

**Morgan Township
P.O. Box 3
1019 Third Street
Mather, PA 15346**

**MINUTES OF MORGAN TOWNSHIP
February 7, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER: At 4:00 p.m. Jeff Sholtis, Chairman, called the regular monthly meeting of the Morgan Township Supervisors to order in the municipal office building located at 1019 Third Street Extension, Mather, Greene County, Pennsylvania. The meeting opened with the pledge to the flag.

ROLL CALL: Supervisors Jeff Sholtis, Shirl Barnhart and James Gayman were present. Also attending the meeting was Bruce Howard and Ken Frameli, Representing Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority, Diane Tedrow, Sue Teagarden, Stacy Sholtis, George Scull, Steve Lee, Clint and Philomena Blaney, Kari and Ron Golden, Bill Schamp, Code Enforcement Officer Mark Gordon, Solicitor Dennis Makel and Secretary/Treasurer Relda Litten.

APPROVE MINUTES: A motion was made by Mr. Gayman with a second from Mr. Barnhart to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2023 meeting and the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. Howard and Mr. Frameli spoke about Lower Ten Mile applying for Act 537 money to put sewage in Country Club Estates and Roger's Hill and would like the township to pay for the study which is \$6,000. They have applied for two grants for the project. The Supervisors decided they would like to have more information on the project before committing the funds.

A heated discussion was held between Ms. Teagarden and Mr. Gordon. Ms. Teagarden spoke about purchasing the Finogle property and mobile home at 217 Second Street in Mather, adjacent to her property. She stated she tried for three years to get the supervisors to do something about the deplorable conditions of the home and no one would do anything. Now that they are trying to clean it up, and hired Marko Demaske to tear it down, they are getting in trouble. Mr. Demaske started a fire and burned the trailer and things from the trailer right there on the property on Wednesday, February 1, 2023. Ms. Teagarden said she was not aware he was burning until after he started the fire. She also stated she asked the neighbors if they would care if it was torn down. She stated Mr. Makel had told her to ask Ms. Finogle if she would sell the trailer to the Teagardens, which they did and purchased it. She also stated that Mr. Gordon told her to put out the fire after he was notified of the illegal burning which they did not. Mr. Gordon stated he cannot file a citation unless a written complaint is filed, which was never filed until last year when the Teagardens did so. Then Ms. Finogle was cited to clean it up. The case was continued and has a court case over it next month. But then the Teagardens bought the property in the midst of the case against Ms. Finogle and did not demolish the property the correct way. A demolition permit was not obtained until the next day after the demo and fire was set. If a demo permit had been obtained, the permit requires the demolisher to be licensed and have worker's comp and insurance which Mr. Demaske does not have. And you cannot burn trade waste. The Teagardens were cited under the township's burning ordinance. Now Ms. Finogle has court next month over the mobile home's poor conditions and the Teagardens got in the middle of the case. Mr. Barnhart stated if the Teagarden's had not bought the property; the township would have born the responsibility of taking over the property and tearing it down themselves at the township's expense as they know Ms. Finogle could not clean it up. He also mentioned that Mr. Gordon is only doing his job. Mr. Blaney spoke up and stated that she was trying to clean it up and she should not be in trouble for it.

Mr. Golden mentioned the trailer Mr. Demaske owns on Meadowbrook Road has no burn pit and papers are blowing across the road and blowing everywhere.

Mr. Scull mentioned that at 116 Teagarden Homes there in the alley way are bags of garbage that the township has already cited the owner for, but she has appealed the court decision.

Ms. Golden as Tax Collector for the township, is asking to be able to use the office building for two days a month to collect taxes so residents can come to one spot to pay their taxes. The response is tabled until next month when a decision will be made.

Ms. Blaney mentioned that other township's have their meeting minutes posted on the county web site and asked if it is possible to post the townships.

REPORTS: Roadmaster: Supervisors reported they have done snow removal, worked on equipment, cut trees, worked on the paver which will be sold. A discussion was also held on upgrading the paver.

LEGAL: Mr. Makel reported he has been involved on the Finogle case and the Jefferson Estate case.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER: Mr. Gordon stated he has been to court hearings. Mr. Demaske was fined \$600 under the Property Maintenance Ordinance for the house he owns on Third Street in Mather. Scott Smith, the owner of Jefferson Estates, was fined \$600 and \$2,000 in court costs on a lot and trailer under the Property Maintenance Ordinance but has filed an appeal.

ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND LOT SPLITS: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Higbee of Higbee Insurance asked if the township was wanting a quote on insurance this year and the supervisors decided they do not as they are happy with Baily Insurance.

A motion was made by Mr. Barnhart to appoint Mr. Sholtis to be the representative to the COG to take his place as he is resigning. Mr. Gayman seconded the motion and the motion carried with all in favor.

BILLS AND PAYROLL: A motion was made by Mr. Gayman and seconded by Mr. Barnhart to pay all the payroll for the month of March. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.