

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Independence Township was held on Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at the Independence Township Community Center social hall. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Chairman Dan McLaughlin and the assembly stood for the pledge of allegiance to the United States flag.

ROLL CALL

Present were Supervisors Dan McLaughlin, Wayne Potts and John Fratangeli. Also present were Chief Malobabich, Secretary, Debra Shaffer and Solicitor Curt McMillen.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment on any agenda item.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the November 13th meeting were approved with a motion by W. Potts and second by J. Fratangeli. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The Treasurer’s report and bill list were approved with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by W. Potts. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

The Police, Road and Fire Department monthly reports were accepted with a motion by W. Potts and second by J. Fratangeli. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION #12 OF 2024 – TAYLOR SUBDIVISION PLAN

This plan is taking two existing parcels and moving lot lines to create three parcels. Each parcel has its own existing wells and septic systems on them. The Independence Township Planning Commission recommended approval by letter dated November 21, 2024. J. Fratangeli made a motion to adopt and W. Potts second the motion. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 13 OF 2024 – FINAL 2025 BUDGET

W. Potts made a motion to adopt the 2025 final budget after the public review period as prepared. J. Fratangeli second the motion. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 14 OF 2024 – TAX LEVY

J. Fratangeli made a motion to Adopt the 2025 Tax Levy which leaves the millage rate the same at 1.5919 mills. W. Potts second the motion. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #15 OF 2024 – WAIVER OF 5% PMRS CONTRIBUTION FOR LT. VILLA

W. Potts made a motion to Adopt Resolution #15 of 2024 which waives the required 5% contribution to PMRS for Lt. Villa’s pension. J. Fratangeli second the motion.

Motion carried.

MOTION TO ADOPT AND EXECUTE EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS

J. Fratangeli made a motion to accept and execute the employment agreements for the Police Department for 2025. The contracts remain the same with a 3% pay increase. W. Potts second the motion.

Motion carried.

MOTION TO HAVE MUNICITAX PRINT THE 2025 TOWNSHIP TAX BILLS

W. Potts made a motion to have MunicTAX print the 2025 Township Tax Bills. These bills were previously printed by the County; however, they can no longer accommodate special requests. J. Fratangeli second the motion.

Motion carried.

MOTION TO APPROVE RANGE’S SJ EXPLORATION PAD PERMIT

W. Potts made a motion to approve Range’s permit to contract the SJ Exploration Well Pad on property located on Hookstown Grade Road. J. Frantangeli second the motion.

Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following public announcements were made:

- Township Office Closed December 25 – Christmas
- Township Office Closed January 1 – New Years
- Recycling Weekend, Fri., Jan. 3rd and Sat., Jan. 4th
- Reorganization Meeting – Monday, January 6th @ 4 pm
- Auditor Reorganization Meeting, Tuesday, January 7th @ 5 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Christina Kramer, Community Relations Manager at Range Resources, spoke and gave an overview of the SJ Exploration Well Pad. Also in attendance was **Karl Matz** and **Derek Zofchak** from Range to answer any questions. **Michelle McMichael** of 198A Hookstown Grade Road asked Range if they knew the path of the water line that they planned to use to get water to the SJ Well Pad site. They told her they haven’t done the design yet. She asked if it would be the same as others and come through her property. They said that sounded right and that they would be in contact with her when that time comes. As of now the schedule is construction mid January, verticals in June/July, horizontal August/October and completions April/May 2026. **Barb Hughes** of 141 Patton Lane asked about the trailers. Secretary, Deb Shaffer, told her that the police had checked them out and only one seems to be living in at 124 Patton Lane and photos were taken. A violation letter will be sent certified mail. Chairman Dan McLaughlin announced that there were a few Hopewell Area School Board members, **Annette Miller** and **Anissa Klessner**, in attendance tonight and if anyone wanted to speak to them, they could do so after the meeting. Michelle McMichael spoke and stated that she wanted to have her opinion on the record. She directed the school board members and stated that she was born and has

lived in Independence Township for 47 years and what Mr. Caton did to Dan McLaughlin, Chairman, was disgusting. She stated that Dan has represented Independence Township in every way possible and the disrespect that he was shown should not be tolerated and she will not tolerate it. It was noted that an e-mail was sent inadvertently to Chairman McLaughlin which had many derogatory remarks in it from Mr. Caton. It was sent in error and Mr. Caton had no idea that Chairman McLaughlin received it. The preface of the e-mail was a request to move the beginning of the school year back two days to accommodate all of the Hopewell School District children that had 4-H projects at the Hookstown Fair. Ms. McMichael stated her reasons for her support of the fair being moved.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm with a motion by J. Fratangeli and second by W. Potts
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra J. Shaffer, Secretary/Treasurer