

P.O. Box 1, Pocopson PA 19366

Office: 610.793.2151 Fax: 610.793.1944

## Board of Supervisors Special Meeting

**Monday, November 1, 2021, 5:00 p.m.**

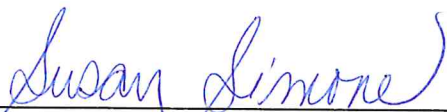
In-person attendance: Supervisors - Elaine DiMonte and Raymond McKay. Participating via remote access: Ricki Stumpo, Supervisor; Amanda Gattuso, Treasurer Support Staff.

Public in attendance: 2

1. **Call to Order:** DiMonte called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
2. **Public Comment:** Susan Nichols, a resident from Red Hawk Trail, appeared to inquire as to the budget allocation for repairs to West Creek Road. McKay responded that the Township has not confirmed a plan for the repairs. The repair project was not eligible for a grant identified earlier this year. He commented that the Board remains hopeful that a portion of the American Recovery Plan Funds may be used for the repair. However, the U.S. Treasury has not yet issued final guidance on the use of those funds. He noted that the Township is considering a viable solution to return the road to 2-lane status as well as effect repairs in other sections of the road. Given that the repairs could cost in the range of \$500,000, it is important to identify the best solution, which may or may not include a taking of additional land to relocate the road and utility lines. McKay added that an engineered plan for repairs will have to include a temporary access route for the residents during construction. Nichols commented that while limiting access will be inconvenient, the end result will be worth the wait. She was disappointed to learn that after nearly 2 years of the temporary one lane road that a permanent construction plan was not included in the 2022 budget. Linda Moore, also a resident from Red Hawk Trail, appeared to discuss the deterioration of West Creek Road and noted that a number of township roads have been paved or chip sealed with no plans for West Creek Road. She said that residents are trying to sell their homes, you cannot get a moving van down the road, and it is just a matter of time before nature reclaims the deteriorating roadbed. Moore added that after 2 years of the temporary one lane configuration the township is at square one and residents have to come with hat-in-hand to try to get something done about West Creek Road. She questioned whether the Board would allow other roads in the Township to fall into such disrepair. DiMonte commented that the concerns voiced this evening are well taken. Just the same, the purpose for calling the special meeting for the revised preliminary 2022 budget is predicated on having learned days ago that the Kennett Fire and Emergency Commission requires a 30% increase to the annual contribution on behalf of the Township. Moore asked the Board if they considered a referendum as a means to prioritize roadbed repairs throughout the Township. She commented that a referendum, like the open space referendum, might provide the Board with information they need to allocate funds. Secretary commented that the state has issued a manual for conducting a referendum. It would be a matter for the Board to agree to list a proposed referendum process on a public meeting agenda to consider road repair public policy. The Board would authorize the Township Solicitor to look into a referendum. Board members commented that the Public Works Director has a 5-year capital plan in place for road repairs and West Creek Road is part of that capital plan. Moore added that there is a lack

of communication on the part of the Public Works Department with regard to repairs, noting that residents were not provided information prior to installation of the current single lane feature. DiMonte reiterated that West Creek Road is part of the 5-year capital plan and residents will be notified by the Township of a special meeting to discuss the plans, and also the venue to learn about information in the Township is via the Constant Contact email platform. She also encouraged Moore and Nichols to continue to follow the public meeting agenda when it is posted on the website as agenda items are listed in detail. The Board agreed that it is imperative to continue to seek solutions to West Creek Road repairs. DiMonte commented that the Board will share the engineered plan for repairs with the residents when it is identified.

3. **Revision of Approved Preliminary 2022 Budget:** DiMonte asked Gattuso to walk-through the adjustments to the Kennett Fire and EMS Commission ("EMS") contribution for 2022. Gattuso commented that an 11% increase in the contribution was included in the October 25<sup>th</sup> preliminary budget. The entries on the revised preliminary budget before the Board at this time represent the adjustment to 30% in accordance with the spreadsheet provided by Cuyler Walker as representative of the EMS. Stumpo asked if the \$65,000 County contribution for EMS is accounted for in the revised preliminary budget. Gattuso indicated that the funds were received and are included. DiMonte commented that it is not entirely clear as to the source of the funds to accommodate the increase. Gattuso pointed out that a surplus existed in the October 25<sup>th</sup> preliminary budget. Two transfers were completed to accommodate a 30% increase. McKay noted that during the EMS monthly meeting, it was reported that the allocations from each municipality are annualized. He commented that he has no objection to the line-item transfers presented to accommodate the 30% contribution to the EMS for 2022. Stumpo suggested that going forward the Township reach out to the County for an increase in the fire and ambulance annual contribution. McKay commented that the suggestion has merit given that there are members of the EMS Commission who may choose to drop-out. There was no additional public comment or discussion. MOTION: DiMonte moved, McKay seconded, to approve the revised annual preliminary budget for 2022 dated November 1, 2021 as presented and discussed; motion unanimously approved.
4. **Other business:** no other business was identified or discussed.
5. **Adjournment:** at 5:42 p.m. McKay moved DiMonte seconded, to adjourn the meeting; motion carried.



Susan Simone, Secretary



Ricki Stumpo, Chairwoman