



HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CUMBERLAND COUNTY, PA
Regular Meeting Minutes – February 21, 2024

The Board of Supervisors of Hopewell Township met on February 21, 2024 at 9:00am. The Meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman announced that the meeting would be recorded.

Present: Tyler Gamble, John Cover, Dave Elliott, Steve Hoffman, Haileigh Diehl, Jamie Kensinger

Public Comment: None

Dave made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting on February 5, 2024. John seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business: Tyler passed the meeting off to Steve Hoffman. Steve spoke about the chapter he made changes to and the addition of the Clean & Green Program, the Homestead Farmstead Program, and the Agricultural Security Area. The Supervisors reviewed it and agreed to move on to the next section. In objective 2 in 8-3, Steve recommended the township adopt the flood plain maps as changes are made to them by FEMA. Steve spoke about the Hazard Mitigation plan and suggested that one person from Hopewell Township continue to attend the meetings because if no one goes, the township would not be eligible for funding. Objective 3 says there is an agreement since Hopewell Township has many private wells, the university and Susquehanna-based studies can test them. Moving forward, the next strategy mentions coordinating with the county on Storm Water Plan updates. It was recommended that the Supervisors consider updates if changes were made. It is recommended that the second strategy for FPR's, which the farmers use, stay. Steve explained that the township cannot regulate the FPR's. It is strictly a state regulation and that they work with the state and County Conservation District if there are any concerns or violations. Ted Diehl asked what an FPR is. Steve stated that it stands for food processing residual, the wastewater from washing vegetables in which they pay farmers to use the water as fertilizer for crops.

Steve asked if the Supervisors would like to keep the tree preservation and replanting ordinance that we currently have. He explained the township subdivision ordinance requires replanting, if they get cut trees down to build on land, they need to be replanted. This would apply to homeowners, not the preservation or farmlands. Steve was asked specific questions pertaining the tree preservation ordinance and he responded accordingly. Ed Hoover asked what percentage of trees need to be replanted. The Supervisors said they were not sure but that would be in the current ordinance. Ed asked how the lot next to the park applied to this. Steve said it's not included since it is agriculture. Steve asked if the supervisors would like to keep the current terminology. They agreed to keep it the same.

For protecting historic sites, Steve recommends those sites be preserved and that the township educates homeowners about historic potential. Steve said those who want a historic site must be put on the registry, then the home would be protected. He asked if the supervisors would like to add that ordinance or keep it the way that it is. He clarified that this is not a law that they have to be historic. Jamie asked if the homeowner wanted to, could they go on the national registry and make their home a historic site without it being an ordinance. Steve confirmed but they must follow those rules. The Supervisors don't believe it should be forced and that it should be the homeowners' choice. Danny Forrester asked would the ordinance apply to the Amish taking down old houses and barns. Steve said most barns and structures are not on that list and that it is up to the homeowner. Danny asked if it would affect them and Steve said no if it is not protected. Steve asked about lighting requirements and reminded them it is not an ordinance, just a recommendation. The Supervisors said they would like to keep the lighting as is and remove objective 6.

Steve discussed the landfill and asked if the Supervisors would like to make any recommendations for the future. They mentioned a few possible uses for the landfill for when it is no longer functional. Some examples of the possible uses are solar farms, a park, or a sledding hill. Steve asked if the Supervisors would be open to expanding the landfill. The Supervisors spoke on their opinions on the expansion of the landfill to which Dave asked if someone would be responsible for keeping up with any possible leaks. Tyler said he believed they are required to extract gas for up to 15 years. Ted asked how the township decides what happens to it. Steve said the township could buy or lease the landfill, but he recommends leasing so the landfill would be held responsible for any pollution or leaks. John said that he is worried about contaminated dirt being brought in. Steve said that they put in layers and pumps to keep everything from leaking. Ted said there are certain limits on the contamination that can be brought to our landfill. The Supervisors agreed that a recommendation to work with the landfill with input would be best.

Steve stated that the support of tourism is a standard. Next, they discussed non-residential land uses which the township should encourage and economic growth. The Supervisors would like to maintain an agricultural community and encourage agricultural growth and small-scale stores and similar businesses. Danny asked about solar farms and wind energy use and asked if they would like to think about adding some recommendations. Steve recommends the township try to work with them and stated that solar farms are not in the ordinance as of now. Steve asked if there should be a recommendation. Jay Shuman asked about individual solar use. Steve said that is different and Jamie said those would go to the Code and Zoning Enforcement Officer. The Supervisors agreed to look further into this and possibly add recommendations to it. Ted asked how much was left in the Comprehensive Plan. Steve said there are about 18 strategies left and the plan will be posted for viewing by the public before it is finalized.

Tyler moved the meeting onto the Pickleball Court Bids. Jamie stated we outsourced the Pickleball Court bid process to YSM. She said the lowest bid was Kinsley Construction at \$127,400 and listed the other bids we received. Dave commented that he was happy that Kinsley Construction is the lowest because they do excellent work. Dave made a motion to use Kinsley Construction. John seconded. Motion carried.

Reports:

Treasurer Report: Jamie stated that revenue since February 5, 2024 was \$4,073.77. The total expenses were \$7,876.36. This resulted in total revenue of -\$3,802.59. The three highest expenses were Adams Electric Cooperative Inc. at \$406.10, PMCA at \$828.75, and PA Department of Labor & Industry at \$4,561.00 for Newburg-Hopewell VFC Insurance. Jamie explained the Newburg-Hopewell VFC is so high, but that other townships will be contributing money towards this cost and that the township will be receiving those funds. Dave made a motion to approve the revenue and expenditures. John seconded. Motion carried.

Zoning/Permits Report: Dave stated that there were 4 Zoning/Land Use Permits since February 5, 2024.

New Business: Tyler stated that the Franklin County Public Safety Training Center made a donation request of \$490.40. Dave made a motion to approve the request. Ed said Lurgan Township does not participate in Cumberland County's training. He said this was out of line and we should not pay for other counties. Ed continued to say that the training center only asked Hopewell Township and not Newburg Borough since the township has money and the borough does not. John seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tyler stated that the board would like to open a new bank account at F&M to take place of the existing account at Citizens. Jamie explained the township does not receive interest from Citizens Bank and would receive interest from F&M. She said our auditor encouraged us to make the change. Ted asked how much interest the township would get with F&M. Jamie that the exact interest is unknown at this time. Jamie also said that this is our Payroll Account and they charge us \$3.00 per statement, which most banks do not do anymore, which means we are losing money by keeping it at Citizens Bank. Dave made a motion to give Tyler the authority to open the F&M account to replace the Citizen's Bank Account for payroll and have the additional signers as Jamie and Dave. John seconded. Motion carried.

Dave made a motion that Alan Tritt be appointed for the one-year term and Susan Hoover for the two-year term for the Park & Recreation Board. John second. Motion carried.

Dave made a motion to appoint Susan Hoover to the 4-year term for the Planning Commission. John seconded. Motion carried.

Jamie read the upcoming meetings and events:

Upcoming Meetings:

- Zoning Hearing Board – February 26 @ 6:30pm
- Board of Supervisors Meeting – March 4 @ 7:00pm
- Parks & Rec. Meeting – March 13 @ 7:00pm
- Planning Commission Meeting – March 21 @ 6:30pm – Pending

Chair Signature _____

Upcoming Events:

- Soup & Hoagie Sale @ Old Firehouse – March 1 @ 8:00am

Vice Chair Signature _____

Dave made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

John seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:57am.

Minutes completed by Haileigh Diehl

Roadmaster Signature _____