

# La Plume Township

## MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

November 11, 2021

The La Plume Township Board of Supervisors met in regular session on the above date and was called to order by Chair Lisa Huffsmith. Also present were Supervisors Gerald Henry and Jeremy Wohlken, Road Master Bruce Van Fleet, Engineer John Seamans, Planning Commission Secretary Jo Ann Klingel and visitors, Eleanore and Susan Gruss and newly elected Auditors John and Jennifer Farrar. Minutes of the previous October meeting and Budget Preparation Meeting were approved, motion by Henry, seconded by Wohlken.

The following Treasurer's Report was reviewed and will be filed.

General Fund Account balance	<b>\$147,074.00</b>	including interest of \$1.57 and receipts of:
	2,016.00	Earned Income Tax
	1,745.50	Comcast Fees
	1,303.40	Real Estate Transfer Tax(Walsh,Thompkins/Simmons)
	24.55	Delinquent tax
	600.00	Sewage Permit (Keystone House, Hickory Ridge Rd)
	299.22	Bldg. Permit, addition Gordon Miller
	1,250.00	UGI Road Cut permit

Total Receipts	<b>\$7,238.67</b>
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<b>State Fund</b> Account Balance	<b>\$19,384.35</b>	including interest of <b>\$.20</b>
<b>Cemetery Fund</b> Account Balance	<b>-\$709.08</b>	including interest of <b>.01</b>
<b>PLGIT PLUS Savings Account Balance</b> -	<b>\$2,283.50</b>	including interest of <b>.08</b>

The following **bills** were approved, motion by Henry, seconded by Wohlken.

PPL	144.20	Street Lights
PPL	36.14	Building electricity
Berkheimer	20.36	Commission
DGK Insurance Co.	275.00	Secy/Treasurer Bond
MBC Solutions	187.50	Computer System "hacked"
MBC Solutions	281.25	Printer not working after hacked problem
MBC Soltions	8,525.12	Twp bldg computer equip.(Acct.357.05-8322.33)(G.F. 202.79)
Factoryville Fire Co	1,315.84	Fire Relief fund
Dalton Fire Co.	1,315.83	Fire Relief fund
Shirley Lewis	49.00	Internet Connection
John Seamans	406.25	Inv. 2021.67 N. Turnpike Patchwork
John Seamans	218.75	Maple Road Inv.2021.70,(MHW to do Alternate #1)
John Seamans	156.26	Planning Comm. Meeting Inv. 2021.71
MHW	1,500.00	N. Overbrook Rd( Henri storm)ARP (352.53)
Van Fleet Home Repair	280.00	Install signs(40)Brush Cutting(200) Sluice(160)
Sara Van Fleet	35.00	Clean Building
Shirley Lewis	1,239.00	Secy/Treasurer's Salary

<b>Total Bills</b>	<b>\$15,985.50</b>
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# La Plume Township

## MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

November 11, 2021

Road Master Van Fleet reported work on Maple Road is ongoing. UGI replaced service to a home on N.Turnpike Road and issued a permit application and check. Township roads have been brush cut by Mr. Lacovazzi though some areas were too difficult to do well. Mention was made of guardrails that are in bad shape, especially on N. Turnpike Road. This will be reviewed when Road Inspection takes place in 2022.

Visitor John Farrar mentioned the largest pot hole at N- Turnpike Rd and Turnpike Lane still hasn't been repaired. Gerald Henry has served as Temporary Zoning Officer and worked on Gordon Miller's request to construct an addition to his house. Former Zoning Officer Basalyga provided paperwork and a building permit has been issued, visitor Susan Gruss addressed the Board regarding neighbor Mr. Federici and his conduct of an Appliance Sales and Service business on a Residential Zoned Street and further activity of installation of a car lift as well as two weeks of heavy equipment digging on his property. He has constructed non-permitted structures On his two acre land and Ms. Gruss is concerned that his immense digging and regrading of his property unsupervised now is not being observed by the Township to make sure water will not be diverted into her property downhill.

