

NORTH EAST TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS  
MEETING  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2024  
9:00 AM

Chairman Fredrick Shunk called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Also in attendance were Supervisors August Neff and Russ LaFuria, Attorney Tim Wachter, and Secretary Erica Carlstrom.

Chairman Shunk asked for public comments or concerns, none were received. A motion from Russ LaFuria and the second from August Neff approved the minutes of the February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting as presented and passed by unanimous vote. Bills were presented for February 1<sup>st</sup> – February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 for approval and payment as follows:

General Fund Checks	#2968-3014	\$	118,619.83
General Fund Debits	Ach's	\$	1,942.09
Water Fund Checks	#2616-2633	\$	26,134.40
Sewer Fund Checks	#2543-2553	\$	12,736.52

Total approved by a motion from August Neff and the second from Russ LaFuria was \$159,432.84 and passed by unanimous vote.

*Correspondence: None*

*Old Business:*

Supervisor Russ LaFuria discussed the meeting that took place on February 13<sup>th</sup> at State Representative Jake Banta's office. The meeting was to further discuss the future of the North East Marina and what it would take for the possibility of an Authority being formed to take it over from PA Fish & Boat. Also in attendance at the meeting was Senator Dan Laughlin, representatives from both the North East Borough and North East Township, their respective legal counsel, and also representatives from the Fish & Boat Commission. Township Solicitor Tim Wachter stated the annual maintenance costs and capital improvements that are needed that the authority would inherit would deduct the costs from the marina's value in an effort to transfer the marina to the authority for free without harsh laws that come with disposing of state-owned property looming. Jamie Lamb, a North East resident stated she feels the Township is just dragging their feet, with nothing happening meeting after meeting. Aaron Jelley commented that he feels the supervisors are just trying to find reasons not to move forward with the Marina Authority. He also stated the decisions that are being made about the marina should be being made by the authority rather than the supervisors. Supervisor Fredrick Shunk replied to Mr. Jelley that some people in the community are acting as though the Marina Authority already exists, having a Facebook page already established for it. He went on to say going into this blind would be a mistake, we need to do our due diligence and by that I feel a feasibility study needs to happen prior to the authority being formed. Robert Mazza feels moving forward with the authority would be a good idea, however, do it while being informed. He feels the marina can be a viable operation. Heather Jones, a Borough Council member, feels the authority could be formed now and handle the creation of a business plan. She said she understands the need of everyone to see numbers for the viability of the marina. Jay McConaughey stated money being

allotted does not mean it is guaranteed. He also asked if when the business plan is completed will it be available for the public to view. Mr. McConaughy stated that everyone wants to rush into the marina, but he feels the Township is doing right by going slow and cautious. Solicitor Tim Wachter will reach out to the Fish & Boat Commission to get the correct verbiage needed on a resolution to formalize the interest of both the Borough and Township in the Marina. This resolution will need to be in place for the municipalities to receive funding from the F&B Commission through its Boat Access Planning Grant program. These funds will help to pay for a feasibility study. A motion was made by Fredrick Shunk approving Tim to draft a resolution solidifying the Borough and Township's interest in the marina. A second motion was received from August Neff. Passed by unanimous vote.

*New Business:*

Supervisor August Neff brought up to the other Supervisors that he was interested in looking at a 1986 Oshkosh. Supervisor Neff shared pictures of the truck stating that he felt it was from the description and pictures in good shape and would need minimal work to get it on the road and ready to plow by next winter season. The asking price for the truck is \$40,000.00. Supervisor Russ LaFuria asked why we needed another truck as we had just acquired one through an agreement with Greenfield Township. Supervisor Neff said he needs a bed for the Greenfield truck and the 1986 truck has a bed on it in good condition. A brand-new bed alone would be over \$50,000.00. Russ commented that he didn't see any reason to add another truck to our fleet, especially one that is that old and has the rust spots that it does. Supervisor Fredrick Shunk agreed with Russ that this Oshkosh was not the way to go. Gus said he would like to get a motion of approval for putting in a purchase order for the purchase of a new truck bed to outfit the 2004 Oshkosh from Greenfield Township. A motion to approve the purchase of a truck bed was made by Russ LaFuria and the second motion from Fredrick Shunk. All in favor.

Water/Sewer Superintendent Fredrick Shunk is looking for approval to purchase 3500 feet of 10" DR9 pipe and trace wire that will be used for the Route 89 Sewer Extension Project. The cost of the pipe is \$63,609.00 through LB Water who participates with CoStars. The cost of the pipe will be coming right out of the bid package for the sewer project. A motion to approve the purchase of the pipe was made by August Neff and the second from Russ LaFuria. All in favor.

Supervisors reviewed a Franchise Agreement between the Township and Charter Communication. The current agreement has expired. The franchise agreements are valid for 10 years. Township Solicitor Tim Wachter reviewed the agreement terms before Supervisors signed to make sure everything set forth was in the best interest of the Township. After reviewing the agreement, it was deemed that the amount that they would pay for late fees to the township has been decreased from the last signed contract. Tim made some adjustments and scanned it back to the representative for Charter Communications, we are now waiting for a response from Charter to see if they agree to the adjustment made.

Administrative Supervisor Russ LaFuria discussed the Township's IT department is working on taking on a new domain so updates can be made to the website. He also stated he would like to consider closing the Township buildings on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, for the solar eclipse.

Fredrick Shunk, Water & Sewer Supervisor stated the Water Department is still in the process of working on the pressure release valve on Mill Street.

Roads Supervisor August Neff reported that we will soon be working on bid packages for the various road projects within the Township.

After announcements, a motion to adjourn was received from Russ LaFuria at 9:55 am. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Carlstrom, Secretary