

**Robinson Township**  
Board of Supervisors  
Regular Monthly Meeting and Public Hearings  
February 12, 2024  
6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Robinson Township Board of Supervisors met on Monday, February 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. for ordinary business and public hearings. Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was conducted. Present at the meeting were Chair Mary Donaldson, Vice-Chair John Zilich, and Supervisor Chris Amodeo. Solicitor Alexis Wheeler, Township Engineer Duncan Nickles, and Recording Secretary Gail Matus were also present.

NOTICE OF EXECUTIVE SESSION ON:

January 14, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION** Chair Donaldson asked for public comment on agenda items only. A question was immediately raised about the proposed regionalization of police services. The Chair asked that this matter be reserved for the end of the meeting.

**MINUTES**

Donaldson made a **motion** to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 2, 2024. Seconded by Zilich.

RCV: Zilich - Yes, Donaldson- Yes, Amodeo- Yes

Donaldson made a **motion** to approve the minutes of the Organizational Meeting of January 2, 2024. Seconded by Zilich.

RCV: Zilich - Yes, Donaldson- Yes, Amodeo- Yes

**BILLS AND PAYROLL** Donaldson made a **motion** to authorize payment of the February bills and payroll. Seconded by Zilich.

RCV: Amodeo- Yes, Donaldson- Yes, Zilich- Yes

**CORRESPONDENCE** Donaldson made a **motion** to accept correspondence for February, four items which she announced out loud. Seconded by Zilich.

RCV: Amodeo- Yes, Donaldson- Yes, Zilich - Yes

**REPORTS**

**Fire Department-** Midway 15 calls, McDonald 7 calls. Attending McDonald firefighter Boggs described the recent purchase of a aerial truck.

**Police-** 95 calls, itemized by Chief Dennis Ahlborn.

**Animal Control-** Dane Culley patrols township, 3 calls this month.

**Supervisors-** Amodeo reported on monitoring traffic and illegal dumping in the Ridge Road vicinity. Zilich gave an update on the Public Works, indicating that plowing had gone smoothly with one minor incident. Donaldson described the newly formed Ranger Nation Day and essay contest, the revival of the Junior Council program and thanked the staff for recently attending PSAT's training. She further described her pride in her daughter's recent entry in a contest on the importance of local government.

**Solicitor-** Alexis Wheeler reported everything was running smoothly throughout the township and continued to work along with day to day general business.

**Engineer**- Duncan Nickles report on file and includes but not limited to: researching various matters, analysis of North Street Bridge, general road inspection with Supervisor Zilich, stormwater mapping, and stormwater inspection pond inspection program.

**Planning Coordinator** – Crystal Brown described her recent activities, including a grant application, PSATs training, and numerous day to day applications of the township.

Donaldson made a **motion** to accept reports. Seconded by Zilich.  
RCV: Amodeo- Yes, Donaldson- Yes, Amodeo- Yes

OLD BUSINESS            No Old Business

MEETING PAUSE FOR COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC HEARINGS AT 6:31 P.M.  
ALL THOSE WHO WOULD POSSIBLY SPEAK WERE SWORN-IN BY THE COURT REPORTER.

SALDO                    This long-term project, which is the development of the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, has been in development by Robinson Township since 2019. It has been widely available and reviewed, and placed on file for public examination according to required guidelines. It was described freshly by Duncan Nickles. Kevin Brett, managing Principal of Lennon Smith Souleret presented two sets of comments for the record, on behalf of clients. Jocelyn Ebert of Imperial Land Corporation made a brief statement. This Hearing closed at 6:45 p.m.

GUARDIAN ANGELS    Applications for both Conditional Use and Land Development were explained at this time. The Conditional Use itself was questioned by the public and solicitor. Wheeler provided explanation regarding Multiple Commercial Uses on One Lot. Kevin Brett, of Lennon Smith Souleret represents the applicant and answered questions. Neil Bossart and another resident in the vicinity questioned the road's durability and protection. Kevin Brett explained activities that result in minimal travel, at this time, at the campus and that further precautions would be put in place if needed. This Hearing closed at 6:56 p.m.

