**MARCH 2023 MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Muncy Township Supervisors met in the Muncy Township Fire Hall on February 8, 2023. Matthew Doyle, Heath Ohnmeiss, Gary Harmon, and Mike Wiley was present. The meeting was called to order by Matthew Doyle at 7:30 p.m.

Matthew Doyle mentioned that they had executive meeting before this meeting to discuss legal matters and personnel matters.

**PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Heath Ohnmeiss motioned to accept the February minutes. Gary Harmon seconded the motion. Matthew Doyle agreed. Motion carried.

**TREASURER’S REPORT** The treasurer’s report for February 2023 motioned for approval by Matthew Doyle. Gary Harmon seconded the motion. Heath Ohnmeiss agreed. Motion carried.

 **PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT**: reviewed plans for land development for ashler manor’s solar panels. Separate minutes. The only change we would make besides counties recommendation is to d a chain link fence instead of the 3 rail.

**PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEMS**:

**FIRE COMPANY:** Report on File

**POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:** Report on file.

**ROAD MASTERS REPORT**: Report on File

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**PERMIT OFFICER REPORT:** 1 zoning permits 3 building permits.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**EHRLICH VEGETATION SPRAY CONTRACT:** Gary Harmon motions to accepts the contract with Ehrlich to spray for vegetation along roadways. Heath Ohnmeiss seconded the motion. Matthew Doyle Agreed. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2023-05 FIRE CO EVENT: Matthew Doyle motioned to approve the fire co events for touch a truck and MaMa grounds training. Gary Harmon seconded the motion. Heath Ohnmeiss agreed. Motion carried.

**SAFETY COMMITTEE**:

* **SAFETY MINUTES**: Gary Harmon motioned to accept the safety minutes for February. Heath Ohnmeiss seconded the motion. Matthew Doyle agreed. Motion carried.

**REVIEW MONTHLY BILLS:** Gary Harmon motioned to pay monthly bills. Heath Ohnmeiss seconded the motion. Matthew Doyle agreed. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Gary Jones read from a 4 page document stating the treasurers reports need to be brought up to date. Numbers are off so the budget is incorrect. I still come to the conclusion that taxes did not need to be raised. No response from the questions from the mortgage. Gwen said it was paid but I find in my calculations that it has not been paid. I met with Gary and Heath they did not have the solicitor attend. I feel there are two sets of books maybe three. I would like all the supervisors to step aside for not doing your job.**

**Larry Fry questioned the permit cost (fee) for a variance. $600.00 for a garage?**

**Mike Wiley explained that there are a lot of costs involved. Advertising, engineer, attorney, stenographer. This eats that $600 up very quickly.**

**Ann Smith stated she is struggling to get the supervisors to listen. I have an email trail with Gwen asking for information. The one right to know request there were no quotes for insurance, no millage form, date discrepancies when things said they were done. We were not notified of meeting change. I have a rtk for bank statements. Gwen’s one response she feels like it is harassment I don’t feel that it is. I wanted to pick up my paycheck and was never answered. Jim smith yielded his time as Ann read from her paperwork. Gen lied about having health insurance quotes they were not attached to my rtk just a monthly invoice for Geisinger. When I went to the county to do my yearly reconciliation for taxes, I asked them at the office when they received the notification of the millage rate, and they told me Dec. 23 with the special meeting being held on December 30. The supervisors had already made up there minds and were not going to listen to us about not raising the taxes. Again, this is lie number 2 from Gwen. Every rtk request I have but in has been received with a 30 day wait period. Maybe Gwen needs to work 40 hours a week instead of 32 hours if she doesn’t have time to get the rtk requests out in a timely manner.**

**Russ Pidcoe stated that he was from Mill Creek Township and that is the past few years they have worked really well with Muncy Township. We would like to know if we can not get our grader up and running if Muncy Township would be willing to help out again this year.**

