

Rush Township Building  
Hometown, PA 18252

### **Minutes of the Rush Township Board of Supervisors**

A meeting was held at the Rush Township Municipal Building on March 16, 2023 at 7:00 PM. In attendance were: Chairman Shawn Gilbert, Vice Chairman Robert Leibensperger, Supervisor Jeaninne Motroni, Treasurer/Secretary Debbie DelFranco, Chris Riedlinger, Solicitor, Bill McMullen, Engineer, Rick Weaver, Chief of Police, George Gerhart, Fire Company.

Chairman Shawn Gilbert called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Police Report** – A Motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to approve the police report for the month of February, 2023. Vice Chairman Leibensperger approved; Supervisor Motroni seconded. Debbie DelFranco polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion, motion carried.

**Fire Company Report**- A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to approve the Fire Company Report for the month of March, 2023. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger approved; Supervisor Motroni seconded. Debbie DelFranco polled the board. All member voted in favor of motion, motion carried.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting** - A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to approve the previous meeting minutes of February, 2023. Vice Chairman Leibensperger approved; Supervisor Motroni seconded. Debbie DelFranco polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion, motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report** – A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to approve the treasurer's report as of February, 2023. Vice Chairman Leibensperger approved; Supervisor Motroni seconded. Debbie DelFranco polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion, motion carried.

**Approval of current township and sewer bills** thru March 15, 2023.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to approve the current township and sewer bills thru March 15, 2023. Vice Chairman Leibensperger approved; Supervisor Motroni seconded. Debbie DelFranco polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion, motion carried.

**Approval of municipal reports (sewer, road, Arro, Prodesign)** – A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to approve the municipal reports for February, 2023. Vice Chairman Leibensperger approved; Supervisor Motroni seconded. Debbie DelFranco polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion, motion carried.

**Attorney's Business** – Solicitor Riedlinger mentioned about the upcoming UCC Appeals meeting on March 28, 2023 at the Township Building, with regards to Re-Match. He mentioned that there are two issues at hand. The tire storage at 92 Progress Avenue and the height and widths.

**Old Business** – None

**NEW BUSINESS** – None

1. Motion to hire William Cavanaugh at \$25.00 per hour for the Sanitary Sewer Laborer Position. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger approved; Supervisor Motroni seconded. Debbie DelFranco polled the board. All members in favor of motion, motion carried.
2. Motion to approve the purchase of a new Sewer Utility Truck in the amount of \$75, 944.00 from New Holland Auto and financing through Mauch Chunk Trust for 5 years. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger approved; Supervisor Motroni seconded. Debbie DelFranco polled the board. All members in favor of motion, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT- Barry Messerschmidt, the Fire Captain spoke and said that the Fire Police has not been disbanded. He also stated that there have been a number of overdoses and that the Fire Company now carries Narcan on the vehicles. He said that the Fire Company was trained on how to use the drug. Beverly Chiavo from the Fire Police said that there have been concerns about a member of the Fire Police from outside agencies and that there has been talking to outside agencies and it all leads back to the Board of Supervisors. She claims that the person's character has been put into question and that she is being approached in Boyers market about comments that were made. The Chairman of the Board, Shawn Gilbert said that he is not aware of any conversations that have taken place with regards to this individual. Barry Messerschmidt intervened and said that these concerns needs to be squashed and that there should be no talk about the Fire Police to any outside agencies. Chris Riedlinger, Township Solicitor said that the Township as an entity is not taking any position to remove anyone from the Fire Police or Fire Company. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger said that there are no concerns. Barry Messerschmidt said that he has contacted the state and county and confirmed with a Judge that said Fire Police personnel is in his right to carry a gun and that there is not record of any wrong doing on his part. He stated that if there is or becomes any problem, please reach out to him and he will take care of it. Barry Messerschmidt also offered services for the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt and said that the Easter Bunny could ride into the hunt on a fire truck.

SUPERVISORS COMMENT- The monthly meeting for April will be changed from the 20th to Wednesday, April 5, 2023 at 7:00 PM. Administrative office will be closed on Friday, April 7, 2023 in observance of Good Frida.

ADJOURNMENT- Have a Great Night!!! Meeting Adjourned.