

REGULAR MEETING June 8, 2021

The regular meeting of the North Sewickley Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 7:00 P. M. in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Building, 893 Mercer Road, Beaver Falls. In attendance were Supervisors Emmett Santillo, John Axtell, Thom Portman, Solicitor Ryan Long, Engineer, Emily Palmer, Lisa Crespo, Jamie Wolf, Police Chief Jeff Becze, Road Foreman Wayne Young, and 13 members of the public.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Emmett Santillo, followed by the salute to the flag.

ROLL CALL:

Emmett Santillo	Here
John Axtell	Here
Thom Portman	Here

SUPERVISOR STATEMENT: Emmett Santillo addressed the public with the following statement:

“I have been a Township Supervisor going on 8 years and I also spent the 16 years prior on the Riverside School Board. Most recently we’ve had a lot of conversation on Facebook and I believe it needs to be addressed for some transparency issues. First, I talked about the public speak. Four minutes is not four minutes to ramble on. It’s four minutes to ask a question. In the beginning of the meeting, it is to cover agenda items or if you have an issue that needs to be addressed during the meeting. If you have something at the end, certainly, let’s have that conversation. We had a resident come to the meeting who was 16 minutes in to their 4 minutes and now we will have a time clock to make sure this is not an issue. That same individual came to the meeting and came to the Township and spent 3 solid hours with the Township, meeting with Lisa and Jamie and that still didn’t help. Now, that’s not fair to the Township, it’s not fair to all the residents that one person takes all that time. The reality is, we are here for all the residents and that’s what we’re here to do. On election day, we had a person take pictures of our equipment and say that we purchased road equipment to bankrupt the Township. Ryan, has this Township been in bankruptcy since you’ve been involved in the Township the last 7 to 8 years? Ryan: No it has not. Thank you. We do have a budget meeting that’s advertised, that’s a public meeting. It is attended by the Tax Collector, road crew, police. We have a strategic plan to replace equipment. We also got the conversation that all we do is buy Police cars. Well, in 2014, when I got involved in this Township the former Board bought a regular Ford Escape (I am going to look at our Police chief in case I am wrong), as a police car. They spent thousands of dollars to fix it because it was an inappropriate vehicle for what it was supposed to do. We have a plan to make sure that we replace the equipment at an appropriate time. We’ve taken down silos in this Township and what I am talking about our Sewer, Water and Township operated separately. I think you can look at the people here today and I’ll look at Emily who works for all 3...do we not work together? Emily: Yes, very well. So, although any comment on Facebook because I’m not going to be...and pardon me for saying it for anyone who did it but being coward and type terrible things on Facebook when you haven’t been to the meeting or you haven’t got real information or you pick and choose what you put out there. I have a little bit of a problem with the, just telling you the truth. Supervisors Pay: somebody put out there “rumor has it” and I have it here. Maybe they should read what they put out there. Ryan, do I get that Supervisors pay? Ryan: No. Thank you, I was just making sure. I didn’t get the pay. They even posted what was out there. I didn’t get the pay. Ryan: The statutes clear if you were to read the statue when it applies. Emmett: The shame of it is, partial information is put out there and it makes people really look bad. And it angers me when people come in they have not only have half the information but they have about 1% of the information but they like to do things to cause nonsense. To say that the Township was bankrupt and we had to borrow to make payroll. Actually, that statement came from a disgruntled ex-employee that would not be eligible for rehire. But in 2012, I will let you know. When none of us were here, this Township had \$3,000 in reserves, they did. On Tuesday, they took what was called a Tax Anticipation note because I sat back over there and the sitting Supervisor, not us, sat over there

