**Watts Township Board of Supervisors**
**08/05/26**

Present: Chairman, Vice Chairman Darren Miller by phone, Supervisor Joel Deaven, Secretary/Treasurer Carol White, Engineer/Zoning Officer Jerry Spease and approximately 25 visitors.

Raudensky called the business meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance, He asked that Deaven run the meeting. Deaven pointed out that there was a representative from the Perry county times as well as a resident recording while in attendance. He also reported that they had an executive session on July 29th to review legal matters at the township office.
Raudensky made a motion to approve the minutes from 07/01/2. Miller seconded and the motion carried.

Solicitor Fenicle gave an update on the pending legal matters. He was able to acquire Salsman and Hughs for the township's Data center legal matters. They do a lot of municipal work. The zoning hearing board voted that the appeal was not timely therefore the township's appeal was denied. There will be a written decision within days from the oral decision. It would be subject to appeal by the township as well as the residents that were represented in that hearing. The declaratory Judgement case with the Perry County court is on hold as they were waiting for the Zoning hearing board decision. Salsman and Huges will be assisting with that case. There are 2 Curative amendments filed with the first being a protective Curative amendment that was in place in case the Zoning hearing board voted in favor of the township. The second is contesting the Ordinance that was voted in. It is saying the ordinance is so restrictive that it is exclusionary. There are pending meetings for those Curative Amendments on August 18th and August 27th at 6pm at the Watts Buffalo Community Center. MRPI has filed another legal action with the Perry County Courts in the last few days and it is a land use appeal. They say the public hearing was not properly advertised and therefore the ordinance is not valid.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**
Lloydd Louden: He feels the Zoning Hearing Board should have made a decision on both questions in the hearing. Solicitor Fenicle let him know that he can't really answer his legal questions and things will move forward once we get the written decision back.
Steven Conklin Jr: Stated he agreed with Mr Louden and thinks the old secretary should have been questioned as well the The MRPI lawyer who wrote up the letter in question and met with the Zoning officer back in 2024. He also wanted to know why the township was not advised to invoke their own Curative Amendment when they started working on the Data Center ordinance which would have possibly kept MRPI from submitting their land development application?
Roxan Harpster: Wanted more info on the most recent legal filing that was mentioned. The Solicitor clarified a few points on what was submitted.
Dr Daniel Welliver: Feels maybe we can use similar grounds to reverse the warehouse height increase a few years ago. He wanted to make sure that the plan submissions are being acted on in a timely manner. Solicitor Fenicle clarified that the Plans would be reviewed at the upcoming Planning Commission meeting next week. The secretary shared that currently they were only going to be looking at the warehouse plans at that meeting as the Data center was given an extension to October. At least the warehouse plans would be looked at and the representative from HRG would be in attendance.
**NEW BUSINESS:** The Supervisors reviewed and the possible amendments made by other townships included in the Picture Perry Plans. Raudensky made a motion to approve the amendments presented, Miller seconded and the motion carried.
**OLD BUSINESS:** Still working on getting the new plow truck.
**SECRETARY**: The secretary asked to attend a class from PSATS on preparing the budget as she will be doing this for the first time as well as one on the subdivision review process. The costs are $60 and $25 for a total of $85. Raudensky made the motion to approve that cost by the township and have her attend those classes. Miller Seconded and the motion carried. She shared that she was working on one RTK request.
**ZONING OFFICER:**.Issued 1 Zoning permit for an addition to a structure at 101 River Mist Blvd.
**ENGINEER/ACT 537:** Mr Spease attended a meeting on the new proposed regulations from DEP for on-lot sewage facilities. DEP will possibly make some changes after seeing comments from their advisory committee. It will then be open to public comment. This could affect everyone with an on-lot septic system and people need to make their comments heard once it opens up.
**FIRE COMPANY**: Financial Statement was received for review.

**EPREMA Report:** Meeting was held July 27th but the Chair was in the hospital that night so not much was done. They are still waiting for him to purchase solar lights for the containers as well as an inventory list to start purchasing items to fill the containers. The next meeting will the the 4th Monday in September at 7pm.
**ROAD MASTER:** Working on Circle rd installing pipes and boxes before school starts.
**PLANNING COMMISSION:** Meeting August 12th, 7pm

**PUBLIC COMMENT**
Sabrina Krupps: Had questions on what the Planning Commission does. The Secretary shared that the PC only can advise the board of supervisors and the board is the one who approves or denies the Land development applications. She also clarified on the timelines for submissions.
Steven Conklin: Wanted to know what the process is to replace the Zoning officer.

Deaven shared some of the concerns the board has about all the legal issues. They want to hear what the people have to say and the direction they want to go with how far to fight these things. But, they also have to look at how much money will this take? Should they use all the money the township has and then go bankrupt over this? Can they still keep the roads plowed and fixed if they use all the money on legal matters?
Justin Mazero: Feels the residents are wanting to help, they are not sure what the township needs help with.
There was some back and forth from several residents on possible things they could do or check on. Some people shared that they wanted the township to go bankrupt if that was what it takes to fight a data center. One resident asked what the end result was that people wanted to see. The township can't by law refuse to allow the data center to be built. With that being the case what are they fighting? Some said the size of a facility.
Carol White: Shared her thoughts on what she sees happening and doesn't want the township to go bankrupt with the end result being the same.
Dr Daniel Welliver: Feels that the township should go on the offensive in dealing with MRPI.
Joe Gross: Agrees with possibly challenging the warehouse height change from the past. Is not sure MRPI is being honest in their ordinance included with their Curative Amendments. Feels maybe the township should go bankrupt and allow the state to take over.
Darren Miller gave some info on what other things would come into play if ACT47 was enacted. As it's possible township supervisors could be sued for people being harmed if the township can't take care of roads and things.
Brian Reifsnyder: Wonders if there could be some kind of legal defence fund set up with multiple municipalities contributing and utilizing it for help with legal matters.
Guest: shared that people who are good at research are willing to help with whatever the township needs.
Sussan Fulmer: Wondered if the newspaper can share that donations could be made to the township lawyers for the township legal fees.
More discussion was had between residents on this issue.

BILLS: Motion was made to pay all bills and any bills that come due before the next meeting by Raudensky, Seconded by Deaven, The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12pm by a motion by Raudensky, Seconded by Deaven, the motion carried.