# HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP, Berks County BOARD of SUPERVISORS

Meeting Minutes – March 19, 2025 at 7pm

**BOARD MEMEBERS/REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:** Dave Randler, Dennis Miller, Kevin Snyder, Thoams Schoener, Lori Brown, Solicitor Andrew George, Chief Matt Hook, Nicole Werner

<u>OTHERS PRESENT:</u> Geneva Berger, Eileen Zerbe, Mark Wolfskill, David Wolfskill, Steve Bright and Mark Spotts from Womelsdorf Robesonia Joint Water Authority, Ryan Zerbe and Bob Martin from Womelsdorf Volunteer Fire Co, John Christian with Pioneer Hose #26, Bryan Martin

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Randler at 7:00pm

## **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

Steve Bright, Womelsdorf Robesonia Joint Water Authority - Held a special meeting March 13th, properly advertised. Discussion regarding Water Company property and the possibility of land being put into conservation. The water shed supplies Robesonia Borough, Womelsdorf Borough, Millcreek Township and Heidelberg Township. The Water Company will continue to operate as usual. About 450 acres will be put in to conservation. At this moment, there has been no obligation or contract signed. The main goal is to protect the watershed. This process could take a year. Mark Spotts stated the purpose for easement agreement is to put aside a portion of the watershed property, development rights of land are sold and put into a trust. The land is striped of development rights. The Water Authority is looking to protect the land in the future. The Board asked if letters of support are required. Steve Bright said he was not aware of the requirement. Sup Schoener asked that the Water Authority continue to keep the Board informed of updates. Chairman Randler requested information that was given to the Water Authority Board from the meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup>, would like to see a map of section in discussion. Chairman Randler suggested the possibility of rezoning the area in question so the rights to the land are not lost. Per Spotts, the area in discussed runs from Furnace Rd, travel south to William Penn State Forrest (old reservoir) . . . under 500 acres. David Wolfskill asked about Mountain Ave posted signs, no hunting no doe hunting. Spotts and Bright said that is not their land and they allow hunting on Water Authority property, ask that tree stands are removed at season end and follow laws.

Mark Wolfskill – Discussion of Emergency Services from cardiac incident on property. Conversation regarding communication with Emergency Services and property owners were had between the property owner/family and Fire Company/Police Department. Sup Schoener suggested coming up with a plan for future emergencies. Chief Hook stated when a call comes in it is auto dispatch Fire/Police/Ambulance . . . all hands on deck. Mr. Wolfskill stated he appreciates the work and time put in by emergency services.

David Wolfskill - Discussion of Emergency Services from barn fire on property. Mr. Wolfskill felt there was a lack of communication with Emergency Services and would like to see the fire companies/police work together with the property owners, especially farmers as they are aware of what is the priority to be saved during those moments. Mr. Wolfskill was told to evacuate while they were removing animals and if they didn't, they would be arrested. One of the biggest things to be saved was 600 head of cattle in addition to the feeding facility. He contacted both numbers, waited 15 minutes and left messages. No response, called 911. Wolfskill received a bill of \$20K plus and contacted the insurance company who in turn told them to ignore it. A second notice was received. Wolfskill was given two phone numbers to contact for hotspots.

Sup Schoener contacted Fire Chief John Christian about the invoice. Mr. Christian was unaware the invoice was sent to Wolfskill. Per John Christian the bill was a clerical error from Fire Co and 3rd Party biller. Heidelberg Twp is not billed for structure fires; their assumption was since it was a Robesonia address . . . they billed. Bills are only to be sent to insurance company.

Sup Miller and Chairman Randler suggested setting up meeting/training session with the Wolfskill Family and Fire/Police Companies.

**Geneva Berger** – No comment

**Eileen Zerbe** – No comment

**Ryan Zerbe** – Representing Womelsdorf Volunteer Fire Co. No comment.

**Bryan Martin** – Discussion regarding Financial Release and Board's response.

<u>MINUTES:</u> MOTION made to pass February 19, 2025 Board of Supervisors meeting minutes by Sup Snyder, **SECOND** Sup Miller. **PASSED** unanimously.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** MOTION made to approve the March, 2025 treasurers report by Sup Snyder, **SECOND** by Sup Miller. **PASSED** unanimously.

<u>PAYMENT OF BILLS:</u> MOTION made by Sup Brown, SECOND Sup Schoener. PASSED unanimously.

MOTION made to donate \$12,000 to Western Berks Ambulance by Sup Schoener, SECOND by Sup Miller. PASSED unanimously.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Police Report** - Report provided by Chief Matt Hook. Present yearly report and give out awards on April 29th.

**Emergency Management Coordinator -** Bob Martin to follow up with Mike Palm and Womelsdorf Borough for a more detailed list of PPE items needed with cost and possible split of payment with the Borough.

### Fire Report -

Jon Christian, Pioneer Hose #26: Invoice was a mistake and would like to discuss Ordinance of billing. Discussed/explained fire and process at the Wolfskill fire. 104 Stricker Rd Call (heart attack) discussion/explanation.

Bob Martin, Womelsdorf Volunteer Fire Co. – Sent appreciation for parking/storing fire truck at the Township building.

Run cards - fire companies will meet and discuss.

**Sewer** – Chairman Randler requested a quote for lining from Performance Pipelining. Tabled till next month.

**Planning Commission** – No report

### Committee Reports continued . . .

#### Roads, Building & Equipment –

Traffic Contractor: TELCO contract is reissued after payment of yearly invoice.

North Heidelberg Twp, sealcoat Reider/Dundore Rd

**MOTION** made to double sealcoat Dundore Road and Reider Road along with North Heidelberg Township by Sup Schoener, **SECOND** by Sup Snyder. **PASSED** unanimously.

**Personnel** – No report

**Recreation Board/Pool** – Memberships are open.

**Zoning Hearing Board** – No report

Joint Zoning Board – No report

**Engineers Report** – Report provided by TEI.

**SEO Report** - Report Provided by TEI

**Zoning Report** - Report Provided by TEI

**Communications** – No report

**Solicitor's Report** – Solicitor report provided by Andrew George.

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Western Berks Ambulance Report
- ARRO Water Services Monthly Report
- RWMA Meeting Minutes
- IFS Group Monthly Pension Reports
- WRJA Proposed Rate Increase Sheet
- Berks County Solid Waste Authority Sponsorship Request, action taken
- Thank You card from Lori Brown

MOTION made to donate \$500 to Berks County Solid Waste Authority by Sup Snyder,

- **SECOND** by Sup Snyder. **PASSED** unanimously.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- **Robesonia Library Donation**: Financial Reports provided to Board for review, tabled till next month.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Berks Nature request for grant support/possible action: No action taken
- Alden on Sixth, Waiver of Conflict of Interest

MOTION made to sign Conflict Waiver Letter regarding Alden on Sixth and the representation for both Heidelberg Township and Marion Township by Sup Snyder, SECOND by Sup Miller. PASSED unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** adjourned at 9:29pm

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** by Sup Snyder, **SECOND** by Sup Miller, **PASSED** unanimously at 9:30pm.

Next meeting will be held on April 16, 2025 at 7:00pm, Board of Supervisors Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Werner, Township Secretary