

March 13, 2019

6:30PM

South Pymatuning Township Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of South Pymatuning Township Board of Supervisors was held March 13, 2019 at 6:30PM in the South Pymatuning municipal building with Chairperson Bill Klumph, and Supervisor's Rose Lyons, Chuck Vranich. Solicitor Charlie Steele was present.

The meeting was opened with the pledge to the flag.

It was announced that any resident wanting to speak on any agenda item must fill out a Right to speak form and be specific about which item on the agenda. It was also announced if any resident wanted to speak on public comment they must also fill out a form.

It was announced that Tri County will have a spring pick up the week of April 08, 2019 and a leaf pick up the week of April 22, 2019.

It was announced that an Executive session was held on February 13, 2019 to discuss personnel issues and the legal import of the meeting.

A motion was made by Bill Klumph and seconded by Chuck Vranich to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2019 regular meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Comments:

Justin Gerasimek said he'll wait to comment until his subdivision comes up.

Amber Love asked if a decision has been made of what roads will be done this year and when the investigators will be available to ask questions. Steele said the investigation is not complete because there are 3 witnesses who are not being cooperative. He said we hope the investigation closes within the next 2 or 3 weeks. Amber said the PSP and the DA said the investigation was already complete and she doesn't understand why it's still going on. Steele said there are 2 investigations going on. He read a statement he prepared that the District Attorney's Office has signaled, at the present time it will not initiate criminal prosecution of officers who unlawfully purchased and possessed machine guns and acquired a silencer. The township fully understands the notion of prosecution discretion and meaning that not all crimes are prosecuted. The District Attorney has the authority to make these decisions and the supervisors fully respect his office and authority. The supervisors' understanding is that a factor in deciding whether to prosecute at the present time is that the supervisors have recovered all the machine guns and silencer. Had these weapons not been recovered, the decision regarding prosecution likely would have been different. The completion of the investigation has been thwarted by uncooperative witness evading being interviewed. The District Attorney has

requested a copy of the final investigation. The township will share its findings with the District Attorney. It is noteworthy that the District Attorney is supportive of the township's efforts with regard to its Police Department, observing that the police department was "terribly dysfunctional." He supports the Township's efforts to upgrade its Police Department with best practices. A chief of Police and newly hired officers will ensure that the Supervisors are effectively managing the risk (liability) of operating a Police Department. If the previous Police Department continued operating without a shut down and internal investigation, the taxpayers would still be on a collision course with lawsuits and lack of accountability. Tonight a Citizen's Committee for Police is being established. The Supervisors look forward to continue working toward re-establishing its Police Department by June 01, 2019 with citizen and expert involvement. We thank the community for its patience and understanding. Amber asked Klumph if it was true that he was aware and shown the automatic weapons when he went on a ride along with the officers. Klumph said they did not show him any weapons when he rode with the officer for about 2-3hrs. Steele said the officers are represented by a very powerful union and if there was no justification to replace our officers, it would have been challenged through a grievance procedure. Steele said we feel very supportive by our District Attorney and feel he has a tough decision to make regarding his resources and the board is not the right person to ask why a prosecution is not occurring. Acker wants to hear our investigation and we will leave that up to him.

Laurel Alexander said she would rather hear from the supervisors than the attorney. She said when we had a terribly dysfunctional police department that was when you hired new hires and they were back in there and didn't have anyone to train them. Alexander said she believes our police department was very functional until that time and one person was not allowed to come back because of a bogus radio charge. She said as far as the union it is very weak and had been very weak and don't believe they support the police like they should. She had a question about the hiring of the advertising for the police chief if it means we already chose one. Klumph said no we have not. Lyons said the ad was in on Monday. She asked if we did background checks on our investigators. Alexander said Bozi made several bogus statements and would like to talk to investigators. She said Bozi ignored that in 2013 there was a mandate to change band width from 25 to 12 1/2 and all radios were no longer useful.

Fire Reports were read.

A motion was made by Bill Klumph and seconded by Rose Lyons to approve the bills in the amount of \$63,581.12 and payroll total of \$18,499.87. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Bill Klumph and seconded by Chuck Vranich to approve the Gerasimek subdivision subject to changes on the sewage planning module. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Bill Klumph and seconded by Chuck Vranich to advertise for the position of chief retro to March 03, 2019. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Bill Klumph and seconded by Chuck Vranich to purchase a 5 drawer file cabinet for record keeping for \$659.99. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Bill Klumph and seconded by Chuck Vranich to create a Citizens Advisory Committee for the police dept. Letters were accepted and approved for Tammy Krolicki, Don Morrow and Dean Canter. Motion passed unanimously.

Amber Love asked what roads would be paved. She asked if the road crew had any input in what roads get done. Klumph said yes.

Ilona Gibson said it's been about 7 months they have been dealing with a trash problem on Hunter St. and believes it is a health problem. The trash collector will be contacted tomorrow to address.

Dean Canter said he has been a resident since 2003 and is speaking as a concerned citizen as a result of recent negative comments, TV coverage and newspaper articles about our township and its leadership. He said he wanted the truth and through a RTK he obtained copies of the check used to pay for the LAR 15, Christ off's letter to the supervisors, and year end bank statements for the General and Water Fund from 2013-2018. He also assessed online minutes. Nowhere in the minutes was there discussion or approval of the LAR 15 being purchased. He says he guesses it was snuck through when the contract dispute with the Fire Dept. was ongoing. The check was signed by supervisor Massotto and Geisel only. If blame is to be placed it belongs on them. In Christoff's letter he state the police department was up to current standards and was obviously untrue. Was the letter from 2015 sent out of fear that the LAR 15 were going to be discovered by supervisor Lyons, I don't know. Christoff states his SWAT credentials any instructor of SWAT would know personal possession of LAR 15 is illegal. To blame these supervisors of poor supervision is unfair, an incompetent supervisor would have covered this up, not hired an outside investigator nor made the public aware of it. They would have been like past supervisors and continued on with business as usual. Canter said the increases in the bank accounts show him there is competency among the supervisors and treasurer. He said the exact detail of why these balances have been growing can be debated the fact is they have been higher than they have been in years possibly ever despite increase in operating costs. Canter said monthly meetings are supposed to be about the community, voicing concerns and moving toward a better future, not arm chair quarterbacking and mine is bigger than yours

attitude. He said these things accomplish nothing and bring division between the community. The two supervisors and the officers involved are responsible for this fiasco for us to point fingers at those who were left to pick up the pieces serves no purpose. Canter said if this continues there will be no police chief or any officer in the area who will want to work for this township. The township will be forced to use an outside police force and said I don't think anyone wants that because I know I don't. There was a round of applause.

A motion was made by Bill Klumph and seconded by Rose Lyons to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting ended at 6:58PM

Rose Lyons

Secretary