

Robinson Township
Board of Supervisors
Conditional Use Hearing and Regular Monthly Meeting
April 12, 2021
5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Robinson Township Board of Supervisors met on Monday, April 12, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a conditional use hearing followed by ordinary business. Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was conducted. Present at the meeting were Chairman Dave Foley, Vice-Chair Mary Donaldson, Supervisor Chris Amodeo, Solicitor Gretchen Moore, Township Engineer Keith Straight, Township Manager Crystal Brown and Zoning Officer Mark Dorsey.

CONDITIONAL USE HEARING OF RIVENDALE FARMS, LLC FOR SPECIALIZED ANIMAL RAISING AND CARE

The Conditional Use Hearing of application of Robert Hutton, representing Rivendale Farms, LLC, for the purpose of Specialized Animal Raising and Care commenced at 5:30 p.m. Court Reporter Kim Strnisa was present remotely to record proceedings. The project was presented by Solicitor Gretchen Moore, and party joiners were identified. Potential speakers identified themselves and a group swearing-in took place. Bob Hutton presented the project, specifically, a proposed animal rehabilitation facility to care for bears and potentially wolves that cannot live in the wild. It was emphasized that there is no public viewing or exhibiting aspect to this project. It is a private rehabilitation project only. Mr. Hutton was accompanied by Erin Mowatt, a zoological professional, and Adam Guier, a specialist in animal facility construction and operations. Ms. Mowatt will be a permanent on-site resident animal caregiver. The board posed multiple questions to the applicant, exhibits were discussed and examined, the solicitor asked questions, and the public was invited to inquire. Confinement and emergency operations processes were much discussed, and applicant assures that construction of facilities supersedes all requirements and that advanced tracking and supervision will be implemented. Members of the public making inquiries were: Daniel Green, Cathy Lodge, Tonda Amodeo, and Casey Duran. This synopsis is not intended to represent the entirety of the hearing, and a complete transcript is available from the court reporter upon request. The hearing concluded at 7:05 p.m. and the board entered into Executive Session to consult with solicitor. The public meeting resumed at approximately 7:30 p.m.

- PUBLIC DISCUSSION** Chairman Foley asked for public comment on agenda items only. There were no comments.
- MINUTES** Donaldson made a **motion** to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 8, 2021. Seconded by Amodeo.
RCV: Amodeo – Yes, Donaldson – Yes, Foley - Yes
- BILLS AND PAYROLL** Donaldson made a **motion** to authorize payment of the March bills and payroll. Seconded by Amodeo.
RCV: Amodeo – Yes, Donaldson – Yes, Foley - Yes
- CORRESPONDENCE** Donaldson made a **motion** to accept correspondence for March. Seconded by Amodeo.
RCV: Amodeo – Yes, Donaldson – Yes, Foley – Yes
- REPORTS** **Fire Department**-Midway 17 incidents, McDonald 7 incidents.
Police-on file, 35
Zoning-report on file

Animal Control-new officer Dane Culley patrols township, no calls this month.

Supervisors-Donaldson recognized success of Geary Farm event with over 800 attendees at recent Easter egg hunt, also noted recent complaints about water containers that are located in North Fayette Township, mistakenly believed to be Robinson.

Solicitor-Gretchen Moore commented on 3 items of old litigation still in court, no significant changes

Public Works- Foley indicated that road crew will begin spring work: cleaning and preparing for mowing.

Engineer- Redcon Engineering coordinated ADA restroom bid openings and recommends acceptance of bid from low bidder MacBracey, as well as many other day to day matters of the township.

Manager -Brown reported on community recycling event hosted by Max Environmental and read details; her recent certification of notary, and procurement of additional grant funding from the county to pay for the restroom renovation in its entirety.

Donaldson made a **motion** to accept reports. Seconded by Amodeo.

RCV: Amodeo-Yes, Donaldson-Yes, Foley-Yes.

OLD BUSINESS

Donaldson made a **motion** to accept low bid of MacBracey Corporation in the amount of \$99,700.00 for ADA Restroom Renovation project, as recommended by engineer. Seconded by Amodeo.

RCV: Amodeo - Yes, Donaldson - Yes, Foley

Donaldson made a **motion** to accept advance distribution of next cycle of funds from the Redevelopment Authority's Community Development Block Grant. Amount to be received in total approximately \$100,302.50. Seconded by Amodeo.

RCV: Amodeo - Yes, Donaldson - Yes, Foley

NEW BUSINESS

Donaldson made a **motion** to approve Conditional Use application of Rivendale Farms, LLC for Specialized Animal Raising and Care, with conditions set forth by the Board of Supervisors. Specific conditions were read aloud by solicitor and will be conveyed to applicant in writing. Seconded by Amodeo.

RCV: Amodeo - Yes, Donaldson - Yes, Foley

Donaldson made a **motion** to engage in Cooperation Agreement, follow up Indemnification Agreement, and direct manager to compose general letter of support for the Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs, Inc. project as they seek grant funding. Seconded by Amodeo.

RCV: Amodeo - Yes, Donaldson - Yes, Foley

Donaldson made a **motion** to authorize manager Crystal Brown to pursue notary certification for non-vehicular work. The board specifically desires to offer notarial services to the residents of Robinson Township at no charge. Seconded by Amodeo.

RCV: Amodeo - Yes, Donaldson - Yes, Foley

Donaldson made a **motion** to purchase laptops to facilitate supervisor remote participation in meetings and enhance access to township reports and documents, at a cost not to exceed \$2,500.00. Seconded by Amodeo.

RCV: Amodeo - Yes, Donaldson - Yes, Foley

Donaldson made a **motion** to donate annual fee of \$2,000.00 to enable McDonald Police Officer James Kubacki to pursue SWAT certification. Seconded by Amodeo.

RCV: Amodeo - Yes, Donaldson - Yes, Foley

PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF OTHER MATTERS

There was no public discussion of other matters.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Foley adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m. which was seconded by Donaldson.

RCV: Amodeo – Yes, Donaldson – Yes, Foley – Yes

Respectfully submitted: *Crystal Brown*, Manager and Secretary