

MEMBERS PRESENT

ED BARZESKI, Chairman
BOB AMISTADI
SUE KONVOLINKA
PAUL PIOLI
KYLE SHAFFER

OTHERS

DAVID A. RAHO, Shahade & Shahade Solicitor
JOHN BLAKE, Chief of Police (Absent)
ALICE HUMMEL, Executive Twp. Secretary
GRETA LAVELY, Assistant Twp. Secretary
CHASE MODIC, The EADS Group

OTHERS: Jamie Eckenrod, Ron Flick, Steve Flick, John Follensbee, John Heider, Dave Hill, Karen Hill, Karen Howell, John A. Klanchar, Pete Long, Ken Mesko, Jim Peters, Tim Reitz,

CHAIRMAN BARZESKI CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM, FOLLOWED BY THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Sue Konvolinka moved; Paul Pioli seconded to approve the agenda, as submitted.
MOTION CARRIED: 5/0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Bob Amistadi moved; Sue Konvolinka seconded to approve the Minutes of the February 15, 2024 Regular Meeting, as submitted. **MOTION CARRIED: 5/0**

PERSONS REQUESTION TO BE ON AGENDA

John A. Klanchar, 104 Dahlia Street (Southmont Borough) – Mr. Klanchar stated he had nothing to say.

David B. Hill, 248 Meadow Drive

Mr. Hill indicated:

- of the 6 meetings he has attended; he was interrupted at 4 of them
- after requesting an officer regarding a speeding issue on Meadow Drive, it took 61 days for an officer to come to his house and the police reports are felony as they don't indicate he requested an officer. He also indicated the speeding on Meadow Drive is still happening
- the minutes since September as being libel and slander
- everybody is going to get deposed and sued in federal court
- he only wanted a response to the numerous letters sent to the township and no one responded

Ken Mesko, 275 Irving Street

Mr. Mesko indicated:

- he sent an email with photographs of a stormwater issue at his home, located at 275 Irving St.
- a few months ago, he had given permission for the Road Dept. to remove a stump that was either on the property line or in the easement, but was unsure as to whether anything else was done
- Per Mr. Mesko, Photos from rainstorms of February of 2018, January 12, 2023 and March 2 & 9, 2024, show it's not working correctly
- Contractor put drainage in for the township, Mr. Mesko stated his company shot the grades, but did not oversee the job.
- Ed Barzeski will meet with Ken Mesko, as there is not much of a fall, and if they lower the catch basin, it won't drain.

Ron Flick, FWF Insurance – Mr. Flick introduced himself and his son Stephen to the Board. Their company has over 30 years' experience and is located in Richland Township. They will contact the township office to proposal a competitive quote/comparison for municipal insurance coverage.

Tim Reitz, Upper Yoder Fire Company

Tim Reitz provided the Upper Yoder Township 2023 Community Annual Report to the Board, which can also be viewed on their website.

- They are a 501c3 providing emergency fire & emergency medical services within the township
- provide mutual aid assistance to other municipalities, when requested.
- provide training for First Aid, CPR & Stop the Bleed programs.
- Their training helps them to gain more points for the public protection classification rating or ISO, which in turn helps control the fire insurance cost to the township residents.
- The ambulances were dispatched 1,838 times in 2023, with 71% of those calls resulted in patients being transported to the hospital.
- EMS is only reimbursed on calls in which they transported patients to the hospital.
- The Fire Company responded to 222 calls for assistance with 29 of our active Personnel.
- They logged 1,949 hours of training in various topics to remain current and ready to respond to emergencies.
- Recovery efforts began through vehicle and homeowners' insurance companies to help offset the cost of equipment used at an incident.
- In 2023, they replaced a fire engine, an ambulance, updated some emergency equipment and switched over to the new Cambria Co. 911 radio system.
- With limited revenue are seeking additional members, applying for grants and implementing cost recovery efforts.

Mr. Reitz indicated they don't want the community to just call when there is an emergency and they don't want to just reach out when they need money. They are an integral part of the community and are here to work to improve and protect the community.

The Board of Supervisors thanked Tim Reitz on the excellent report presented.

Karen Howell, 477 Bantell St. – Mrs. Howell thanked the police, fire company and township supervisors for keeping the township going. She addressed the supervisors regarding the ruts and rocks in the ground that could result in an injury to children, at the Elim St. playground. Chase Modic of EADS indicated the contractor is to come back, roll out the ruts and he will also address the issue of removing the rocks.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Personnel & Legal) - None

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

Bob Amistadi moved; Kyle Shaffer seconded to approve the reports, as submitted.
MOTION CARRIED 5/0

APPROVAL OF GENERAL FUND BILLS - \$74,486.14

Bob Amistadi moved; Sue Konvolinka seconded to approve the General Fund Bills, in the amount of \$74,486.14
ROLL CALL VOTE: Paul-aye, Sue-aye, Ed-aye, Kyle-aye, Bob-aye

APPROVAL OF OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES - \$331,872.28

Sue Konvolinka moved; Bob Amistadi seconded to approve the other Fund Expenditures, in the amount of \$331,872.28.
ROLL CALL VOTE: Bob-aye, Kyle-aye, Ed-aye, Sue-aye, Paul-aye

ENGINEERS REPORT – Chase Modic, The EADS Group

- Advised the Board of several upcoming grant opportunities.
- The detention basin at Giant Eagle is Giant Eagle's responsibility, but the Township is responsible for the inspections of it.

Ed Barzeski moved; Bob Amistadi seconded for EADS to oversee the inspections on the Giant Eagle detention basin. MOTION CARRIED: 5/0

- Elim St. Playground final walkthrough date has not been set. More grass needs planted and he will inform the board as to when the final inspection is going to be.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

COMPUTER SYSTEM UPGRADES - Kyle Shaffer tabled the computer system upgrades at this time.

