Maidencreek Township Board of Supervisors
November 23, 2020

Attending: Heidi Fiedler, David Franke, Claude Beaver, Diane Hollenbach – Manager

Guests: Scott Eaken, Ed Newcomb, Keith Shuman, Anthony Spero, Heath Isamoyer, Dave Drazenovich, Ontelaunee Township, Eric Bauman, Heather Schoener, Katelyn Gruber, Debbie Didyoung

Heidi Fiedler called the November 23, 2020 special meeting of the Board of Supervisors to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Maidencreek Township Building, 1 Quarry Road, Blandon and asked everyone to rise for the Pledge to the Flag.

A motion was made by Claude Beaver to authorize the Chair to sign the consulting agreement, satisfactory to the solicitor, with W. Ron Smeal for a police manpower and budget study with the cost not to exceed $8,976.00. The motion was seconded by David Franke.
Question on the motion -

Scott Eaken of Berk Road, Shoemakersville asked how the consultant was chosen, and stated he hoped the consultant would have access to more information than he did when a study was performed for Leesport Borough. Diane Hollenbach reviewed the consultants contacted and stated that the Board would not limit information provided to Mr. Smeal's study.
Hearing no further questions, all members voted, "Aye." Motion carried.

A motion was made by David Franke to authorize the solicitor to pursue mediation to resolve all differences with the Northern Berks Regional Police Commission. The motion was seconded by Claude Beaver.
Question on the motion –

Ed Newcomb of Troy Drive, Blandon told the Board that the people in the community were concerned about the police issue and felt the parties should keep talking and compromise when possible. Heidi Fiedler explained that Maidencreek Township had been unaware that the vote to dissolve Northern Berks Regional Police Department would take place until right before the meeting and Maidencreek Township voted not to dissolve the police department.
Hearing no further questions, all members voted, "Aye." Motion carried.

A motion was made by David Franke to authorize a letter be sent to Chief Horner regarding his request for outside employment as Ontelaunee Township's consultant. The motion was seconded by Claude Beaver.
Question on the motion –

Scott Eaken of Berk Road, Shoemakersville asked if Ontelaunee Township planned to use Chief Horner to put together their department. He also commented that equal time should be given to Maidencreek Township by the chief and that the Supervisors should make sure the Commission secretary is giving equal time to Maidencreek Township as well. Heidi Fiedler commented that Ontelaunee Township appears to be moving forward and wants to hire Chief Horner as a consultant which is a conflict of interest. David Franke stated that dissolution will be costly. It is a brash rush to judgement and that there have been personality conflicts through the years before. Heidi Fiedler added that Ontelaunee Township has not been happy with the questions she asked about fair treatment of officers. Maidencreek Township must move forward

to provide coverage when the Department dissolves. David Franke stated that he did not agree with the dissolution and hoped that all sides could come to terms. Scott Eaken stated that no one should be working harder to keep the department together than the Chief.
Hearing no further questions, all members voted, "Aye." Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Ed Newcomb of Troy Drive, Blandon commented that Maidencreek Township is being painted as the fall guys in the public. He hoped that everyone would make an honest effort to compromise.

Scott Eaken of Berk Road, Shoemakersville asked what the time table of the study was. David Franke answered 90 days.

A motion was made by Claude Beaver, seconded by David Franke, to adjourn the November 23, 2020 meeting of the Maidencreek Township Board of Supervisors. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted "Aye". Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:14 a.m.

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Diane Hollenbach, Township Manager/Secretary/Treasurer