

MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2023

1 CALL TO ORDER Chairman, Jeff Labesky called to meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.1 – Attendance; Supervisors Jeff Labesky and Nathan Lindberg, absent Jay Fitch; Administrator/Treasurer Kristi Kulka-Leichtenberger.

Public; Kim Holden, Debbie Koza, Renee Samuelson, Dave Winger, EMC, Jim McMillen,
Andrew Hoden, Mark Hoden, Gary Cochran, Rick Petruney, Randy Petruney, Sam Bullock, Patti Blum,
Matt Bell, SVFD, Don Shaffer

1.2 – Reports of Activities and Announcements

1.2.1 Andrew Hoden was present asking the Supervisors for permission to do his Eagle Scouts Project at Tionesta Ball Park. His project will be roofing the pavilion and painting the picnic tables and pavilion poles along with the benches along the trail. Estimated cost of project is \$1,771.74. Sam Bullock of the Sheffield VFW stated the VFW has become the sponsor of Troop 35 so he will ask the board at their next meeting about paying ½ of this cost. Supervisor Labesky asked Mr. Hoden when he wanted to start this project and how long would it take. Mr. Hoden stated that he will begin when the weather permits and it has to take 100 hours to complete for the Eagle Scout honors. Mr. Hoden's father mentioned another cost would be for a roll off for the old shingles and the township will take care of this too. **ACTION Motion/Second Lindberg/Labesky and all in favor**

1.2.2 Sam Bullock of the Sheffield VFW presented information on the "Hometown Heroes'" program that the VFW in conjunction with Penelec, Sheffield Township and Westpa. Banners of veterans can be purchased for a cost of \$250 and they will be hung throughout the township along South Main Street and West Main Street and eventually around the Epstein Loop on the electrical poles. He is hoping they will be up by July 4th.

1.2.3 March 29 at 6pm Parks & Recreation Committee and Tree Commission meeting at
6pm at the Sheffield Food Pantry

1.2.4 April 8th Spring Road Inspection at 8am.

2. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.1 – February 13, 2023, **ACTION Motion/Second Lindberg/Labesky all in favor.**

3. BILLS FOR APPROVAL AND FEBRUARY TREASURER'S REPORT

3.1 – Bills for Approval through March 13, 2023: General Fund \$59,920.07; Light Fund \$1,853.21; Fire Fund \$2,69442; Sinking Fund \$643.51 for a total of \$65,111.21 **ACTION Motion/Second Lindberg/Labesky all in favor.** These are total bills in each account not the balance in the accounts.

3.2 - February Treasurers Report **ACTION Motion/Second Lindberg/Labesky all in favor.**

4. COMMUNICATIONS

4.1 Letter of resignation from Janet Kyler, Township Auditor. Her term is not up until 2028, so we will need to appoint an auditor during our 2024 re-organizational meeting.

PAGE 2

MARCH 13, 2023

4.2 \$75,522.26 was deposited into the State Liquid Fuels Fund on March 1, 2023 from PennDOT. The state fund now has a balance of \$118,580.77 for blacktopping this season.

4.3 Curtis Oil, Inc is drilling in Howe Township.

4.4 Green Light Go Grant Program Quarterly status update from Michael Mudry of Traffic and Planning and Design shows an estimated construction bid opening date of April 15, 2023 and construction start date of June 15, 2023 and completion date of November 15, 2023.

4.5 Columbia Gas has applied for approval from the PA Public Utility Commission for the alteration of the railroad crossing by the installation of a six – inch diameter coated steel gas line where US Highway 6 crosses the tracks of Genesee Wyoming Railroad located in Sheffield Township. The supervisors approved this. This was approved and PAUC will be notified.

5. OLD BUSINESS

5.1 RDA Meeting was held on Tuesday, February 21st, the following is a list of township properties that were addressed and the results as to where they stand:

200 Horton Avenue removed from blighted property list.

209 Second Street is 207 Second Street and owned by Robert Korbar, which is the old trailer, James Richwalsky owns 209 Second Street and the barn on that lot. Mr. Korbar has been contacted by the RDA for his plans for the dilapidated trailer. We will need to start another case against 209 Second Street if we feel it needs addresses.

63 2nd Mill Street has been turned over to the Landbank.

336 Horton Avenue is removed from blighted property list.

146 Saybrook Road has been turned over to the Land back

320 Church Street has been purchased by the Lindemuths and Fox & Son's demolished this house last week.

14 West Main Street is removed from blighted property list.

17 Hall Street is tabled due to possible change of owner.

209 West main Street property was declared blighted by the Warren County Blighted Property Review Committee on February 16th; owner has 30 days to eliminate blight condition.

