

## LEHIGH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

May 13, 2025

- I. CALL TO ORDER. The Lehigh Township Board of Supervisors held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Lehigh Township Municipal Building, 1069 Municipal Road, Walnutport, Pa. 18088. Vice Chairman Jerry Pritchard called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

Present: Cindy Miller  
Janet Sheats  
Jerry Pritchard  
David Hess  
Alice Rehrig  
Attorney David Backenstoe  
Mike Muffley  
Liz Amato  
Scott Fogel  
Frank Zamadics

Absent: Mike Jones

Bob ~~Eyer Ayer~~, a candidate for Northampton County Court of Common Pleas, was present to introduce himself. He is currently serving as the First Assistant District Attorney. He has practiced in all areas of the law where a judge would need to make a decision, including criminal law, business litigation, and state litigation. In addition to serving as an Assistant District Attorney, he has also served as a Public Defender. As a judge, he feels he has the ability to make the right decision and a fair decision

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. April 22, 2025. Cindy Miller made a motion to approve these minutes. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

III. APPROVAL OF BILLS

A. General Fund Checks 28672 to 28725. Janet Sheats made a motion to approve these bills. Cindy Miller seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

B. State Fund Checks 1621 & 1622. Cindy Miller made a motion to approve these bills. David Hess seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

IV. PLANNING RELATED ITEMS

- A. Engineer's Report. Mike Muffley reported the Planning Commission reviewed a revised plan for Top of the Mountain Estates. They will be eliminating a roadway and reconfiguring some lots and incorporating the changes into their final plan.

The final working draft of the Zoning Ordinance has been received from the consultant. He and Liz Amato are currently reviewing the ordinance. Once their review is complete, it will be distributed to the Ad Hoc Committee for review at their June meeting. After that, the public hearing process can begin for adoption of the ordinance.

V. DEPARTMENTAL/ORGANIZATIONAL REPORT

A. Recreation Report

1. Danielsville Tennis Courts. Sandy Hopkins reported she had met with Mike Muffley so he could look at the Danielsville Tennis Courts. After looking at the courts, it was his opinion that they need to be completely redone. The estimated cost of this is about \$118,000. The Rec Board is continuing to discuss this.
2. "Noon Years Eve" Event. A group of ladies attended the Rec Board meeting with an idea of doing a Noon Years Eve event. The Rec Board felt this was a good idea, but wanted more information and also was concerned about the insurance. She also wasn't clear if they were planning on renting the park or just spearheading the event.

Karlee Farley commented it was her idea to spearhead the event for the community. The focus would be for kids and families. They are thinking about having it run from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 or 12:30 a.m. with a balloon drop at noon. Her idea is to have tents and vendors, business that could promote themselves, the Police and Fire Department. She looking to have games for the kids, perhaps they would be able to get candy from the different vendors. She also thought about having some food trucks. Overall, it would be a free event; the food trucks would most likely charge. She would also send out a letter for fundraising so she could keep the event free with the exception of the food trucks. She got this idea after she attended a large-scale event similar to this in Macungie.

Alice Rehrig commented if the event is a Township Event, there is no issue with the insurance. It would be no different that the Christmas Tree Lighting or National Night Out.

Cindy Miller made a motion to approve the Noon Years Eve Event and have Karlee Farly as the chairperson and work with the Rec Board for the event. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Adam Ash questioned if the tennis courts are really used and would it be better to put the money towards a children's facility since there really are no children's facilities in the Township.

Janet Sheats questioned the status of the memorial bench that an individual wanted to purchase for Delps Park. Sandy Hopkins commented the final details have been worked out and she is ready to take it to Alice Rehrig so the order could be placed.

Monica Brown commented a consultant would be able to help determine what can be done with the parks. If there is a plan for all the parks, it can be used to get grants to help pay for playground equipment. Janet Sheats commented she has provided Sandy Hopkins with information regarding commercial playground equipment. The cost of the equipment starts at \$35,000 and goes up to hundreds of thousand of dollars.

Cindy Miller commented when she was at PSATS, she met with people from DCNR and DEP. The Township would be able to have the costs for a consultant paid for by both of these agencies. In order to get plans for the parks, we need to have a consultant. Sandy Hopkins noted we had an architect draw up plans for the Maintenance Building, but do not have anyone who would be able to do plans for the parks.

