

North Buffalo Township
December 15, 2021

The North Buffalo Township Board of Supervisors met at the Municipal Building at 7:00 p.m., December 15, 2021 with Supervisors Mike Valencic, Jennifer Matarrese and Calvin Crissman, Secretary Pam Bowser, Solicitor Scott Andreassi, Police Chief Jason Hufhand, Wyant Road resident Rick Adams and approximately ten citizens in attendance.

Supervisor 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 17, 2021 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 #27755 through #27794 in the amount of \$26,183.69, General Fund electronic debits in the amount of \$22,347.87 and State Fund checks #806 through #808 in the amount of \$3,679.93. Calvin Crissman seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

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

Township Police Chief Jason Hufhand gave the monthly police report and also the report for West Hills Fire Department. Chris Beck from West Kittanning Fire Department and Joey Peluso from Ford Cliff Fire Department each gave their response report.

Jennifer Matarrese then gave the Road Master's report. The road crew cut brush and mowed a few roads, patched and cleaned ditches on Ruffaner Road, and did some body work on the township pickup truck. They were called out for snow, downed trees and to close roads for downed utility lines. They also worked on equipment and garage maintenance.

The next item on the agenda was Wyant Road resident Rick Adams; however, he asked to speak at the end of the meeting. The meeting moved on to the next item of business.

Jennifer Matarrese made the motion to accept the resignation letter from Ken Grey as the township representative to the West Hills Water Pollution Control Authority Board. Mike Valencic seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion carried. Mike Valencic announced that people are needed to fill vacancies for auditors. Volunteers are also needed for the township zoning hearing board and township representatives for the Kittanning Suburban Joint Water Authority Board and the West Hills Water Pollution Control Authority Board.

Mike Valencic nominated Ben Paustenbaugh, who was present at the meeting, to serve as township zoning officer. The position is vacant due to the unexpected death of J. David Jura. Mr. Paustenbaugh accepted the nomination. Calvin Crissman then made the motion to appoint Ben Paustenbaugh to the position of township zoning officer. Jennifer Matarrese seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

The next item under new business was to discuss vacancies for auditors. Mike Valencic stated that two people are needed—one for a two-year term and one for a six-year term.

The supervisors then reviewed and signed a letter addressed to a resident currently holding a junkyard license within the township. The letter explains that he is not in compliance with the township junkyard ordinance and that the township will not renew his junkyard license for 2022 until he corrects everything to comply.

The board then discussed the Kittanning Suburban Joint Water Authority concerns with the township right-of-way obstruction ordinance that was adopted at the last meeting. Jennifer Matarrese reported that she spoke with them and went over the ordinance. They were satisfied with the explanation and no longer have any concerns with it.

The supervisors then discussed revising Resolution No. 21-4, which sets the township fee schedule. Mike Valencic proposed increasing the \$300 commercial zoning permit application fee for cell towers or perhaps implementing an additional permit for cell towers in addition to the \$300 commercial zoning permit. It was suggested that more research be done on the matter to see what neighboring municipalities charge for cell towers and the matter was tabled.

Calvin Crissman made the motion to adopt Ordinance No. 21-5, which sets the 2022 real estate tax rate at 5.905 mils. This is a 1 mil increase from the 2021 real estate tax rate of 4.905. Mike Valencic seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Jennifer Matarrese made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 21-8, which adopts the final 2022 budget. Calvin Crissman seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Calvin Crissman made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 21-9, which reaffirms the 2022 tax rates for real estate tax at 5.905 mils, earned income tax at 1% and real estate transfer tax at 1%. Jennifer Matarrese seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Wyant Road resident Rick Adams then addressed the board with some concerns. He had questions about road conditions and road maintenance. He stated that he has been receiving complaints about roads from citizens. Road Master Jennifer Matarrese replied that he should tell those with complaints to call her, one of the other supervisors or the office. The only way the complaints can be rectified is if she or the board know about them. Other concerns Mr. Adams discussed with the board were about the police department and speeding on township roads.

After public comment, Calvin Crissman made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Mike Valencic seconded the motion, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

Pamela L. Bowser
North Buffalo Township Secretary