Lisa Huffsmith addressed the issue stating the violations in past years were NOT ignored by previous Zoning Officers. Bill Shigo went to the Federici Property but never filed a report to the Township and then he retired. Then appointed Zoning Officer Jen Basalyga received the claims but has since resigned and didn't follow through. The Supervisors are hiring a new firm and the issues will be addressed. She also stated that she believes in her opinion that Mr. Federici's is not conducting his business out of his home because he does not have a showroom nor do any customers come to his home therefore he is not in violation of the Zoning Ordinance according to home occupation. He should be able to receive and pay bills accordingly.

Gerald Henry visited the Site and advised Mr.

Federici he is not to install another building. He further stated that his driveway being paved does not require a permit and the installation by a professional would make sure any water runoff would be diverted correctly. He also said the lift at the end of his driveway is on rollers and is not a permanent structure therefore not requiring permits.

Motion was then made by Henry, seconded by Wohlken to appoint NEIC as an additional Building Code Enforcement entity that will be able to provide Zoning Officer help.

Motion Was made by Huffsmith. seconded by Wohlken to approve the Proposed Budget for all funds for the year 2022. Permanent budget will be considered for adoption in December.

Newly elected Auditor, John Farrar informed the Board he has had ongoing problems with noise being produced by MHW, in Dalton Borough, cutting wood that reaches past 95 decibels. Mr. Farrar lives in La Plume Township across the creek from MHW. He tried to speak to Matt Williams, owner but to no avail. He presented this problem to Dalton Borough, with nothing being done to date. He provided all with a copy of a letter he received from a governmental agency confirming there are dangerous chemicals in the ground Water and the area is a "toxic dump". He has a 400 page report that found chemicals saying the bad soil needs to be buried. The property was a former "Transformer" plant. The owner of MHW, Matt Williams is supposed to do testing ever-v 3 months but that has not been done. The chemicals were no doubt in the ground when he purchased the property. Although Mr. Farrar didn't show any proof of the testing Gerald Henry will talk to him about this and follow up with MHW.

John and Jennifer Farrar were welcomed as the newly elected Auditors for the Township. They are considering taking an Online Class for this position.

Engineer John Seamans reported that Maple Road work is being done, ditch work is nearing completion. The sluice pipe designated

in the contract drawing will be installed next week with paving over the pipe trench to follow as weather permits. At the October 21, 2021 Planning Commission meeting a Land Development plan was submitted by Casey J. Cawley, P.E. of Reilly Associates. After his presentation and a cursory look at the plan it was evident that the submission was insufficient. The application was not correct, there were no fees submitted, and many items were missing including but not limited to showing the stadium, original field house for the stadium, the sewage system associated with the field house, the Eckel pavilion baseball dugouts. Garage near baseball diamond and conversion of said garage into facility associated with athletics. Many of these items have not been permitted and there are two outstanding notices of violations: PA DEP regarding proper paperwork being submitted for the new field house (Component 2, AA & 43) and request for NPDES permit for the new field house.

Discussions included that for approximately the past 3 years La Plume Township has been requesting a Land Development plan from Keystone College. This includes, but may not be limited to phone calls, e-mails, letters, zoom meetings with members of the college staff and their engineering firm Reilly Assoc. An agreement dated June 15, 2021 between Keystone College and Reilly Associates including items to be addressed along with a time line shared with La Plume Township some time prior to the Planning Commission meeting. The Planning Commission voted to reject the plan as submitted. Apparently, Reilly Associates sent the plan to the Lackawanna County Regional planning Commission instead of having submitted it and having it accepted by La plume Township first. This was evident by a review of the LCRCP that was presented by Reilly Associates.

No further business before the Board, motion was made by Henry. seconded by Wohlken to adjourn the meeting.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Shirley Lewis, Secretary*