

**Upper Paxton Township Board of Supervisors  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
July 13, 2021**

Those in attendance: Robert Stoner, via cell phone, John Orr, and Bob Coleman; Supervisors, Luanna Zimmerman; Secretary/Treasurer, Rich Wiest; Roadmaster, and Pete Howland; Solicitor, Jerry Duke; Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, John Green, Laura Phillips, Rennie Phillips, and William Burch.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Orr at 7:00 p.m. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

**Public Hearing** for “**An Ordinance Amending Chapter 27 (Relating to Zoning), Part 2 (Definitions) and Part 11 (General Regulations), Amending and Establishing Requirements for the Installation, Operation and Decommissioning of Solar Energy Systems as Accessory Uses and Principal Uses**”. (This was advertised in the 6-15-21 issue of the Upper Dauphin Sentinel.) Vice Chairman Orr called the public hearing to order.

**Public Comments:** Township resident and farmer Rennie Phillips expressed his concerns pertaining to Principal Solar Energy Systems on the placement of prime farmland. Phillips said his fear is that this could put the farmer out of business due to large solar companies being able to pay more for land rent than someone who is renting land for the purpose of farming. Laura Phillips also spoke and expressed concerns for the wildlife in the area. Resident John Green expressed environmental concerns. Laura Phillips and John Green both expressed concerns that the Zoning Hearing Board could possibly have variance requests relating to Principal Solar Energy Systems. All 3 Township residents were not in favor of large-scale solar development occupying prime agricultural land.

Jerry Duke of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission explained to the residents that he had helped the Board with this “model ordinance” and the intent is not to be exclusionary but to provide protection through regulation.

John Orr made a motion to add the following to the Amendment for Principal Solar Energy Systems and adopt the proposed amendment: “*Excavation or grading shall be limited to that required for the footers, posts, etc. for each individual solar panel within areas of Class 1 and Class 2 prime agricultural soils. Grading that would alter the existing contour or elevation of the land, modify stormwater drainage, or alter soil profiles beyond the exception herein noted are not permitted. These restrictions are in place to facilitate the restoration to prime farmland at the time of decommissioning the solar site.*” Second by Bob Coleman. With all in favor motion carried.

Vice Chairman Orr said that the Board recently attended a Solar Symposium presented by Penn State University. Orr read some facts from the symposium. John Orr made a motion to conclude the Public Hearing. Second by Bob Coleman. All in favor, motion carried. The public hearing was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes and Financial Report:** Minutes of the June 23<sup>rd</sup> monthly meeting were reviewed. Bob Coleman made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Second by John Orr. With all in favor, motion carried. Luanna Zimmerman presented the June financial reports and a list of bills to be paid. Upon review of these documents, John Orr made a motion to approve the financial documents and pay the bills. Second by Bob Coleman. All in favor, motion carried.

### **Old Business:**

1. The possible relocation of Snyder Mill Road was discussed. Solicitor Howland said that he had left a voicemail for the attorney of the possible new owner of the land located along Snyder Mill Road. Howland said that due to an amendment in the Eminent Domain law he must petition the Orphan's Court and put various parties on notice. Bob Coleman made a motion for Solicitor Howland to proceed as this road situation is an emergency due to the erosion at the site. Second by John Orr. With all in favor, motion carried.
2. The adoption of Adams Lane, by the Township, was discussed. William Burch will finalize a description of the roadway/area and Solicitor Howland will create a document for the landowners to sign giving permission to the Township to adopt the land for roadway use.
3. William Burch provided the Board with a quote from Glace Associates. This quote is in the amount of \$1,225.00 and would be to apply for a PennDOT Grant to provide funding for sidewalks along the west side of Berrysburg Road to the Millersburg Area Middle/High School. This was tabled and will be revisited at the 7-28-21 meeting.
4. John Orr made a motion to approve and adopt Ordinance No.: 7-13-2021. **(This was advertised in the 7-6-21 issue of the Upper Dauphin Sentinel.)** This ordinance amends Chapter XV, Motor Vehicles and Traffic, by amending Part 3, Section 302, titled "Parking Prohibited at All Times in Certain Locations", specifically Center Street & Market Street, on the North side changing the prohibited parking distance from 35 feet to 80 feet. Second by Bob Coleman. All in favor, motion carried.

### **New Business:**

1. Bob Coleman made a motion to terminate the Declaration of Disaster Emergency status due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. Second by John Orr. With all in favor, motion carried.
2. William Burch presented the Shiffer Plan. This Plan corrects the boundary lines on the property located on Klinger Road. The Board reviewed the comments from Dauphin County and Light-Heigel. After discussion, John Orr made a motion to approve and sign the Plan. Second by Bob Coleman. All in favor, motion carried.
3. William Burch presented the Troutman Plan. This is a Subdivision Plan. Burch informed the Board that the Township has an easement to maintain the basin located on the property. The Board reviewed the comments from Dauphin County and Light Heigel. After review, Bob Coleman made a motion to approve and sign the Plan. With all in favor, motion carried.
4. The felling of a few trees in the Glen Park near Ruby Road was discussed. Two quotes were reviewed. Roadmaster Wiest will follow up with the arborists as the quotes were not for the same number of trees. This was tabled and will be revisited at the 7-28-21 meeting.
5. John Orr made a motion to reinvest the CD, that matured on 7-10-21, in the amount of \$100,000.00, with Mid Penn Bank for 12 months, at an interest rate of 0.50%. The interest, from the previous CD, is to be placed in the General Fund Account. Second by Bob Coleman. With all in favor, motion carried.

6. The stormwater basin on Charles Road was discussed. Roadmaster Wiest and Supervisor Coleman will examine the basin and decide on how to proceed with repairs.

**Public Comments:** None

With no further business on the agenda, John Orr moved to adjourn. Bob Coleman seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Luanna Zimmerman,  
Secretary/Treasurer