

North Buffalo Township  
December 16, 2020

The North Buffalo Township Board of Supervisors met at the Municipal Building at 7:00 p.m., December 16, 2020 with Supervisors Mike Valencic, Jennifer Matarrese and Calvin Crissman, Secretary Pam Bowser, North Buffalo Police Chief Jason Hufhand, and approximately three 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 November 18, 2020 Supervisors' 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 #27233 through #27282 in the amount of \$46,967.97, General Fund electronic debits in the amount of \$18,151.37 and State Fund check #773 in the amount of \$2,679.41. 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 Jennifer Matarrese seconding the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

Police Chief Jason Hufhand gave the monthly police report.

Brandon Harriger from Ford Cliff Fire Department gave their monthly response report.

Jennifer Matarrese gave the Road Master Report. Culvert pipe was replaced on Wilson Road, Church Road Extension and Hogg Road. Diversion ditches were cut on Hogg Road. Potholes throughout the township and stone was added to Boarts Road and dirt roads. The ditch line on a portion of Church Road was cleaned and fixed. The road crew also did various minor equipment repairs, addressed a water issue on Elsie Lane, removed brush and plowed snow. Video post-inspection was done for a road bond on Circle G Drive. There were no damages and the bond was released. The supervisors also discussed replacing the paver and all agreed to buy new. Jennifer will have more information for a new paver at the January meeting.

Under new business, Jennifer Matarrese made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 20-7, which adopts the final 2021 budget. Mike Valencic seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Calvin Crissman made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 20-8, which reaffirms the 2021 tax rates for real estate, earned income and realty transfer taxes. Jennifer Matarrese seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was to discuss changes to the Nuisance Ordinance No. 20-1. Some of the proposed changes would address the problem of blighted mobile homes in disrepair within the township and impose penalties if not removed. Mr. Kyle Goldinger, the owner of Circle G trailer court, was in attendance and addressed the board with his concerns. When a mobile home in the trailer court is abandoned by the tenants who own it and the taxes aren't paid, it is then the property of Armstrong County. The County does not want the mobile home and just leaves it sit in the trailer court. The abandoned mobile homes are usually in disrepair or become blighted from sitting for extended periods of time. No one wants to buy them from the County for taxes as they are sometimes in such bad shape they can't even be moved. This presents a problem for Mr. Goldinger, as he would have to pay the back taxes on the mobile home to obtain ownership before he would be allowed to remove it. The costs of demolishing it and paying the back taxes far exceed what he would receive for scrap. The tenants of the trailer court were complaining of a mobile home in disrepair. Mr. Goldinger did in fact own this particular mobile home, so he moved it out of the trailer court to the edge of his personal property and plans to make it into a storage shed. This resulted in his neighbor lodging a complaint with the township at the November 18, 2020 supervisors' meeting. As long as Mr. Goldinger meets the setback of ten feet from his property line, he won't be in violation with the township. Mr. Goldinger was concerned that the ordinance changes would create a hardship for him in regard to the County-owned abandoned trailers. The supervisors will contact the County to see if there is a solution. Jennifer Matarrese then made the motion to table the proposed changes to the Nuisance Ordinance No. 20-1 until they can further research the matter. Mike Valencic seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

The supervisors' then discussed proposed Ordinance No. 21-1, which would vacate a portion of Creek Road. The center portion of Creek Road was built into a steep wooded hillside which has collapsed making that portion of the road impassable. There is no feasible way to repair it. The supervisors' discussed several options. Either vacate the center portion only or vacate from where it collapsed all the way to the intersection of Winfield Road. There is only one property owner who lives on the Winfield end of Creek Road and Mike Valencic was concerned that he would not want his end vacated. After further discussion, the supervisors decided to write a letter to the property owner to let him know about vacating the road and to see if he has any objection about the Winfield end beyond the collapse. The supervisors also discussed whether or not to build a cul-de-sac on the remaining portion of Creek Road at the dead end before the collapse. In order to continue receiving liquid fuels money for the remaining 875 feet of Creek Road from the South Buffalo Township line to where the vacation of the road begins, an eighty-foot diameter cul-de-sac would have to be constructed. Right-of-ways would have to be obtained from the property owners of where the cul-de-sac would be built and land surveys would have to be done. Jennifer Matarrese reported that the township would only receive approximately \$500 in liquid fuels money annually for the remaining portion with a cul-de-sac. She said that she was not in favor of constructing a cul-de-sac because the cost of construction would not be warranted for all the more liquid fuels money the township would receive and the fact that there is only one resident living on that portion of Creek Road. After additional discussion, the supervisors will write the ordinance to vacate from the dead end to the intersection of Winfield Road, have the solicitor review it and timely advertise it for passage at the January 20, 2021 meeting.

There is a vacancy on both the township planning board and the township zoning hearing board. Chairman Mike Valencic asked those residents in attendance if they would be willing to serve in either position. Mr. Kyle Goldinger said he would be willing to serve on the zoning hearing board. Mike Valencic made the motion to appoint Mr. Kyle Goldinger to the North Buffalo Township Zoning Hearing Board for a three-year term to expire on December 31, 2023. Calvin Crissman seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Mr. Cody Martin accepted the position on the planning board. Mike Valencic made the motion to appoint Mr. Cody Martin to the North Buffalo Township Planning Board for a four-year term to expire on December 31, 2024. Jennifer Matarrese seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Mike Valencic announced that the supervisors' re-organization meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on Monday, January 4, 2021 and the auditors' re-organization meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, January 5, 2021.

After public comment, Jennifer Matarrese made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Mike Valencic seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Pamela L. Bowser  
North Buffalo Township Secretary