

**HALIFAX TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
102 Fisher Street, Halifax  
MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 10, 2015**

**CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Bechtel called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm followed with the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was held for the passing and respect of a former Halifax Township Supervisor, Paul Mattis.

**ROLL CALL** – Supervisors Bechtel, Bruner, Paul, Schreffler and McBurney are present along with Solicitor Bruce Warshawsky, Roadmaster Corey Stazewski, and Secretary Wendy M. Wentzel are absent. Steve Roe sat in on behalf of Engineer Tom Wilson.

**RECORDING MEETING** – The Township Secretary is the only person recording this meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None held

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD –Eileen Snyder** – Asked who was authorized to take over her property while she was away during the fireworks. She explained what had happened during her absence about how people were stopped that had permission to be on her property. Chairman Bechtel advised her that the Fire Police were trying to control traffic and the properties surrounding the area of the fireworks. Supervisor Bruner and Supervisor Schreffler shared that they were aware and understood what had happened. Her concerns were duly noted and taken under advisement for the future. **Flo Mallonee** – Brought to the Township’s attention a sycamore tree adjacent to Dr. Match’s office on N. River Road at 895 North River Road. She stated that in order to turn left off Dr. Match’s driveway, you have to back up from the intersection in order to see what is coming from your left before you enter onto the road, but that by doing so, you cannot see what is coming from your right. The sycamore tree is blocking your view. Advised that PennDOT be notified of the tree concern. The Roadmaster will reach out to PennDOT. **Dean Miller** – Co-owner of Armstrong Valley Winery, wanted to provide some updates for the Township. Their current payroll is \$250,000. They have 4 full time staff positions and 16 part time staff position of which 6 of these individuals are over the age of 70 years old and some of the best staff. The Winery pays over \$30,000 in various payroll taxes. They currently have 11 acres planted in grapevines producing approximately \$75,000 in grapes. The Winery grows 90% of the grapes they use each year. They pay over \$12,000 in property and school taxes. The winery has become a destination event venue. They host numerous local, regional and national private events. They offer free events to the public every Friday, and use Saturday and Sunday for private events. The winery averages about 30 weddings a year and they sponsor three arts and craft shows each year to promote the local talent we have in the area, as well as local food vendors. Dean also stated that one of their missions in starting the winery was to preserve the historic property where they are located. The Winery thanked the Township Board for the continued support of the area’s small businesses and for their support of the community. **Frank Wilmarth** – Commented about all the poison ivy that is out of control at Fort Halifax Park. Asked if the Township could do some spraying. The Board agreed to have the Roadmaster and his crew spray the area. **Norma Shearer** – mentioned that she got poison ivy from being at the Park. Also, she mentioned about the Canada Geese and their droppings and that they are slippery for those trying to fish. Asked if there was anything the Township could do. The Board will take it under advisement.

**SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT - Paid Interim Bills – Motion** was made by Supervisor McBurney and second by Supervisor Paul to approve the paid interim bills. Vote called. Motion carried 5-0. **Current Unpaid Bills – Motion** was made by Supervisor Paul and second by Supervisor Schreffler to pay the current unpaid bills as listed. Vote called. Motion carried 5-0. **Minutes – Motion** was made by Supervisor Paul and second by Supervisor McBurney to approve the Minutes from the July 13, 2015 Board of Supervisors Monthly Meeting. Vote called. Motion carried 5-0. **Financial Report -** The Board reviewed the Financial Report and had no comments. The Report will be placed on file and made part of the records for audit at a later time.

**EMC REPORT** – No report submitted.

**PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION** – Chairperson Flo Mallonee reported that the Planning Commission held their monthly meeting on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015. On the agenda was a buyer of a parcel on Million Dollar Road that had some questions for the Planning Commission relative to placing a modular home on a superior wall basement. They had questions relative to the driveway and Stormwater Management. The Planning Commission also accepted plans for review from Flight Source. She also stated that the Commission will be meeting in the upcoming months and working with updating the SALDO and that the Commission is looking at separating the Stormwater and Permit process from the SALDO and putting in a separate ordinance. Flo also invited the public to attend the Planning Commission meetings and participate.

**ENGINEER REPORT** – Steve Roe was present on Engineer Tom Wilson’s behalf and reviewed Engineer Wilson’s report dated August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015, which was submitted and made part of the records. No action was taken on his report. Chairman Bechtel inquired about the questions posed to regarding Sheetz and the curbing and whether we need to give a waiver. This was tabled until next meeting.

