

## MINUTES

December 08, 2022

The Somerset Township Board of Supervisors met in Regular Session on Thursday, December 08, 2022, at 6:30 pm in the Somerset Township Municipal Building. Those present were:

Daniel H. Halverson, Chairman; Donald K. Miller, Vice-Chairman; Randy L. Beistel, Supervisor; Tami L. Yutzy, Secretary; and Michael P. Barbera, Solicitor.

Also in attendance was Tim Bieber, Rutter's Companies and Amy Fitzgerald, Thomas Shepherd, Tonya Shepherd, Thomas Fitzgerald and Mike Fitzgerald all residents of Sheep Ridge RD.

The Chairman, Mr. Halverson, called the meeting to order and lead the pledge to the flag.

Mr. Halverson then asked for any public comment.

Mr. Timothy A. Bieber, PE, Site Development Project Manager for the Rutter's Companies, ask to approach the board. Mr. Bieber stated that the Rutter's Companies, has entered into an agreement of sale for the property located in the northeast quadrant of SR 219 and Stoystown RD (SR281). Both SR219 and SR281 have limited access right-of-way designations and therefore direct access to these roadways is prohibited unless an access break is approved by Penn Dot. Mr. Bieber then stated that a Pre-Scoping Meeting request was submitted to Penn Dot and has been approved to move forward with the next step. Mr. Bieber claimed that to be able to take that next step and submit a formal request for the access break, the Rutter's Companies is required to obtain an endorsement from Somerset Township. Solicitor Barbera stated that he spoke with head council for the Rutter's Company and is in the understanding that the Board of Supervisors could provide an approval letter for the project. Being that the Board does not have any interest in the project because the property is located along two state highways, Mr. Barbera believes that the Board should request that the Rutter's Companies be the applicant for the access break. A brief discussion ensued. Mr. Halverson stated that he had requested plans from Penn Dot for a relocation project of Sechler RD intersection, which is just north of the proposed access break. Mr. Halverson made a motion to table the decision to provide an approval letter until the January 2023 meeting, giving the board time to receive plans from Penn Dot. Mr. Miller seconded the motion and with all voting "yea", the approval letter for the access break stands tabled.

Next, Mr. Thomas Shepherd of Sheep Ridge RD spoke to the Board of Supervisors. Let it be known that due to safety concerns related to cracking on the roadway and along its berm, Penn Dot closed SR 1001, Stutzmantown RD, between Sheep Ridge Drive and Sandrock RD until repairs are complete. Traffic is being detoured using SR 1003, Coleman Station RD to SR 31. Mr. Shepherd stated that since the closing of Stutzmantown RD traffic along Sheep Ridge RD has increased significantly and speeding has become an issue. Mr. Shepherd requested that speed limit signs be installed, to try to slow traffic down on Sheep Ridge RD. The board explained to Mr. Shepherd that in order to install speed limit signs along the road, Penn Dot requires a speed study to be performed and an ordinance be passed which both take time. Mr. Halverson also stated that repairs to Stutzmantown RD should be completed by the end of 2022.

The Board did agree to conduct the speed study on Sheep Ridge RD. Mr. Miller motioned to conduct a speed study on Sheep Ridge RD and stated that the Board will let the residents of Sheep Ridge RD know the findings. Mr. Beistel seconded the motion and with all voting “yea”, the Somerset Township Board of Supervisors will conduct a speed study along Sheep Ridge Road, in Somerset Township.

Next, the Chairman asked for the reading of the Minutes of the previous meeting and the Financial Report for the previous month. Mrs. Yutzy presented the board with the Minutes of Regular Session November 10, 2022. She also presented the Board with the list of expenditure for the previous month. Mr. Miller moved to approve all as presented. Mr. Beistel seconded the motion. With all voting “yea”, the motion carried and all stand approved as presented.

The Secretary then presented the Board with the proposed 2023 Municipal Budget for final approval. Mr. Miller moved to accept the proposed Budget for 2023. Mr. Beistel seconded the motion. With all voting “yea”, the motion carried and the 2023 Budget stands adopted.

The next item before the Board of Supervisors was to approve the real estate purchase from Alvin D. & Rebekah J. Garber for \$10,000 per acre and to authorize all actions necessary to complete this transaction. Mr. Miller made the motion to approve the real estate transaction and to authorize all actions necessary to complete said transaction. Mr. Beistel seconded the motion, and with all voting “yea”, the motion carried and the real estate purchase stands approved.

Mr. Halverson stated that the Friedens Vol. Fire Dept. approached the Board of Supervisors asking for assistance in purchasing a new fire truck. Mr. Halverson made a motion to donate \$75,000 to the Friedens Vol. Fire Dept. to assist with the purchase of a new fire truck. Mr. Beistel seconded the motion and with all voting “yea”, the motion carried and the Board shall donate \$75,000 to the Friedens Vol. Fire Dept. to assist with the purchase of a new fire truck.

The Chairman then ask the Secretary to note in the minutes that Somerset Township will be purchasing a 2023 Ford F600 through Co-Stars.

The Chairman then called for any additional business before the Board. There was none. With no other business before the Board the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned. There were no objections.

\*\*\*MEETING ADJOURNED\*\*\*

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Yutzy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "Y" at the end.