**West Penn Township Board of Supervisors**

**27 Municipal Road**

**New Ringgold, PA 17960**

**Phone (570)386-4507 Fax (570)386-5851**

**Regular 9AM Monthly Meeting**

**Monday, September 16, 2019**

**Present at the Meeting**

**Tony Prudenti – Chairman Katie Orlick - Secretary**

**Tim Houser – Vice-Chairman Paul Datte – Solicitor**

**Ted Bogosh III – Supervisor Jan Miller – Lehigh Engineering, LLC**

**Karen Wittig – Treasurer**

**I. General**

**A.** Anthony Prudenti called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance & Introductions at 9:05AM.

**B.** Approval of Monthly Bills

Chairman called for a motion to approve our monthly bills. Tim Houser made the motion. Ted Bogosh III seconded the motion. Chairman said monthly bills would be paid.

Chairman called for a motion to disperse the Fire Relief Money of $29,139.09.

Ted Bogosh III said Mr. Chairman can we back up to the first Agenda item. Chairman said ok.

Ted Bogosh III said can we take a vote on it? Tim Houser said a vote on the monthly bills? Ted Bogosh III said; yes. Chairman said I thought we did it. Ted Bogosh III said I heard a first & a second. I didn’t hear a... Tim Houser said ok. All in favor and I thought you said that. Chairman said yeah the “I”s have it. Ted Bogosh III said ok. I didn’t hear that my apologies. Chairman said no problem.

Chairman called for a motion to disperse the Fire Relief Money of $29,139.09 to the West Penn Township Fire Co. #1 Relief Association. Chairman asked if anyone had any questions and if everyone is good with it. Tim Houser did not have any questions. Mr. Houser did say the Fire Company submitted their annual audit & everything looked good. Ted Bogosh III said the Fire Company is up to date now. Tim Houser made the motion to disperse the Fire Relief Money of $29,139.09.

Ted Bogosh III seconded the motion. Chairman said all in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

**II. Public Comment on Agenda Items – None**

**III. Land Use** – None

**IV. Old Business**

**A.** Chairman asked Paul Datte if he spoke to Duane Schwicker of East Penn about the Andreas Sewage. Paul Datte said he did speak to Mr. Schwicker & said he is willing & has the capacity to take the Andreas sewage as long as we can get it to him. Paul Datte said as far as his capacity & his treatment system he has it & he is prepared to take the sewage from Andreas. Chairman had questions about it. Chairman questioned the distance between the Township line & his system. Paul Datte wanted to know if the Chairman is referring to the terms of costs or jurisdiction. Chairman is interested in how far his system is from our Township Line. Another concern the Chairman had is with the costs of having a private sewage facility and having the Township responsible for setting it up. That alone can be a lot of expense. The Chairman asked if we would be able to get reimbursed or compensated for the money the Township would invest to run the line to his facility.

Paul Datte said He does not think Mr. Schwicker is looking at this as a benefit to himself but he thinks Mr. Schwicker is looking at it as a way to help the Township. Mr. Schwicker will have to figure out what to charge & the Township will have to figure out type of structure to do it. Paul Datte said the Township is basically eliminating the obligation of having to build a treatment facility. Paul Datte said the bigger concern is how much it is going to cost to set up some kind of collection system and send a line from the system to his sewage plant. Chairman asked Paul Datte where we go from here. Paul Datte said you would have to ask the Engineer to give some type of a feasibility study & cost estimate. Attorney Datte said it would be determining the costs & the amount of users & if those users can pay charges to cover their treatment. Other costs would be financing the system & have the ability to make repairs on the system going forward. Tim Houser asked would everyone be required to hook up to the treatment plant with it being a private facility. Paul Datte said yes it would most likely have to be mandatory. Chairman asked if someone wanted to fix their own system, can they do some type of development agreement? Would they have to hook up even if they just put in a new system? Paul Datte said yes that is where the holding tank ordinance comes in. The property owner can temporarily fix their system for half the money with a holding tank with anticipation that they will eventually have to hook up to a main system.

