

**Board of Supervisors
Special Public Meeting
Sat., January 20, 2007 @ 5:00 PM
New Tripoli Fire Co., 7242 Decatur St., New Tripoli**

Call to Order:

The **special/public meeting** of the Lynn Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at **5:00 p.m.** at the New Tripoli Fire Company by Chairman Thomas C. Creighton III.

Present were Chairman Thomas C. Creighton III, Vice Chairman Dave Najarian, Charles E. Lenhart III, Zoning Officer Kevin N. Deppe, Solicitor Edmund J. Healy, Secretary Tracy Miklus, Assistant Secretary Tina Everett, Northwestern Press Reporter Debbie Palmieri, and approximately 15 citizens.

Public Comment:

None

Solicitor Edmund Healy went over the reason for the Saturday meeting. The meeting was actually scheduled for Friday, January 19th at 8:00 AM, but was advertised incorrectly by him in the Morning Call for Fri., Jan. 19th at 8:00 PM at the Lynn Township Municipal Building. He apologized for the advertising mistake and took full blame for it. After discussing with the Board the most suitable time with the least inconvenience was to reschedule the meeting for today.

Resident Carson Baer questioned the Board, how educated professional people make so many mistakes.

Thomas Creighton III responded that this world isn't perfect. Dave Najarian felt the cards were dealt and they are trying to deal with them. The meeting was advertised correctly so that the public could make it. Mr. Najarian asked him to wait and see why they were having the meeting.

Public Comment:

None

Miscellaneous:

Treasurer Issue:

David Najarian explained that the Second Class Twp. Code requires that a Treasurer be bonded and we had trouble having our Treasurer bonded. It had to do with a personal bankruptcy. He had contacted our insurance company about this and in the past this wasn't such a problem, but now with the increase in number of claims the insurance companies are receiving this is a problem to bond someone. So with her personal bankruptcy she will not be able to be bonded by our insurance company. Therefore, with finding this out, she is not qualified to sign checks on the Township's behalf. At the Reorganizational meeting they appointed an Assistant Treasurer, Janet Henritz and she was bonded. The Resolution they approved at the Reorg. Meeting as Tracy being Treasurer was not ever forwarded to the bank. Tracy will not be able to sit as Treasurer since she can't be bonded by our insurance company.

A resident asked why she wasn't checked prior to hiring her if she could be bonded. David Najarian responded that she worked in Upper Macungie Twp. and thought she was bonded there and they did ask her prior to hiring her if she was bondable. David also said that the requirements with the bonding company are becoming stricter. In the past, a bankruptcy would not necessarily preclude the bond. David also said that he had checked as far as any criminal history, (there was none) and that her references were also checked.

Auditor, Robert Hamm asked for a copy of the bond. The bond should be done at the Reorganizational Meeting and a copy of that should be given to the auditors. He felt the Board was trying to avoid them. He feels the Board wanted to get rid of the auditors at the first meeting, but couldn't since they were elected auditors. David responded that the bond can not always be obtained before the Reorg meeting, and was not obtained before last year's reorg meeting in view of the former treasurer not being reappointed at the reorg meeting. Having the bond ahead of the Reorg meeting only

works when the treasurer remains constant. Robert Hamm said last year it took only one day to get the bond and they had it much earlier than this year, which was true.

Resident questioned the Board if they were aware that Tracy had filed for a bankruptcy. The board was not aware of this fact.

A Resident commented that if someone had filed Bankruptcy, that they should not be in charge of the money for our township. David said that might not always be true, such as when a bankruptcy occurs because of a health or medical problems

Solicitor Ed Healy explained that the Treasurer doesn't have the standing authority to write checks. She or he only has the power to write checks that are approved by this Board. One of the controls the Board implemented is that all checks are required to have two signatures, one being the Treasurer and the other being a Supervisor and the bank is not to accept them without two signatures.