THESE NOTES DO NOT REPRESENT THE TOTALITY OF COMMENT IN THE PUBLIC HEARINGS. OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

RESUME REGULAR MEETING

Donaldson made a **motion** to repeal Ordinance 1-2004, establishing the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance of Robinson Township. Seconded by Zilich.  
RCV: Zilich - Yes, Donaldson- Yes, Amodeo- Yes

Donaldson made a **motion** to approve the adoption of Ordinance 1-2024, the "SALDO". Ms. Wheeler acknowledged the two comment letters received and concurred with engineer Nickles that this version of the SALDO was appropriate for approval at this time, and amendments could be considered at a later date if found to be required. Seconded by Zilich.  
RCV: Zilich - Yes, Donaldson- Yes, Amodeo- Yes

Donaldson made a **motion** to approve the Conditional Use application of the Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs, Inc, for Multiple Commercial Uses on One Lot. Seconded by Zilich.  
RCV: Zilich - Yes, Donaldson- Yes, Amodeo- Yes

Donaldson made a **motion** to approve the indemnification for Washington County to utilize the CDBG Block Grant to execute a demolition project on a blighted property on Robinson Highway. Gail Matus provided additional detail on this subject. Seconded by Zilich.  
RCV: Zilich - Yes, Donaldson- Yes, Amodeo- Yes

Donaldson made a **motion** to authorize Nickles and Brown to attend a meeting of the Midway Boro Council to explain our intergovernmental Comprehensive Plan project. Nickles provided refresher information.. Seconded by Zilich.  
RCV: Zilich - Yes, Donaldson- Yes, Amodeo- Yes

Donaldson made a **motion** to authorize Redcon Engineering to proceed with preliminary study on the repair required on North Street Bridge. Seconded by Zilich.  
RCV: Zilich - Yes, Donaldson- Yes, Amodeo- Yes

Donaldson made a **motion** to reimburse Heroes Supporting Heroes in the amount of \$2,000 for restoration of 8 properties in Robinson Township. Donaldson indicated that the Board would welcome a return visit by the organization to receive updates and a possible further stipend. Seconded by Zilich.  
RCV: Zilich - Yes, Donaldson- Yes, Amodeo- Yes

#### PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY OTHER MATTER

Many questions were raised about the proposed regionalization of police services. Bonnie Moore- questioning high cost (two proposals currently – one being \$341,000.) Our current contract cost is approximately \$111,111. She referred to an item in the report noting that the hosting municipality receives additional funds, Mt. Pleasant in this case. Bob Collins – asked what triggered need, indicating he thinks the police do a very good job, questioning coverage and cost. Jocelyn Ebert – impressed need of coverage to the northern portion of the township. Tonda Amodeo provided a suggestion that in lieu of this change that the township may help the PD directly by increasing our financial support to bolster staffing. John Campbell expressed concern at the distance from the station, proposed to be located in Hickory. Cathy Lodge expressed concerns with the location of the primary station and response time. Chair Mary Donaldson explained a proposed poll created by the township asking specific development and township service questions. Crystal Brown added that this was not yet approved for full release by the Board. This could be accessed online or via a hard copy mailing. A poll question outlines and explains the proposed regionalization. The audience expressed that if any such change would be made that the taxpayers must be thoroughly advised of the details and Ms. Donaldson took note. Solicitor Wheeler summarized by reminding the audience that in December 2023, the Board formally declined to participate in the ongoing police reorganization project, but intended to listen to an informational meeting on February 13, 2024 as a gesture of being good municipal neighbors.

ADJOURNMENT With no further business to come before the Board, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m. which was seconded by Donaldson.

Respectfully submitted: *Crystal Brown*, Acting Recording Secretary