Jerry Pritchard commented he would rather be patient and use the money that will be coming from Jaindl to develop a playground rather than tax payer money. Sandy Hopkins noted the improvements need to be approved by a committee that consists of a representative from Jaindl, the Township, and the Rec Board. Phil Gogel commented the Board needs to set up a time to kick things off with Jaindl. They would need to meet with their engineer as to what is needed. Through the agreements, the planning and engineering would be free and the construction would come from the Jaindl money. Jerry Pritchard commented Jaindl should be coming to the Board in the next two to three months and it can be discussed with him then. Cindy Miller noted that Jaindl can also ask for a credit towards the recreation fees because he will be installing his own recreation. Phil Gogel noted he already received the credit when the agreements were done. Janet Sheats also noted the agreements allow improvements to be done at other parks if Indiantrail Park is already improved. Phil Gogel commented Indiantrail Park is the priority in the agreements, but spending the entire amount of fees that will be due at Indiantrail Park would be just a waste of money. Once Indiantrail Park is built out, then it can be decided what the next area would be to develop.

Kristin Soldridge questioned when the Jaindl project is expected to start. Indiantrail Park has been dormant for years. Jaindl has been dragging their feet for five years.

By the time things get done, the people who are asking for the playground facilities will have kids that have aged out of using the equipment.

Jerry Pritchard questioned if Mike Muffley was able to do plans for the parks. Cindy Miller also questioned if Mike Muffley would have the time to do a comprehensive plan of the parks. Mike Muffley commented he can do the plans, but wouldn't have the time to do the large-scale process with surveys, meetings, etc. Park Plans can go from having the Park and Rec Committee develop ideas for a park and then have a plan drawn up to having community involvement, surveys, and public involvement. The costs could range from \$1,000 to \$500,000. He believes everyone should meet to determine what they want to get out of a plan. You don't just apply for one grant. You start with planning and getting funds for the study to develop the plan. If you get funding for planning, the agencies will tend to want to work with you to see that your projects get done.

Marc Kerscmar commented you could get quotes from a consultant and then apply for a grant to get the services paid. Why not take the first step? If you keep waiting, nothing will get done.

Janet Sheats questioned what it would hurt to apply for a grant for a consultant to get a grant?

Pam Herschman commented the Board should consider some type of timeline for getting the projects done. We have had plans before and they just sat. Jerry Pritchard commented we have a tennis court or pickle ball court that needs to be redone. Why not get the project done rather than pay someone for a think tank.

Cindy Miller commented she thinks everyone is on a different page as to what they think will be in a plan. She is not just looking at a schematic plan. She is looking at what we will need over the next five to ten years. What services may be needed; what staff may be needed. Do we need to hire someone to run our recreational facilities?

Dennis Herschman questioned if there was COVID money left and could that be used? Alice Rehrig commented the \$50,000 that was budgeted was from the COVID money.

John Knoblach suggested contacting the municipalities who have playgrounds that you like, and obtain the information regarding the playground from them.

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Adam Ash questioned if the Board would authorize Alice Rehrig to put it out to bid for conversation and when are we going to have a meeting where the public can come and meet with the Rec Board on this subject. Sandy Hopkins commented it can be discussed at the Rec meeting on Monday.

Cindy Miller questioned if the Board has actually read the proposal that was prepared and are they comfortable enough with it that she could make a motion to put it out to bid. **Janet Sheats commented she read the proposal.** David Hess commented he thinks Mike Jones should also be here to vote on it. He was not in favor of this previously. Janet Sheats commented she agrees and she also thinks the Rec Board should have the opportunity to vote on it again since it previously was voted down at their meeting because they didn't have a full Board.

Katherine Mack commented she has been hearing this discussion at several meetings. She thinks it is time to put nuts and bolts to it; put dates to it, and say at this time we will make a decision as to whether or not to move forward with this. It has been discussed for months and months. Talking about a problem does not get anything accomplished.

Jerry Pritchard commented this was previously voted on, but we keep regurgitating it every Tuesday. If we are going to take every topic that is voted on and regurgitate it, it will never get out of here. Katherine Mack commented it sounds like the constituents want the Board to do something. She knows the consultant was voted down, but from what she has heard, the consultant can be paid for by a grant. If it is not going to cost the Township anything, why not see if these different agencies will fund it. If it costs too much, you can always pull out the rug.

