

SHERWOOD GREENS ROAD IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE DISTRICT

413-770-1660

Prudential Committee Minutes for November 4 2017

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 AM

Present were Committee members John Kammerman, Terry Hayden, David Edgecomb, Michael Lavery and Margaret Rodriguez. Also present were Kathy Borden, Treasurer; Tom Rock, District Superintendent; and Mary White, Clerk.

Minutes:

The minutes for September and October were reviewed and accepted. There was a question whether the committee accepts Special and Annual meeting minutes. Michael will find out.

Treasurer's Report:

After questions as to when Always Growing payment is due and when Solitude issues their bill, the Treasurer's Report was accepted

Warrant:

The Warrant was signed.

Road Report:

There wasn't much overhanging brush along roads.

We can either use staging for the replacement of the flagpole rope, or the bucket truck offered by Chris Swindlehurst.

The re-bar that was sticking up out of the road near where the old mailboxes were located, has been removed.

On October 29, Jaime says he got a phone call about a tree down on Long Bow West, and tried to call Tom with no success. Tom received no call. While checking the roads, he found and removed a small poplar tree which was possibly damaged when the electric co. was clearing the wires. Ernie's crew arrived and finished cutting up the tree. Tom said that it is a practice of Ernie's to send out a couple of his men to look for, and assess, any damages,

A white birch was removed from Trail Circle ditch.

John asked if the sand barrels were filled and ready for winter. Tom said he had checked some of them, and they looked good. John asked him to check on the others, as this is a top priority.

Tom will put up the fiberglass markers used to identify where rocks are located so that the plows will not hit them.

John will send out a memo reminding residents to identify fence locations for plowers.

The Road Report was accepted.

David asked if we should send out an official thank you to Chris for offering his equipment. We can't do that as we have not been billed. Kathy said that would show favoritism. There was some discussion if Chris's offer is considered a gift. David will contact the Ethics Board to find out.

It was moved and seconded to accept Chris's offer. The vote was four in favor and one opposed.

Lakes Report:

There was no report due to Ken's absence.

Attorney:

David said that at the last meeting we discussed legal fees, and how we came to overrunning the budget, which was voted for at the Annual meeting, by 260 percent. John and Kathy explained that the annual budget is our best guess as to

what will be needed. sometimes the figure is not enough, and sometimes it is more than needed. David asked if we can discuss this situation. He was not at all happy with the quality of Ms. Goodman's work. What she furnished us with was not worth \$240.00/hour, or whatever her fees are. We had sought legal advice on the mosquito control contract. What she furnished us with was marked "confidential", when in actuality, it should be public record. This speaks to the competency of the attorney. Margaret asked what our options as property owners. Was this the only applicant? Terry explained that we had Janet Pumphrey for several years, until we wanted to purchase the property where the mail boxes are. She advised us that since she represented the town, it would be a conflict of interest or her to represent us, she then recommended Michael Consodine to work for us. He could not do it and suggested Elizabeth Goodman. She represented us in the purchase, and we were able to obtain it for the original 2010 offer. She then took us through what the permitted uses would be for the property etc. We were very satisfied with her services. There were no other attorneys willing to represent us. There are very few lawyers locally versed in municipal law. Going forward, we should be more careful in determining whether or not an attorney is necessary.

Since there is nothing contractual coming up right now, we should wait until something new comes up before we consider a different attorney.

Clerk discussion:

John advertised in the Berkshire eagle and country Journal for a new clerk to no avail. Margaret said maybe we should be more specific in our ads, so that the right market is reached. It was also suggested that the county Town Clerk assn. be contacted for interested parties. Also reach out to local people who work for town boards and other districts, and possibly post notices in area town halls.

John's phone number and e-mail address should be included. The question arose about what should be done if someone contracts a district officer other than John. In the future a correspondence item will be included in the agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:22 AM

The next meeting will be held on December 2, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary S. White

District Clerk