

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**HEGINS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS' BOARD MEETING**  
**August 4, 2021 7:00 P.M.**  
**HEGINS TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING**  
**421 S. Gap Street**  
**Valley View, PA 17983**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Douglas Lucas called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL (DECLARATION OF QUORUM)**

Supervisors Present: Chairman Douglas Lucas, Vice Chairman Bruce Klouser, Ken Graham, William Wolfgang.

**REPORT OF EXECUTIVE SESSIONS HELD:**

An Executive Session was held from 6:40 p.m. until 7:10 p.m. on Wednesday, July 7, 2021 to discuss a personnel and legal matter.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Board of Supervisors' Meeting Minutes from July 7, 2021.

Motion to Approve: Graham; Second: Wolfgang. Motion unanimously approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (ONLY ON THE ITEMS ON THE AGENDA):**

None.

**BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Gary Hornberger issued his treasurer's report for the month of July.

Income:	\$	223,395.40
Expenses:	\$	47,520.47
Income Exceeding Expenses:	\$	175,874.93
General Fund Balance:	\$	1,225,823.26 (ARPA COVID-19 funds included in GF total.)
PLGfT Fund Balance:	\$	121,831.96

The first half of the township's ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) DCED grant funding (\$176,001.28) was direct deposited into the General Fund on 7/20/21. Treasurer Hornberger noted the township's auditor recommended moving that money into a separate account for grant tracking purposes. Since the balance now exceeds the FDIC coverage limit where the General Fund is currently at Gratz Bank, the other local BB&T branch was proposed as a new depository.

Motion to Approve BB&T for ARPA Funds: Graham; Second: Klouser. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion to Approve Treasurer's Report: Graham; Second: Wolfgang. Motion unanimously approved.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Motion to Approve: Klouser; Second: Wolfgang. Motion unanimously approved.

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**POLICE REPORT 2021:** Chief Yarmush submitted his police report for the month of July.

Calls to Service:	164
Offense/Incident Reports:	9
Non-Traffic Citations:	4
Reportable Accidents:	2
Traffic Citations:	24
Traffic Warnings:	29

<b>Patrol Unit Mileage</b>	<b>2009 Durango</b>	<b>2020 Ford</b>	<b>2016 Ford</b>	
Odometer End of Month:	136,898	13,318	48,727	
Monthly Total Miles:	39	877	546	<b>TOTAL: 1,462</b>

Supervisor Chairman Doug Lucas stated a reminder to residents that side by sides and off-road vehicles such as ATVs, UTVs, and golf carts, must not be driven on township roads. Lucas added the police will not issue warnings, and violators will be cited.

Motion to Approve Police Report: Graham; Second: Klouser. Motion unanimously approved.

**FIRE COMPANY REPORT:** None.

**EMS REPORT:** None.

**ROADS COMMITTEE:**

Road Foreman Craig Coleman submitted his written activity report for the month of July. He reminded the supervisors it was agreed the engineers must continue to work on the multimodal grant application for Wood Lane and Pine Bridge Drive. Maurer Excavating was hired for stone hauling on the Forest Drive Bridge project.

Motion to Approve Road Report as submitted: Klouser; Second: Graham. Motion unanimously approved.

**ENGINEER’S REPORT:**

Joel Schmoyer, Lehigh Engineering, submitted his July report. Schmoyer met at Bear Valley Road Bridge with the excavator to discuss the required actions to stabilize the stream bank. The Forest Drive Bridge Project Status Call with Cristie Barry was held Friday, July 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. After the boundaries of the project have been staked out next week, Lehigh Engineering will coordinate an on-site meeting with the township surveyor (Brinkash). The next status call is August 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.

A SALDO project Land Development and Stormwater Management Plan and supporting documentation for 1230 W. Main St. was received and a technical review from Lehigh Engineering will follow.

Motion to Accept Formal Review: Wolfgang; Second: Graham. Motion unanimously approved.

A request was received by Ed Morgan’s engineer to conduct a final inspection for the required stormwater management facilities at 50 Industrial Road. Based on site visits, Lehigh Engineering recommends that any financial security associated with construction of the stormwater management be released to the applicant.

Motion to Release Morgan Escrow: Graham; Second: Wolfgang. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion to Approve Engineer’s Report as written: Klouser; Second: Graham. Motion unanimously approved.

**PLANNING/ZONING/UCC/CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REPORT:**

Ed Wenger of Lehigh Engineering submitted his report for July, with five zoning permits issued and one incomplete. Reager and Adler, P.C. Attorney Linus Fenicle’s advertisement will run August 9<sup>th</sup> and August 16<sup>th</sup> for the Zoning Hearing Board Wind Energy public hearing August 31, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hegins Area Ambulance Association Building, 352 South Gap Street, in Valley View. The property will be posted next week.

In order to manage the township’s run-down properties, based upon solicitor recommendations, Wenger suggested a fully bonded property maintenance company should be contracted to clean up abandoned and neglected sites, and have the township place a lien on each property for which the service is utilized. The township must be named as a secondary payer on the winning bidder’s certificate of liability insurance. The solicitor added the statute is cost plus 10%. Wenger strongly advised that township equipment nor staff be used for code enforcement property violations clean-up purposes due to insurance liabilities and potential hazard exposure.

Motion to authorize solicitor to prepare RFP for Property Maintenance Bids: Wolfgang; Second: Graham. Motion unanimously approved.

Notices of Violation (NOVs) were sent to 620 W. Main St., 810 W. Center St., 1150 W. Main St., 1405 W. Main Street, and 335 Park Road. A hearing before District Magistrate Rossi will be held August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to hear the civil complaint filed for the 1161 W. Main Street property owner’s failure to comply with the issued Zoning Enforcement Notice.

