

**HICKORY TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
October 3, 2022**

The regular monthly meeting of the Hickory Township Board of Supervisors held at the Hickory Township Municipal Building was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson William W. Dean.

Supervisors Present: William W. Dean
Michael E. Hall
Christopher J. Fabian

Staff Present: Jason Medure – Solicitor
Lisa Schlemmer - Secretary/Treasurer
Bobbiejo Warren – Hickory PD
Lori Zulauf – Tax Collector

Other Attendees: Josh Latore
Gary Finley
Tom Houston
Marcelyn Fowler
Robert Amore
Wayne Patterson

Motion to accept the minutes from the September 6th regular meeting without correction was made by Supervisor Fabian and seconded by Supervisor Hall. All in favor. Motion carried.

The September Treasurer's Report and bill summaries were presented. Motion to pay the current bills, payroll and all regular and incoming bills was made by Supervisor Hall. Seconded by Supervisor Fabian. All in favor. Motion carried.

Report of Police Activities for September: Not available.

Building Permits:

Applicant	Address	Proposed Improvement
Edwin Moore	2003 Harlansburg Road	18'x16' patio w/gable roof
Randy & Margaret Montgomery	SR 388-vacant lot	New single-family home

Announcements: None

Public Comments: Gary Finley assumed that contact had been made with the owner of 113 Marshall Place since the materials in violation of the Burning Ordinance were no longer found to be in the burn pile of the residence. Supervisor Dean confirmed that the issue had been handled. Mr. Finley inquired as to whether the Supervisors initiated a meeting with the Hickory Township Volunteer Fire Department and the Hickory Township Police Department to ensure that burning violators are cited. Mr. Finley was advised of the burning violation process as set forth in the Burning Ordinance and advised the issue did not stem from failure to follow the Burning Ordinance, but with communications from LEOC to the Hickory Township VFD, who were not tripped out on the second burn call. Mr. Finley inquired about the process of assessing houses which appear uninhabitable, specifically mentioning his opinions on 113 Marshall Place and 2323 Harlansburg Road. Updates on those locations and a brief explanation about the authority of Code Enforcement were offered.

Old Business: Supervisor Dean advised that Devil's Elbow Road was reopened. The Township is working with the Lawrence County Conservation District to secure a grant to assist with the needed repairs. Supervisor Dean stated that the project is a large undertaking and it will be a long process. Bob Amore asked if the Township had any numbers on the cost of the project. Supervisor Dean estimated that the project would cost at least \$300,000.00. Supervisor Hall added that any grant money that the Township may secure will not include engineering costs and DEP permitting fees. The Township will have to bear those costs and fees.

New Business: On July 11, 2022 Governor Wolf signed Act 57 of 2022 amending the Local Tax Collection Law which becomes effective on October 10, 2022. This Act requires taxing districts that impose taxes on real estate to adopt a resolution within ninety (90) days of the effective date, or no later than January 9, 2023, directing the tax collectors to waive additional charges for real estate taxes in certain situations. Both Solicitor Medure and Tax

Collector Zulauf provided further comment on the criteria of Act 57 of 2022. Based on Tax Collector Zulauf's experience, this Act will result in minimal to no impact with regard to tax collections. Supervisor Hall made a motion to adopt Resolution# 2022-10 in accordance with Act 57. Supervisor Fabian seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Tax Collector Zulauf requested that the Township pay one-half of her annual dues (\$80.00) to be a member of the PA State Tax Collector's Association. Supervisor Hall made a motion to pay her dues as requested. Supervisor Fabian seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Tax Collector Zulauf asked the Board of Supervisors to consider changing the real estate tax penalty rate to mirror the tax penalty rates assessed by the Laurel School District. This change could result in additional tax revenue estimated at \$600.00-\$700.00 for the Township and \$100.00-\$200.00 for the VFD Fire Tax, or, alternatively, that residents would pay their taxes early to avoid penalty. Tax Collector Zulauf stated that the Supervisors could also change the per capita tax penalty rate to mirror the Laurel School District, thereby increasing the per capita penalty by \$0.25. Tax Collector Zulauf offered this information for consideration during the Supervisor's preparation of the 2023 Budget. Supervisor Hall made a motion to table undertaking any action in this regard until the Supervisors meet at their budget meeting in October. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Fabian. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Supervisors reviewed schedules and jointly determined that the annual budget workshop meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at 6:00 PM.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 P.M. was made by Supervisor Hall and seconded by Supervisor Fabian. All in favor. Motion carried.

HICKORY TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING
October 26, 2022

A budget workshop meeting to prepare the 2023 township budget was conducted by the Hickory Township Board of Supervisors. Said meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Chairman, William W. Dean.

Supervisors Present: William W. Dean
Michael E. Hall
Christopher J. Fabian

Staff Present: Lisa Schlemmer - Secretary/Treasurer

Other Attendees: Joshua Latore
Tom Houston

Supervisor Dean made a motion to increase the real estate tax penalty rate in accordance with the information provided by Lori Zulauf, Hickory Township Tax Collector, at the October regular meeting. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Fabian. All in favor. Motion carried.

Various financial reports and records were reviewed to produce the 2023 proposed budget. Supervisor Fabian made the motion to approve the 2023 proposed budget for the purpose of producing the same for the public inspection and comment period before final approval. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Hall. All in favor. Motion carried. The Supervisors intend to adopt said budget at the December 5, 2022 regular meeting and directed the Secretary to advertise accordingly.

A motion was made by Supervisor Hall, seconded by Supervisor Dean to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 P.M. All in favor. Motion carried.