**Matthew Doyle said that he would let Sid know that Mill Creek would be calling.**

**Steve Artley wants to know why the right to know requests are taking so long.**

**Matthew Doyle state that there is a process the Township has to follow.**

**Steve Artley asked again where the bank statements are and where is the missing $44,000 that Gary Jones keeps mentioning. I am not going to stop until I get these answers.**

**Mike Wiley stated that with the right to know there is a process that the Township must follow. We did not create this law it was done by the legislation. The Township has 5 days to respond to easy rtk requests that are a page or two long and can take 30 days for more complex documents. Each report must be reviewed to make sure information is not being given that is not allowed by law. This is a process; my office is going through all the documents and redacting things. Ann, I have your RTK request for the bank statements here for you after the meeting that you requested. We are working on your other request for the credit card information and is a lot more pages.**

**Ann Smith, I use C&N for work and for the tax collector and you can just email the bank statements there is no reason for copies.**

**Mike Wiley stated that is not how it works all documents need to be reviewed. They can not be just emailed to you.**

**Ann smith why could it not be just downloaded then and not printed.**

**Mike Wiley stated that they needed to be printed for redaction purposes.**

**Ann Smith is just don’t understand there should be nothing that needs redacted I should not of had to pay for printed pages when they could have been emailed.**

**Mike Wiley stated that is your opinion and that is not how the system works with the right to know law. There is a process and with that process there is a cost.**

**Joan Hilkert questioned why septics have to be pumped every 3 years and not extended to 4 years. My tank isn’t filled when I have to pump. There is only 2 people living in my home.**

**Matthew Doyle asked her for her phone number, and he would get back to her on this issue.**

**Denise Artley the American Rescue fund has $120,000 in it. The general equipment fund has $188,000 in it why are these accounts being used before taxes are raised. I understand that this money is set aside for equipment. Act 13 money could be used. I am also running for supervisor. I would like to know why when you had your meeting with Gary Jones and he gave you a RTK request for bank statements he was told he could not have them**

**Gary Harmon stated that he was not told that, he was told that they had to go to the attorney to get reviewed and we would get back to him.**

**Denise Artley well that is not what Gary Jones told me.**

**Gary Harmon it was told to him that we would get back to him with his request. There is a process.**

**Gary Jones questioned who all audits the books.**

**Matthew Doyle stated that Rick Lowe and DCED do.**

**Gary Jones asked if they actually look at these numbers.**

**Matthew Doyle stated yes.**

**Gary jones what do they audit quick books or what bis in front of us.**

**Matthew Doyle stated QuickBooks.**

**Gary Jones stated that the quick book reports are right and the monthly reports are wrong. If you look at this month’s balances are not correct.**

**Matthew Doyle stated that the errors you have pointed out and were corrected.**

**Gary Jones oh my God**

**Bonnie Harmon Gary, you understand how this works. Spreadsheets can be wrong with a simple error with equation or transposing numbers. I have had this happen to me. Sometimes it takes a few months for me to notice the errors because your report doesn’t always match the bank statements do to checks not clearing in a timely fashion. We are all human and we make mistakes. You are going on about something that as the supervisors have stated have been corrected. QuickBooks is what is used for audits not these reports that we get during a meeting because errors are made. The QuickBooks accts are balanced to the bank statements.**

**Christopher McKibben stated that these reports will never match the bank statements due to checks not clearing. For example, if you wrote me a check for $20,000 and I held it for three months your accounts would not be the same because you are showing you wrote that check but I still have that check three months later. The banks don’t know you wrote that check,**

**Gary Jones there are no missing checks**

**Christopher McKibben stated I am not talking about missing checks. You are not listening to me.**

**Gary Jones, it doesn’t matter.**

**Melissa Doyle stated that is does matter just like Chris was trying to explain.**

**Bonnie Harmon stated that this is what she was just saying plus if errors are made. They are errors.**

**Mike Wiley stated that for meeting purposes we need to have one person talk at a time. We want to make sure people can hear what bis being said and that the people that are taking minutes can properly do that. I would respectfully request that people use courtesy and not talk over each other. It is also not a debate it is a public comment. The board of supervisors are trying to hear all your comments. We can return if people address the chairman we can continue**