Ted Bogosh III said since this is going into the adjacent community and there may be homes from the East Penn along that route, we should see if they would want to hook up. Paul Datte said he said the more people that would hookup the cost/person would be reduced. Paul Datte said we would have to talk to the adjacent community; they may have to amend their Act 537 Plan to accommodate all of this. Attorney Datte said we may need an inter-municipal agreement with that community. Paul Datte suggested we reach out to the other community because we do not know what may be involved on the East Penn side. Chairman asked if we know who the SEO is for East Penn. Chairman asked the Secretary to reach out to West Penn Twp. SEO Bill Brior and ask him to reach out to East Penn’s SEO and find out what plans they have with their Act 537. Ted Bogosh III suggested we contact East Penn’s BOS. Paul Datte said we should start by getting a cost estimate first because there will be a significant expense connected with this project. We would have to see if it was even feasible or realistic to the Township. Ted Bogosh III asked if we got any other information about the High Tec system and if DEP approved anything yet. Chairman asked secretary to ask the SEO if any new DEP approved single family systems are available. Paul Datte believes the costs would not be feasible for hooking up only 17 homes. Tim Houser suggested we contact Mr. Schwicker to see if he had a cost estimate of how much it cost him to put the facility in his development. Chairman asked the BOS who do they suggest should call Mr. Schwicker? Attorney Datte suggested we contact East Penn and let them know we are kicking around the idea for sewage treatment. Tim Houser will contact one or two of East Penn’s Board members that he is familiar with about the sewage issue.

**B.** Chairman would like to know from Attorney Datte if the Township could get out of a line painting contract with a company that has not responded to our phone calls. Road Master said we initialed the contract but we did not have a completion date on the contract of when we wanted the work done by. Paul Datte recommends we talk to John Davis to see what the Township can do.

**C.** Chairman wanted to discuss the FEMA Appeal process with Attorney Datte. Attorney Datte said the FEMA appeal process is a 90 day period beginning August 15th, 2019 – November 13th, 2019. The deadline to file an appeal is November 13, 2019. Attorney Datte said the way it works is the citizens in the Twp. comes to us, if their property contradicts what is on flood plain map. We can take one of two approaches. 1. We can pass the information along to FEMA and they would consider it before they fully adopt the plan or 2. We can take a formal appeal through the Twp. Attorney Datte recommends the Twp. should review the FEMA maps in case we see any errors. If the Twp. is going to do a formal appeal, we should take action by our October meeting. Chairman said we had one resident by the last name of Troxell, come forward about the changes with the flood plain. Chief Johnson was going to contact that resident to find out how involved they are willing to get. Chairman suggested Chief Johnson speak to Christine Troxell at Thursday’s meeting. Chief Johnson said he was going to contact her to find out what she has to support her case.

**V. New Business - NONE**

**VI. Business from Anyone on the Board**

1. Blue Mountain Drive – Chairman said we talked with our engineer to come up with a plan to get an HOP with Penn DOT; it would be approx. $1500. Chairman wanted to make a recommendation to square up the side of the intersection almost making like a “safety lane”.

Tim Houser said like correcting the drainage problem at the intersection. Chairman said that is part of it. Penn DOT said if you try to correct the problem & the truck still cannot make the swing the whole plan would be “x” and everything would be off the table. Ted Bogosh III said if we do paint the lines we would run into a site distance problem which SR 309 has a site distance problem. Ted Bogosh III suggested draining the water & fixing the shoulder up is the best way to go. Jan Miller said Lehigh was going to prepare a plan just for Blue Mtn. & exclude SR309. Jan Miller said for the $1500 they were going to propose a concept plan for shifting Blue Mtn. Dr. over & shifting the alignment. Ms. Miller said if SR309 is an issue down the road we can deal with that then. Ted Bogosh III suggests since we are not dealing with Penn DOT our Road Dept. is more than capable of fixing the issue.

Chairman said if we don’t have to deal with Penn DOT; we don’t have to deal with the engineer.

Chairman asked Clint Schock to get a cost estimate to improve Blue Mtn. Dr.

