

**MINUTES
PARADISE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JUNE 12, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER: By Chairman Lance Biesecker at 7:02 pm

SUPERVISORS IN ATTENDANCE: Chairman Lance Biesecker, Clark Craumer, Dean Bentzel

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:

APPROVE AGENDA WITH ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS... Clark Craumer moved to approve the agenda with the addition, under new business, to approve purchase a new PJ trailer, 2nd by Dean Bentzel, Approved by Unanimous Vote.

APPROVE MINUTES: From May 8, 2023 Board of Supervisors meeting... Clark Craumer moved to approve the minutes as printed, 2nd by Dean Bentzel, Approved by Unanimous

APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORT: Lance Biesecker read the May 2023 Treasurer's report. Clark Craumer made a motion to approve as read, 2nd by Dean Bentzel, Approved by Unanimous Vote.

CITIZENS COMMENTS AND CONCERNS:

Persons who have made prior arrangements to be placed on the agenda will have first priority. Please note due to time limitations 3 minutes will be allotted for each citizen.

- 1) Kate King from SGRPRC and Larry Richardson, CEO of the YMCA were present to provide an update on the YMCA/SGRPRC project. They had proposed floor plans of the Community Center remodeling and an updated list of partners in the project. Mr. Richardson commented this project has more corroboration form a variety of participants than any project he has work on.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1) Beaver Creek Road bridge discussion with Logan Swartz of CSD and Scott Sanders of Lobar Site Development

The Paradise Township BOS meeting was attended by Ron Weidner, Chairman of Hamilton Township (HT) Board of Supervisors and Jeremy Smith Supervisor (HT), Logan Swartz from C.S Davidson (CSD), and Scott Sanders from Lobar

Chairman Lance Biesecker of Paradise Township (PT) Board of Supervisors started the discussion by introducing the guests present and asking Logan Swartz to explain the difference in price between the CSD estimate and Lobar quote.

Mr. Swartz responded the CSD proposal was more specific in defining the scope of work. He said during the CSD feasibility study it was determined the the end abutments would have to be cut down (sawed) one foot and re-poured to provide a solid base for the new deck to sit on. He was concerned that the decking could shift if material wasn't removed from the abutments than what the Lobar quote indicated. He also explained how the hydraulic opening of the bridge had to be maintained for DEP requirements.

When given the information that Lobar had indicated they could have the bridge completed by November 2023, Mr. Swartz asked how the permitting could be done that fast. He said permitting takes at least 150 days (5 months).

Mr. Biesecker expressed his hope that the permitting was already applied for and hopefully submitted as an emergency repair permit since Beaver Creek Road is the second most travelled road in Paradise and that having that road closed adds approximately five minutes in respond time to most responses for emergency services coming from East Berlin. Mr. Biesecker also stated CSD knew from the outset of this project that both Paradise and Hamilton Townships have indicated construction on this bridge needed to be expedited by any means possible.

Mr. Swartz indicated that he was not under the assumption that the permits were submitted under any emergency repair request.

Mr. Biesecker asked if Mr. Swartz knew if the permits were even submitted? Mr. Swartz said he thought they were submitted in early June but he was not certain that they were.

Mr. Swartz also said CSD was in process of getting easements from residents and coordination for utility providers which would take approximately seven months to complete. Mr. Biesecker asked PT

Solicitor Evan Gabel how long it should take to get easements. Mr. Gabel thought they could be secured in about two weeks. Mr. Biesecker indicated that PT would take care of the easements needed for the project. Mr. Biesecker asked Mr. Sanders from Lobar if he feels any utilities will need to be relocated during construction. Mr. Sanders said Lobar believes all work could be done without any relocation of utility poles.