5.2 Cast iron fishing bench in memory of John Greto has been delivered and the family has reimbursed the township, installation will be beside the South Main street bridge on the bank of the Two Mile Creek facing the creek. A plaque is being purchased and will be placed in the cement slab that the bench will be installed on.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 The advertisement for Summer Recreation Program directors has been placed in the WTO. Ad was run for 6 days, and we have not received any inquiries.

6.2 June 17th would be the date for this year's Spring Clean Up, the high school has been contacted for use of their back parking lot and use of facility form filled out for the school district.

6.3 The Township auditors have completed the 2022 audit with no issues, the audit has been submitted to DCED for final approval. The cost to the taxpayers is \$495, which is the gross wages of the 3 auditors at \$10 an hour for 16.5 hours a piece.

PAGE 3

MARCH 13, 2023

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

7.1- Jim McMillen stated he has been reading the minutes of meetings on the website and does not agree with one meeting a month, it's too long between meetings and the minutes being posted. He doesn't agree with the 4-mill tax increase and asked why. Supervisor Labesky stated cost of living. Mr. McMillen stated a \$74,000 cost of living doesn't make sense to him. He asked how Resolution No 536 was passed because the minutes doesn't show that all were in favor. Supervisor Labesky stated this is how we do the motions now. He stated there was no roadcrew report tonight. Supervisor Labesky stated the roadcrew were unable to be in attendance. Mr. McMillen stated he recently drove over Henry's Mills Road and when he was supervisor we use to have that road graded by Howe Township and build the crown back up, water runs right down it now and it's in terrible shape, needs to be daylighted so the light can get in to the road to dry it up. Supervisor Labesky informed Mr. McMillen that Warren County Conservation District is considering this road for a Dirt and Gravel Roads grant in the near future. Mr. McMillen asked if we advertised the 3rd person on the roadcrew and wanted to know what 3 guys do all winter with only 2 trucks. Mr. McMillen stated that the ambulance fund is covering 9 months of the fees being paid to EmeryCare and what is going to happen after that. He suggested the tax for emergency services. Supervisor Labesky informed him that the tax increase is going to help with this and next year a LST tax will be put into place to cover this expense. Mr. McMillen stated that you want to get people to stay here in Sheffield but with taxes this high you won't be keeping people. Mr. McMillen asked Supervisor Labesky why he had to go and check the Sawmill Bridge, when it's not even a township bridge. Supervisor Labesky stated he has only been a supervisor for a short time and he is learning, but that he wanted to see what was wrong with it so that he could contact the proper owner to fix it. Mr. McMillen then asked why Culture and Recreation was of \$80,000 on the recent audit report in the paper and why we wasted so much time and money remodeling a concession stand that is only used 10 days out of a whole year. He also stated that there was a deficit of \$130,330 this year on the audit report. He stated that there use to be an agreement with the Lions Club to take care of Memorial Park. Supervisor Labesky stated that the Lions Club gave over \$5,000 last year towards renovations and is giving \$7500 this year out of the Memorial Park account.

7.2 Kim Holden stated that we are the only township that has raised taxes and she feels that it's mismanagement of funds in her opinion. Roads aren't taken care of in this town. Ms. Holden stated that she received the letter about her concerns after last meeting, but still questioned why COVID funds were used for budgeted amounts for payments of the two pieces of equipment that we purchased. Ms. Holden requested information regarding

the amount in 2021 Audit for Culture and Recreation. She also wanted to make sure that her amendment to the Minutes from December meeting regarding her not having to provide a road bond for Henry's Mills Road was changed or is it in the current minutes that were approved tonight. Supervisor Labesky stated that yes it in the minutes and also Patti Blum suggestions were attached to the December 19, 2022, minutes as requested. She then asked for information from 2018 when Bob Hoffner put \$165,000 worth of work into Henry's Mills Road for a Dirt and Gravel Road grant. She wanted to know how much of township money was used for this

PAGE 4

MARCH 13, 2023

project. Ms. Holden then asked about liquid fuels that were received in November. The administrator informed Ms. Holden that in November we receive a notification from PennDOT regarding the amount of Liquid Fuels monies we will be receiving in 2023 for our budgeting purposes and the agenda tonight shows that we received these funds on March 1st.

7.3 Rick Petruney complained about only 1 meeting a month. People need to air out their feelings more often. Mr. Petruney also stated that we should pay somebody independently to plow our roads.