and wanted to table it. I explained what a Tax Anticipation Note was along with a WesBanco representative, and they did get a Tax Anticipation Note. That had nothing to do with us. And at no time, did we ever borrow money to pay the taxes or pay the payroll. We have refurbished this building, John and myself, actually on our own, we did the labor putting these lights in this building. We didn't pay someone, I didn't on public, we didn't put it on Facebook to tell anybody. We did it to save the Township money. Not only did we replace the lights here, we replaced them in the Police Department and downstairs. It's a cost saving measure to save electricity for the Township. Instead of tearing this building that the former Board wanted to do, we refurbished this building, we fixed it, we fixed the roof. We made sure that we spent your tax dollars wisely. And the other thing, we eliminated 3 positions that really weren't necessary, so we saved thousands of dollars and we took those thousand of dollars that were necessary to get equipment to replace the Road Crew's museum. Our equipment was ancient, I'm not talking about a couple years old, I'm talking about 30 year old vehicles that were in disrepair. Wayne, am I, please. Wayne: you are correct. I looked at what we had and these Supervisors and I work to make sure we are doing the right thing, not just haphazardly doing things. It's everybody's Township, this is not a good old boys club, it's a business. That's what this is and it needs to be run as such and running it as such means that we hold our employees accountable, we're all accountable. And I believe that's what we need to do and do the right thing, not spread lies and gossip on FB or half-truths. Nothing makes me more angry in life and to say that stuff. The role of the Supervisor, I have gone....I'll give you the example, on election Day, the day before election day, and just to let everyone know, I had a resident saying they called me many times...my phone number is 412-327-2160, if you call me and there have been people who have called me, I've called them back, in this room. I don't shy away from calling somebody. I have done that my entire career. I'm not afraid of calling you, if you have an issue, we would address it. So will Thom and so will John. We have all visited residents in this Township. We don't have to go to your home, but if you have an issue, we're trying to help you. We really go above and beyond and when people lie about things, I'll tell you what, if you want to really fire me up, then be a liar. That's what angers me, don't be a coward behind your computer. You need something from me, call me. I'll be more than glad, I'll meet you, I'll talk to you. I went to the resident. We can't solve your neighborhood disputes. If you have a problem with your next door neighbor, your neighbor and you are having a fight, I'm gonna tell you something, I've only had some of the same neighbors for the 30 plus years. I know how I can get along with my neighbors, if we have a little spat, I bet I'll find a way to solve it, I'm going to have a conversation, that's what you need to do. You know, we can't solve everything. A couple other things we don't do as we talk about transparency. Some of the ridiculous things I saw out there. We don't pave Route 65, Wises Grove, please understand, those are state roads. We're not going to pave private driveways, we've had this conversation with private roads. We have over 81 private roads, paper streets, we're not going to pave those. I understand a candidate promised he was going to pave all the roads, I think that's great. It's going to cost about \$7,000 per resident. That's what the taxes are going to go up. As long as you don't mind paying \$7,000.00, I do. We are going to pave a road. We are going to Pave Foster Road because we're spending your money wisely. For the people that come to the meeting and I'm so happy to see Eleanor and Paul at the meetings, back again, thank you for coming. They've come to years of meetings, you've come to years of meetings, I appreciate the fact that your coming. Bob, you've been here for years. Have we been transparent through the years? I'm asking residents that have been here. The reality is, you can't come to 1 meeting and act like you know everything...or, I call them the 99%er's, they come to 1 meeting, they actually know less than 1% but they act like the 99. Come to a meeting, get involved, be part of the Board. I've asked this a thousand times, to have people get involved. Don't just come with an agenda item or do something, for somebody to be running for a position and not come to a meeting in over 3 years, you have absolutely no idea how this Township runs. Nothing can make me more angry, be involved. I'm not here, Thom's not here and John's not here, we've done a lot of extra work, not asking you for a pat on the back but I'm angry when people say things that none of it is based in truth. These ladies work hard here in the office, it's not like we have 1,000 employees here, these are your neighbors working here and they work hard. There used to be meetings here that were, I was at a meeting one time in 2012 that went till 11:30 pm, nothing got done. That's not what we are looking to do. We're here to run your Township and run it fair. If there's an issue, we will resolve it. If there's a question, not a rambling, going through tablets, and I had something that I found on the internet, if you have a

