

Butler Township Board of Supervisors  
Meeting Minutes  
October 14, 2019

**Executive meeting**

**Members Present:** Doug Bower, Douglas Whitworth, Russell Wertz, Todd King (Solicitor), Jon Holmes (Engineer), & Danielle Helwig (Secretary)

Executive session called to order at 6:00 p.m.  
Executive session Adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

**Regular Meeting**

**Members Present:** Doug Bower, Douglas Whitworth, Russell Wertz, Todd King (Solicitor), Jon Holmes (Engineer), & Danielle Helwig (Secretary)

**Others** Please see attached.

Chairman, Bower called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**On a motion made by Whitworth, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wertz the September 2019 minutes are approved. Motion carried.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Resident ask for an update on the mower. Bower commented that at this time we have no update.

**REGULAR BUSINESS:**

Animal Ordinance: Solicitor Todd King made a statement regarding back ground of the ordinance. The reasons why the ordinance was proposed and so forth. After receiving feedback Solicitor King and the Supervisors agreed that the ordinance as proposed may not be the best ordinance for our Township. Feels that it is important to get feed back at this meeting from the Township Residents as to what may be important to have in an animal ordinance.

Discussion: David Bear, 2690 Biglerville Rd asked if this particular ordinance is tabled indefinitely will it be proposed again. Supervisor Bower stated that this ordinance as written can not be reintroduced. Brenda Mobily, Yellow Hill Rd, asked if it is allowed by our board to table the ordinance first before discussion. Supervisors Bower said yes. Commissioner Jim Martin, Arendtsville Rd, suggested that a citizens committee be created to review an animal ordinance moving forward. The Supervisors agreed. A signup sheet will be available at the end of the meeting. A Resident asked why we need an ordinance if there is nothing wrong now. Supervisors Bower commented that this prevent something and give us the power to enforce if something should come up in the future. A resident asked the Supervisors to comment on the incident that directed the Twp. to create this ordinance. Solicitor King commented briefly that there was a property that was a nuisance and after trying to enforce the violation, the District Judge suggested that our current Nuisance Ordinance was outdated and advised the Twp. to update it. This property had a catastrophic event so now the Supervisors are trying to be proactive to address problems before they become serious. A resident asked why the County Ordinances were not used. Solicitor King commented that the Twp. is in the process of moving from County Zoning to our own Zoning. The resident asked why? Solicitor King commented It is a result of the Joint Comprehensive Plan in this area. Rob Maus, Oak Hill Rd., commented on the 7 new ordinances adopted this year.

Solicitor King commented 3 ordinances were required by DEP. Mr. Maus further commented on a weed ordinance and nuisance ordinance, with respect to his neighbor who restored old cars. He feels this new ordinance is more restrictive. Solicitor King commented that it is now more defined to eliminate a public safety hazard. A resident commented that it is not a public safety hazard because it is private property. Mr. Maus commented on why we are addressing so many more items that don't deal with the initial problem. Solicitor King said that those residents who were sent letters were sent those letters based on complaints made to the Twp. Mr. Maus feels that it is selective enforcement and it should not be done this way. Jeffrey Baum (sp) feels that this weaponizes the ordinances. A resident does not understand why outsiders can dictate what we should or should not do. Chuck Gilbert, Table Rock Rd, moved here to get away from too many ordinances. Wayne, Guernsey Rd, says it's OK to have an ordinance or two but not a dictatorship. A resident says we have agencies to handle abuse issues. Virginia Martin, Arendtsville Rd, agrees with all that is said. Asked that we use other avenues to such as the web site to notify the residents of up coming ordinances etc. A resident, University Dr. if this ordinance is going to be drafted and incorporated into the zoning ordinance will there be a public comment. Solicitor King, their will be a public hearing and advertisement. Grant Meckly, 321 Bull Valley Rd, drawn to the area because of the relaxed feeling about animals. Ruth Dunlap, Benders Church Rd, commented on the letter she received and that no one ever visited her after she was told many times someone would. Supervisor Bower was under the impression someone had visited with her and apologized. A resident asked if the Septic Pumping is a requirement of the state. Jon Holmes stated it has been for several years. Steve, Table rock rd., chose to move here because of good people etc. Wants us to examine the UCC code & zoning codes. We have good community and would hate to see it go to waste. Any new SWM ordinances coming in the future. Supervisor Bower commented nothing at the moment. Stephanie Baum worries that moving forward with the animal ordinance that other twp.'s will follow suit. Out of Twp. resident worried about ordinance because of rescue efforts. A resident feels the Planning Commission should be involved in the planning of zoning and new ordinances. Doug B, Guernsey Rd., complaint about free range chickens. Amy Welker, 83 Guernsey Rd., talked to many organizations about the animal ordinance, example Acre law in PA. She will provide supervisors with documents. Resident asked about what the definition of live stock is. He does not consider his horses as livestock, but as pets. Solicitor King commented that this would be taken into consideration.

**On a motion made by Bower 2<sup>nd</sup> by Whitworth the Animal Ordinance as proposed and advertised on September 20, 2019 will be tabled indefinitely. Motion carried.**

**Tax Millage Rates: Tabled until November meeting.**

**On 6 motions made by Whitworth 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wertz the following donations to the following organizations have been approved. Motions carried.**

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|----------------------|---------|
| 1. Rabbit Transit    | 250.00  |
| 2. Sr Center         | 500.00  |
| 3. SPCA              | 1000.00 |
| 4. Arendtsville Fire | 1000.00 |
| 5. Heidlersburg Fire | 1000.00 |
| 6. Biglerville Fire  | 6000.00 |

**Penn State Fruit Lab – University Dr.- Pole Building:** Paul E Mains, Gannett Flemming present to ask the Board for approval based on a few items that need tied up. Jon Holmes mentioned the Planning Commission recommended the approval contingent on his comments being addressed. He is satisfied and felt ok to approve. **On a motion made by Whitworth, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wertz the SWM Plan has been approved. Motion carried**

**2020 Budget:** Secretary Helwig presented the Board with budgets for all funds. Review and motion to advertise will happen at the November Board meeting.

**Zoning Administration:** Land and Sea Services has respectfully declined to be our Zoning Officer. It was suggested that we look into PMCA.

**Crop Production Deed:** Solicitor King had no update

**Flood Plain Ordinance:** Waiting on FEMA to enact the maps for the ordinance?

**Anchor estates:** Contacted DEP nothing back yet.

Secretary Helwig mentioned that the liquid fuels allocation will be \$148,373.83 and the turnback allocation will be \$42,280.00.

Supervisors recognized that the Butler Township state portion of Table Rock Rd between Shealer Rd and Goldenville Rd. will be closed on Dec. 14 from 9:45 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. for the annual Noreen Neitz Race.

**On a motion made by Whitworth, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wertz the bills for September 5 through October 14, 2019 are approved. Motion carried**

**On a motion made by Whitworth, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wertz the September payroll is approved. Motion carried**

Reminder Next meeting will be on TUESDAY November 12, due to Veteran's Day.

**With no further business Whitworth moved to adjourn at 8:16 p.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wertz. Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle Helwig  
Secretary