

**LANCASTER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2021 – MEETING MINUTES**

The Lancaster Township Board of Supervisors meeting was called to order by Chairman Joseph Plesniak at 5:01pm. Those in attendance were Supervisor Kris Kniess, Supervisor Tim Zinkham, Township Solicitor Chris Reese, Sergeant Mike Cornell, Roadmaster Mike Spiker, Charles and Debbie Scott, Dave Weber, Doug Marshall, Connie Domhoff, Karen Barbati, Kathy Ligday, Catherine Lalonde, Chris Altman, Mike Marburger, Alex Weidenhof, Jim Hulings, Chrissy, Josh's iPhone, and three (3) un-named including an iPad. The April 7, 2021 meeting was duly advertised in the Butler Eagle, a newspaper of general circulation indicating that the meeting would be held through the Zoom Video-Audio conferencing program.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Plesniak announced that the Regular Board of Supervisors Meeting on April 19, 2021 will be held as planned and will be via Zoom Video-Audio conferencing.

Right to Know Request:

Chairman Plesniak raised the Petition for Review, which had been filed by the Township. He asked Chris Reese to describe the situation. Mr. Reese summarized the timeline. There had been an appeal to the Office of Open Records by Alex Weidenhof regarding a response to a Right to Know Request made by the Township. The Final Determination of that appeal was issued by the Office of Open Records on January 26, 2021. On February 25, 2021, the Township filed a Petition for Review of the Final Determination. At the next public meeting of Lancaster Township on March 15, 2021, the Township's position with respect to the Petition for Review was discussed as well as an editorial that appeared in the Butler Eagle regarding the Township. After the Petition was discussed, Chairman Plesniak asked if there were any comments or questions regarding the Petition for Review and the editorial. There were none. However, the Board did not vote at that March 15 meeting to ratify its decision to file the Petition for Review.

Therefore, at the special meeting on April 7, 2021, after the timeline was given by Mr. Reese and an acknowledgment was made that the special meeting was being held to ratify the filing of the Petition, Chairman Plesniak then opened the topic up for questions or comments.

Jim Hulings questioned why the Township was appealing. Solicitor Reese addressed and explained that the Township wanted to have a Butler County Judge provide an In-Camera Review of the documents in question so that the Judge could decide what documents were required to be turned over under the Right to Know request.

A motion was made by Supervisor Zinkham to ratify the decision to file a Petition for Review of the Final Determination of the Office of Open Records dated January 26, 2021. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Kniess.

VOTE:

SUPERVISOR	IN FAVOR	OPPOSED	ABSTAIN
Plesniak	X		
Kniess	X		
Zinkham	X		

Executive Session was held as follows:

- i. Monday, March 22, 2021 at 7:00pm regarding office staffing and Collective Bargaining Matters (Public Works CBA).

Strategic Solutions:

Chairman Plesniak addressed the proposal received by the Township from Strategic Solutions. If approved, Strategic Solutions would be hired to provide Interim Management Services to fill the roles following the resignations of Secretary / Treasurer Chrissy Senft and Township Manager Danielle Rich.

Chairman Plesniak then opened up the topic for discussions which included the following:

Supervisor Zinkham commented that it would be useful to have a third party come in and evaluate our operations from top to bottom, to help determine if any internal changes should be made. The Board wants to understand and identify why there has been the recent turnover of employees.

Supervisor Kniess commented that he thinks hiring a third party to assist in the interim is a good idea, but that the process seemed rushed. The Township only received one proposal from one firm.

Supervisor Plesniak commented that there are pressing needs, the Township was able to make payroll through a payroll service but there are other bills that need paid.

Catherine Lalonde questioned what happened to former Manager Benjamin Kramer and why the current staff. Chairman Plesniak indicated that Ben Kramer left for opportunities in real estate. Danielle Rich identified that she left for personal reasons. Chrissy Senft left for another opportunity.

Dave Weber voiced his opinion in favor of hiring Strategic Solutions.

Alex Weidenhof asked about the cost of Strategic Solutions. Chairman Plesniak identified that the cost was \$ 7,000 per month and that the cost was reasonable when compared to the Manager's salary and benefits and the Secretary / Treasurer's salary and benefits.

Charles Scott asked if anyone on the Board of Supervisors had the time to manage the day-to-day operations of the Township.

Jim Hulings commented in favor of the hiring of Strategic Solutions and that he understands the challenges facing the Board as he was formerly on Harmony Boro Council.

Mike Marburger voiced his opinion in favor of hiring Strategic Solutions and that the Board has his support moving forward.

Doug Marshall voiced his opinion in favor of hiring Strategic Solutions.

Debbie Scott commented on the volume of work that continues, Debbie is currently providing office support to the Township.

The Board thanked Debbie for her efforts and expressed appreciation of her assisting the Township.

A motion was made by Supervisor Zinkham to approved the proposal from Strategic Solutions at \$ 7,000 per month to provide interim management solutions. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Kniess.

VOTE:

SUPERVISOR	IN FAVOR	OPPOSED	ABSTAIN
Plesniak	X		
Kniess	X		
Zinkham	X		

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Zinkham at 5:57pm, the motion was seconded by Supervisor Kniess and passed by a majority vote.

Respectfully submitted:

Tim Zinkham
Supervisor