Maidencreek Township Board of Supervisors
August 24, 2023
6:00 p.m.

Attending: David Franke, Heidi Fiedler, Joshua Meck, Hunter Ahrens, Eric Frey, Esq. of E. Kenneth Nyce, and Keith Shuman.

Guests: Pat Demming and Richard Demming, as well as several members of the community.

Attending the Zoom: Several members of the public.

David Franke called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge to the Flag.

Joshua Meck motioned to amend and approve the agenda adding an item to return the Letter of Credit for the Shuman Dentistry. Heidi Fiedler seconded the motion. Hearing no questions on the motion, all members voted, "Aye." Motion carried.

Mr. Ahrens summarized that the work related to Shuman Dentistry was completed, per Tom Unger. Ms. Fiedler questioned why the LOC return was being returned at this time, rather than when the work was completed. Mr. Ahrens responded that the original applicant's passing affected their request for the LOC to be returned. Mr. Frey commented that normally the Engineer and staff would not investigate the completion of projects independent of the applicant's request which would contribute to the time difference.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pat Demming, 112 S View Rd., commented that she and her husband were still awaiting the completion of work at their home after the July flood. She summarized some of the conditions they were facing with the home repairs that became apparent during the flood. She asked what would next steps be for Federal Emergency Aid.

Mr. Ahrens summarized the process of an emergency declaration through the Federal Government and the interaction with the State Government. Mr. Franke commented that the FEMA/PEMA would set up meetings with individuals to address their individual needs. Mr. Franke added that if the Federal Government does not act, there will not be funding available. Mr. Franke also summarized the process of aid related to the reporting done by the Emergency Management Coordinator.

Yvonne Scalese, 213 Spirt Ct., said Keith Shuman did a good job at the bridge and asked if something would be done with the bridge. She also said her husband and she did some cleanup of the debris at the bridge.

BUSINESS

Letter of Credit Return, Joshua Meck made a motion to approve the return of the Letter of Credit to Schwab Dentistry. Heidi Fiedler seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

Discussion of Creek Flooding Responses

Mr. Ahrens summarized that the Township's financial position would end this year with $600,000.00 and next year in the first quarter, the Township would have revenue of $500,000.00. He added that next year, the Township would likely see $900,000.00 in expenses during the first quarter of 2024. Mr. Ahrens summarized that left $200,000.00 in cash flow moving forward, which was not a significant fund balance and if the Board were to spend money on these creek projects without increasing taxes for 2024 they would be jeopardizing the Township's finances.

Mr. Franke responded that the quotes in front of them totaled $237,000.00. Mr. Ahrens said that if the Board wants to do these projects, they should seek to open a Line of Credit to solidify the finances next year. Mr. Ahrens shared that he understood the necessity of the projects, but the finances would need to be replenished with additional revenue next year to protect the Township's financial position. Mr. Meck added that some fees would not be included in the final invoice because the Township would provide services to offset those costs.

Mr. Ahrens added that the emergency permits make it sensible to do the work now instead of feeling the impact of inflation and additional permits that would occur in the next year if the projects were delayed. Ms. Fiedler asked what the intention for the West Walnut Tree Drive Bridge was because that area was getting worse. Mr. Ahrens responded that the Township's emergency permit from DEP does not include West Walnut Tree Drive and the staff believed there were more important projects, but they would abide by the will of the Board.

Mr. Franke added that these projects must be done in phases to appropriately complete the work in a way that services the greater community past these two projects. Mr. Ahrens shared that the Township received quotes from Empire Services of Reading, M&A Excavating of Mertztown, and Schlouch, Inc. of Blandon. Mr. Ahrens shared that Schlouch was able to provide the lowest quotes by tens of thousands of dollars. Ms. Fiedler asked when would the work start because the permit had limited time. Mr. Ahrens responded that work would begin the next day.

Mr. Ahrens added that he needed direction from the Board about whether to seek additional funding methods to support the Township's operations if the quotes are approved. Mr. Franke responded that the Township would need to look at those options.

Joshua Meck made a motion to approve and accept the Schlouch, Inc. quotes for $237,000.00. Heidi Fiedler seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

Joshua Meck made a motion to approve work beginning immediately. Heidi Fiedler seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

Mr. Frey asked if Mr. Ahrens wanted a vote to approve the search for the line of credit. Mr. Franke stated that Mr. Ahrens should bring back information related to the line of credit.

Mr. Demming asked if there could be a summary of the work: Mr. Meck summarized the work for the audience.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Joshua Meck and seconded by Heidi Fiedler. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hunter L. Ahrens
Township Manager