The Planning Commission met on the 27<sup>th</sup> and voted to recommend that the Supervisors approve the Technical Review of the Erdman plan contingent upon the applicant addressing two comments cited in the letter.

Motion to Approve Erdman Plan Review (as above): Klouser; Second: Graham. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion to authorize solicitor and zoning officer to make recommended zoning ordinance updates: Klouser; Second: Graham. Motion unanimously approved.

A letter of interest was received by Sandra Renninger for the local planning commission vacancy as duly advertised (for term ending 12/31/2023); two alternate members are still needed.

Motion to Appoint Sandra Renninger to Planning Commission: Klouser; Second: Graham. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion to Approve Planning, Zoning & Code Reports: Klouser; Second: Graham. Motion unanimously approved.

**SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:** William Brior, SEO, submitted no monthly sewage activity report for July.

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT:**

Erika, Mills, Esq., presented Solicitor Karpowich’s report for July. The District Magistrate Rossi civil complaint hearing date for Monday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> was postponed for the suit filed against Elvin Robles Acosta with for the January 11, 2021 Grove Drive rollover accident. The defendant could not be served. Mills requested supervisor approval to hire a process server. Chairman Lucas asked to have Karpowich Law investigate the costs (approximately \$200) before approval, so expenses don’t exceed projected recovery. Karpowich Law will follow up.

Karpowich Law sent a draft School Crossing Safety Lights Easement Draft for Commonwealth Telephone Company for review, and is waiting on revisions or approval from CTCO.

Mills presented duly advertised Ordinance 1 of 2021-08-04 No Parking on Streets During Work Activity for supervisors' approval in order to define the authority of the township police to act on violations and set fines and/or tow vehicles in an emergency situation.

Motion to adopt No Parking Ordinance: Klouser; Second: Graham. Motion unanimously approved.

Mills presented the duly advertised Peddler's and Solicitation Ordinance 2 of 2021-08-04 for vote to adopt, to be used with the existing application.

Motion to adopt Solicitation Ordinance: Graham; Second: Wolfgang. Motion unanimously approved.

Supervisors had previously tabled a vote on an exemption waiver for the "0" Maple Street, Valley View property purchased by Klinger and Stehr and submitted by engineer Dave Williams for both a Stormwater Management and Land Development Plan. The Zoning Hearing Board permit appeal for a variance was heard on July 21<sup>st</sup>. The Zoning Hearing Board voted to approve the 0000 Maple Street Use Variance permitting parking of Klinger and Stehr Tire and Service customers' vehicles. Mills noted the township is still within the 30-day appeal period, and recommended the supervisors continue to table a vote on this issue for another month.

Motion to Approve Solicitor's Report: Klouser; Second: Graham. Motion unanimously approved.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

As approved last month, Kyle Swetz, Schuylkill County Recycling Coordinator, will use our municipal lot for the 2021 Annual Fall Clean-up event Thursday and Friday September 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m.-noon.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Supervisor approval was needed for K&B electronics collection Friday September 17<sup>th</sup> and Saturday September 18<sup>th</sup>, pending DEP permit.

Motion to Approve K&B Electronics Recycling, Pending DEP Permit: Graham; Second: Wolfgang.  
Motion unanimously approved.

Approve Police User License Renewal \$1,400 invoice for Informant Technologies annual support services.

Motion to Approve Informant Technologies Police License Renewal: Klouser; Second: Graham.  
Motion unanimously approved.

The vacancy for Supervisor Brad Carl's unexpired term ending 12/31/23 was duly advertised. A letter of interest was received by former supervisor Gary Harner for the open position.

Motion to Appoint Gary Harner as Supervisor: Klouser; Second: Wolfgang. Motion unanimously approved.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

A letter was received from Tower City Borough Council with a June Comcast 2021 resolution they adopted, requesting their surrounding communities to also ask the Schuylkill County Commissioners to contact the FCC on behalf of Western Schuylkill to restore broadcast channels from the Harrisburg market, which was removed from local programming in favor of Wilkes-Barre/Scranton stations.

Motion to Draft Resolution and Letter for Next Meeting: Wolfgang; Second: Graham. Motion unanimously approved.

A "Thank You" letter will be sent for the \$500 annual donation received from Barry Township Board of Supervisors for the Tri-Valley Community Pool.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Resident Roger Hummel asked about a noise ordinance for barking dogs. His neighbor's dog barks for more than 15 minutes multiple times daily. Hummel also complained about weapons discharged at the park's gun club at 9:40 p.m.; this matter was turned over to police for investigation. Hummel said neighbors have been cutting grass at the 1012 East Main Street property, where a roof is falling down, with boards on the porch. Code Enforcement Officer Wenger responded that this is what is known as a "ghost property" which was returned to the bank, with multiple maintenance violations. On a previous occasion, the judge sided with the former owner in that he had sold and abandoned the property years ago. Wenger will continue to investigate.

Next Supervisors' Board Meeting – 7:00 PM on September 1, 2021.

Next Food Pantry – September 15, 2021, 8:00 – 10:00 AM.

**ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING:** Motion to Adjourn at 7:45 p.m.: Klouser; Second: Graham. Motion unanimously approved.

**Township Office Hours – Weekdays 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM**

**Telephone: 570-682-9133; Email: [heginstwp@comcast.net](mailto:heginstwp@comcast.net); Website: [www.psatstwp.org/schuylkill/hegins/](http://www.psatstwp.org/schuylkill/hegins/)**

ATTEST:

*Sunda Gately*

Secretary

HEGINS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS:

By:

*John J. L...*

Chairman

By:

*Bruce D. Klausner*

Vice Chairman

By:

*Kenneth W. ...*

Supervisor

By:

*William Wolfgang*

Supervisor

By:

*Gary ...*

Supervisor