

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 November 21, at 7:00 PM. In attendance were Chairman Shawn Gilbert; Vice Chairman Robert Leibensperger; Supervisor George Gerhard; Becky Coccio-Roberts, Secretary/Treasurer; Chris Riedlinger, Solicitor; Bill McMullen, Engineer; Rick Weaver, Police Chief.

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 October 2024. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger approved; Supervisor Gerhard seconded. Becky Coccio-Roberts 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 October 2024. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger approved; Supervisor Gerhard seconded. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

Minutes of Previous Meeting – A Motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to approve the previous meeting minutes of October 17, 2024 and Special Meeting held on October 23, 2024. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger approved; Supervisor Gerhard seconded. Becky Coccio-Roberts 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 month of October's bills. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger approved; Supervisor Gerhard seconded. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

Approval of municipal reports (sewer, road, Arro)- A Motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to approve the municipal reports for October 2024. Vice-Chairman Leibensperger approved; Supervisor Gerhard seconded. Becky Coccio-Roberts polled the board. All members voted in favor of the motion; motion carried.

Correspondence – Letter asking for a donation to the Tamaqua Library, and a letter from DOT regarding US209 over UNT to Schuylkill River Bridge Replacement Project.

Attorney's Business – Chris Reidlinger to send Police Chief's new Contract effective January 24, 2025 and add a Motion onto December 19, 2024 to approve. He is also to

Old Business – None

New Business-

1. **A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to approve the Agreement Between the Borough of Tamaqua and The Township of Rush relating to the appointment of Tamaqua as the enforcement agent/control authority for the Rush Township in the administration and enforcement of its sewer use ordinance, and authorizing Chairman Gilbert to execute the Agreement.** Vice Chairman Leibensperger second the motion, Supervisor Gerhard approved. Becky Coccio Roberts polled the board, all members voted in favor; motion carried.
2. **A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to move forward with the taking of State Rte. 1015 upon review of Reading Railroad blueprint for culde-sac by the township engineer.** Vice Chairman Leibensperger second the motion, Supervisor Gerhard approved. Becky Coccio Roberts polled the board, all members voted in favor; motion carried.
3. **A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to adopt the 2025 Budget.** Vice Chairman Leibensperger second the motion, Supervisor Gerhard approved. Becky Coccio Roberts polled the board, all members voted in favor; motion carried.
4. **A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to terminate all part-time winter plow personnel and summer help.** Vice Chairman Leibensperger second the motion, Supervisor Gerhard approved. Becky Coccio Roberts polled the board, all members voted in favor; motion carried.
5. **A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to have the Solicitor, Chris Reidlinger re-write the contract for the Police Chief to show the increase to \$95,000 a year and 5 weeks' vacation with no further increases over the five-year contract.** Vice Chairman Leibensperger second the motion, Supervisor Gerhard approved. Becky Coccio Roberts polled the board, all members voted in favor; motion carried.
6. **A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert over a discussion with possible motion to apply for the pass-through grant from FEMA for Greenwood Dam.** Vice Chairman Leibensperger second the motion, Supervisor Gerhard approved. Becky Coccio Roberts polled the board, all members voted in favor; motion carried.
7. **A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to approve Change Order #2 for the addition of two 18" pipes and Change Order #3 as a compensating Change Order for the Arthur "Pat" Aungst for the Oak Lane Sanitary and Storm Sewer Project.** Vice Chairman Leibensperger second the motion, Supervisor Gerhard approved. Becky Coccio Roberts polled the board, all members voted in favor; motion carried.
8. **A Motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to approve Application for Payment #2 \$120,187.08 and Application for payment #3 as a compensating Change order for the Arthur "Pat" Aungst for the Oak Lane Sanitary and Storm Sewer Project.** Vice Chairman Leibensperger second the motion, Supervisor Gerhard approved. Becky Coccio Roberts polled the board, all members voted in favor; motion carried.
9. **A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to approve the Wawa Sewage Facilities Planning Module.** Vice Chairman Leibensperger second the motion, Supervisor Gerhard approved. Becky Coccio Roberts polled the board, all members voted in favor; motion carried.

10. **A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to increase taxes 1 mil for the period of one year for the Organic Recycling Facility.** Vice Chairman Leibensperger second the motion, Supervisor Gerhard voted no. Majority of the board was in favor; motion carried
11. **A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to adopt a Resolution establishing the 2025 millage rates.** The motion was second by Chairman Leibensperger. Supervisor Gerhard voted no. Becky Coccio Roberts polled the board, and majority of the board was in favor; motion carried.
12. **A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to extend consultant Debbie Delfranco for the 2 hours a week as needed.** Vice Chairman Leibensperger second the motion, Supervisor Gerhard voted no. Becky Coccio Roberts polled the board, and majority of the board was in favor; motion carried.
13. **A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to donate up to \$200.00 to the Tamaqua Library as a show of Municipal Support for our community.** Vice Chairman Leibensperger second the motion, Supervisor Gerhard approved. Becky Coccio Roberts polled the board, all members voted in favor; motion carried.
14. **A motion was made by Chairman Gilbert to have the solicitor draft a resolution or ordinance to increase elected PA officials according to the law just passed to take effect January 1, 2025.** Vice Chairman Leibensperger second the motion, Supervisor Gerhard approved. Becky Coccio Roberts polled the board, all members voted in favor; motion carried.

Public Comments-

- George G. questioning our motion "to go forward" as immediately, but Shawn/Robert/Bill explained there will be more to follow before that happens.
- G.G. also questioned why the decision was made to stop "part" time winter/summer help. Board explained by holding extra people we are paying extra costs and worker's compensation. - - - - G.G. questioned about the pass-through grant for Greenwood and how that works. It was explained that it was a similar program as the Fire Allowance which passes through the township first.
- Tax resolution was brought up again to be reminded that it's so there is no shortfall in the coming years with the Organic Recycling project/land.
- Steph asked about what part time hours are? Why are we paying 4 secretaries when previously there was two. Jeannine understands the laws and such and helps out in the moment, Debbie is support for me because there is no one to train on the other responsibilities such as yearly reporting, audits, tax collector, grants, many other projects and such that would have never been caught. Two of those will eventually be gone.
- Discussed paper to be signed for new Fire Truck

Supervisors Comment;

Supervisors decided on a day to meet with the Fire co. and see who belongs. They also proceeded on a discussion on raising the tax collectors salary to 1.5% or 3% no formal decision made.

ADJOURNMENT – Have a great night! Meeting Adjourned!