

NORTH EAST TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
MEETING
MONDAY APRIL 3, 2023
7:30 PM

Vice Chairman Russ LaFuria called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Also, in attendance were Supervisor August Neff Attorney Robert Jeffery, and Secretary Erica Carlstrom. Members of the public included see attached.

Vice Chairman LaFuria asked for public comments or concerns, none were received. A motion from August Neff and the second from Russ LaFuria approved the minutes of the March 20th, 2023 meeting as presented and passed by unanimous vote. Secretary Erica Carlstrom presented the Treasurer's report for the month of March 2023 and by a motion from Russ LaFuria and the second from August Neff was accepted as presented and passed by unanimous vote. Bills were presented for March 20th – March 31st, 2023 for approval and payment as follows:

General Fund Checks	# 21487-21509	\$ 98,266.26
General Fund Debits	J#3893,3896	\$ 453.01
Water Fund Checks	# 6853-6868	\$ 168,629.43
Sewer Fund Checks	# 5271-5285	\$ 106,774.98

Total approved by a motion from August Neff and the second from Russ LaFuria was \$374,123.68 and passed by unanimous vote.

Correspondence:

A request was received from the North East Chamber of Commerce to hold their annual old fashioned 4th of July at the Gravel Pit Park. Chamber president Jennifer Rodenbaugh came to the Supervisors stating that the festivities would consist of possibly 3-4 food trucks and possibly a band for the residents to be able to sit and enjoy. At dusk they would host fireworks which will be done back in the pit. A motion was received from Russ LaFuria and the second from August Neff approving the Chambers request. All in favor.

Old Business:

Paul Urbaniak from the Fish and Boat Commission came to the supervisors meeting to give residents an update on the Marina. They are currently in the process of moving sand and they are in the process of obtaining the proper permits to begin the dredging process. He also noted that the docks will start going in next week and they hoped to start the dredging by the beginning of May. Mr Urbaniak addressed the electrical issues, he stated there would need to be substantial upgrades done and it would not be happening this year. The repairs are going to be costly and the materials needed are not readily available. North East resident Dan Coletta asked why if the Fish and Boat has had the North East Marina for the past 30 years have they not been keeping up on the repairs and maintenance all along. Paul stated to Mr. Coletta that unfortunately with all costs rising, the movement of sand and the yearly dredging those costs alone average \$500,000 to \$600,000 annually, which does not allow for much more than the yearly maintenance to just keep the Marina open and operational. Former F&B Commission Ed Mascharka made note that the north wall of the marina needs cleaned up and ladders need fixed/replaced. He also stated some of the walls need reinforced. Mr Urbaniak assured everyone that their concerns were being taken into consideration and they will work to get the issues resolved in a timely manner and as funds permit.

New Business:

Vice Chairman Russ LaFuria began the meeting with letting the residents of North East express their concerns over the talk of Granite Ridge potentially housing immigrant children. Many questions were asked about the current zoning of the property and if what is being proposed would fit into those requirements, Supervisor Russ LaFuria stated that with the Township not sure exactly what their intentions are we are not able to answer those questions. A representative for Granite Ridge was invited to attend the meeting to help answer questions, however they declined stating their schedule did not allow due to short notice. The follow up question in regards to zoning was, there has been mention of a 8-12 foot fence going up around the property, again would this be allowed? Another resident heard they could be turning the property into an immigrant detention center. The property is not zoned for a detention center and for that they would have to try for a conditional use permit. Robert Mazza stated we should have compassion for these children as this is what the Redemptorists would have wanted from our community and what would become of the campus, a place for children to feel safe. Doug Bemiss said I know we want what is best for the community however their actions do not match what they are saying. Why would they require a barbed wire fence and why did they paint over the murals? Michael Yori stated he is not necessarily opposed to caring for the migrant children, but is North East the right place? He asked why this information was withheld from the public for so long. Ann Marie Swanson questioned how this would affect taxpayers. She reminded everyone that an unaccompanied minor means an illegal immigrant under the age of 18. Ann Marie stated this would be a state funded program, which means it is our tax dollars paying for this. All of these statements led to the questions of what impact would this have on our schools, crime rates, and property values? Supervisor Russ LaFuria said these are all things until we have answers from Granite Ridge we unfortunately can not get the residents the answers they are seeking. Supervisor Gus Neff stated we have no answers and this is scary for all of us. The purpose of tonight's meeting is so we can be prepared to hear the questions being asked and get the answers that are needed. A representative from Granite Ridge has agreed to a virtual meeting to be held the first week of May. Supervisor Neff told the residents that we will host the virtual meeting at the Township building or at a larger location once we have a date.

The Planning Board members have reviewed the Edgewater Beach Planned Community Development Plan, which will consist of twenty new residential building lots. This would be a major sub-division because there will be over 5 lots, the Planning board would like to recommend to the supervisors holding a public hearing to be scheduled for May 1st. Russ LaFuria made a motion approving the Planning Board to move ahead with scheduling the public hearing. A second motion was received from August Neff. All in favor.

Supervisors discussed the proposed ordinance for short term rentals in the Township. After careful consideration it was decided that the board did not want to pursue passing the ordinance. A motion was made by Russ LaFuria and the second from August Neff to not proceed with the proposed ordinance. Passed by unanimous vote. Supervisor August Neff wanted to thank the Planning Board for their time and effort put in to the preparation.

A reapproval request for plans to subdivide parcels at Granite Ridge was presented by Zoning Administrator Jay Jobczynski on behalf of Tim Polanski. The Planning Board approved the request at their November 7th, 2022 meeting however it was not recorded at the Erie County Recorder of Deeds within the 90 days as required. Residents already upset about Granite Ridge not being forthcoming with their intentions of the former Mercyhurst property, it was decided by

a motion from Russ LaFuria and the second from August Neff to table the discussion. Passed by unanimous vote.

A revised Developers agreement for United Refining was brought to the Supervisors. The original agreement would have required the company to deposit \$10,000 in to the Townships escrow account for costs incurred with the project. A letter was sent on the company's behalf stating that United Refining site, located at 12201 East Main Road is eligible for reimbursement at 100% of eligible expenses through the Underground Storage Tank Indemnification Fund. A motion from Russ LaFuria approving the revised developers agreement and the second from August Neff. All in favor.

Resolution #2023-016; plan revision for new land development for The Paddocks. The resolution is for a sewer planning module for their sewer connection. August Neff made a motion for approve and sign the resolution and the second from Russ LaFuria. All in favor.

Road bids for the 2023 Road Project season were opened and read on March 31, 2023. Bids were as follows:

Superpave 1508 Tons 9.5 MM Leveling Course	
McCormick:	<i>Unit Price \$123.60, Total Bid \$186,388.80</i>
Lindy Paving:	<i>Unit Price \$131.00, Total Bid \$197,548.00</i>
Cross Paving:	<i>Unit Price \$105.10, Total Bid \$158,490.80</i>

A motion from August Neff and the second from Russ LaFuria approved awarding Cross Paving, low bidder with the contract. All in favor.

After announcements and with all business concluded, a motion to adjourn at 9:00 PM was received from August Neff. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Carlstrom, Secretary