Janet Sheats questioned if it would hurt to put the bids out with the notion that we do not have to accept it and does it need to be on the agenda? Attorney Backenstoe commented it should be on the agenda. Cindy Miller commented she wants this on the next agenda for a vote to determine if we are going to move forward with this. She also noted that the Board can accept the bids, but they cannot award the bid. Once you award a bid, the possibility of grant funding is null and void. You cannot obtain funding for something that was already awarded or contracted. If we get the proposals and know what the actual cost will be, we will know what amount of funding we need to apply for. Janet Sheats commented she is okay with getting the facts on paper, but that doesn't mean we need to spend. Jerry Pritchard commented he is okay with no money being spent. Cindy Miller emphasized if we spend money, we cannot get a grant.

Jerry Pritchard commented the fencing project at Berlinsville is completed.

- B. Public Works Report. Frank Zamadics commented the line painting, including Cottonwood Road, has been completed. The Department has also received the 700 tons of salt that are required on the State Contract so they are ready for next winter.

The Department has several pipes to replace and roads to get ready for the oil and chip project so they will be busy over the next several weeks.

Cindy Miller noted there was patch work listed in the report. Which roads were patched? Frank Zamadics commented a lot of the patching took place on Timberline Road. With all the water on the roads, the patch keeps getting blown out.

The bench that is to be installed by the scoreboard in Berlinsville is assembled and in the garage. David Hess commented the weather has created a problem with getting the concrete ready. He will get that rescheduled.

Adam Ash questioned how much it would take to get the roads where they should be. Mike Muffley commented it would be around \$50 million over the next 20 years. If someone were to construct a new road from scratch or rehab existing roads by removing the base and rebuilding everything, the cost is approximately \$1 million **per mile**. Adam Ash questioned what the current road budget is. Alice Rehrig commented it is about half a million. Adam Ash commented at some point, the Township is going to need to consider raising taxes. Mike Muffley noted this is not a problem specific to Lehigh Township; it is everywhere.

- C. Zoning Report. Liz Amato reported there were 41 new permits received and 46 permits were issued. Only 3 new complaints were received.

Last week at the Zoning Hearing Board meeting, there was a variance for an accessory solar energy system that was over the kilowatt requirements which was granted, a dog grooming business granted with conditions, and an extension of the Gap View Manufactured Home Community of a single unit which was granted. There is one hearing scheduled for June and July for an accessory apartment and a home occupation.

1. Resignation. Jerry Prichard commented Liz Amato has submitted her letter of resignation. The Board was thankful for all the work she has done and she was an asset to the Township. Liz Amato will be helping the Township during the transition of finding a new zoning officer.

Cindy Miller made a motion to regrettably accept the resignation. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. Katherine Mack commented as Chairperson of the Zoning Hearing.

Board, she has enjoyed working with Liz Amato; she has been very professional and everyone on the Zoning Hearing Board thanks her. All voted aye. Motion carried.

- D. Police Report. Chief Fogel commented this is National Police Week and Police Memorial Day is on Thursday. He would like to thank the officers for what they do. It gets busy at times that they need to figure out which calls they need to go to first. They put in a lot of long hours serving the community. Most people can't imagine what they go through or what they see during the course of jobs.

Recently there have been a lot of issues with safety of pedestrians on the roadways and bus stops. Chief Fogel wanted to remind everyone to be cognizant of what is going on around them, on and off the roadways. People are running, walking, and biking along the roads. It is very easy for people to get distracted and not realize how fast they are going. The Department does put their speed devices out to capture data to help them determine which areas have the most violations and where it makes the most sense for enforcement. The bus drivers have been seeing greater occurrences of people running the bus lights. There was an instance where someone hit a house to avoid going through the bus lights. While the police vehicles were parked there, someone went between their vehicles and vehicle in the accident, almost hitting a child. All the busses are equipped with cameras and can capture the license of the violator and will report it to the Police.

Cindy Miller questioned if the No Cell Phone Law goes into effect in June. Chief Fogel commented the law has been in effect, but starting June 1, it will now have teeth in it. It is a violation to check you cell phone, even if you are sitting at a red light. Overall, it will basically be a violation to touch your phone while driving. You will be able to use Bluetooth or hand free devices, such as talk to text.