legitimate question, I will answer a question. But if somebody is going to come here and basically run through a tablet and this is not the way it is going to work. I certainly will answer any question, I will certainly, whether it be email, telephone, all you have to do is give me a call and let me know when you want to be there. If you really have an issue, we will get it resolved. If it's just getting behind a computer screen and talking bad, to be really honest with you, I can't respect you at all. You want to look me face-to-face-, I'm your guy. And again, all I'm saying is, and I'm speaking for both these guys, I appreciate what they do. We haven't always agreed but we do what's right by the Township and that's what we do. And again, if somebody wants to know something, please let us give them that information. Now, I had to say what I had to say, and again, I apologize if I offended anybody, that's not the intent. I want you to understand what we do. And understand, we are going to have our question session. It's 4 minutes, it's not 4 minutes to ramble on, you have a question, we will try to answer your question. That's what we are going to do. And I know you're the lawyer, Ryan, but you'll agree with me, it's 4 minutes. It's not 4 minutes to go one. Ryan: It's public comment and again, to be very clear from a legal perspective, The Supervisors, under the Right to Know Law and under the Sunshine Act, are not required to answer any question posed by the public at a general meeting to the extent that they are able, it is my understanding that Mr. Santillo and the other 2 Supervisors intend to do so, knowing what the law is. I've made that very clear; they are not required to answer any questions. They are not required to do a Q&A during public comment, it's public comment. Public comment has to be reasonable, it shouldn't be disorderly, and it's generally not. Emmett: We've have had, and again thank you Ryan, over the last nearly 8 years, we've had actually wonderful meetings. We've had some issues; I was talking about the meeting 2 years ago with the water. We had serious rain issue, we had 4" of rain in an hour so we have things, now...I'm going to not waste your time. I apologize, you'll put that all in the minutes and you'll put that all online."

PUBLIC SPEAK:

Mr. Zallon - 1025 Edgewood Road – At the top of Gillen and Edgewood, there is a streetlight that has not been there for a long time. Someone was probably shooting at it. There is a pole and fixture there. Emmett stated we will call Penn Power and try to get the resolved and we are not sure how quickly that will get resolved.

Tami Ray – 445 Glendale – Tami thanked Lisa and Jamie for meeting with her. Tami has given out Emmett's number and that she would like to accentuate positive things. Tami explained her 16 minutes at a former meeting and it is because she has cognitive issues and she kept having to reset. Tami apologized because she was following the school district's rules, she thought it was Robert's Rules of Order. Ryan Long explained that the Township can set a reasonable time for public input and that Ryan feels 4 minutes is good and this Board has always been more than gracious of the 4 minutes. Tami suggested we specify like the school Board. Tami asked if she was able to record the meeting. Ryan informed her that yes, it can be recorded by audio and video. Emmett wanted to state that in the 8 years as a Supervisor, there are people here tonight he has never seen and he appreciates new people coming. He wants more people at the meetings. The reality is, it is a small Township with money in reserves and Supervisors are not to waste it. Supervisors watch your dollars carefully.

Brad Kirkham – 466 Country Club – Mr. Kirkham explained that he has been coming to meeting for 40 years. He's argued about the sewers, attended zoning meetings, he's here to complain and to say thanks. He has the same complaint about speeding and the music. He just wants to have it turned down, not shut off. It's not worth the argument. Jeff Becze stated he will ask for the music to be turned down. Jeff will address his men on how to handle it. Emmett stated we will send a letter to the Bed and Breakfast to be courteous to neighbors. Ryan Long asks that the Police be contacted every time, so it is documented. Ryan Long will draft a letter to the owner of the facility.

Mike Lynch – 201 Douglass – Mr. Lynch asked if the Township could finish the fence line at the ball fields behind his house at Bradshaw. He said it stops 2 houses down from him and he doesn't want kids in his yard getting hurt and him being liable. The kids are destroying his no trespassing signs and also takes his furniture, and he cleans up their trash. Emmett asked Lisa and Jamie to address this with Renee Giles and that we will work on it. Mike Lynch has spoken to the Police Chief about it, we will talk with Renee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

CORRESPONDENCE:

PSATS – Reginal Forums Postcard

PSATS – Copy of UC-150 Notice of Amount Due for Compensation Paid – September 2020

Endeavor – Applying for Permit Application to Drill & Operate an Unconventional Gas Well – 1989 Route 68, Rochester PA 15074

Beaver County Planning Commission – Letter regarding Woods/Lemoncelli Plan of Lots

MINUTES:

Emmett Santillo made the motion to accept the minutes as written of the Regular Meeting of May 11, 2021. John Axtell seconded. All in favor.

REPORTS:

A. Financial Report as of June 2021

Current General Fund Balance \$1,218,870.49

Liquid Fuels Balance \$254,748.89

B. Permit Report May 2021

7 Permits issued – 1 Single family dwelling, 1- 1500 sq ft. addition, 1 pergola kit, 1- 25'x22' garage, 3 above ground swimming pools

C. Police Report/ACO Report March 2021

Criminal Activity - 6, Part II Offences - 15, Police Service Activity - 97, Citations-moving - 11, Citations-non-moving - 8 and Ordinance Violations -7. Total Miles driven 3,988 - fuel consumed 279.1 gal. Animal Control Report- 2 incidents handled. Submitted by Chief Becze.

