

**RUSH TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING**  
**JANUARY 2, 2024**

A Re-Organization meeting was held at the Rush Township Municipal Building on January 2, 2024, at 7:00 PM. In attendance were Chairman Shawn Gilbert; Vice Chairman Robert Leibensperger (by telephone); Supervisor George Gerhard; Kristin Wolesslagle, Admin Asst; Christopher Riedlinger, Solicitor; Rick Weaver, Chief of Police. Absent was Bill McMullen, Engineer.

Chairman Shawn Gilbert called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Adjourn the Old Board. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Wolesslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Appoint George Gerhard as Temporary Chairman. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Wolesslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Appoint Shawn Gilbert as Temporary Secretary. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Wolesslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Re-Organize the Board of Supervisors for 2024.

1. Nominate **Shawn Gilbert** as Chairman for 2024.
2. Nominate **Robert Leibensperger** as Vice-Chairman for 2024.
3. Nominate **George Gerhard** as Supervisor 2024.

Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Wolesslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

**CALL NEW BOARD TO ORDER**

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to accept the resignation of Susan Bettis from the position of Secretary/Treasurer. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Wolesslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to appoint **Kristin Wolesslagle** as the Full-Time Administrative Assistant at the rate of \$23.00/hr. as well as the Assistant Secretary & Assistant Treasurer for 2024 until an appointment for the Full-Time Secretary/Treasurer position is made. Working 8am-4:30pm, with a Half Hour Unpaid Lunch. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Wolesslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Appoint **Christopher Riedlinger** as Solicitor for 2024, for the Board of Supervisors at \$125.00/hr. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Wolesslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made to Appoint a Solicitor for 2024, for the Planning Commission at \$115.00/hr. (**Peter Fagan**). Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Wolesslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made to Appoint a Solicitor for 2024, for the Zoning Hearing Board at \$85.00/hr. (**STANLEY J BURKE**). Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Wolesslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Appoint a Bank to be Named Depository for 2024: **Mauch Chunk Trust**. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Wolesslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Appoint **Arro Consulting** as Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer on an as-needed basis. (Rate Schedule Exhibit A). Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Wolesslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Appoint **Arro Consulting** as the Engineering Firm for 2024, on an as-needed basis. (Rate Schedule Exhibit A). Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Wolesslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Appoint Engineer and/or Consultant for 2024, for the Planning Commission: **Arro Consulting** (Rate Schedule Exhibit A). Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Wolesslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Set Compensation for Each **Planning Commission Member** at \$50.00/meeting. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Wolesslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Pay the **Planning Commission Secretary** an additional rate of \$13.00/hr. for secretarial work. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Wolesslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Set Compensation for Each **Zoning Hearing Board Member** at \$50.00/hearing. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Wolesslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Set Compensation for Each **Township Auditor** at \$10.00/hr. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Wolesslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made to Appoint Sewage Code Enforcement Officer for 2024, (**William Brior \$50.00/hr.**) As Per **Resolution # 2024-01**. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Wolesslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Appoint the Alternate Sewage Code Enforcement Officer(s) for 2024 (**Robert Fugate**) As per **Resolution # 2024-01**. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Wolesslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Appoint **Bob Ritsick** of the Rush Township Planning Commission to Serve as the Township Representative for the Regional Planning Board. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Wolesslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Adopt **Resolution 2024-01** Setting Fee Schedule for 2024 for the Sewage Enforcement Officer. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Wolesslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Re-Appoint the Following Road Crew Workers and Rates for 2024 as Follows:

1. **Elden Neifert** as Full-Time Equipment Operator/CDL Truck Driver/Road Foreman/ Part-Time Sewer Dept. at the Rate of \$30.00/hr.
2. **Rob Sweeney** as Full-Time Equipment Operator/CDL Truck Driver/Laborer at the Rate of \$26.00/hr.
3. **Enn Poeldnurk** as Full-Time Equipment Operator/CDL Truck Driver/Laborer at the Rate \$26.00/hr.
4. **Walter Searfoss** as Full-Time Equipment Operator/CDL Truck Driver/Laborer at the Rate \$25.50/hr.
  - Seasonal Winter Truck Driver at the Rate of \$20.00/hr.
  - Part-Time Road Summer Help at the Rate of \$20.00/hr.
  - Road Department Hours will be 6:00am – 2:00pm.
  - Flexible as Seasons Change.

Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Wolesslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Re-Appoint the following Sewer Crew Workers and Rates for 2024 as follows:

1. **Michael Zimmerman** as Township Sewer Department Employee, at a Rate of \$30.00/hr.
2. **William Cavanaugh** as Township Sewer Department Employee, at a Rate of \$26.00/hr.
  - Sewer Department Hours will be 6:00am – 2:00pm.

Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Wolesslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert for Benefits for **Full-Time Township Employees** to be as Follows for 2024:

Paid Vacation (Currently): After One Full Year of Service & the following January: 2 weeks (10 days); 4-9 Full Years of Service & the following January: 3 weeks (15 days); 10 Full Year of Service & Following January: 3 weeks (15) days plus one personal day added per year.