1. State Police. Janet Sheats commented she wanted to discuss this to clear up any misconceptions that were relayed to her while she was campaigning. She was asked on two separate occasions by residents if it was true that the Township would save \$2 million if we went to state police coverage and did away with our police. When she asked where they got that information, they told her it came from ~~someone~~ **a female** on the Board, **and she knows it wasn't her**. She has never been for state police and will never be for them. She will support our police officers and the department to the best of her ability. Some of the reasons that she wouldn't ever support state police coverage are that she would not want to jeopardize the lives of everyone in the community. There are way too many times where an ambulance is 20 minutes or more away. If someone goes into cardiac arrest, where every second counts, our police respond to all ambulance calls and are able to administer CPR and use an

AED to give that person every possible way to survive. They are the first ones on the scene. Community policing would be lost. There would no longer be any interaction between the community and the officers. State Police do not respond to non-injury accidents which can tie up our fire personnel longer at emergency scenes. They do not respond to dog barking complaints or general neighbor disputes. They also do not respond to loud firework calls. They respond to severe incidents at best, hopefully within an hour or two. They rarely will do traffic enforcement which people want to see more of. In her opinion, we cannot do it often enough because of staffing issues. We do not have the ability to do 24/7 traffic enforcement. Also keep in mind, there is some income to the Township when the enforcement is done. When it is known that there no longer is community policing, we will undoubtedly see an uptick in crime. There are a large number of drug overdoses within the community. Our officers are trained to administer Narcan, again saving lives. The amount of mental health issues is held to a minimum due to the quick response of training of these officers. Waiting for state police and increases the response time, will only create more of a dangerous situation. The Board's job is to ensure the safety and well being of all the residents.

Jerry Pritchard questioned how the Department was doing with filling shifts. Chief Fogel commented they are doing what that can, but it comes with its challenges. Officers are staying late, coming in early, working long hours, or extra shifts. They are more than maxed out on their capacity. The need for additional officers was outlined in a study he did twelve years ago when he started here.

Chief Fogel commented the State Police are a fine organization; however, they lack the capacity because they are covering an entire state. There are a lot of municipalities around us that do not have coverage. Some have less residents than us. We are currently at 11,000 and things are building around us. If we are already behind, what will that do when things are built out. Some of the things that come with a municipal police department are the quality of service. You will lose your service calls. If there are neighbor issues, it could result into a fight by the time the State Police get there. Our officers are already here. On a night shift, there are one or two cars out for a very large area. We have two cars for a 30-mile square area. You also lose community relations. You will also have a delayed response time for even the more severe accidents compared to your local department. Calls at the elementary school will need to be handled by the School District Police if this department is not here to handle it. There are a lot of things that will need to happen over the next few years and we will need to figure out

how we will get there. Sure enough, you can save \$2.2 million dollars without a police department, but to what expense. What is the cost of that? People have

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told him that are here because of the local service. Residents in Bath are not too happy with not having local police. It is going backwards. A local department is a valuable asset.

Phil Gogel commented during his six years on the Board, everyone always had accolades for the Police Department. The constraints of the funding for the Township have confined us to 12 officers.

Jerry Pritchard commented he believes this topic needs to be reigned in. This is certainly not a morale booster for the Department. These guys are going out there doing their job, sometimes by themselves, then we are turning around and saying by the way, we are going to state police. That is not the way to send these guys out on their shifts.

Cindy Miller questioned where it was coming from that we were going to go with state police. Janet Sheats commented someone asked her if it was true. Cindy Miller commented this Board has never said they were going to state police. David Hess commented he absolutely supports our police department.

Chief Fogel commented over the past 13 years, he has heard about taxes from both the Board and the residents, and we always come back to the same argument as to where we can cut things. Right now, because it is an election cycle, it is becoming a topic. Jerry Pritchard commented this has been talked about outside an election cycle. Right now, it is just being double down on. Chief Fogel commented right now it is being taken to another level. It is not about keeping things where they are, but going backwards, regardless of how it was started. The officers deserve the respect that they have earned and for everything they do for serving the community.

Kristin Soldridge commented she wanted to agree with Chief Fogel regarding the issues with people stopping for the red lights on a bus. She personally has witnessed it. There are more and more issues with this, but not all of the issues are being reported.