7.4 Gary Cochran complained about Chris Kyler plowing Oak Street and tearing up his yard. He stated it's no wonder our equipment is always in need of repairs and roadcrew leaves trucks full of anti-skid all weekend long, it's hard on the trucks. He complained that they came over the weekend to plow and by the afternoon the snow was melted. Mr. Cochran also complained about cost of living raising and our taxes 4 mills increase. He asked that the garbage cans be put back at the handicap ramp on the grandstands, so people have a place to dispose of their garbage. He thanked them for cleaning it out, but it needs to be returned.

7.5 Patti Blum complained about 1 meeting a month not being enough. Mrs. Blum also complained about the 4 Mill tax increase. Stating that she has 4 properties and that's going to be around \$200 per property for her. She feels that the township employees should contribute something to their benefit package. Mrs. Blum also complained about 2 guys riding around in 1 truck plowing the roads, they started a project on top of Whipple and now there's a hole and the mini excavator is left sitting there. Supervisor Labesky informed her that a catch basin had to be ordered to fix this problem, there was a 10" pipe strapped together that they have to replace as well. Mrs. Blum stated the DCED website shows the audits and the township has operated with a deficient for past 2 years. Supervisors need to look at the budget better and rather than raise taxes maybe they should start cutting benefits and people working for the township.

7.6 Renee Samuelson stated that she doesn't agree with the one meeting a month or the 4 Mill tax increase and that her neighbor Tim Fiscus had to fix his yard after the plow truck messed it up too.

7.7 Debbie Koza questioned whether or not a vote was taken when she asked the Supervisors about having an audit performed. Supervisor Lindberg stated that you asked us if we were opposed to having an audit done if you showed up with the money to cover the

cost and we said we weren't opposed, no vote was taken. Mrs. Koza asked if the supervisors had met with the contractors for roads yet this year because she was informed that the millings from Bloss Hill will be going to the cemetery. Supervisor Labesky stated that he had no knowledge of the millings from Bloss Hill going to the cemetery, that last year the millings from the old Groboski's were already utilized in the cemetery. Mrs. Koza then asked about how much overtime has been utilized this winter. Supervisor Labesky stated that the guys take time off instead of having overtime, so there has been minimal overtime so far this year. She also asked about the extra pile of anti-skid that is piled in front of the garage, Supervisor Labesky stated it will be used in ditching projects. She wanted to know what has happened with the attorneys speaking about keeping our school here. Supervisor Labesky asked if she was referring to

PAGE 5

MARCH 13, 2023

the talks about the Sports Complex, those are in the hands of the attorney's still and the Supervisors will be attending a school board meeting on the 24th of March for further discussions.

8. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – items not in the agenda but came up during the meeting. Supervisor Lindberg spoke on the school situation. He stated that there are enough options on the table, school board plan won't happen. He mentioned his website 2schools1fight.org where you can find he and his dad's solutions. He informed everyone that there are 3 people on the ballot from Sheffield for school board positions. He requested all to go to the meetings and be a part of these decisions.

Supervisor Labesky spoke on the agreement with the school district for the sports complex. They are in violation of the lease agreement if they move forward with the moving of 9-12 to Warren. Supervisors are attending a meeting on the 24th to discuss this with the school district. Mrs. Koza stated that the building is still going to be used even if the 9-12 are moved.

Ms. Holden asked about the bills for approval and stated that the other townships provide a list of the bills for the public. Supervisor Lindberg stated this is the kind of information that will be available on the website and then preceded to give an update on the website. He asked the audience to take a look at bedfordcountypa.org or myerstownpa.org to see what ours will look like when it's complete.

Mr. McMillen again sated his concerns with the 4 Mill tax increase, making the taxes 12.25 and the highest we can tax is 14 mills.

Mr. Petruney asked for the balance in the General Fund and got very upset knowing that we had only a little over \$23,000 in General Fund.

Supervisor Labesky reviewed the Land Bank and how it works. He stated that Commissioner Jeff Eggleston was present at a township meeting earlier in 2022 discussing this and informing the township to join in. The Landbank allows the donation of blighted property to the county. Specifically, an owner can donate to Landbank to expedite process and allow County to sell or demolish structure rather than let sit for months or years.

9. ADJOURNMENT **ACTION Motion/Second Lindberg/Labesky all in favor.** The next meeting will be Monday, April 10, 2023 at 6pm.

Administrator/Treasurer

Jeff Labesky, Chairman

Nathan Lindberg
Sheffield Township Supervisors