

**Black Creek Township Supervisors Regular Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.**

The Regular Meeting of the Black Creek Township Supervisors, held on  
Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Attendance:** Roll Call; Lupcho, Rohrbach, Present; Tombasco; Absent.

**Public Comment on Agenda Items:** None.

**Minutes:**

The chairwoman will ask if there are any additions or corrections to the November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 general meeting.

A *motion* by: Supervisor Rohrbach, seconded by: Supervisor Lupcho, to approve the minutes of the November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, general meeting.

All in favor.

<b><u>Financial Report:</u></b> November 1 <sup>st</sup> to November 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b><u>Interest Rates</u></b>
<b>Mid Penn General Fund:</b>	\$104,339.20      1.00%
<b>Fire Escrow Account:</b>	\$75.05      1.00%
<b>PLGIT Prime Savings:</b>	\$102.90      PLGIT Yields
<b>PLGIT Checking/Liquid Fuels:</b>	\$175.15      Can Change
	<u>On A Daily Basis</u>
<b>Total Checking/Savings:</b>	<b>\$104,692.30</b>
<b>PLGIT Alumni Assoc.:</b>	<b>\$5,104.88</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$109,797.18</b>

A *motion* by: Supervisor Rohrbach, seconded by: Supervisor Tombasco, to approve the financial report.

All in favor.

**Bills:** Payment of bills, as presented.

A *motion* by: Supervisor Rohrbach, seconded by: Supervisor Tombasco, to approve the bills as presented and to pay any and all bills in all funds that become due before the next regular meeting.

**Roll Call Vote:** Lupcho, Yes; Rohrbach, Yes; Tombasco, Yes.

**Correspondence:** None.

## **Reports:**

**Zoning Report:** Zoning/Codes Officer, Henry Mlecynski sent his report which was reviewed by Supervisor Rohrbach.

**Fire Company:** Fire Chief Joe Lescowitch was absent and submitted a report with Carl Rittenhouse who reviewed the report.

**Emergency Management:** William Singley Jr. submitted a report which was reviewed by Chairwoman Rohrbach.

**Roadmaster Report:** Reviewed by Chairwoman Rohrbach.

**Engineer Report:** Township Engineer, Rock Stahovic, submitted an end of year report which was reviewed by Supervisor Rohrbach.

- Supervisor Rohrbach stated that for the January agenda, she is going to create a list of all open – ended projects so that it is very transparent to the new administration as to what needs to be done. She is also going to take pictures of how the current office leaves everything for the new administration, including the equipment.

## **Old Business: None**

## **New Business:**

### **1. Disposing of Old Files**

A *motion* by: Supervisor Rohrbach, seconded by: Supervisor Lupcho, to approve the disposal of old files that have exceeded their retention time.

All in favor.

### **2. 2024 Proposed Budget**

A *motion* by: Supervisor Rohrbach, seconded by: Supervisor Tombasco, to approve the 2024 proposed budget.

All in favor.

### **3. John Ross Reimbursement for Vacation Time**

A *motion* by: Supervisor Rohrbach, seconded by: Supervisor Lupcho, to approve reimbursing John Ross for unused vacation time.

All in favor.

### **4. Hiring of a Full – Time Road Crew Worker**

A *motion* by: Supervisor Rohrbach, seconded by: Supervisor Tombasco, to approve the hiring of Brent Davies as a full – time road crew worker at a rate of \$20.00 per hour.

All in favor.

### **5. Update on the Derringer Street Low Income Survey Grant**

- Supervisor Rohrbach shared an update from Mark Hurst at Luzerne County that the Township has a good chance of requalifying for the low-income grant, however, a final determination will not be known until Spring of 2024.

## **6. Knies Minor Subdivision**

A motion by: Supervisor Rohrbach, seconded by: Supervisor Tombasco, to approve the Knies Subdivision as recommended by the Black Creek Township Planning Commission, including all requested waivers.

All in favor.

### **\*Review Public Comment from last meeting.**

- Supervisor Lupcho had mentioned at the November meeting that she was going to look into the agility project and the line painting project. She is still looking into both of those items.