Resident Mr. Carson Baer asked if the CPA firm was checked out that replaced the auditors. The Board informed him that Mr. Robert Sadler had checked the CPA firm out. David also said that the CPA firm is licensed by the State. The Board feels in light of the issues they were left with last year with the stale escrow accounts from 1992 to 1996, the files being dumped on the floor with fecal matter in them and no records from a certain point, they felt they have made quite a bit of progress. Such as in what was recovered in uninvoiced reimbursables, as per Rob Sadler, they recovered about \$30 to \$40 thousand dollars, another \$32,000 that Omega agreed to pay & approximately about \$20,000 in outstanding bills/inspections that have been billed and approximately \$100,000 which sits in the escrow account from the years 1997 to 2005. This was not the auditor's fault, since they were not aware of the escrow accounts. The Board feels they are making progress and made a substantial amount of progress over the last twelve months, but the Board agreed that they should have done a check on this matter much sooner.

A motion was made by Charles Lenhart, seconded by David Najarian to adopt Resolution #2007-6, A Certified Resolution to Open and Maintain Accounts. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by David Najarian seconded by Charles Lenhart to adopt Resolution #2006-7, A Certified Resolution to Open and Maintain Safety Deposit Box and Escrow Accounts. Motion carried unanimously.

There was now discussion as to what to do with Tracy since she was presently Treasurer for the township and could not be bonded. The Board discussed their options so they could decide what to do going forward. Charles Lenhart III questioned Janet Henritzky if she wanted to be treasurer. Janet Henritzky only wanted to be Treasurer until they found someone.

At this time David Najarian went over three options he could come up with. One option would be to advertise for a treasurer or secy./treasurer. The second would be to keep Tracy as Secretary and give Treasurer to Kevin Deppe and the last option being to keep Tracy as Secretary and make her some sort of invoicing clerk. He did not feel any of these options was that great, nor did he want to go out and look for someone again. Most people don't want to be a signatory signature and not be doing the work.

Solicitor Healy said that a supervisor could be treasurer. David said that we had just precluded working supervisors and did not want to create that conflict. Solicitor Healy said the a supervisor could work as treasurer without extra compensation, but David said it would still be a conflict, like in the past with Upper Macungie where a supervisor was treasurer. Tom agreed that a supervisor/treasurer was not a suitable idea.

The board continued to discuss whether they want to look for a Treasurer or a Secretary/Treasurer. Charles Lenhart felt they should just look for a part-time Treasurer to fill her position.

Auditor, Mr. Robert Hamm felt it should be a secretary/treasurer. This is what it always was, one person doing both jobs.

Dennis Snyder questioned the board if they were trying to save her job and they were since they like her work, but she can't be treasurer. The Board is in a tough position, but need to do what's best for the township.

Thomas Creighton agreed with Mr. Robert Hamm in the fact that it should be a Secy. /Treasurer. At this time the Board asked Tracy if she had any comments. Tracy commented that she felt her and Janet had agreed on this, just so Janet didn't have to do all her stuff. Tracy thought everything was working out great since she gets her stuff done. She didn't feel they needed to take her job away from her, since she needs it in order to live.

A motion was made by David Najarian, seconded by Thomas Creighton to rescind the appointment of Tracy Miklus as secretary treasurer and direct Kevin Deppe to re-advertise for another Secy. /Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously. (At this time Tracy Miklus left the meeting @ 5:30 PM and Tina Everett, Asst. Secretary was asked to take the minutes for the remainder of the meeting.)

A motion was made by David Najarian, seconded by Charles Lenhart to direct Tina Everett, Asst. Secretary to complete the minutes for the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The board continued to discuss and to clarify the position as Secretary/Treasurer. They discussed the fact that the audit would be starting Wednesday of this week. Mr. Robert Sadler felt that they should bring Tracy back until after the audit was completed. However, because Tracy had left the meeting, her continued employment through the audit could not be discussed with her. Thomas Creighton suggested hiring temporary help, but at this time Rob Sadler said he would be in again this week to help out.

Public Comment:

Carson Baer questioned the Board as to when the next weekend meeting would be held?

Kermit Delong questioned the Board as to what the franchise fee was on his Blue Ridge Cable bill? David Najarian explained that he had attempted to contact Blue Ridge Cable about similar questions from residents concerning the Franchise Fee and the Franchise Agreement between the cable company and the Township, but so far we received little or no response from the cable company. Mr. Delong felt that maybe the Board should invite a representative from Blue Ridge to attend a public meeting sometime to go over this franchise fee, so the residents would have a better understanding of what it exactly was.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by David Najarian, seconded by Charles Lenhart to adjourn meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina M. Everett
Assistant Secretary
Lynn Township Board of Supervisors

Minutes1-20-07