

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE SUPERVISORS OF HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP HELD
NOVEMBER 25, 2019**

PRESENT: David Randler, David Manbeck, Terry Wolfe, Thomas Schoener, Brian Thumm, Solicitor Haws, Jack Keener, Carol and Robert Keppley, Lori Brown, Eileen Zerbe, Garry Zerbe, Chris and Heather Yatron, \Kevin Snyder, Traci and Kenny Kissinger, Steve Bright, Michele Davis, Cherie and Tom Benfer, Gary and Sharon Knoll, Brenda Wagner, Jim Hager, Donald Taatjes, Bailey Thumm, Chief Grim, Ruthie Wolfe, Mary Wolfe and Mike August.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Chairman Randler with the Pledge to the Flag.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Lori Brown – stated the Supervisors should vote to keep the police for at least 1 year to see what happens – listen to the residents.

Rick Hartlieb –stated to keep the police for 1 year and don’t rush into anything.

Heather & Chris Yatron – wait and watch to see what happens.

Garry & Eileen Zerbe – No comment.

Kevin Snyder – No comment.

Traci and Kenny Kissinger – wait one year.

Deb Schoener – thinks there are bigger fish to fry and the Supervisors should refocus their efforts.

Michele Davis- wait for 1 year and see what happens.

Cherie & Tom Benfer – continue as is for 1 year to see how it works with Robesonia & Wernersville.

Gary & Sharon Knoll – agreed with the Benfers

Brenda Wagner – wait and see how it play out – there is nothing wrong with what we have.

Jim Hager – wait and see what happens.

Don Taatjes – don’t know why there is a rush

Bailey Thumm – thinks this is a better option

Chief Grim – No comment.

Ruthie Wolfe – the election should direct the vote, be reasonable and see what happens, listen and be respectful.

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Mary Wolfe & Mike August – this is a unique opportunity to do the right thing and not to divide the community.

Supv. Wolfe stated that Supv. Thumm's daughter is the only one in the audience against keeping the police force. As Supv. Thumm stated on television – "let the people decide". Supv. Wolfe said Chairman Randler doesn't care what any of residents who have attended meetings over the last couple months think....he knows what's better for you. The residents feel ignored, no one listens to them, why not wait – what's the rush, South Heidelberg Township will still be there. We have a good police department, there are no complaints, and there hasn't been a tax increase in 9 years.

Chairman Randler asked if Officer Devore is really an SRO. Supv. Wolfe stated the principle was here and said he was very qualified and everyone liked him. Chairman Randler said he is done with rehashing this.

Supv. Schoener addressed Supv. Thumm and said he hopes Supv. Thumm's vote doesn't hinge on not having a job...knowing South Heidelberg is looking. The people have spoken and you have a job and now you are probable going to vote to put 2 fellow officers out of work.

Supv. Schoener addressed Supv. Manbeck. Supv. Manbeck said that we will save \$40,000 but did you ever get the numbers and figure out what's best for the community?

Supv. Schoener said this was handled wrong from the beginning and it started off in a bad way with the people of Heidelberg Township. This is just a personal vendetta. Supv. Wolfe said he would not attend a back door meeting.

Supv. Schoener said that we won't be getting move coverage – when they are in court or if something else comes up they will not be obligated to actually cover the 40 hours.

Traci Kissinger said we heard from the principal and students and they all had nothing negative to say about Officer Devore. Chairman Randler stated that the SRO position is a "feel good position" and Officer Devore has no interaction with the students and the whole program was put together poorly. Supv. Schoener said that when Superintendent Grove attended a meeting he had accolades for officer Devore.

Supv. Wolfe said the SRO currently earns approximately \$30,000.00 with no benefits. South Heidelberg Township starts their officers at \$64,000 and full benefits. Will our school taxes be raised?

Mary Wolfe asked to hear from the other Supervisors; Supv. Manbeck said he thinks it is a good program and the County is backing it.

From the Audience - Look what happened to the Western Berks Police – the County was behind that and see what happened there.

Brenda Wagner asked what benefit Chairman Randler is getting from this merger.

Traci Kissinger asked what the worst scenario would be if we wait 1 year.

Supv. Schoener said they were blindsided and it tore the Board apart, was sneaky and everything was negotiated behind closed doors. This should have been done the proper way and been discussed with everyone months and months ago.

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At this time Chairman Randler read the following; The draft Ordinance was duly advertised in the Reading Eagle newspaper on November 15, 2019. Now is the appropriate time for the Board to consider a motion to adopt the Ordinance. The Ordinance authorized Heidelberg Township to enter into an intermunicipal agreement with South Heidelberg Township whereby South Heidelberg Township will provide police services within the municipal boundaries of Heidelberg Township. The Ordinance acknowledges that the parties assign the rights and obligations under the School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding dated June 19, 2019 from Heidelberg Township to South Heidelberg Township. The Ordinance authorizes Heidelberg Township to execute the Police Services Agreement by and between the Township of Heidelberg and the Township of South Heidelberg.

Chairman Randler called for a motion to be made. Supv. Manbeck made a motion, seconded by Supv. Thumm to adopt Ordinance #177 ***AN ORDINANCE OF HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA AUTHORIZING HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE SECOND-CLASS TOWNSHIP CODE AND THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION LAW, TO ENTER INTO INTERMUNICIPAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR SOUTH HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP TO PROVIDE POLICE SERVICES WITHIN THE MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES OF HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.***

DISCUSSION; Supv. Schoener asked Solicitor Haws if it is normal for a Township Supervisor to call the solicitor on the phone 18 times since September. Supv. Wolfe called one time. Supv. Schoener asked what was being discussed, have we spent thousands of dollars in taxpayer's money on the phone calls and since we meet twice a month why isn't the business conducted at one of those meetings or by emails so everyone has a paper trail.