New Full-Time Employees Must Complete a One Year New Hire Probationary Period with the Option to Extend up to One Year. Upon hire, New Full-Time Employees will be Given Medical Insurance, Vision, Dental, Life with Full Coverage on Employees; **9 Paid Holidays** (Currently): New Year's Day – Good Friday – Memorial Day – 4<sup>th</sup> of July – Labor Day – Thanksgiving Day – Day After Thanksgiving – Christmas Eve – Christmas Day; 2 Personal Days (Cannot be Carried Over); 3 Bereavement Days; Employer/Employee Continuing Pension Plan; Work Clothes & a \$100.00 Work Boot Allowance for the Road/Sewer Crew. When an Employee exceeds their Vacation & Personal Days the Employee Needs a medical Excuse for Additional Time Off. No Exceptions for Time off without Pay.

Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Wolesslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Re-Appoint **Part-Time Police Officers** as follows:

- **Robert Bechtel as a Part-Time Sergeant** at \$28.00/hr.
- **Richard Sinton as a Part-Time Officer** at \$23.00/hr.
- **Thomas Fort as a Part-Time Officer** at \$23.00/hr.
- **Tara Strauss as a Part-Time Officer** at \$23.00/hr.
- **New Hire Part-Time Police Officer in Training** at \$16.00/hr.

Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Wolesslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert that the Board of Supervisors appoint the following list of names for the **Hometown Fire Co.** as Township Fire Police for 2024.

1. **Joshua Grim Sr - Captain**
2. **Keith Duda - Lt**
3. **Beverly Schiano - Lt**
4. **Al Witkowski**
5. **Matt Witkowski**
6. **Tom Kline**

Secondary

1. **Barry Messerschmidt**
2. **Ed Tite**
3. **George Gerhard**
4. **Erika Gerhard**
5. **Bryce DeAngelo**

Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Wolesslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Authorize the **Treasurer** to Pay Payroll Every Other Week.

Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Wolesslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Set the **Treasurer's Bond Limits.** (Three (3) Million Dollars).

Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Wolesslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert that the **Chairman & Secretary** be authorized to Sign the Recap Sheet & Bond for the Tax Collector when Due. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion.

Kristin Wolesslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Name Board of Supervisors as the Voting Delegate & an employee as the Alternate Voting Delegate for the State Convention in Hershey, PA. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Woelagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Authorize the Board of Supervisors & an employee to attend the 2024 PAHRA Conferences & include Mileage, Room, Food Allowance & Pay at Regular Rate. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Woelagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Authorize Elected Officials to attend the Schuylkill Co. Convention & pay them as permitted by the Second-Class Twp. Code. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Woelagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made to Appoint One Registered Elector to Serve as the Chairman of the Vacancy Board for 2024- **Steven Roetz**. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Woelagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Set Township Reimbursement Rate for Mileage for 2024 at **\$0.67/mile**. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Woelagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Appoint a Resident Representative to the Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission for a One Year Term – **Secretary/Treasurer**. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Woelagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Appoint a Supervisor Representative to the Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Commission for a One Year Term – **Robert Leibensperger**. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Woelagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Appoint **Robert Leibensperger** as a Representative & **Secretary/Treasurer** as an Alternate Representative to Attend the North Schuylkill Landfill Association Meetings. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Woelagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Set the Meeting Dates and Standard Speaker for 2024, to be held Every **3rd Thursday** of Each Month at **7pm**. Except for the Month of January. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Woelagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Adopt **Resolution 2024-02** Signatures for Bank Accounts. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Woelagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Adopt **Resolution 2024-03** Setting the Garbage & Recycling Collection & Disposal Fees. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Woelagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Adopt **Resolution 2024-04** Setting the Sewer Fees for Lake Hauto. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Woelagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made to Adopt **Resolution 2024-05** Setting the Sewer Fees for Hometown. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Woelagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Adopt **Resolution 2024-06** Setting UCC Permit Fees Schedule. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Woelagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Adopt **Resolution 2024-07** Appointing TCC Voting Delegates as Follows:

Primary Voting Delegate – George Gerhard, First Alternate Voting Delegate – Robert Leibensperger, Second Voting Delegate – Shawn Gilbert.

Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Woleslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Appoint the Alcohol/Drug – Free Workplace Supervisor – **Chief of Police**. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Woleslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Use the **Standard Speaker** as the Newspaper of the Township. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Woleslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert for **TeamLogicIT** to be the Computer & Website Consultant for the Township. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Woleslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Appoint **Shawn Gilbert** as Road Master for 2024. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Woleslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Appoint **Shawn Gilbert and Robert Leibensperger** as the Representatives for COG (Council of Governments). Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Woleslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to Appoint **Robert Leibensperger** to Represent the 504 Plan. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Woleslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to appoint **Secretary/Treasurer** as Right-To-Know Officer known as Open Records. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger seconded the motion. Kristin Woleslagle polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

**Adjournment.**