Ron Weidner stated there was some indication that two of the eight deck beams seemed to be structurally intact. He wanted to know if the CSD proposal replacement all four of the deck beams. Mr. Swartz responded that yes all eight beams will be replaced with new. Mr. Weidner asked Mr. Swartz if there is an issue with the bridge in 2-5 years would CSD back up the work that was done. Mr. Swartz responded that CSD proposal has \$25,000.00 included for in process inspections during construction, meaning the designer does his job and CSD will be there to make sure the subs are doing what they are supposed to be doing. This would protect the townships; assuring that the townships get what they are paying for. The Lobar quote does not include any inspections. Mr. Weidner then asked Mr. Swartz if that means CSD would back up and fix any defects. Mr. Swartz indicated that the inspection would assure the construction is using materials specified and standard construction principals would be followed but there were too many factors involved after the completion to say what CSD would or would not cover but there was a guarantee of the work performed for 75 years. This does not cover any defects in the hidden structure or lack of maintenance after completion from the two townships.

Mr. Sanders was asked the same question. He stated Lobar's quote does not include inspection but that they will guarantee the same things as the CSD proposal.

Mr. Swartz was then asked if there would be an inspector on site throughout the process. Mr. Swartz said that is not feasible for the cost quoted. He was then asked what is the use of inspections if they are not inspecting the whole time of construction. He replied CSD will be on site at critical times in the construction to inspect.

PT Supervisor Clark Craumer asked Mr. Swartz to explain the bidding process for the project. Mr. Swartz responded that CSD will put the construction out for bids in hope that individual contractors would be

able to provide better pricing than having an individual contractor. Mr. Craumer stated why we would do that when Lobar's prices is already cheaper thru the Keystone Purchasing Network and Lobar is an approved vendor.

Mr. Biesecker asked Mr. Swartz how he justifies the guiderail costs for this bridge at \$12,000.00 and 76.5 hours already recorded in engineering costs. Mr. Biesecker commented that the guiderails for the Home and Protectory Road bridges cost \$62,000.00 for two single lane box culvert bridges with both having speed limits of 35 mph. Mr. Swartz responded that when CSD designs a bridge they must make sure the whole design is up to current safety standards, even guiderails. He said without seeing the invoice he could not speak to HT being billed for 60 hours of which 12 hours is a senior engineer checking the design work performed in 76.5 hours by another project engineer. Mr. Biesecker then asked if CSD was the designer of the bridge on Moul Rd in Jackson Township that Lobar built recently. Mr. Swartz said they were. Mr. Biesecker asked if CSD designed the guiderails for that. Mr. Swartz said they had. Mr. Biesecker commented that he has never seen such flimsy guiderails and if the Moul Rd bridge rails were acceptable, the rails on Home and Protectory Rd bridges were way overkill. Mr. Swartz then explained aspects of guiderail engineering that can affect costs. Mr. Biesecker ask Mr. Swartz why the existing guiderails on Beaver Creek Rd approaches couldn't be reused if they still meet safety standards. Mr. Swartz stated they would have to be brought up to current safety standards and it would be engineering involved in how they attach to the new deck structure.

Mr. Biesecker expressed his frustration that as a Supervisor they are trying to save taxpayers money but it seems like CSD is trying to add everything they can to increase the bill. Both Mr. Biesecker and Mr. Weidner commented that if both Lobar and CSD are going to build a bridge guaranteed for 75 years, we would rather have the reliable economy car version and not the Maserati version.

Mr. Swartz stated that we need to remember that the Home and Protectory Rd bridges were delivered on time and in budget.

When asked again about the \$75,000.00 guarantees, both Mr. Sanders and Mr. Swartz said those cover what each company installs and not existing structure deficiency that may not be visually apparent during

construction. It also doesn't not cover things like maintenance or damage done to the bridge.

Mr. Sanders was asked about the price differences. He commented on the fact that the designs are a little different and because Lobar intends to use the same beam design for all eight, they can save some money on that. Mr. Sanders was asked about using composite concrete on the bridge and he said it will be used where it is needed structurally.

Mr. Biesecker then opened the discussion for citizen comments. Jim Boyer commented that he had some inspector/surveyor up behind his house checking on wetlands and that he has already spent \$10,000.00 for stone to make a temporary entrance into his property to get hog trucks in.

Mr. Weidner then ask Lobar if there are any hidden cost in their bid that will pop up. Mr. Sanders said the only one he could foresee is if they tear the deck off and the abutments have more damage than what you can see currently but that it doesn't matter who is doing the work that concern is there.

