Maidencreek Township Board of Supervisors
October 10, 2024
6:00 p.m.

Attending: David Franke, Joshua Meck, Eric Bauman, Diane Hollenbach, Eric Frey, Esq. of E. Kenneth Nyce Law Office, Pamela Stevens of Systems Design Engineering, Diane Hollenbach, Township Manager, and Christina Hafer, Recording Secretary.

Guests: Keith Shuman (Road Foreman), Dan Miller, Fire Chief at Blandon Fire Company, Donna Culp, Jack May, Anthony Spero, Aaron Rogers, Mike Schittler, Tracy Bretz, Karen Philip, Gavin Milligan, Nancy Runyon, Mike Meleta, and other guests.

Attending the Zoom: Brooke Meck.

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

David Franke asked everyone to stay standing for a moment of silence for victims of the flooding in the southern states from Hurricane Helene.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Eric Bauman motioned to approve the October 10, 2024, Agenda. Joshua Meck seconded the motion and hearing no questions on the motion, it passed unanimously.

Joshua Meck motioned to approve the September 12, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes, Eric Bauman seconded the motion, and hearing no questions on the motion, it passed unanimously.

Dave Franke stated they had an executive session after the September 12, 2024, meeting to discuss legal and personnel matters.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Tracy Bretz, 218 Hope Drive, verbalized her concerns about the roundabout at Tamarack Blvd and said she spoke with Ray from PennDOT in Allentown, who agrees PennDOT owns the land there. She said trash is a problem and she does not want to continue picking up trash and maintaining areas belonging to PennDOT. Ms. Bretz wants the Tamarack roundabout to be maintained. David Franke stated that PennDOT is responsible for maintaining the roundabouts and does not know Ray from PennDOT. Joshua Meck said he made some phone calls to PennDOT about mowing the areas around the roundabouts. The discussion continued with Ms. Bretz and the Board of Supervisors. Diane Hollenbach explained the meeting they had with PennDOT and the basins had to meet MS4 requirements with special soils and heavy equipment cannot be put in them. Joshua Meck said it is a safety issue with the grass and weeds being too high someone and that someone could be hiding in it. Tracy Bretz asked if they could spray the weeds and there were large pieces of garbage that she could not pick up. The Board of

Supervisors will contact appropriate state legislators and will address the problems to rectify the issues at the roundabout.

Charles L. Voorhies, 284 West Walnut Tree Drive, discussed the brake retarder issues and citation issues. Mr. Franke said some citations have been issued with hearings. The police department said there are grants for traffic enforcement. Mr. Voorhies said the Township needs to hold the state responsible for the issues with the roundabouts and the brake retarders and said Ontelaunee Township should pay a greater percentage to the police department. The Board agreed with Mr. Voorhies about the visibility of the signs is not adequate and with more police enforcement. Mr. Franke explained the traffic details and will address it with NBRPD about more enforcement.

Heidi Fiedler asked the Board about the C-2 Ordinance, stating there was a review to remove warehousing from the C-2 Zoning District. Eric Frey said it is under review at this time and will be completed in about 6 months.

REPORTS

Northern Berks Regional Police – David Franke stated the Northern Berks Regional Police Commission meeting will be on Monday, October 14th and Chief Keiser will have the NBRPD Activity Report at the next Board of Supervisors meeting.

Engineering & Zoning Reports – Pamela Stevens

Pamela Stevens stated the Board had a copy of the SDE Subdivision Review Status Checklist and the Planning Commission meeting in October was cancelled.

Direction regarding Village at Maidencreek Basin modification.

Pamela Stevens said the HOA manager did not advise the Township nor SDE of the proposed work in the basin and the work being done conflicted with the proposed plans that were approved. SDE had discussions and met them out on the field to have the work corrected and when the emergency spillway is done the work will be complete.

Consider action as needed on the salt shed project. SDE reviewing specifications. Authorize given previously to purchase.

Diane Hollenbach said the salt shed has been approved and ordered and no action was taken. Joshua Meck gave an update on the project stating the road crew has been excavating and prepping and next week will start digging the foundations and hauling stone so they are ready for the installation of the salt shed.

Update on Cornerstone Drive Bridge Project. Core Borings completed. LSA Grant submitted.
Grant Stahl from SDE gave an overview of the new bridge with a plan for the Board. He discussed the modifications to the existing road, storm sewer pipes, wing walls, and guide rails. They will relocate the park path, a few of the signs and adjust minor driveways. They continued the discussion about contacting the utilities at the bridge and hoped to be ready by December 2nd to start final coordination, permitting and maintaining DEP regulations. Diane Hollenbach requested to run an electric line to Cornerstone Park to install a light near the driveway and path.