**Genie Wines all of these rtk request that are going to the attorney is this creating bills for these.**

**Matthew Doyle yes**

**Genie wines then the tax payers are paying for one or two people putting these requests in. it is one or two people that have are sharing their opinion and is spreading to a few others. You are right to your opinion but we don’t all agree and I can not understand anything that Gary Jones was talking about. It is not helping to keep harping on this since November every meeting we are not getting anywhere with this. I think the Township should talk with the auditor and get answers if there is missing money or not and come back with the report.**

**Mike Wiley stated that the supervisors have taken Gary Jones and Ann smiths concerns to Rick Lowe.**

**Genie Wines stated good. The supervisors have listened to your concerns and are looking into this. I think this should be done. I understand taxes went up and I don’t like it but everything is going up. If I could I would like to complain to pp&l about my electric bill but that isn’t how it works. I think a very few people backed by a few others are causing trouble and making it hell for the rest of the tax payers. Everyone needs to relax and do there job and let the professionals do their job.**

**Matthew Doyle thanks Genie**

**Ann Smith stated that she is paying for her right to know request.**

**Genie Wines stated that is wonderful. Are you paying the lawyer fees that associated with this I am sure they are not cheap**

**Matthew Doyle stated to Ann that the only thing she is paying for is the copies not the expenses for the attorney.**

**Genie Wines stated that you are not paying the lawyers’ fees which I am assuming are going to be very high.**

**Mike Wiley stated that they will be very reasonable.**

**Ann smith Gwen is doing all the downloading there shouldn’t be other fees.**

**Genie Wines stated you are not understanding it cannot be done that way.**

**That is not how a rtk is.**

**Mike Wiley again if I may, I understand there is tension in the room. And there is disagreement on how thing work. But the purpose of a public meeting is to not engage back and forth between each other you can do that after the meeting. It is to make comment to the Board of Supervisors it is not a question-and-answer session. It is not and answer process it is not a deliberative process it is not a back and forth process. You get an opportunity to make a comment. You get an opportunity to make a comment under their rules for 5 minutes each person. The supervisors have been lax on this rule. I think it is out of respect for this community that they have not held to the 5 minute rule. I would hate for you to get to point where those rules would have to held to. Because people aren’t using the public comment the way it is intended. So, I will just remind everyone, please make comment to the chairman. It is not a question and answer contest, state you comment they will respond when appropriate. And please be respectful of everybody.**

**Gary Jones I just want to close out with the treasurers report I said in my comment had you come back to me on February 18, 19, 20 you had that opportunity to address this. You have addressed with each other, with treasurer, with attorney, and other government agencies. I gave you the opportunity because I told I didn’t want to bring this to a public meeting. You could of given me an answer. I feel you have failed us. This is what you get. You failed Gwen, you failed us, you failed your responsibility. That is what my comments are about. It is not about the $44,000 that looks like it is missing.. I know there was mistakes on the ledgers. Communications is the problem here. I feel the money is there it is just a paper shuffle. I don’t really think the money is missing.**

