

Foster Township Board of Supervisors  
Continued Monthly Meeting via Zoom

**Minutes**

January 20, 2021

6:30 PM

**CALL TO ORDER**

Call To Order The Continued Monthly Meeting via zoom.

**ROLL CALL**

Ms. Eckrote-Jones	■ Present	□ Absent
Mr. Pavuk	■ Present	□ Absent
Mr. Brogan	■ Present	□ Absent

Attny Karpowich, Brittany Majewski, Tom Barna and members of the public were also present.

**BUSINESS:**

Attny Karpowich explained that the purpose of the meeting is to go over the best and final offers from Pa American Water and Freeland Municipal Authority. Freeland sent a letter stating that their offer was their best and final at \$3.4M with a monthly reduction. Pa American Water submitted their best and final offer of \$3,750,000. Which is an increase of \$350K. Neither party is interested in the east end system. Pa American water stated that they will maintain our rates through 2024. Attny Karpowich stated some of their rates throughout the commonwealth and believes their average rate is \$78. He would recommend for approval or if the supervisors would like to review it more, they can table it. He also asked for a motion for himself and outside counsel to approach Aqua and see if they would be interested in the east end. As of February, the pay off on the PennVest loan would be around \$3.3M and that would leave the twp with approx. \$550K to do with what they wish. Jerry asked if Donnie reviewed everything and if there is anything else that needs to be looked at before approval. Jerry asked the other board members if they had any questions. John stated that he just doesn't think its right that the rates would stay the same. He is not comfortable with approving it tonight. Jerry asked where John thought the rates would be if the twp has to maintain the system? John asked what ever happened with the refinance and can't that be looked into again for possibly taking it out 10-15 years. Attny Karpowich stated that Pa American Waters bid is good until 3/22 if the twp wanted to see about other options. John said he would feel more comfortable if Attny Karpowich looked into what else may be out there. Jerry asked when the PennVest loan is set to be paid off currently. Attny Karpowich stated that it is approx. 2027, and he also stated that interest rates are at historic lows. John stated that something needs to be done and he needs to hold his ground on this because people are just too bitter about it. Jerry stated that when the rates dropped to \$55 no one cared, no one said anything. John said he knows that the twp wants to be out of the sewer business but he wants what is best for the people. Jerry made a motion to table until next meeting. John seconds the motion. Roll call was yes by all. Attny Karpowich asked for a motion to pursue a possible refinance. Jerry made the motion. John seconds the motion. Roll call was yes by all. Attny Karpowich asked for a motion to approach and possibly sell the east end to Aqua. John made the motion. Jerry seconds the motion. Roll call was yes by all. John stated that he is all about getting rid of the east end sewers. Jerry asked him even if it is the cheaper system to run. Attny Karpowich asked the board to have an executive session once he gets everything in order, possibly within the next week.

Attny Karpowich stated that the SAB asked for all accounts over \$500 to be sent to his office. He stated that Brittany dropped them off and his office will start with the municipal liens. Jerry made the motion for Attny Karpowich to put liens on any properties over \$500. John seconds the motion. Roll call was yes by all. Jerry stated that the twp office sent out notices to all delinquent accounts both east end and woodside, explaining what the twp can do if their bills are not paid.

Attny Karpowich stated that the 940 extension is out for bid. He is working on the right of way easement with Mr. Feussner.

Jerry explained that the twp is accepting credit cards over the phone. This notice is posted on the twp website and will be printed on the upcoming bills. There will be a 3% surcharge added to all payments.

Jerry stated that Carlene Troell asked if her correspondence could be tabled until the next meeting as she was not available tonight. There was additional correspondence from a gentleman from Hazlebrook regarding the condition of

the road. Jerry isn't sure about what kind of agreement the twp has with Hazle Twp for the maintenance of the road. Georgiann stated that it is for all maintenance and she will try and get a hold of the roadmaster over in Hazle Twp to make him aware of the situation. Attny Karpowich suggested that if she get any where with him then he could talk to the supervisors. John said that he should just contact one of the supervisors, because the twp gives them 3% of the liquid fuels to maintain it, and the twp already paved ¾ of it when Mike was roadmaster and that cost the twp over \$35K, which was a mistake. Attny Karpwoich asked what exactly is wrong with the road. John explained that it is spidered, but not nearly as bad as the roads right here in town.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Alice Lachewitz asked if the board could clarify if the \$25 per person proposed tax for use of the state police was implemented? Attny Karpowich stated that it never went into effect. She asked if the board could breakdown how much per person or per household the White Haven Police coverage is going to cost? She stated that the president of the board in HH, is telling people to attend a meeting of WHB at the library because the police coverage was going to be discussed and it is going to cost the residents a lot. Jerry stated that he does not have an exact figure for per person or per household because he does not have an exact number for the twp. He said it will be \$105K a year divided by however many households there are. The LST tax covers at least half of the cost and the rest is going to be covered with the tax increase that was already put in place. There is going to be no additional fee to the residents for this coverage. Attny Karpowich explained that the meeting White Haven is having is to adopt the ordinances to allow the police to come into the twp, the intergovernmental agreement.

Luke McHugh stated that he would like expand on what Alice was talking about. He clarified what was happening at the White Haven meeting and that the president of HH was stating that the public needed to attend because it was going to raise everyone's taxes. He stated that if anyone has been following along with this, they would know that is not correct. He would like to thank the board for clarifying.

Greg Cappozelli would like to know if the board has an idea of what the sewer rates would be if the PennVest loan was paid off. Jerry said he does not know he would have to have Brittany run some numbers to give him an idea. He stated that the rates surely would be lower if we didn't have that loan to pay, but the residents would have to survive 7 years @ \$85.00. Jerry said he will see what Brittany can get him before the next meeting and let him know.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Jerry made a motion to adjourn. Jerry seconds the motion. Roll Call was Yes by all.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Brittany Majewski*

Brittany Majewski  
Municipal Secretary