

Hamilton Township Board of Supervisors
Minutes of October 18, 2023 Meeting

The Hamilton Township Board of Supervisors met in a duly advertised business meeting this afternoon with Chairman Jeffrey Rockwell calling the meeting to order at 3:00 PM. Members present in addition to Mr. Rockwell were Richard Troup, Deborah Hollenshead, and Solicitor AJ Benchoff. There were no guests in attendance.

MINUTES – The Minutes of the October 4, 2023 regular business meeting were approved as presented.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE – The Accounts Payable List was approved on a motion by Mr. Troup, second by Mr. Rockwell.

TREASURER’S REPORT – The Treasurer’s Report was received and reviewed without comment.

POTENTIAL ORDINANCE TO REGULATE BACKYARD CHICKENS – Solicitor Benchoff relayed to the Supervisors the discussion that took place at the Hamilton Township Planning Commission meeting held September 17, 2023 regarding the proposed ordinance to regulate backyard chickens. One of the concerns was in regard to how the ordinance would be enforced. Another question raised was whether limiting the number of chickens that would be permitted on a property cause any hardship to people who sell the eggs for extra income. The issue of non-conforming properties who currently exceed the limit of chickens was also a concern, with questions raised as to whether the Supervisors would require those persons to reduce the number in their flock. Solicitor Benchoff provided the Planning Commission members with additional information, indicating that the ordinance would be enforced on a complaint-made basis. The Supervisors do not intend to hire additional staff to seek out violations of the ordinance. Additionally, the Township is not trying to prohibit chickens and fowl, but with an increasing number of complaints being received, some form of regulations must be implemented. In regard to residents who currently have a non-conforming number of chickens on their property, those persons will be permitted to maintain that number for the chickens’ expected life span, as long as all other sections of the ordinance are complied with. Those persons would be requested not to replace chickens beyond the permitted number in order to come into compliance. Overall, the Planning Commission members were in favor of the ordinance. After a brief discussion, on a motion by Mr. Troup, second by Mr. Rockwell, the Secretary was directed to advertise the proposed ordinance as available for public inspection and that a public hearing will be held November 15, 2023 at 3:00 PM regarding the proposed ordinance. Immediately following the public hearing, the ordinance will be considered for adoption.

GLENN D. AND CATHERINE M. DICE LOT ADDITION PLAN – Subdivision plans were reviewed for Glenn D. and Catherine M. Dice for a proposed lot addition on Fort McCord Road. This plan is proposing Lot 1, containing 4.47 acres, as an addition to adjacent land of Andrew L. Horst and Tonya J. Oaks. No construction is proposed at this time. On a motion by Mr. Troup, second by Mr. Rockwell, this subdivision plan approved.

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HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF FRANKLIN COUNTY FIRE POLICE REQUEST – Our office has received a written request from Mark Story of Habitat for Humanity of Franklin County to utilize Franklin Fire Police to assist with an event. On Sunday, December 3, 2023 at 3:00 PM, an Open House is planned to be held at 845 Warm Spring Road. This location is the 55th home build in Franklin County, and is part of the "Women Build" program. Permission has been obtained for attendees to park across the road at the South Hamilton Community Association property. Due to the fact that Warm Spring Road is highly travelled, the assistance of Fire Police has been requested. On a Rockwell/Troup motion, the Board agreed to approve the request and forward it to Chambersburg Borough Council for review.

ALTERNATE SEWAGE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER – Correspondence has been received from Jonathan W. Piper of JWP Environmental, Inc. regarding the certification of Jakob W. Piper as a Sewage Enforcement Officer. Jakob completed the SEO Certification Exam, as well as the Soils Academy, and has also attended Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology where he received an associate degree in Water and Wastewater Technologies, and has become a Certified Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator and a Certified Water Treatment Plant Operator. Jakob will be employed by JWP Environmental, Inc.. On a motion by Mr. Rockwell, second by Mr. Troup, Jakob W. Piper was appointed as the Township's Alternate Sewage Enforcement Officer. The Secretary will notify PA Department of Environmental Protection of this appointment.

JOSE VELASQUEZ SEWAGE PLANNING MODULE – Our office has received a set of sewage planning modules for Jose Velasquez and Maria Machado who are proposing five single-family residential lots fronting on Guitner Road. Each of these lots will utilize on-lot septic systems and on-site wells. On a Rockwell/Troup motion, the Secretary was directed to complete the modules and forward them to PA Department of Environmental Protection for review, subject to receipt of the sections required to be completed by the Township's Sewage Enforcement Officer, Jonathan W. Piper.

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business this afternoon, the meeting was adjourned at 3:43 PM on a Troup/Rockwell motion.

Respectfully submitted,



Deborah J. Hollenshead
Secretary/Treasurer