Sandy Hopkins commented she too has had close calls with busses where she stopped and the person behind her went around and kept on going. When she stops for a bus, she puts her four-way flashers on to alert people.

John Knoblach commented the reason a local department is so important is because the officers know the people and the community. Because they know the

people, they can deescalate situations quickly. Part of the problem with the state police is that they may have a 200 radius to cover at night. If the state police

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were to take over Lehigh Township, they would not get more people, just more work. The Fire Department also relies on the police because they sometimes have a combative person and need an extra set of hands. There was a call that was so bad that in addition to the Fire Company and the police, they had to call Walnutport for additional people. It is not about the money, but it is about the safety in their services that you don't think about until they are not there.

Cindy Miller commented she has been approached by people in the community and they have asked her if state police is an option for the Township. Legally, yes that is an option. There are four options that the Township legally has for providing safety to the community: Local police, contracting with a neighboring department, regionalizing, or state police. If there is a rumor out there that we are talking about going to state police, it is because she was questioned by resident who asked if we can. Legally, the answer is yes, we can, but that is not been a conversation that the Board has had. The Board does support our local police and has been doing everything possible to work with and support our local police through all the issues that have been going on.

Janet Sheats commented when people hear a rumor, they shouldn't keep spreading it. Saying it was a female on the Board, it was not her, it is not fair and it is not right. Everyone puts their own spin on it. Come to a meeting and find out what is being said. Rumors like this not only hurt our officers, but everyone at the table. It is not right.

Cindy Miller commented she, personally, as a Board member, when she looks at any issue in the Township, she looks at everything, pros and con and compares and goes back and forth until she comes up with an answer and she talks to people in the community. When people come up to her and ask her questions like that, she wonders why and asks them why and listens. When she was at a PSATS last week, she sat in on a seminar for Township's with populations of greater than 10,000 residents. Because she had been asked about the options by residents, she asked how many townships had state police, regional, and local police. She got to hear the pros and cons of the various policing from every other municipality that was represented.

Paul Nikisher commented he feels something should be done for safety reasons to alert residents of the school at Cork and Blue Mountain Drive. There are no blinking lights in that area to alert drivers to the school. Chief Fogel commented he is not sure what the Township could do with Blue Mountain Drive being a state road. Also, part of the reason you don't see all of the school zone markings is

because there are no walking students, which is what makes an official school zone.

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Katherine Mack commented we hear all the needs of the Township for the roads, police, and recreation over and over again. Phil Gogel had commented these are some of the same needs that existed when he was on the Board. We have not raised the taxes in the Township for years. What is the financial plan for the Township? Is there a finance committee? These need to be addressed in a plan. We can't keep relying on grants. Are we cutting our own throats to spite our throats so taxes do not have to be raised? The needs will need to be prioritized.

Cindy Miller commented a tax increase will be coming in the near future. We are at that point. The issues we have are the same from municipality to municipality and no one has the solution. That is very clear when she goes to PSATS when she networks with other municipalities, agencies and labor attorneys. She is talking to a lot of people; she is sitting in on six or seven sessions a day, listening to issues other municipalities may be having and trying to learn things we could be doing here that we are not doing. There really is not a whole lot more that we can be doing, other than raising taxes. We do have a capital plan and that is driving the budget. The only thing she would like to see is a three-year budget.

Monica Brown commented the taxes have not been raised for the past 10 years, but costs continue to go up. Even a household cannot survive on the same money that was brought in 10 years ago. It's nice that taxes haven't been raised, but we need to do something in order keep on providing what is needed for the Township.

Cindy Miller commented any tax increase would need to be incremental. It can't be done all at once. Even a half mill increase will only bring in \$125,000, \$150,000. We can't increase the taxes in the amount that is needed to accomplish all these things or we would be at our maximum and be capped. Jerry Pritchard commented if we added this to the increase in school taxes, how would people afford it.