### **Public Comment:**

- Sharon Rohrbach, Hilltop Drive, responding to the Fischer shed from the zoning report read earlier in the meeting, shared some history on the shed at the property. She had concern over the sewage/septic on the lot as the property did not have a proper disposal system for waste and the property owners were staying in the shed as a cabin. She reached out to zoning/codes officer, Henry Mleczynski, on if someone could live in a shed, the answer was that a person could not live in a shed. Sharon has begun the process to have a recreational cabin on her property. She is going through the zoning officer, the PA state UCC waiver, and the sewage enforcement officer. However, she does not think that it is right that she has been charged \$790 from the SEO to inspect a sand mound. She believes that everyone should be treated the same in regards to zoning, sewage, and UCC. Supervisor Tombasco stated that she felt that Henry Mleczynski was trying very hard on Monday at his weekly meeting with the Township staff, to make sure that everything was the same for everyone else. Solicitor Logsdon stated that a person cannot live in a shed. That would typically fall under vagrancy. His understanding of the situation is that the Fischer cabin is supposed to be a recreational cabin, however, zoning still does apply. He suggested putting something in the ordinance to define what a recreational cabin is so that someone cannot try to pass off a shed as a cabin. Solicitor Logsdon stated that the Township's SEO, Rob Fugate, said that he must make the determining factor as to what would be allowed for sewage. He further shared some of the requirements for putting a recreational cabin on a property. Fischer needs to finish the requirements that were told to him by the Township zoning officer. He unfortunately, at the time of the meeting, has not done what has been required of him to make the shed into a recreational cabin.

### **Announcements:**

- ✓ **The 2024 Reorganization Meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.**
- ✓ **The next Regular Meeting will take place on Tuesday January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 immediately following the Reorganization Meeting.**
- ✓ **The 2024 Auditors Reorganization Meeting will take place on Wednesday January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.**

- **Supervisor Rohrbach gave a farewell speech as her term is ending December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023.**

**A summary of the speech is below:**

- “It has been a very tough 6 years, donating my life. However, this is what enabled us to accomplish so much. I hope that the 2 incoming supervisors are planning on volunteering all of their time, as I did. I volunteered my time to take numerous classes, gain multiple certifications and I learned how to successfully write grants, securing over \$1,00,000 of grant money, during the 4 years I was the majority. With our wonderful Foreman, John at my side, we completed the most intricate and expensive project, this township has ever seen, Chicks Lane. This was my farewell project, which total cost came to \$402,365.40.

I am very glad I was your supervisor for 6 years, but it’s my time to leave, on my own terms. I’d like to thank all of my supporters, especially those who would often reach out to me and were so kind. I wouldn’t have been able to accomplish so much, without my wonderful secretary Rachel. I couldn’t have asked to hire anyone more responsible and caring; I wish I had found her, earlier. Our newest secretary, Jenn also deserves an acknowledgment. She’s already jumped in and helped the road crew, when we were shorthanded and should be given the most versatile employee award.

I would be lost without my foreman, John Ross. Everyone needs to understand how dedicated he is and how we would have never been able to complete these huge projects, without him, especially with how shorthanded, we are. He can operate any piece of equipment and do anything from bridge installations to road paving and plowing. We made a wonderful team. I’d do all the behind the scenes work and oversight- the planning, grant writing, meeting with contractors and different agencies, but he was the one who physically carried out each project. Thank you so much for always being here for this township. Lastly, I need to thank my friends and family for understanding how little time I’ve had for them, the past 6 years and putting up with me. Especially my mom, who has attended all of my meetings. I really am looking forward to going back to my old life.

I sincerely hope that the new majority will do a good job. Whether we like them or not, everyone should want them to succeed, so our township can keep moving forward. I’ll continue coming to the meetings to keep an eye on things, I’ll just be on the opposite side of the table.”

- **The Township thanks Supervisors Rohrbach and Tombasco for their service and time as supervisors in Black Creek Township and is wishing the new administration success in 2024.**

**Adjournment:** A *motion* by: Supervisor Rohrbach, seconded by: Supervisor Lupcho, to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

All in favor.

All reports and correspondence covered during this regular meeting are available for review at the front table. If you would like a copy, one can be provided after the conclusion of the meeting.