**SOLICITOR REPORT** – Solicitor Warshawsky presented his report dated August 5, 2015 for services in July. Most items on his report on listed on the agenda for discussion. Solicitor Warshawsky delivered a check to the Township for \$882 for professional fees incurred for the bankruptcy of Charles Paulvir. He is paid in full and has been discharged from Bankruptcy. **UDITO Litigation:** All other parties involved have come to the same conclusion in terms of how to proceed. There will be a more specific update at the next Board of Supervisors Meeting. **Free Roaming Chickens:** The person who complained about the roaming chickens came to the Township office and provided information as to who owns the chickens. A pre-nuisance letter will be sent to that resident as authorized at the last Board of Supervisors meeting. **Sheetz:** A resolution authorizing the application of the HOP needs to be signed but the Chairman would not sign until the Township had the confirmation in writing with the Lebo’s. **Motion:** A motion was made by Supervisor Paul and second by Supervisor McBurney to execute upon receipt of the items the Township is seeking, the Resolution authorizing the application of the HOP application contingent upon satisfaction of the Engineer’s memo points and execution of appropriate agreements. Vote called. Motion carried 5-0. **Masser/Smeltz Nuisance:** The nuisance has not been abated. **Motion** was made by Supervisor Paul and second by Supervisor McBurney to extend the time to clean up the property based upon the complaint. Vote called. Motion carries 3.2. **DONCO Dirt Pile:** Mr. Lenker is waiting to hear from the Township regarding what direction to take. **Motion** was made by Supervisor McBurney and second by Supervisor Schreffler to have Mr. Lenker address the vegetation growing on the dirt pile. Vote called. Motion carried 5-0. **Armstrong Valley Winery:** Corey went to the winery and recorded the noise level on a random night when there was outside entertainment. The noise levels recorded were below the nuisance level. **Farhat land - S. River Rd.:** **Motion** was made by Supervisor Schreffler and second by Supervisor Paul to send a nuisance letter to Farhat Excavating for the overgrown vegetation on the vacant parcel located at S. River Road between the Jehovah Witness Kingdom Hall and the former Pinnacle Dr.’s office. Vote called. Motion carried 4-1. **Cedar Halifax**

**Land LLC – Motion** was made by Supervisor McBurney and second by Supervisor Schreffler to send a nuisance letter to Cedar Halifax Land, LLC for overgrown vegetation on the parcel located at Routes 147 and 225. Vote called. Motion carries 4-1.

**ROADMASTER REPORT** – Roadmaster Stazewski presented his report for July, 2015. Inquired as to whether the Township was waiving the fee for a building permit application issued to Halifax Area Recreation Authority for electric being run at the shed at the athletic field on N. River Road. **Motion** was made by Supervisor Paul and second by Supervisor McBurney to waive the building permit application fee for the Halifax Area Recreation Authority to run electric to the shed located McClellan Road. Vote called. Motion carried 5-0. Corey brought up the suggestion to create a schedule for line painting in the township. Supervisors asked that Corey get a quote to line the newly paved roads. Also, research how we can do without bidding. Corey reported that the traffic light should be back in order by the end of the week. Corey will be talking to Handwerk about painting the cross line for stopping at the red light. Corey discussed the idea of purchasing a new pay loader. He is considering having vendors bring different pay loaders for the Township to try out. The township has had the existing pay loader since 1988. As long as the current pay loader works, the Township can recoup some money by selling it. If it breaks down, it will be worth nothing. The mower is not in good shape that is used to mow the roads. It is falling apart. The Township continues to use it in hopes of getting through the mowing season this year.

**ADMINISTRATIVE – Social Media** – Secretary Wentzel brought up the idea of having a social media page for resident. Discussion was had by the Supervisors and it was decided that they will get a feel from the residents and come back with feedback.

**Newsletter** – Secretary Wentzel brought up the idea of a newsletter to distribute to the residents that cannot attend the monthly meetings. They were done in the past. The Supervisors have asked that the Secretary do more research on bulk mail permit costs and the printing cost of a newsletter.

**Liquid Fuels Audit** – The Liquid Fuels Audit has been completed and it was reported that the Township received a clean record for 2014 Liquid Fuels records.