**Tom Schaech here we are as a Township, given the actions by this board, it is quite clear you have no intentions of answering any questions, inquiries to the residents or tax payers. Any tax payer or resident who asks questions results in vicious attacks by township personnel on social media or emails. Regardless of the questions asks it is your duty and obligation as an elected official to respond in a factual and prompt manor. Period. At some point you have decided you are not going to uphold the oath that you took. We have reached this point because questions, in writing to the board chairman in November 2022, regarding the proposed municipal budget for 2023. It was clear that the income and expenditures did not equal a balanced budget. There were error in calculations on the budget, but these figures must be constantly reviewed and adjusted for accuracy. You need to make sure all taxpayer dollars are accounted for. What initially appeared as a series of errors in calculations. this board is not managing in the correct way in anyway shape or form. I may be incorrect with my assessment, but from all indications management is being conductedby others that are not in sync with the township in mind. We are no longer a small rural community, as the center of growth in Lycoming County we are under constant pressure from economical development. We are now responsible for our zoning and sub-division and land development, it is critical that these outside influences be managed with consideration of those that live here. There will attempts from people of Lycoming county to influence the members of this board. You give the residents no confidence that decisions will be made altimetry with the township residences quality of life. In my humble opinion and in others, it is evident the change in management style required for this township cannot be made with the current make up of this board. When an employee states to a resident that the office must e closed to public access because of harassment and fear for their safety going on 6 weeks as of this meeting. We would like to know what is actually going on behind these closed doors. Residents and taxpayers deserve better. We pay your salaries, you answer to us. For these reasons the trust and confidence of the voters in this township have been lost with this board. Without further attempt to respond to the electret you must all step aside and let the court of common pleas appoint your replacements to clear up this mess and move us in a forward and clear path.**

**John Iseley, I have lived in Muncy Township all of my life. I watched the township grown from rural to a hub of business. The township meeting was always the place that residents could come and get answers. I thought we were all an active partner in our community. I am a taxpayer of Muncy Township. Lately the monthly meetings seem to going in the wrong direction. Questions were brought up by at the meeting some were answered falsely and others with a blank stare with no response or they responded we will check it out and get back to you. We still have no response. I saw this as a red flag. We cannot to conduct business in this manner. You are paid to run this township like a business. We want to see transparency.**

**Paula Miller before the taxes there was conversations about grants. You mentioned that you received $500,000 as a grant, but as of this far the public has not seen where the money has been deposited. This was to be used for debt deduction. We have not heard anything more about it. There does not seem to be any efforts to explorer other grants that I suggested plus someone else suggested.**

**Matthew Doyle we have not received the money yet from the rcap grant. We have received notification that we will be receiving it forever, there is paperwork that needs to be done. We are working through to actually receive the funds. We are dealing with Harrisburg. There is a lot of red tape.**

**Bill Davis, I have been a township resident for 15 years. A lot of you are concerned with the tax increase. I am sure there is a lot of people that will have a difficulty paying the increase. I was wondering if the township has done anything to look into ways to avoid this? One of the things that was brought up tonight was the pumping of the septic system. It is required every three years. I think if it pumped and found in good condition I don’t see a reason why it cannot go 5 years. I think this ordinance needs to be rewritten. I think some of the problem we have here is this is my first township meeting I think some of the problem is lack of communication. Someone asked a question someone with experience why the supervisors have as much interest in finding the discrepancies are. I think with a little less attitude from everyone and more communication we could avoid all the tension.**

**Matthew Doyle we have been looking into the issues some of the ones Mr Jones brought up. It is not a quick process.**

**Bill Davis, I think you if you tell him that along the way what you are doing and what the process is I think they would except that.**

**Denise Artley with that grant will the Township receive that this year. When was the grant done.**

**Matthew 2021-2022 we received the notification that we would receive the money last year. There is being worked on currently being worked on as we speak (Penn strategies)**

**Denise Artley when the money does come will that be put in a certain account.**

**Matthew Doyle stated that will be placed on the mortgage for the building.**

**Denise Artley said OKAY.**

**Matthew Doyle stated that the intent when the grant was started was to pay down the principal of the loan.**

**Denise Artley said that will bring the payment down because $9000.00 a month is a lot.**

**Gary Jones in the November 2022 meeting the minutes show that the paperwork for the grant was signed.**

**Matthew Doyle stated this is not the documentation that is needed to send to the state.**

**Mike Wiley if I may Mr. Jones I was not here in November. I don’t know what paperwork was signed. But typically, the RCAP fund has multiple steps. And so, the first step is to accept the award. But that is not the final step. There is additional information that has to be provided. So, I don’t want to speak out of school, but I am presuming may have just been the acceptance of the award. There is additional work that needs to be done. I know they are coordinating with Penn Strategies to do what is necessary to get the funds into the township as they were awarded.**

