

A G E N D A
Tobyhanna Township
Board of Auditors
Meeting
January 8 2019
6:00 PM

1. Call Meeting to Order: Interim Chair
2. Appoint Chairperson
3. Appoint Secretary
4. Consider the minutes of the January 3, 2018 Board of Auditors Meeting
5. Consider Acceptance of Auditors' Salary
6. Entertain a motion establishing the 2019 Mileage Rate
7. Public Comment
8. Motion to adjourn meeting

Before

THE TOBYHANNA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF AUDITORS

- - -

Reorganizational Meeting

- - -

Tobyhanna Township Municipal Building

105 Government Center Way

Pocono Pines, Pennsylvania, 18350

Tuesday, January 8, 2019, beginning at 6:00 PM

Present:

JULIA HEILAKKA, Interim Chair

TROY COUNTERMAN, Member

DIANE LAKE, Member

DANIEL SERFASS, Member, by phone

Appearances:

JOHN JABLOWSKI, JR.

EDWARD TUTRONE

It is established that DANIEL SERFASS can hear the audience, and the audience can hear DANIEL SERFASS.

JULIA HEILAKKA: So, it's six o'clock, let's call the Tobyhanna Township Board of Auditors to order. Let's start with the Pledge of Allegiance please.

[Pledge of Allegiance is recited.]

JULIA HEILAKKA: Uh, so, I will entertain a motion to appoint a Chairman of the Board of Auditors.

DIANE LAKE: So

TROY COUNTERMAN: Don't matter to me.

DIANE LAKE: Doesn't matter to me either, so Daniel, I'm okay with what you, uh, sent in the email, so I make the-

DANIEL SERFASS: Yeah.

DIANE LAKE: motion-

DANIEL SERFASS: Yeah,

DIANE LAKE: Okay?

DANIEL SERFASS: Yeah, I'm perfectly okay with that, yeah.

DIANE LAKE: It doesn't make a difference, so I make a motion that, uh, Daniel is the, uh, Chairperson.

TROY COUNTERMAN: I'll second that.

JULIA HEILAKKA: I have a motion and a second. Call the vote, Daniel?

DANIEL SERFASS: Uh, all in favor say aye.

DIANE LAKE: Aye.

TROY COUNTERMAN: Aye.

DANIEL SERFASS: Aye. All opposed? The motion carries, the ayes have it.

JULIA HEILAKKA: Okay Daniel-

DANIEL SERFASS: Next-

JULIA HEILAKKA: The meeting is yours.

DANIEL SERFASS: Yeah, I carry the meeting here, correct?

JULIA HEILAKKA: Mhm.

DANIEL SERFASS: Next on the agenda is appointing a secretary. Do we hear any motions to appoint a secretary for the Board?

TROY COUNTERMAN: Oh, I'll appoint Diane.

DANIEL SERFASS: And I will second that motion. All in favor of the motion say aye.

TROY COUNTERMAN: Aye.

DANIEL SERFASS: Aye.

DIANE LAKE: Aye.

DANIEL SERFASS: All opposed? The ayes have it and the motion carries. Next on the agenda is the minutes from the 2018 Board of Auditors meeting and the acceptance of those minutes. Were there any discrepancies?

TROY COUNTERMAN: No, not that I see.

DIANE LAKE: I wasn't there, so whatever is there, uh, looked okay to me.

TROY COUNTERMAN: I'll make a motion.

DANIEL SERFASS: Okay, then-

TROY COUNTERMAN: I'll make a motion to, uh, accept the minutes as written for January 3, 2018.

DANIEL SERFASS: I will second that. Okay, we will put this to a vote. All in, all in favor of accepting the minutes say aye.

DIANE LAKE: Aye.

TROY COUNTERMAN: Aye.

DANIEL SERFASS: Aye. All opposed? The ayes have it and the motions carries. The minutes are adopted. Next is considering the acceptance of our auditors' salaries. Troy, I know you are familiar, after review of last year's minutes, that you are quite aware of technically how we are paid.

TROY COUNTERMAN: Mhm.

DANIEL SERFASS: So what I was actually considering was, even though it's a slight pay, what I was thinking and considering was all of us, however much it is, we not only forfeit it, but we make sure it actually goes into a trust and we also coordinate with the Board of Supervisors for however long this meeting shall take, they would also donate that, their allotment of that salary from that time frame as well, and then we will just, the Board of Supervisors can then decide which organization or charity they would then donate that amount to.

TROY COUNTERMAN: So, I understand what you're saying, so um, how do we know, how do we know as this Board of Auditors, where our stuff's going to? We're, we're two separate organizations, so should we have some say into where it goes?

DANIEL SERFASS: If there's any organizations, we can share, I believe if I'm correct, someone please correct me, if we make a notation stating that unless it goes to this, then it can't even be used.

