Maidencreek Township Board of Supervisors
January 14, 2021

Attending: Claude Beaver, Heidi Fiedler, David Franke, Eugene Orlando, Jr. – Orlando Law Office, Tom Unger – Systems Design Engineering, Diane Hollenbach – Manager

Guests: Tim Mills, Anthony Spero, Scott Eaken, Scott Gisler, Heather Schoener, Debbie Didyoung, Katelyn Gruber, Cody Rhoads, Donna Culp, Keith Shuman, Josh Meck, Bob Wood, Travis Parks, Sean Showalter, Eric Luckenbill, James Patterson, Bob Mitchell, Michele Bement, Shea Nolan, the DeAngelos

Claude Beaver called the January 14, 2021 regular meeting of the Board of Supervisor to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Maidencreek Township municipal building; announced there was an executive session held January 4, 2021 from 9:30 to 11am for personnel, and asked everyone to rise for the Pledge to the Flag.

MINUTES & FINANCES

A motion was made by David Franke to waive the reading of the minutes and approve the December 10, 2020 minutes of the Maidencreek Township Board of Supervisors as presented. Heidi Fiedler seconded the motion and hearing no questions on the motion, it passed unanimously.

A motion was made by David Franke to waive the reading of the minutes and approve the January 4, 2021 reorganization minutes of the Maidencreek Township Board of Supervisors as presented. Heidi Fiedler seconded the motion and hearing no questions on the motion, it passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report and Bill List

A motion was made by David Franke to approve the December 2020 Treasurer's Report and Bill List. Heidi Fiedler seconded the motion and hearing no questions on the motion, it passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Scott Eaken, Berk Road, Shoemakersville complimented the road crew on the limb trimming operation. He requested a copy of the police study when available. He asked if Maidencreek Township has begun negotiating and David Franke explained that the Commission has had one impact bargaining meeting with the officers. As a retiree of the department, Scott Eaken was concerned about the retirees' benefits.

Eric Luckenbill, W Walnut Tree Drive, Blandon asked for an update on the storm water committee. David Franke stated that this would be discussed in the future. Heidi Fiedler stated that she wanted to serve on the committee. Tom Unger envisioned the committee being comprised of the manager, the engineer, a supervisor, a planning commissioner and the public works foreman.

A motion was made by Heidi Fiedler to establish a storm water committee consisting of a Supervisor (she was willing to serve as the representative), Mr. Unger, Ms. Hollenbach, a

Planning Commission member and a member of the road crew. David Franke seconded the motion and hearing no questions on the motion, it passed unanimously.

REPORTS

ENGINEER'S REPORT – Tom Unger, P.E., Systems Design Engineering, Inc.
Mr. Unger reported that all plans are current and the Planning Commission reviewed a sketch plan for a 24,000 square foot addition at 100 White Star Road. The plan will require a use variance to move forward. The 2021 street project will be in the Tree Tops Subdivision and Mr. Unger has begun looking at the scope of work. Storm water basin inspections were completed for nine out of eighteen basins in the township.

Letter of Credit/Escrow Release Letters

A motion was made by Heidi Fiedler to return the Letter of Credit release letter for Schick Dental conditioned upon reimbursement of all engineering bills. David Franke seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, "Aye." Motion carried.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Eugene Orlando, Jr.
12 Chestnut Street – Mr. Orlando reported the Board's comments on the easement agreement to Attorney Valeriano. There has been no response.

Acre Complaint – A letter was received from the State Attorney General that 930 Maidencreek Road had made a complaint about Maidencreek Township restricting agricultural use on their 2.8-acre lot. Mr. Orlando stated that there was no recent communication with the property owner. The last communication was in 2017. Mr. Orlando drafted a letter of response asking for the source of the complaint at the township.

A motion was made by David Franke to authorize the solicitor to respond to the State Attorney General on behalf of the township. Heidi Fiedler seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, "Aye." Motion carried.

Impact Bargaining – Mr. Orlando participated in the impact bargaining session with Northern Berks Regional Police Association on January 5th.

MANAGER'S REPORT – Diane Hollenbach
Diane Hollenbach provided a written report. A request from the Red Knights to allow blockers at intersections on state roads on May 25th for a memorial ride for Erik Hirner. Scott Eaken stated that he never allowed it as police chief because of the liability of stopping traffic on state roads. He recommended sending them a letter stating they must obey all traffic laws.

Keith Shuman reported that he had repaired the roof for $229.98 and the mold test came back negative.

BUSINESS

Police Department Progress Report – Diane Hollenbach updated the progress made on forming the Maidencreek Police Department. An advertisement has been placed for a Chief of Police and resumes are being accepted until January 22nd. The job description for chief of police has been created and given to the Supervisors for review. Ron Smeal is preparing an application and waiver for patrolmen. A showing has been set up for 1052 Park Road, Blandon as a possible headquarters and pricing is being sought on a modular unit.

A motion was made by Heidi Fiedler to hire Ron Smeal to assist in the search for the police chief with the cost not to exceed $5000. David Franke seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, "Aye." Motion carried.

David Franke proposed a civilian board to act as a buffer between the police department and the Board of Supervisors. Heidi Fiedler felt there was no need as this is a small township.

Scott Eaken, Berk Road, Shoemakersville commented that it is good for the supervisors to keep conversation with the officers at a minimum as this leads to grievances, and if supervisors are aware of grievances ahead of time, this could change their point of view. A buffer could be helpful but the Supervisors should be careful with who is appointed and who the committee has allegiance to. That being said, Mr. Eaken still wanted to see Northern Berks Regional Police continue and was still hopeful that Maidencreek Township hasn't given up. Claude Beaver also hoped it could stay together. David Franke commented that he had asked Ontelaunee Township and Leesport Borough to reconsider at the last police commission meeting. Mr. Eaken could not believe that Leesport Borough was going along with this dissolution and had not had a single in person public meeting for the residents.

Michele Bement of Village Drive, Blandon felt the civilian board was a good idea and suggested a Supervisor sit on the committee. She asked to see the police budget. Heidi Fiedler answered that the study had sensitive information in it and was not available to the public at this time. Scott Eaken clarified that the Supervisors had passed the 2021 budget and would only be spending the police budget on Northern Berks Regional until May. The remainder would be used on the township department.

James Patterson of Spirit Court Blandon felt that a committee could provide a neutral ear. He also wanted to keep Northern Berks, wanted to keep costs at a minimum and asked about a petition. Claude Beaver responded that the Supervisors have always been mindful of cost. Unfortunately, the township needs to move forward in order to have police service by May 10th. The Supervisors agreed to post the original petition to save Northern Berks Regional Police on the township webpage.

Eric Bauman of Wales Way, Blandon agreed to forward the online petition to Diane Hollenbach. There are about a thousand signatures on it.

PSATS Convention – Heidi Fiedler and David Franke will attend.

An executive session was held after adjournment for potential litigation from 8:03 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by David Franke, seconded by Heidi Fiedler, to adjourn the January 14, 2021 meeting of the Maidencreek Township Board of Supervisors. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted "Aye". Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

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Diane Hollenbach, Township Manager/Secretary/Treasurer