**Melissa Doyle because I don’t know and this probably here nor there. There was lack of communication and Gary is all ticked off because he didn’t here anything back. Probably what you don’t know and don’t understand and what Ann did not tell you was that Matt’s mom suddenly dies on February 15th. So, if you didn’t get your check, and you didn’t get your answers I am sorry. But he had a little bit more to deal with than what you guys wanted.**

**Gary Jones, I appreciate that. As I was working on this after my son’s suicide. We have to keep running.**

**Melissa Doyle, I understand that.**

**John Iseley, do we have a secretary?**

**Matthew Doyle John for now it would be best to just give the office a call before you come down. Gwen had been here. Her hours have been slightly adjusted. So please call first.**

**Denise Artley don’t we normally receive treasurers reports and minutes on our chair.**

**Melissa Doyle stated that there are but there is only some many printed and there are extra people here tonight.**

**Mike Wiley stated Denise could have his copy.**

**Jim Smith why do the doors need to be locked. The doors should be unlocked.**

**Mike Wiley stated that I think he made a comment that he would like to have the doors unlocked.**

**Donnie Reese I just want to say a little something. I think at this point not going to solve all of problems or the problems you think there maybe in this meeting. I think the township supervisors and the secretary treasurer and anyone else that involved need to get together and figure out what is going on and get to a starting point also we can move forward. It does not do a whole lot of good bringing up everything in the past. If this is the starting point start reviewing everything get everything together in a corrected manor and move forward. Everyone that keeps requesting all of this stuff, all it does is slow down the process. In my mind. It just slows everything down. Some of maybe necessary in the right to know but there has to be common sense about it too. We just need to let the few people do their jobs and get this straightened out for the township.**

**Jim Smith, may I ask a question? Why are the doors going to be kept locked?**

**Matthew Doyle Jim there has been an ongoing issue what appears to be harassment and other issues with the office manager. As seen in the last meeting we very well could be without that position being filled.**

**Jim Smith why is she telling a township resident that her life has been threatened? That is not true. That is definitely not true.**

**Paula Miller said Jim you don’t know if it is true or not.**

**Matthew Doyle stated that they have not heard that.**

**Jim Smith the Township resident sets here I this meeting tonight.**

**Paula Miller hopefully if someone is I fear for their safety then something needs to be done.**

**Jim Smith then why hasn’t been filed then if this is happening. If this is the truth.**

**Mike Wiley not to get into the legality of it but a PFA cant be filed against an individual against a third party that is not related or in a relationship. But that is neither here nor there. I think your observation Mr. Smith with all due respect is why the doors are locked, I don’t think it is fair in a public to get into the personnel matters that concern a township employee. I think it is a fine here and I think we need to be careful not to cross it. out of respect to an individual who is not here tonight.**

**Jim Smith so another words as a tax payer if this building is kept locked we cant get into here to ask questions on working days.**

**Mike Wiley again I think that is a different observation. The comment that you want to turn your question into was a concern about the hours to access to the building. I think that the township supervisors have heard that. I think in response to the gentleman in the back, they asked for calls to be done for now. But I don’t think that that is a permanent solution. I think they are working through it. I think that is probably the best response they can give you in this setting.**

**Jim Smith, I have another question? Since she quit at the last meeting and this building was shut down was she paid.**

**Mike Wiley we are not going to get into personnel matters at this point and time Mr. Smith.**

**ADJOURN:** Matthew Doyle motioned to adjourn. Heath Ohnmeiss seconded the motion. Gary Harmon agreed.