Maidencreek Township Board of Supervisors
January 10, 2022

Attending: Heidi Fiedler, David Franke, Joseph Farley via phone, Katelyn Gruber – recording secretary

Guests: Sharon Novakovich, Dan Novakovich, Curtis Rhine, Vic Snyder, Anthony Spero, Scott Eaken, Francis Scott, Joann Chabrol, Eric Bauman, Jim Cecchini, Donna Culp, I. Richard Wick, David Reimer Sr., Dennis Fink, Robin Fink, Thomas Borrelli, Donna Franke, Sandy Renninger, LeRoy Renninger, Heather Schoener, Michele Bement, Victoria Solberg, Stephanie Davenport, Berenice Romero, Dawn Geschwindt, Gregg Geschwindt

Heidi Fiedler called the January 10, 2022 special meeting of the Board of Supervisors to order at 11 a.m. in the Maidencreek Township Building, 1 Quarry Road, Blandon.

A motion was made by Heidi Fiedler to approve the agenda. David Franke seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Heidi Fiedler addressed the audience and stated that personal attacks and yelling out would not be tolerated. Ms. Fiedler asked that everyone in attendance be respectful.

David Franke read a letter he prepared rescinding his verbal resignation that he gave on Monday, January 3, 2022 Reorganization Meeting. (Letter attached for record)

Public Comment
Dawn Geschwindt – 305 Anna Avenue – Thanked David Franke for rescinding his resignation and stated that local government is not about being a Democrat or Republican, it is about the best interest of the community.

Accept Resignation of Township Solicitor and Discuss Appointment of Township Solicitor
A motion was made by Heidi Fiedler to accept the resignation of Orlando Law Offices. Joseph Farley seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, Heidi Fiedler and Joseph Farley voted, "Aye," David Franke voted "Nay." Motion passed 2-1.
Eric Frey of E. Kenneth NYCE Law Office, LLC out of Boyertown. Mr. Frey introduced himself and gave a brief background of his municipal law experience. David Franke asked if the Township would still put out RFPs for a Solicitor. Heidi Fiedler stated that Eric Frey came highly recommended and the Township should not be without legal representation for an extended period of time.
A motion was made by Heidi Fiedler to appoint Eric Frey of E. Kenneth NYCE Law Office, LLC at the rate of $180/hour. Joseph Farley seconded the motion. Comments on the motion.
Dan Novakovich – 524 Walnut Tree Drive – questioned if there was a motion at the Reorganization meeting to put out RFPs for a solicitor.
David Franke stated that he supports appointing Eric Frey as in interim, but believes RFPs should be sent out.
Heidi Fiedler and Joseph Farley voted, "Aye," David Franke voted "Nay." Motion passed 2-1.

Authorize the Termination of Employee and Authorize the Chairperson to Sign and Send Termination Letter to Employee

A motion was made by Heidi Fiedler to terminate Diane Hollenbach effective January 3, 2022. Joseph Farley stated that he would like to suspend the termination of Diane Hollenbach until the investigation into allegations of unapproved bonus pays is completed. The motion died for a lack of a second.

A motion was made by David Franke to reinstate Diane Hollenbach as Township Manager. Joseph Farley seconded the motion. Comments on the motion.

Scott Eaken – 62 Berk Road – asked the Board why they made a motion at the January 3, 2022 Reorganization Meeting to not appoint Diane Hollenbach to Township Manager. Why is it happening again today?

David Franke replied that before the former Solicitor resigned, Mr. Orlando informed the Board of Supervisors that written notice of termination must be given to Diane Hollenbach.

Scott Eaken asked if Diane Hollenbach was notified that she wasn't properly terminated. Heidi Fiedler stated that personnel issues would not be discussed in public.

Donna Franke – 190 Austrian Drive – stated she felt that Heidi Fiedler was the judge, jury and executioner at the last meeting. Donna Franke said Heidi Fiedler found Diane Hollenbach guilty before an investigation was complete. Ms. Franke asked that Diane Hollenbach be returned to her position and Katelyn Gruber be returned to her position. Donna Franke also knows a lawsuit is waiting to happen and it will cost the Maidencreek Township residents money.

Stephanie Davenport – 261 North View Road – thanked Mr. Franke for rescinding his resignation. Mrs. Davenport felt Diane Hollenbach should have never been fired, David Franke knew nothing about the investigation and Diane Hollenbach was never found guilty. Stephanie Davenport thanked Mr. Farley for reinstating Diane Hollenbach as Township Manager. Mrs. Davenport went on to say that Heidi Fiedler terminated Diane Hollenbach for personal reasons. Heidi Fiedler told Stephanie Davenport she was out of order and there would be no personal attacks at the meeting. Ms. Fiedler stated she has not authorized any investigation and that there is information that the general public is not privy to at this time that will prove Mrs. Davenport's statements to be untrue.

David Franke and Joseph Farley voted, "Aye," Heidi Fiedler voted "Nay." Motion passed 2-1.

Katelyn Gruber asked to be appointed back to her position.

A motion was made by Heidi Fiedler to appoint Katelyn Gruber to receptionist/typist/clerk. David Franke seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted "Aye." Motion passed.

Comments by the Board

Joseph Farley addressed the audience asking for a stop with the name calling and asked that everyone stay calm and collected. Mr. Farley would like to move forward.

David Franke thanked the audience for the continued support and coming to the special meeting. Mr. Franke also thanked the roadcrew and office staff for doing their jobs and keeping operations functioning the past week.

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A motion was made by David Franke, seconded by Heidi Fiedler, to adjourn the January 10, 2022 special meeting of the Maidencreek Township Board of Supervisors. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted "Aye". Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

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Katelyn Gruber