TROY COUNTERMAN: Correct.

DIANE LAKE: Okay.

TROY COUNTERMAN: So –

DANIEL SERFASS: Okay.

TROY COUNTERMAN: So the, I don't have a problem with it.

DIANE LAKE: Right, it's not very much either.

TROY COUNTERMAN: No, I mean it's peanuts basically, um, but if it's an organization that maybe we don't want to send it to, I think we should have, if they, if they want to do that, then I think they should generate a list of charitable organizations and we should come to a, uh, mutual agreement.

DANIEL SERFASS: Okay.

TROY COUNTERMAN: John Jablowski, hold, raising his hand.

JOHN JABLOWSKI, JR.: I just, uh, point of reference, that two supervisors right now don't take their salary, so um, it's not that they are contributing it to any organization, they're just not taking it. Uh, and I think it's two, might be three, but I know it's at least two, uh, that don't take any salary so just as part of a clarification. Um, the other item that, that a very great idea, I certainly support as well, um, just one word of caution I guess is that, uh, since it's \$200 each, that's \$600 total, um, that there's a lot of worthwhile organizations. Some are in a position that they might not get anything and they might be unhappy that they didn't get anything and this one did, and you don't sort of want to be nice here, then kind of over here not give anything to anybody and then they get, uh

TROY COUNTERMAN: Right.

JOHN JABLOWSKI, JR.: So. Just FYI, but as far as the board itself, you got two uh, don't take any.

TROY COUNTERMAN: Ed.

EDWARD TUTRONE: Can I make a suggestion? If you're gonna do that, keep it in the township. Give, uh, if it's two hundred dollars, is that what you guys get?

TROY COUNTERMAN: No, we get ten dollars an hour.

EDWARD TUTRONE: Ten, ten dollars an hour?

TROY COUNTERMAN: Mhm.

DIANE LAKE: Yeah. That's what I'm saying 'cause it can't be very much.

TROY COUNTERMAN: Right.

DIANE LAKE: But I was thinking the same thing that it should stay in the township.

EDWARD TUTRONE: And put to-

DIANE LAKE: Yeah, you know-

EDWARD TUTRONE: to emergency services.

DIANE LAKE: Yes.

EDWARD TUTRONE: One, each one of you give one to fire, police, and EMS. If that's what you want to do.

DIANE LAKE: Uh, yeah I was thinking the same thing, it should stay here definitely.

EDWARD TUTRONE: Well, and the other thing I can say is put, put it in the donation line item in the budget of-

JOHN JABLOWSKI, JR.: It's only going to be thirty dollars.

EDWARD TUTRONE: Yeah.

DIANE LAKE: Yeah.

EDWARD TUTRONE: Yeah, put it in the donation line item budget of the township, that's what the other two supervisors did. Uh, they gave their money to that line item so it could be donated to whoever the township, when someone asked for a donation, whether it be the library, the Boy Scouts, the police, the fire, EMS, above and beyond what they get out of the regular budget that they, they give them out of that. It's an extra fifty dollars to add to that.

JOHN JABLOWSKI, JR.: Yeah.

TROY COUNTERMAN: Oh, can you hear what they're saying, Dan?

DANIEL SERFASS: Somewhat, Troy. What exactly was that about a donation –

TROY COUNTERMAN: Yeah, uh-

DANIEL SERFASS: About a donation line item?

TROY COUNTERMAN: EDWARD TUTRONE, um, is an audience member here, and, and he suggested that if we do this, to keep it within the township, um, and to maybe possibly look at the emergency services if um, if the three of us are gonna donate our salary, um, there's three organizations in here. There's the fire company, the ambulance, and the police, and I know it would only be ten bucks a piece, but, um, JOHN JABLOWSKI, JR. told us that two supervisors now do not take a salary. So, um, there's probably not going to be anything coming out of them, so that leaves them three more, so, um;

DIANE LAKE: And they put it in a line item of donation and then anytime someone uh, comes to the township meeting and asks for a donation, say the library, the Boy Scouts, or whatever, uh, that they have that money then to draw from to make the donation.

EDWARD TUTRONE: That, that-

DANIEL SERFASS: Okay, so-

EDWARD TUTRONE: The supervisors, that is what the two supervisors-

DIANE LAKE: That's what they do, so-

EDWARD TUTRONE: They put their salary to.

TROY COUNTERMAN: So basically, Dan, instead of taking the salary that they get for the year, they put it in a donation line item in the township budget, so anybody that comes and asks for any kind of money, that's the line item that they pull the donation from.

DANIEL SERFASS: Okay.

TROY COUNTERMAN: So I'm okay with that, I mean, um, I'll make a motion to forego our salary and give it to what, what is it John, the donation line item?

JOHN JABLOWSKI, JR.: The contribution.