Solicitor – Eric Frey, Esq.
Eric Frey said a draft of the Solar Ordinance is in the packet for the Board, the Berks County Planning Commission has to review it for 30 days and then it will be advertised. The warehouse application appeal has been withdrawn, and the Township's decision on land development and zoning is in control. Diane Hollenbach said the Township has received outside agency permits except for the Authority and is still working on agreements.

Public Works – Keith Shuman

Consideration of purchase using Bond of Simex Cold Planer for skid loader $40,095.00.
Joshua Meck explained the decision for the purchase and that it would be less expensive.

A motion was made by Eric Bauman to purchase the Simex Cold Planer for the skid loader costing $40,095.00. Joshua Meck seconded the motion and hearing no questions on the motion, it passed unanimously.

Authorization to paint road lines through Berks County Cooperative Purchasing Council Contract not to exceed $20,000.00.

A motion was made by Joshua Meck to authorize to paint road lines through Berks County Cooperative Purchasing Council Contract not exceeding $20,000.00. Eric Bauman seconded the motion and hearing no questions on the motion, it passed unanimously.

Park and Recreation – Aaron Rogers
Aaron Rogers said the Flea Market on October 5th generated a little over $400.00 to support the Park & Recreation funds. There were around 20 spots taken at the event, stating it was busy all day and around $100.00 in sales from the concession stand with food donations from Nancy Runyon, Pat Demming, and himself. He said next year they are planning to have two Flea Market events to coincide with the neighborhood yard sales.
The Board commented on the Park & Recreation Board, and thanking them for participating in the National Night Out event. They also thanked the Fire Chief, Dan Miller, for having his crew at the National Night Out event.

Manager – Diane Hollenbach

Diane Hollenbach reviewed the manager's report with the Board stating they submitted the LSA Grant for Cornerstone Bridge and a reminder of the Joint Comprehensive Plan meeting on October 22nd at 6 pm at the Richmond Township Building. The Authority is in search of another manager, and Patrick Donovan will remain as manager at this time. There are no updates on breaching the dam at the reservoir on Mountain Spring Road. The NPDES permit was received and there were no comments from the 30-day comment period. SDE submitted the MS4 Annual Report for the Township. The Recycling Grant for the Yard Waste Site is closed out, receiving a final payment of $4,389.02. Jane Meeks was contacted about applying for another grant at the next round in April 2025 for an excavator with a mower and grapple. Diane said the Township is waiting for the Police budget so she can complete the 2025 budget. Diane and Tom Unger started working on the revision to the streets, sidewalks, and curb ordinance. The meeting to review the Personnel Rules and Regulations will be scheduled sometime in the winter months.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Accept the resignation of Earl Weber effective November 2, 2024.

Joshua Meck motioned to accept the resignation of Earl Weber effective November 2, 2024. Eric Bauman seconded the motion and hearing no questions on the motion, it passed unanimously.

The Board asked for a letter to be sent to Mr. Weber thanking him for his service.

Adopt Resolution 24-2024 appointing an additional alternate SEO.

Joshua Meck motioned to amend Resolution 24-2024 appointing an additional alternate SEO, Kevin Beyer. Seconded by Eric Bauman and hearing no questions on the motion, it passed unanimously.

Schedule a Budget Meeting.

The meeting cannot be scheduled until the Police budget is received.

Schedule the Holiday Lunch for Volunteers and Staff for December 20, 2024.

The Board agreed to the Holiday Lunch to be held on December 20, 2024. The caterer will be Food Leigh from Kutztown.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Motion to approve the bills and accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.

A motion was made by Joshua Meck to approve the bills and accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Eric Bauman seconded the motion and hearing no questions on the motion, it passed unanimously.

David Franke read a letter about the EMS Service. This letter addressed complaints circulating that indicated our EMS responders were unable to handle calls. Northern Berks EMS being the medical response service the Board of Supervisors chose and support as the medical responders for Maidencreek Township. There is a shortage of EMS providers statewide, pay is exceptionally low, expenses that occur for the upkeep of vehicles and equipment should be kept in mind. Berks County has a Mutual Aide agreement which an Ambulance will respond from somewhere, in turn we will cover for other areas just like the Police and the Fire Company. Mr. Franke asked if anyone was interested in participating in joining our EMS, please come forward and if anyone has issues, please feel free to ask and we will check and address issues or concerns and thanked everyone.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Eric Bauman and seconded by Joshua Meck. The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Hafer
Recording Secretary