**SEO REPORT** – The SEO Report for July was submitted and made part of the records.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Encroachment of Township Property** – Christian Dagher, Esquire, representative counsel for Emory Eyster who resides at 116 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, spoke in reference to a decorative rock which has been placed on the corner of Mr. Eyster's property located at the intersection of N. Fifth and Maple Streets. The rock was placed at that location by the resident in front of the utility pole due to the continuing of encroachment of his property by vehicles making the turn at that intersection. Mr. Eyster stated that he has resided there for 45 years and continually has to repair that corner of the property. **Motion** was made by Supervisor Paul and second by Supervisor Schreffler to have markers placed where the rock is located. Vote called. Motion defeated 3-2. The Board agreed to let the rock stay until the Engineer and Roadmaster can get out to inspect and create a design and get an estimate of costs for moving the rock back and making the curve more rounded, have curbing replaced and then paving back to the curb.

**Key Lock Box** – This Ordinance was approved for advertising and to be adopted at the August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting but did not get advertised in time for the meeting. It will be advertised for adoption at the September 14, 2015.

**Sewer Ordinance** – Fred Ford, Chairman of the Halifax Sewer and Water Authority, asked if the Township could send two representatives from the Township along with the Township solicitor if the Township chooses, to their next meeting which is scheduled for August 18<sup>th</sup>, to represent to them what the Township would like to see in the ordinance. The concern is the amount of time you have once you are notified by the Authority to the time you have to hook on. Some people may have a difficult time with the financial aspect of the hookup in such a short period of time. Discussion was had regarding the length of time the property owners should have. A committee will be formed to attend the meeting to discuss what the Township is asking for. Chairman Bechtel will attend the meeting and share the Township concerns.

**Posting of Draft Documents** – After discussion, a **Motion** was made by Supervisor McBurney and second by Supervisor Paul to have proposed ordinances and posted on the Township website when they are advertised in the newspaper for adoption and noted as draft. Vote called. Motion carried 5-0. A Resolution was enacted in the past to have Draft Minutes posted.

**Steve Conrad holding tank** – There was discussion about holding tanks in the flood zone and flood plain. It was a unanimous decision to have the Planning Commission look at making a change on the holding tank requirements.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Middle Road Safety – Chad Lebo** – Mr. Lebo, a resident of Middle Road in the Township, stated that the road was not designed to handle the volume of traffic that it currently dealing with due to the detour on Route 147 by PennDOT in order to replace the rock fence. He is asking the Township to look at Middle Road. A concern was the speed limit that is posted on that winding road. He asked that the Board review the road below his house and make some improvements and address the safety issues because once the Township fixes the road above his house, he feels the road will become a thru-way. He stated that there are blind corners on the road that have not been taken out. The Township did widen it at some spots a few years ago. He asked for speed limits to be posted and was told it cannot be done in the past. He stated he has asked for yellow lines to be painted in the past and was told that it can't be done. He would like to see speed limit signs posted and see the speed limit reduced to 25 mph. In order to reduce the speed, a road study is required. The Township agreed that the road needs to be reviewed and to try and determine the cost of fixing the road. It was decided that the Roadmaster, Steve Roe and Chad Lebo would meet on Wednesday to see what could be done in the concerned area.

**DEP – Corsnitz Property:** The Department of Environmental Protection had emailed their concerns with the Scott Corsnitz property and drain problems along Camp Hebron Road. They were concerned regarding pipes being covered. Since the pipes will be replaced by the Township, the Township has an agreement with Scott Corsnitz and is aware of what has been occurring on the property. The Conservation District and says there are no problems. Mr. Corsnitz had met with DEP and was asked by DEP to halt any earth moving until their report is done.

**Gypsy Moth Spraying Program** –The last spraying occurred in the Spring of 2009. The County will be spraying in the Spring of 2016. The Feds paid 50% in the past and the County paid 25% in the past. The Township paid the remaining balance. This time around, since there is no interest from the Feds, the County is implementing the program and will pay 50% of qualified acres. The other 50% payment will be at the expense of the landowners, the Township or the combination of the two. The cost will be

\$56-60 per acre. With the County absorbing 50% of the cost, which leaves \$28-30 an acre. The Township must opt into the program in order for the residents to participate in the spraying. **Motion** was made by Supervisor Paul and second by Supervisor Bruner to opt into the Gypsy Moth Spraying Program for 2016 and for residents to pay their fair share over what the County is paying. Vote called. Motion carried 5-0.

#### **AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Key Lock Box Ordinance Adoption  
Sewer Ordinance  
2016 Budget Meeting Dates

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Planning Commission Meeting – Wednesday, September 9, 2015 at 7:00 pm.  
Township Business Meeting – Monday, September 14, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Motion was made by Supervisor Bruner and seconded by Supervisor Schreffler to adjourn the meeting at 10:12 pm. Vote called. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendy M. Wentzel  
Secretary