Deb Schoener asked about all the police equipment – will it be sold.

Ruthie Wolfe said that Robesonia and Wernersville can't afford to go back to their own forces.

Mary Wolfe said there is no penalty to wait, why not wait and have the people on your (Chairman Randler's) side, this isn't a life or death situation, let's unite the community.

Gary Zerbe asked what happens if we go over the 40 hours of coverage?

Chief Grimm said costs will be adjusted.

Supv. Schoener said if we want more coverage we must pay.

Supv. Schoener would like to see attached to the Ordinance the Township set aside \$250,000 so if it fails and we need to have our own department there would be reserve.

Chief Grimm said it won't fail.

Supv. Wolfe asked if Chief Grimm gave any thought to the two officers that will be out of work and they did nothing wrong.

Chief Grimm said he didn't want to discuss personnel.

Supv. Schoener spoke to the people and thanked them for their attendance and interest and to be supportive and to please attend future meetings. Supv. Schoener said he hopes this merger will be a good thing but the people of Heidelberg need to let the Township know – both good and bad. Supv. Schoener urged the people to also vote in 2 years.

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At this time Chairman Randler called for the vote; voting in favor of the Police merger with South Heidelberg, adopting Ordinance #177 – Chairman Randler, Supv. Manbeck and Supv. Thumm. Voting no; Supv. Schoener and Supv. Wolfe. Motion carried.

JACK KEENER – Mr. Keener showed his plans for the Keener Heights land development located off Smokering Lane proposing 50 lots for 48 twin dwelling units. Mr. Keener has changed a swale that was 8-10 feet deep. He will now run a pipe to the holding line. This does not alter the storm water retention facilities. He will be adding a few lots in the Borough. The ponds will retain more than is adequate. Jen VanDyke is in agreement. Mr. Keener is asking for a letter from Heidelberg to defer review of proposed changes to Robesonia Borough. Supv. Schoener made a motion authorizing Secretary to send Robesonia a letter deferring review on the proposed changes, with Jen VanDyke's (Technicon) approval to the Borough of Robesonia, seconded by Supv. Manbeck and passed unanimously.

MINUTES: The minutes of the October 31, 2019 were circulated. Chairman Randler questioned Supv. Schoener's comments about the phones. Supv. Manbeck made a motion to approve the October 31 minutes, as circulated, with no changes. Motion seconded by Supv. Thumm. Voting yes, Supv. Thumm, Supv. Manbeck, Supv. Schoener, Supv. Wolfe – voting no – Chairman Randler. Motion passed.

WORKSHOP MINUTES: The minutes of the Nov. 14, 2019 workshop meeting were circulated. There is a correction – the bin blocks were purchased from New Enterprises and not Pennsy. Supv. Manbeck made a motion to approve the workshop minutes of Nov. 14, 2019, with the correction. Motion seconded by Supv. Thumm and passed unanimously. Supv. Schoener abstained as he did not attend the meeting.

TREASURERS REPORT: Treasurer Carol Keppley circulated the November treasurers report. Supv. Schoener made a motion to approve the November treasurers report, seconded by Supv. Manbeck and passed unanimously.

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS: Treasurer Carol Keppley presented the bills for payment. Chairman Randler questioned the Millcreek Auto repair invoice and asked if it was a duplicate. Supv. Schoener made a motion to pay the bills as presented and Carol will look into the Millcreek invoices, seconded by Supv. Thumm and passed unanimously.

Carol Keppley asked the Supervisors if she could use the Township Building to collect taxes. Supv. Schoener made a motion to allow Carol Keppley, Tax Collector to use the Township building two weeks in April and two weeks in August to collect taxes. Motion seconded by Supv. Wolfe and passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SEWER - Chairman Randler reported there is nothing new on the flow meters or control panel in Fry Manor. Chairman Randler stated that the Robesonia/Wernersville Mun. Auth. is raising their rates by 15%. Supv. Schoener said if we need to raise our rates to meet the costs of Robesonia/Wernersville that's one thing but we shouldn't raise the rates just to stockpile the money. Discussion on the formula

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COMMITTEE REPORTS CONTINUED

for payment to Robesonia/Wernersville. Chairman to contact Jeff Kirlin and they will get together with Fred Ebert. Discussion on the Bethany request. Treasurer Carol Keppley said there was an escrow, however, Jon Henning requested the money back. Solicitor Haws said the Township has option. Carol Keppley will look at old files and report back.

POLICE & FIRE – The Police schedule and report were circulated. Supv. Schoener made a motion to approve the December schedule, seconded by Supv. Manbeck and passed unanimously.

PLANNING COMMISSION – There was no meeting in November.

ROADS, BLDG. & EQUIP. – Road report was circulated. Supv. Manbeck said there is still a drainage problem on Manbeck Rd. Supv. Schoener said there is need for a new small chain saw. All agreed to purchase one.

RECREATION BOARD – No report.

ZONING HEARING – Ed/Carl Horst's Zoning Hearing is scheduled for Dec. 18 at 7 PM. Secretary to contact Technicon to determine if Quinn is needed at the hearing.

BUILDING INSPECTORS REPORT – emailed

ENGINEERS REPORT – emailed

PLUMBING & SEO – emailed

PENSION BOARD – No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ZONING ISSUES – Zoning report was emailed – Quinn to inspect until the end of the year and will wait for further instructions from the Board.

TELCO – Chairman Randler reported a new box has been ordered and the bill will be submitted to insurance company. He also reported there is still an issue at Big Spring Road.

CORRESPONDENCE

See attached

NEW BUSINESS

CONRAD WEISER SCHOOL DISTRICT – NEW TURF FIELD & LIGHTING UPGRADE PROJECT – Technicon must review this project.