TROY COUNTERMAN: The, the line item contribution, donation contribution, um, in the township budget, uh, for 2019.

DANIEL SERFASS: I will second that motion.

DIANE LAKE: I accept.

DANIEL SERFASS: Kay, we will put it to a vote, all in favor say aye?

DIANE LAKE: Aye.

TROY COUNTERMAN: Aye.

DANIEL SERFASS: Aye. All opposed, no? The ayes have, the motion carries. Moving on to the agenda. Next is the-are entertaining a motion establishing the 2019 mileage rate. We all should have gotten that, it's the published IRS standards for 2019.

TROY COUNTERMAN: Mhm.

DANIEL SERFASS: Fifty-eight cents per mile for business miles driven, twenty cents for medical, fourteen cents in service and charitable.

TROY COUNTERMAN: Mhm.

DIANE LAKE: Yes.

DANIEL SERFASS: I will make a motion to adopt the same mileage rates that the IRS has published for 2019 for Tobyhanna Township standards.

DIANE LAKE: I'll second it.

TROY COUNTERMAN: I have a question. Are we guaranteed that that rate's gonna stay the same for the year?

JOHN JABLOWSKI, JR.: IRS can, uh.

TROY COUNTERMAN: John?

DANIEL SERFASS: [unintelligible]

JOHN JABLOWSKI, JR.: The IRS can change at any time.

TROY COUNTERMAN: That's why I'm, that's why I'm going with this question. Um, I, I understand and I agree with both you guys about setting that rate there, why don't we leave it, why don't we make the motion, um, to adopt the Internal Revenue Service, uh, reimbursement rates? So that way there, in the future, if they lower or raise it within 2019, it automatically goes into effect.

DANIEL SERFASS: Okay.

TROY COUNTERMAN: So, to, to do that correctly, Dan, you have to um, reword your motion.

DANIEL SERFASS: Okay. Do we technically still have to vote, given that fact that we already seconded the motion?

JOHN JABLOWSKI, JR.: You could amend the motion.

TROY COUNTERMAN: Well, you could call the vote and –

DIANE LAKE: Or-

TROY COUNTERMAN: It could die for lack of vote.

DIANE LAKE: Or amend your-

TROY COUNTERMAN: Or just amend you motion, yeah. It's easier just to amend your motion.

DANIEL SERFASS: Okay. All right, I will then move to amend the motion that the Tobyhanna Township's reimbursement rate will fluctuate in accordance to what the IRS will publish throughout the 2019 year.

TROY COUNTERMAN: I'll second that.

DIANE LAKE: Okay.

DANIEL SERFASS: Okay, we'll put it to a vote. All in favor say aye.

DIANE LAKE: Aye.

TROY COUNTERMAN: Aye.

DANIEL SERFASS: Aye. All opposed, no? The ayes have it and the motions carries. Next we will then open the floor to public comment.

DIANE LAKE: Anybody have anything? Public comment?

TROY COUNTERMAN: No, I just have a, uh, question. Our minutes, do they um, do they get disseminated to anybody if they request it prior to them being approved?

JULIA HEILAKKA: Uh, they can be if, it depends on who it is. For you guys, I can just give it to you. If it's a member of the public, they technically have to review a right to know request, and then according to that end of the law, I just have to make sure that they say draft and I can send them off.

TROY COUNTERMAN: Okay, just a question I had.

DANIEL SERFASS: Okay.

TROY COUNTERMAN: I'm good.

DANIEL SERFASS: Anybody else? Okay, before I make a motion to adjourn here, I just wanted to uh, thank you guys for your help in regards to uh, us adopting the motion for the auditor's salary, it kind of was a small thing I wanted to plug in there just to make sure that the money goes somewhere useful and charitable in a sense to me.

TROY COUNTERMAN: Mhm.

DIANE LAKE: Mhm.

DANIEL SERFASS: So, thank everybody in the room that was contributing to those ideas as well, and now at this time I will move to adjourn the meeting.

TROY COUNTERMAN: I'll make a motion to adjourn.

DANIEL SERFASS: All in favor say aye.

DIANE LAKE: Aye.

TROY COUNTERMAN: Aye.

DANIEL SERFASS: Aye. All opposed, no? The ayes have, the motions carries, the meeting is adjourned. Thank you, everybody.

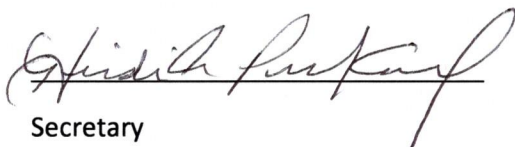
TROY COUNTERMAN: Thank you.

DIANE LAKE: Your welcome, thank you.

Meeting adjourned at 6:11PM.

Minutes recorded by JULIA HEILAKKA

Respectfully submitted:


Secretary