

**SUSSEX COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Board of Supervisors' Meeting

April 25, 2018- 4:30 PM

District Office- 186 Halsey Road, Hampton Township, Sussex County, NJ  
(Newton, NJ 07860)

**SUPERVISORS PRESENT:** Matthew Fox, Natalie Burger and Richard Vohden

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**SUPERVISORS ABSENT:** Phil Deacon

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**OTHERS PRESENT:** Frank Minch; Dan Mull, District Conservationist-USDA-NRCS,  
Joe Retz, Builder

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Chairman Fox called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. declaring that adequate notice had been provided in accordance with the NJ Open Public Meetings Act.

**FLAG SALUTE:** The members joined in a salute to the flag.

**ROLL CALL:** A call of the roll showed that Mrs. Burger, Mr. Fox, and Mr. Vohden were present. A quorum was established.

**MEETING OPENED TO PUBLIC:** As Joe Retz was present to discuss his concerns the meeting was immediately opened to the public. Mr. Retz had called and spoke with Mr. Fox earlier in the month expressing concerns with the fees charged by the district. Mr. Fox had invited Mr. Retz to the meeting to discuss his concerns. Mr. Retz stated that he is a builder of single family or duplex homes in Sussex County. He stated that the fees of Sussex County were higher than other districts. His examples were New York and Pennsylvania. Mr. Fox and Mr. Vohden both expressed understanding of his concern but pointed out that all states and counties have different expenses to cover and that he is not comparing apples to apples. Mr. Minch informed him that he would be able to request audits of his projects to have a further understanding of how his fees were spent. Mr. Retz final comment were that he wants the fees lowered. Mr. Retz then left the meeting and the meeting.

**SSCC REPORT:** Mr. Minch attended a two-day seminar the Northeast Conservation Partnership summit. The goal of the summit was to identify; what we do well, areas of need, and improving communication between states. They are waiting for a summary report to move forward.

Mr. Minch indicated that they are still working on the Soil Compaction compliance to determine what our inspectors' roles will be regarding inspection requirements.

The state results are not yet in for the poster contest, so it was decided to wait until we had determined whether any Sussex County participants were chosen to advance before returning the posters.

The Envirothon is being hosted by Cumberland/Salem this year. There are items missing from the Envirothon trunk. Mrs. Burger recommended that Mr. Minch get a listing of missing items and then come back with a request for their replacement.

**COMPUTER/PHONES:** Mr. Fox informed the board that the computer and cell phones for the district were in serious need of upgrading. Mr. Vohden made a motion to get quotes and have the computers and cell phones upgraded as soon as we hire a new manager. Mrs. Burger seconded, All in Favor.

**Agriculture-NRCS:**

Mr. Mull indicated that there was an ongoing problem with a single-family Farm that has an NRCS Wetland Easement on the Farm. He had to recuse himself from the matter but wanted to make the district aware of the ongoing concern. A neighbor had filled in over the easement during construction. A plan needs to be created to get all the parties together to resolve the issue. There is currently a 12-foot vertical bank that is not stabilized. Mr. Minch will visit and review the situation.

**Bond Extension for YMCA Addition:**

An extension was requested of the bond for 30 days for 277 Lackawanna Drive, Byram for the YMCA addition due to delays from inclement weather. Mr. Vohden made the motion to extend, Mr. Fox seconded, All in Favor.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion was made by Mr. Vohden, Mr. Fox seconded, All in favor to move to Executive session to discuss hiring a new manager.

A motion was made by Mr. Vohden, Mr. fox seconded, All in Favor to return to regular session.

Mrs. Burger made a motion to table the decision of hiring a new manager until we receive additional information from the state to satisfy their concerns regarding allocation of the hourly wage. Mr. Fox seconded, All in Favor.

Mr. Vohden made a motion to hold a special meeting once the information needed was received. Mr. Fox seconded the motion, All in Favor.

Mrs. Burger made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Vohden seconded. All in Favor.