

Hamilton Township Board of Supervisors  
Minutes of November 15, 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 and guests present in addition to Mr. Rockwell were Richard Troup, Ronald Yeager, Deborah Hollenshead, Solicitor AJ Benchhoff, Jay and Kim Bard, Kevin Woy, Tandy Carey of the Pennsylvania State Police, Karen Piercey – a student at the Chambersburg Career Tech School, attending as a class requirement, and her mother, Angela Piercey.

MINUTES – The Minutes of the November 1, 2023 regular business meeting were approved as presented.

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

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

CUMBERLAND VALLEY ANIMAL SHELTER – The October animal intake report was received from the Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter indicating that one stray cat, two stray dogs, and one deceased dog were accepted at the Shelter from Hamilton Township.

FRANKLIN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT – Our office has received information regarding a Chapter 102 Workshop on December 20, 2023 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM to be held at the Ag Heritage Building at 185 Franklin Farm Lane. Topics to be presented included Common Plan of Development, Memorandums of Understanding Review, and E&S Plan Development and Review. Registration is free, and limited to two representatives per municipality. The Secretary requested that Patty Clugston, Administrative Assistant, be considered to be one representative of our Township as this would be a great learning opportunity. Mr. Rockwell expressed interest in attending as well.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ORDINANCE REGULATING CHICKENS AND FOWL  
The intent to conduct a public hearing on the proposed Hamilton Township Chicken and Fowl Ordinance was duly advertised to be held at this afternoon’s meeting. The hearing began with Solicitor Benchhoff explaining the reasoning for the Board’s desire to adopt an ordinance regulating the keeping of chickens and fowl in residential areas. The Township office has been receiving frequent calls/inquiries regarding chickens that are not confined to the owner’s property. The keeping of chickens and fowl seems to be an increasing trend, and the Board feels that under certain conditions, they can be kept without causing a nuisance to surrounding properties. Testimony was presented by Kim and Jay Bard of 615 Mahantango Drive, as well as by Kevin Woy of 1394 Cove Drive. These residents questioned why chickens and fowl would even be permitted in a residential development. It was explained that Hamilton Township does

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PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ORDINANCE REGULATING CHICKENS AND FOWL, CONTINUED

not have zoning regulations, but it is the Board's intent to control the matter through this ordinance. The number of chickens permitted will be determined by the size of the lot, roosters will only be permitted on lots that are ten (10) acres or more in size, and it will be unlawful to allow chickens or fowl to run at large. The ordinance will also provide for specific coop size and placement on the property, the sanitary housing of chickens, and the proper storage of feed. A process will be provided for the registering of existing, nonconforming uses and structures. A complaint form will also be available to submit alleged violations of this ordinance. The residents in attendance at this hearing provided testimony on the noise that they presently endure from chickens being kept in their neighborhood. They also stated that there are deed restrictions within their development, one being no livestock permitted. It was suggested that they may wish to retain the services of an attorney to enforce those private restrictions, as the Township cannot enforce them. Chairman Rockwell asked the audience if there was any additional testimony, and, hearing none, the public hearing was closed. On a motion by Mr. Yeager, second by Mr. Troup, the Board unanimously adopted the Hamilton Township Chicken and Fowl Ordinance.

HARRY B. LEHMAN SUBDIVISION PLAN – Plans were reviewed for a one-lot subdivision on Keefer Road. Mr. Lehman is proposing to subdivide a lot that is presently improved with a mobile home, shed, on-lot septic system and well. The property is divided by the Hamilton Township/Letterkenny Township line, with only a small area of the front yard being located in Hamilton Township. The structures, septic system and well are located in Letterkenny Township. On a motion by Mr. Troup, second by Mr. Yeager, this subdivision plan was unanimously approved, subject to approval of the Hamilton Township Planning Commission at their November 21, 2023 meeting.

JARED STOUFFER AND LUKE STOUFFER LAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN – The Board reviewed the land development plan for two adjacent parcels on Leafmore Road. Each lot is proposed to be improved with a single-family dwelling, garage and barn structure. Each lot will be served by an on-lot septic system and well. The Township Engineer's most recent comments have been addressed, including the submission of improvement guarantee, development agreement, operation and maintenance agreements for the stormwater controls, and an agreement for the joint use and maintenance of the driveway. On a motion by Mr. Yeager, second by Mr. Troup, the Board unanimously approved this land development plan, subject to approval of the Hamilton Township Planning Commission at their November 21, 2023 meeting.

PRELIMINARY 2024 OPERATING BUDGET – The preliminary 2024 operating budget for the General Fund and State Liquid Fuels Fund was presented. On a motion by Mr. Yeager, second by Mr. Troup, the Secretary was directed to advertise the preliminary budget as available for public inspection, with the proposed adoption of the 2024 budget to be held at the December 20, 2023 regular business meeting.

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ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business this afternoon, the meeting was adjourned at 3:57 PM on a Troup/Yeager motion.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Deborah J. Hollenshead". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Deborah J. Hollenshead  
Secretary/Treasurer