D. Road Report March 2021

Greased the new loader and the backhoe. Put new hydraulic couplers on the 2018 Ram. Put the side deck back on the 1988 Massey Ferguson and started mowing the roadsides. Washed Township equipment. Cleaned out a ditch with the Sewer Authority's mini excavator. Put in 90 more feet of 15" plastic, smooth wall pipe and a catch basin on Foster. Put G.P. blacktop on the drainage ditch on Foster Rd. Put G.P. blacktop around a catch basin on Brandt Dr to help catch the water. Cleaned drains around the Township. Finished insulting the dog kennel and power washed the floor. Cleaned up the back lot for cleanup days. Packed up all the TV's so they could be picked up. Used 334.7 gallons of Diesel fuel and 63.3 gallons of gasoline. Report presented by Wayne Young, Road Foreman.

E. Engineer Report

The monthly Engineer's Report was presented by Emily Palmer. Emily reported the bids were opened and Youngblood was the lowest bidder on both. Foster Road came in at \$153,705.50 and also on the Road maintenance at \$87,290.00. **Emmett Santillo made the motion to accept the bid amount from Youngblood paving for the Foster Road paving project in the amount of \$153,705.50. John Axtell seconded. All in Favor. Emmett Santillo made the motion to accept the Road Improvements bid from Youngblood Paving in the amount of \$87,290.00. John Axtell seconded. All in Favor.** Emmett Santillo explained that the Supervisors, Road Foreman,

Wayne Young and Engineer go around on a road tour to determine what is the worst when considering the road improvement projects for the year. Emily also brought up the Bologne Valley bridge replacement project. Emily informed the Supervisors that they provide inspectors if the Township is interested. Emily also stated she is working with Ryan Long on various other items.

F. Ryan Long- Solicitor Report

Ryan Long informed the Supervisors that he prepared two Ordinances that were properly advertised with respect to the uniform and non-uniform pension plans. **Motion by Emmett Santillo to enact and to pursue the Ordinance and the execution of necessary agreements in accordance with the Ordinances. Thom Portman seconded. All in Favor.**

ACTION ON BILLS:

Emmett Santillo made the motion to accept the bills as presented in the amount of \$103,600.32. John Axtell seconded. All in Favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The new Guardian Protection camera system was installed at the Police department on 6/8/21. Evans Garage Door installed the new garage doors on the road departments red garage, they were 20 years old.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Emmett Santillo made the motion to approve the Woods/Lemoncelli Plan of Lots. John Axtell seconded. All in favor.
- B. Emmett Santillo made the motion to approve the Drogus Lot Consolidation. John Axtell seconded. All in favor.
- C. Mr. Santillo made the motion to purchase a new computer got for the Township office. Thom Portman seconded. All in favor. Discussion on the power surge in 2019 and we replaced everything but one computer, we are now in need of the new computer.
- D. Discussion on the social hall rental, Ryan Long sees no reason why we cannot begin rentals again. The Lessor's will need to follow all rules in accordance with the CDC and State guidelines. As in the past, we will waive the fee for community events. Story time can resume. Emmett informed the resident that the Library has been cleaned up and all the work the Supervisors have done to save money. A chair lift has been donated to the Township and installed but John Axtell to save the Township money. There is not a \$21,000.00 bathroom downstairs. The toilets have been replaced with the better efficiency toilets, there is a co-ed shower with a locking door, the Road crews office has been refurbished, there was formerly no air conditioning, it is now insulated, heated and cooled. We are trying to make the building as energy efficient as possible. A wheel chair was donated to the Township. Discussion on the installation of the LED lights all through the building and Emmett and John installing them to save money. All projects are done with intention to save money and make the Township building costs decrease.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Brad Kirkham asked if the Township is considering allowing quads on Township roads. Ryan Long advised that we cannot under state law. We cannot enact an ordinance to allow that. Mr. Kirkham just wanted to help rid of the rumors and wanted clarification.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:55 pm John Axtell made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Santillo seconded the motion. All in favor.

Jamie Wolf