

North Buffalo Township
January 20, 2021

The North Buffalo Township Board of Supervisors met at the Municipal Building at 7:00 p.m., January 20, 2021 with Supervisors Mike Valencic, Jennifer Matarrese and Calvin Crissman, Secretary Pam Bowser, North Buffalo Police Chief Jason Hufhand, Solicitor Scott Andreassi and approximately nine citizens in attendance.

Mike Valencic called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a moment of silence to honor those in service of our country. He then announced that the meeting was being audio and video recorded.

Calvin Crissman made the motion to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2020 Supervisors' Meeting and the January 4, 2021 Reorganization Meeting. Jennifer Matarrese seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Jennifer Matarrese made the motion to approve the bills as presented on the Bill List with General Fund checks #27283 through #27331 in the amount of \$64,265.37, General Fund electronic debits in the amount of \$21,742.06 and State Fund checks #774 through #776 in the amount of \$12,318.36. Mike Valencic seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Calvin Crissman made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, with Mike Valencic seconding the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Police Chief Jason Hufhand gave the monthly police report.

Fire Marshall Dave Orton from Ford Cliff Fire Department gave their monthly response report.

Jennifer Matarrese gave the Road Master Report. The road crew replaced pipes on Wilson Road in preparation for the spring tar and chip project, patched potholes throughout the township, bermed Elsie Lane and plowed snow. Miscellaneous equipment repairs were made including belts and tensioner replaced on the F-550 and the hydraulic pump was replaced on the 2016 Peterbilt. Jennifer Matarrese made the motion to set Spring Clean-Up Day for March 27, 2021 from 7 am to 2 pm. Calvin Crissman seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Under unfinished business, Jennifer Matarrese presented additional information on Puckett pavers for the board's discussion. The road crew tried to find used Puckett pavers and went to look at several with no success. Jennifer found a used 2020 Puckett paver with 78 hours and only a partial warranty for \$69,900. A new 2020 with full warranty would cost \$72,400. The supervisors all agreed during the discussion to go with a new one; however if the bid specs would state 2020 or newer with 100 hours or less, they might get bids submitted for both new and used. Jennifer Matarrese then made the motion to purchase a Puckett paver, 2020 or newer with 100 hours or less. Calvin Crissman seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion carried. Jennifer also presented information for future reference on a John Deere tractor with mounted boom mower. Seigworth Road Supply quoted a price for a new four wheel drive tractor with boom mower at \$154,000 through the COSTARS program. Seigworth is also looking into finding a used John

Deere tractor and then they would mount a new boom mower on it, which would be cheaper. A four wheel drive tractor would allow mowing throughout the winter when weather permits. Jennifer presented the tractor/mower prices to better decide on the financing for the paver. Previously the board thought about paying for the paver upon purchase; however after discussion they agreed to finance the paver as to not run the budget short if they also get a tractor with boom mower in 2021, which would also be financed.

The next item on the agenda under new business was the adoption of proposed Ordinance No. 21-1, which would vacate a portion of Creek Road. Chairman Mike Valencic asked if any residents or property owners on Creek Road were present. Mr. Dave Baker stated that he was there on behalf of his friend Mr. Marv Gaiser, who owns the property and camp on the portion of Creek Road that would be turned over to him as a private drive. Mr. Baker presented a letter to the board which was written by Mr. Gaiser, who was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Gaiser stated in his letter that he was not in favor of vacating all of the road from the Winfield end since many people use the road for hunting and fishing and also his own access to camp and for the fact that he would have to maintain the road with stone himself. He did not object to closing the collapsed portion of the road. Supervisor Mike Valencic explained to Mr. Baker that the road is very dangerous and may even collapse further. The township's liability would be too great in keeping ownership of the Winfield end of Creek Road. Being that there are no permanent residences on that portion, Mike Valencic stated that the township needs to vacate that end from Winfield Road. Mr. John Rhea, who also owns property there, is in favor of vacating that portion. Road Master Jennifer Matarrese stated that within the last several years, the township has only put a couple loads of stone on that portion of the road going by the camp and the township does not plow snow there. After further discussion, Mike Valencic made the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 21-1, which vacates a portion of Creek Road from the Winfield end. Jennifer Matarrese seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion carried. The remaining portion of Creek Road still owned by the township is on the opposite end from the South Buffalo Township line approximately 900 feet to a point. The vacated portion will be a private drive now known as Cabin Creek Lane.

Chairman Mike Valencic then moved on to township resident Paul Hilles who wished to address the board with additional information regarding the old trailer on his neighbor's property. Mr. Hilles had presented this situation to the board at the November 2020 meeting. The details are noted in the November minutes. Mr. Hilles presented more pictures of his neighbor's property to prove that there are other places that the trailer could be moved to. Chairman Mike Valencic explained to Mr. Hilles that the only enforceable law that the township has in place regarding the trailer is that it must comply to the 10-foot setback from the property line according to the township zoning ordinance. Mike Valencic will talk to the neighbor, Mr. Goldinger, to see if there are any more options to help resolve the matter.

Supervisor Chairman Mike Valencic then invited Mr. Loren Salsgiver to have the floor. Mr. Salsgiver's company provides broadband internet, TV and telephone through fiber optic cable. He gave an overview explanation of the services his company could provide for the township. The board discussed different options and will continue to talk with Mr. Salsgiver regarding possibilities for his company to provide service in the township.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss options for the township-retained portion of Creek Road. In order to continue getting liquid fuels money for the retained portion, a cul-de-sac would have to be built according to PennDOT specs at the dead end. The township would receive approximately \$581 annually if the cul-de-sac was built, which would require an engineer, a survey and the obtaining of right-of-ways from property owners. The board discussed whether the expenses of building the cul-de-sac would be justified for only getting \$581 annually in liquid fuels. Road Master Jennifer Matarrese was not in favor of building the cul-de-sac. After further discussion, the board agreed to continue to maintain the retained portion of Creek Road as is without building a cul-de-sac.

Resident Ben Pastenbaugh brought up the subject of being able to ride ATV's legally on township roads like in South Buffalo Township. The board explained that they have entertained this idea but that there are so many issues to be worked out before it could be done, such as permitting, liability issues, requiring insurance, age limits, etc. Solicitor Scott Andreassi reported that South Buffalo Township incurred signage costs of almost \$10,000. The board will continue to look into the matter to see if it would be something that they would be in favor of in the future.

Jennifer Matarrese made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 21-1, which adopts the township Emergency Operations Plan. Mike Valencic seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

After public comment, Jennifer Matarrese made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. Mike Valencic seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Pamela L. Bowser
North Buffalo Township Secretary