POLICE CHIEF CONTRACT

Paul Pioli moved; Sue Konvolinka seconded to extend Police Chief John Blake's contract to 2030. MOTION CARRIED: 5/0

110 SUNRAY SIDEWALK REPAIR –

Ed Barzeski moved, Bob Amistadi seconded for Sheeler Concrete & Excavating LLC, to replace slab in front of the building, plus remove the 3 steps going to the Police Department, in the amount of \$5,470.00. MOTION CARRIED: 5/0

ZONING/Solar – to be presented at April 2024 meeting.

ROAD DEPARTMENT – The Road Department is currently down to two working employees at this time. The Supervisors will be reviewing applications received and will set a date and time for interviews in the near future.

RADON TEST KITS – Sue Konvolinka stated the free radon test kits arrived this month are available at the front desk to Upper Yoder Township residents and property owners only. Directions are included and results should arrive within 1-2 weeks.

AED's (Automated External Defibrillators) – Sue Konvolinka has been working with Tim Reitz, Upper Yoder Township Emergency Management Coordinator, who assisted in identifying the best AED equipment for the Township office, police & road department, which would be wall mounted and user-friendly. The Township staff would receive AHA CPR training. The estimated cost is \$3,356.00, plus extra pads.

Sue Konvolinka moved; Bob Amistadi seconded to approve the CPR training, the purchase of AED's for the township, plus extra pads in the amount of \$3,356.00. MOTION CARRIED: 5/0

UPPER YODER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN – During the 3 sessions of PSATS Boot Camp, Emergency Management was discussed, where the Supervisors are required to have a plan in place to work with the Emergency Management Coordinator, the County, and PEMA, during disasters. Both the Township and County EMA would assist.

Sue Konvolinka moved; Paul Pioli seconded to review and update the Upper Yoder Emergency Management Plan, to meet the current standards. MOTION CARRIED: 5/0

CAMBRIA CO. PLANNING – Shanna Murphy Sosko of the Cambria Co. Planning Commission had proposed at the February meeting, the opportunity for Upper Yoder Township to attend a preliminary workshop to discuss opportunities related to a 10–20-year roadmap for the region's future in the form of a Comprehensive Plan, with adjacent municipalities.

Sue Konvolinka moved; Paul Pioli seconded to send two supervisors to a TBD late April meeting. MOTION CARRIED: 5/0

TRAFFIC SIGNAL REPAIR – Paul Pioli acknowledged receipt of proposed costs from Kuharchik Construction for traffic signal light repairs.

110 SUNRAY PARKING LOT – Paul Pioli discussed the parking lot at 110 Sunray Drive in need of repairs. Bob Amistadi indicated he felt the entire parking lot needs replaced.

Paul Pioli moved; Bob Amistadi seconded to obtain pricing on replacement of the 110 Sunray Drive parking lot. MOTION CARRIED: 5/0

NEW BUSINESS

RESIGNATION-Megan Stasko, Asst. Twp. Secretary

Paul Pioli moved; Sue Konvolinka seconded to accept the resignation of Megan Stasko as Assistant Township Secretary, effective February 16, 2024. MOTION CARRIED: 5/0

RESIGNATION & SEVERANCE PAY – Gary Serball, Road Foreman

Ed Barzeski moved; Sue Konvolinka seconded to accept the resignation and severance of Gary Serball, Road Foreman, effective March 4, 2024. A letter of appreciation is also to be issued. MOTION CARRIED: 5/0

SEVERANCE PAY – Autumn Cassler, Former Full Time Police Officer

Sue Konvolinka moved; Bob Amistadi seconded to approve the severance pay for former full-time police officer Autumn Cassler, who resigned February 15, 2024. MOTION CARRIED: 5/0

ACT 172 Reimbursement –

Paul Pioli moved; Sue Konvolinka seconded to approve ACT 172 reimbursement for both Charles Snyder and Dan Conway for 2024. MOTION CARRIED: 5/0

REAPPOINTMENT – PLANNING COMMISSION

Sue Konvolinka moved; Kyle Shaffer seconded to reappoint Ed Berkhammer to a 4-year term on the Upper Yoder Planning Commission, effective April 1, 2024. MOTION CARRIED: 5/0

REAPPOINTMENT – SEWER AUTHORITY

Kyle Shaffer moved; Sue Konvolinka seconded to reappoint James Drapchak to a 5-year term on the Upper Yoder Sewer Authority, effective May 2, 2024. MOTION CARRIED: 5/0

APPROVAL OF 2024 NEWSLETTER

Ed Barzeski moved; Sue Konvolinka seconded to approve the distribution of the 2024 Township Newsletter. MOTION CARRIED: 5/0

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence were acknowledged: John A. Klanchar email 02/21/2024, David Hill emails 2/28/2024 & 3/13/2024, Upper Yoder Twp. Fire Co. 2023 Annual Report and Ken Mesko email 3/9/2024 w/photographs 3/9/2024.

Ed Kovacik email 3/15/2024 - 132 Sunrise Drive request for exoneration of 2024 garbage/recycling fees for 1 of his units at that location. The Board requested Mark Walker; Upper Yoder Twp. Zoning & Codes Officer visit the premise prior to the Board making a determination on Mr. Kovacik's request.

ADJOURNMENT TIME:

Sue Konvolinka moved; Ed Barzeski seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:36pm.
MOTION CARRIED 5/0

Respectfully Submitted,



Alice E. Hummel
Executive Secretary