Mr. Biesecker said he is concerned about whether the permit has been applied for and that the CSD proposal doesn't even go out for bid until next spring meaning the bridge won't be done for at least another year.

Mr. Biesecker asked Supervisor Widener if he would support using Lobar as the contractor if Paradise Township approved using them in this meeting. He indicated he would.

Mr. Biesecker asked Supervisor Smith if he would support using Lobar as the contractor if Paradise Township approved using them in this meeting. He indicated he would.

Clark Craumer moved to approve Lobar as the contractor on the Beaver Creek Road Bridge, 2nd by Dean Bentzel, Approved by Unanimous vote

Fire Department Reports:

- 1) **Station 110** – Chief Lease report 10 total calls
- 2) **NAF** – Lance Biesecker reported at total of 30 calls/ 9 in PT
- 3) **United 33** – Lance Biesecker reported 73 total calls/ 5 in PT
- 4) **Life Team** – Lance Biesecker reported 140 total calls/ 27 in PT

SUBDIVISION PLANS:

- 1) Tom King was present to request a Waiver for nitrate levels on his property. Clark Craumer moved to approve a waiver request per a water test result of 4.37 mg/L which is less than 10mg/L as per SALDO 511.B.2 Allowing proposed lots to have on-lot disposal for this nitrate level, 2nd by Dean Bentzel, Approved by Unanimous Vote.
- 2) Tom King asked if there would be any road improvements needs for his sub-division. He was informed in lieu of doing actual road improvements we would need to pay a road improvement fee which is a calculation in the Township SALDO. His fee would be \$5700.00.
- 3) Clark Craumer presented the Vipaes sub-division plan with all the comments presented by GHI being answered. Doug Stambaugh of GHI confirmed the remaining comments have been answered. Lance Biesecker moved to approve the revised Vipaes sub-division plan as presented, 2nd by Dean Bentzel, approved with yea votes of Biesecker and Bentzel with Clark Craumer abstaining.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Clark Craumer moved to approve the purchase of a used Eager Beaver Trailer for \$9400.00 from Douglass Township, 2nd by Dean Bentzel, Approved by Unanimous Vote. The trailer being replaced will be sold on Municibid to offset the purchase price.
- 2) Clark Craumer moved to purchase a new PJ Trailer with a GVW 7000 lb., for \$3395.00 to replace an old trailer that is undersized for our new UTV. The old trailer will be sold to offset the purchase price.

RECREATION PARK:

- 1) Summer Fest was held Friday, June 9th at Farmers Field. Unfortunately, the fireworks, the movie, and the hot air balloon had to be postponed until September 9th for various weather related issues.

REPORTS:

- 1) **Emergency Management:** Neal Doyle report little activity for EMS.
- 2) **Zoning Officer:** Neal Doyle provided a written report of permits issued in May. Highlighted burn ban until at least July 5th and issued five enforcement letters for high weeds and junk cars.
- 3) **Engineer:** Doug Stambaugh provided a written report of activity in May highlighting 3 plan reviews and continued failure to connect with Columbia Gas.

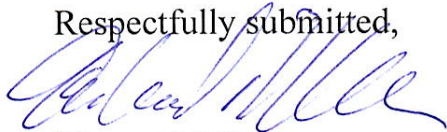
- 4) **Planning Commission:** Kevin Barnes report all PTPC information was already covered.
- 5) **Police:** Clark Craumer report here was no Commissioners Meeting in May due to elections.
- 6) **Solicitor:** Evan Gabel report Codification is almost complete.
- 7) **Roadmaster:** Dean Bentzel reported road issues have already been covered. Lance Biesecker added that sealing will take place June 15 and 16 depending on weather conditions, mostly south of Route 30 except for North Lake Road.

CORRESPONDENCE / ANNOUNCEMENTS/ OTHER BUSINESS:

- 1) Lance Biesecker read three letters of thanks for donations sent out by the Township.
- 2) Approve Bill Lists ... Clark Craumer moved to approve bill lists and adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Dean Bentzel, Approved by Unanimous Vote.
- 3) Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Approved at the July 10, 2023 BOS meeting

Respectfully submitted,



Elwood Miller

Secretary

Paradise Township