admin & Zoning

Money was allocated for the following:

- Administrative building addition of \$180,000.
- Necessary repairs and maintenance.
- E-Code 360 cost if the entire bill is not paid in 2023.

Lewis noted that the alarm system for Admin/Police and Public Works buildings needs to be updated/repared. The cost would be \$6,000.

I. Next Steps

Motion to advertise the proposed budget for a hearing at the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisor on December 5, 2023.

Motion by: Helms. Second by: Rosamilia. Voted upon and passed.

J. Executive Session

The Board announced that an executive session would be held from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. to discuss personnel.

K. Adjournment

Motion to advertise the Budget meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Motion by: Helms. Second by: Breslin. Voted upon and passed.

The next meeting of the Board of Supervisors is scheduled for November 21, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

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