E. Fire Company Report. There was no report provided for this meeting.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Maintenance Building

1. Vision Mechanical, Final Payment Request #12. Alice Rehrig reported the final parts for the fire suppression tanks were installed on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Frank Zamadics has been checking the temperatures periodically and everything appears to be working. Cindy Miller made a motion to approve Vision Mechanical Payment

#12 in the amount of \$45,233.45. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

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- B. Land Preservation. Last meeting it was stated that it would be discussed as to what the next step would be in this process, such as a town hall meeting. Jerry Pritchard commented he believes the consensus of the Board is that this topic needs to get out to the public more before the Board takes a vote to adopt an ordinance to put this on a referendum. It needs to be discussed with more than the 50 residents who attend the Township meetings. Everyone needs to know all the details as to how this will affect them. Once the Board believes that the residents fully understand how this works and how it will affect them, then he thinks it would be appropriate for the Board to take the vote.

Cindy Miller commented she is ready to make a motion and will make the motion to not move this forward at this time. David Hess seconded the motion. Cindy Miller commented she feels the Zoning and SALDO need to get approved. She does believe that open space preservation works hand in hand with the zoning and SALDO. Right now, residents are not aware of the changes being made to the zoning and SALDO. That are also not aware of what our Comprehensive Plan states. This information needs to be out there first. If at that point, we want to re-entertain this preservation, we can take a look at it. She wants to get the zoning and SALDO done. They are only at the point where it is going to Planning. Once approved there, it will come to the Supervisors for their review. There probably will be a lot of questions by the Board. She would really like to focus on zoning and SALDO and get them done before we go to the preservation. Janet Sheats noted there are programs at the county level if people want to get their farms preserved. Jerry Pritchard commented there has been too much time and energy put into this to just squash it without the presenters knowing it. We are not really engaging the public in the discussions. It seems like we are trying to squash their voices. Cindy Miller commented she is not trying to squash anyone's voice. They have been pushing for a decision. Her decision at this point is that she doesn't want to entertain it right now. We have other things going on. The Board has a very full plate and she feels that opening up the preservation right now it not the right time. This has always been her position. Kristin Soldridge commented land preservation and conservation requires a tax increase in the EIT which will only apply to working people. There was a huge discussion as to who was and wasn't going to pay the fire tax. With EIT you can't say who pays it. It only applies to the people who are working. It only applies to a certain population and you are putting additional burdens on them. Most of these people will probably not ever be able to purchase property in that capacity in their lifetime. Why would they want to do that? If you are going to put a tax increase on her, she would rather see it go to either fixing the roads or the police department.

Something that applies to everyone. The tax was not explained in any great detail to the residents. Monica Brown commented the handouts that were distributed indicate

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that only 304 parcels in the Township might qualify for the program. These are the people who should really be aware of it and see if there is an interest in preserving their land. David Hess commented other individuals will be affected by the tax even if they do not have the land to participate in the program. David Hess commented his main issue is the fact that we have officers working alone. Jerry Pritchard questioned who exactly would have to pay the tax increase. Attorney Backenstoe commented it would be anyone with an earned income who is currently paying the earned income tax. It would be increased from 1.2 percent to 1.45 percent. Janet Sheats commented she would prefer to table this until Zach Szoke and Mike Hock are present and whether or not they followed through with contacting properties that may be affected by this. Linda Roman commented land preservation should be done by the land owner, not by the Township or the County. When you sell your rights for developing a property, that is wrong. It should be generational. Keith Hantz questioned if a motion on this is really needed without the two gentlemen being at the meeting. What would the harm be in holding a public meeting? He doesn't think having a public meeting just on that subject would be a bad thing. Jerry Pritchard commented he is still learning about this and doesn't want to vote on something he is not fully understanding. Cindy Miller and David Hess voted aye to not move this along further at this time. Jerry Pritchard and Janet Sheats were opposed. Motion did not carry.

This will be placed back on the agenda after Zach Szoke and Mike Hock have completed the work they said they were going to do and they contact a Board member requesting it be placed on the agenda. Janet Sheats will contact them and let the know about this.

- C. Insurance. In order to dispel rumors that have been circulating regarding the Township being uninsurable, Alice Rehrig can confirm that the Township does in fact have insurance and there has not been any lapse in insurance. The Township was involved in a lawsuit between the Chief and a former police officer. As a result of the suit, our insurance company at that time reached and recommended a settlement agreement with the officer and their attorney to avoid costs and uncertainty of litigation. The terms of the settlement included a payment of \$1.75 million, with the Township being responsible for \$275,000 of that amount. It also included a non-disclosure, non-disparagement, and a non-admission of wrong doing by both parties. The insurance premiums of the Township did not increase as a result of this settlement. However, there were some carriers who have declined to offer a competitive bid at this time because of the loss history of the Township.

Cindy Miller commented people saying the Township is uninsurable or going door to door saying that is an outright lie. We actually have one of the best municipal insurance carriers. If there was a problem, they never would have taken us on as a

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client. We have good insurance. Jerry Pritchard noted we are being denied getting additional quotes because of the lawsuit. Cindy Miller commented there were carriers who didn't quote because they couldn't beat our price. Jerry Pritchard commented the Board was put in a situation where the Board had to either accept the terms of the settlement agreement that was offered or take the risk that the Township could face a significantly greater loss. The Board did go to task for the taxpayer's money. They did look out for the Township the best they could with their insurance carrier to avoid significant losses.

Monica Brown commented she worked in commercial insurance and also with municipalities insurance. When you have a claim like the Township had, the insurance company takes over. It is their money going out the door. They are going to represent the Township and recommend to the best of their ability to not put more of their money out the door. When it comes to having losses, some companies won't look at you. That doesn't mean you are uninsurable because other companies will provide you with insurance. There are only so many markets out there because it is a municipality. It is a specialty type of insurance. She is familiar with the company that the Township has and they are one of the best. It is a lot of work to work up premium quotes. If they can't compete, they will let you know they can't compete. They did a good job. If there is a real problem, they would have not continued to insure the police chief. They would have asked for a resignation. If they felt he was a liability, they wouldn't continue the insurance. Anyone can sue or make up allegations, true or false, you still have to answer them.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Yard Waste Hours. A resident had brought this to the Board at the last meeting, requesting that they consider adding Sunday hours to the yard waste site. David Hess made a motion to open the yard waste site on a Sunday. Janet Sheats seconded the motion. Adam Ash commented he can understand having the initial charge for the cost of the card, but doesn't agree with paying the fee each year. The Board commented this is something they can discuss at a future meeting. Adam Ash also questioned why have the site closed on Wednesday and restrict the hours with the card system in place and the cameras. Cindy Miller commented it is closed on Wednesday so that the site can be cleaned out. Janet Sheats commented she is fine with keeping it open the six days a week, but doesn't think it is a good idea to have it open when it is dark. All voted aye. Motion carried.

- B. Manager's Report. Alice Rehrig reported there are issues with both of the air conditioning units at the Police Station. Both units are in need of replacement. One is 20 years old and not working again after the repairs were made last year and the other has a bad condenser. They were able to get one of the units running on a temporary basis. She is in the process of obtaining three quotes for the replacement

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of both systems. She has not received any quotes back yet. Janet Sheats commented she would rather not wait two weeks before giving the authorization to repair both units at the station. Jerry Pritchard commented the Board can't authorize anything without having the cost available. Cindy Miller commented the Board also needs to look at the contractor. Janet Sheats made a motion to authorize Alice Rehrig to obtain quotes for replacement of the two systems. David Hess seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

- C. Solicitor's Report. Attorney Backenstoe did not have anything additional to report beyond the need for an Executive Session.

1. Executive Session. The Board went into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation pertaining to Deere Country and Pine Run Construction. No action was taken.

- VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT. John Knoblach wanted to thank Frank Zamadics and the Road Crew for the installation of the Hometown Heros banners. It is greatly appreciated.

Marc Kerscmar asked for clarification regarding whether the fee for the yard waste site is annual or one time. Alice Rehrig commented right now it is set up as an annual fee. Marc Kerscmar questioned how card holders will be notified that they need to renew their card. Janet Sheats commented the Board will need to revisit this matter.

Mark Kerscmar questioned what the difference is between one mile of blacktop and one mile of oil and chip. Mike Muffley commented a single coat of oil and chip is roughly \$1.80 per square yard. An inch and half of overly is about \$12 per square yard. The seal coat is a maintenance application, but doesn't give any structural integrity. It is not black and white as to which one is better.

Katherine Mack questioned if the Township has any recourse for residents who have dilapidated buildings. There is a garage on Route 946 that is falling down and there is a car inside the garage. You can see it was never really taken care of. It can become a health hazard, besides being an eyesore.

- IX. ADJOURN. Janet Sheats made a motion to adjourn. David Hess seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.