Matt Bailey asked that we should do some kind of subdivision of the property being donated.

Chairman said it would be a deed of dedication. Attorney Datte said we would have to get the land surveyed and write up a new legal description then the property owner would sign off on it. It would be recorded then the Township would take it over. Chairman asked the BOS if we can have the land surveyed. Chairman recommends we have a Supervisor, Road Master & the Engineer go out with the landowner to figure out what area we can have to make this plan work. Attorney Datte suggested we put stakes in the area to help guide the surveyor. Chairman said keep in mind there is a site distance problem there. Ted Bogosh III said we really can’t change the site distance problem. The Road Master said we may be able to brush cut back to help with site distance. Road Master Clint Shock said as long as we don’t pave there we will not need an HOP. Tim Houser asked Clint Schock to meet Wednesday late afternoon.

1. Chairman discussed the Secretary’s Computer Hard Drive which went down and it needs to be replaced. Chairman said we had Kenny Dunkleberger look at it. The cost will be at least $1300 for a new Hard Drive. Tim Houser made the motion to purchase a computer hard drive for $1300. Ted Bogosh III seconded the motion. Motion was carried. 3-0
2. **Website Minutes**

Chairman suggested to the BOS that they consider taking the approved minutes off our website. Chairman suggested that if someone would like to review any minutes they can come into the Township after they are approved and review them. Chairman said it can save time and keep residents a little more current because they wouldn’t have to wait until they were uploaded on the website.

1. Chairman also suggested to the BOS that the complaint forms on our website should be physically handed in with a signature at the Township and not sent electronically. When the complaint forms are emailed electronically they usually end up in the secretary’s spam folder and they would never get addressed. Chairman asked Attorney Datte if that is something we can do. Attorney said yes it is whatever procedure the Township wants to follow. Chairman called for a motion to change the procedure of emailing complaint forms over electronically. You can still download the complaint form but you would physically have to bring it to the Township with signature in order the complaint to be addressed. Tim Houser made the motion. Ted Bogosh III seconded the motion. Motion was carried. 3-0
2. **Intersection of Blue Mtn. Dr.** – Discussed previously in the meeting.
3. **Money for School Security System**

Chairman spoke to someone on the School Board and asked about the security system. The Board member said they were not going with the active shooter detection system instead the School Board would like to redo the entrance of the West Penn Elementary. Chairman wasn’t sure if the money the Township designated had to go to that particular system. The Chairman asked the Secretary to review the minutes to see what we actually designated the $16K towards. The minutes stated the $16K can be used for security purposes at West Penn Elementary. The School Board will be sending us a letter to release the $16K to them to improve their security at West Penn Elementary.

Tim Houser & Ted Bogosh III thought we were supposed to review what system the WP Elementary was looking to install.

The Chairman asked the secretary how it was worded in the minutes. The secretary said it was in the minutes on two separate occasions one said to add $16K to our budget for security at the school. The other noted adding $16K to our budget for security measures for West Penn Elementary. Chairman said that the School Board will be sending a letter requesting the funds of $16K to be release.

 Mr. Bogosh III said we do a lot of patrols around the school. Mr. Bogosh III was going to suggest we use that money for additional support of our police department for more patrols. Chairman suggested we talk to the Chief about the Security and see how he wants to handle it.

Ted Bogosh III asked the Secretary how difficult it is to put the minutes on the website. Katie Orlick said I have to collect the information and send it over to the website to be uploaded. It does take time but it is not difficult. Ted Bogosh III said he does not see a reason to take the minutes off the website. It is only a few extra steps. Ted Bogosh III said a lot of our residents look at the minutes on line. Chairman asked the secretary to see if we can see how many people access our website for the minutes.

**VII. Correspondence**

1. Chairman announced the West Penn Townships Lions Club & Andreas Sporting Club would like to request SR895 in the Village of Andreas be closed from 7PM until the end of the parade. (Approx. 1 hr.) Chairman said he will talk to the Chief about that and he is aware of it.
2. Tamaqua Borough would like to request assistance from the West Penn Fire Police to help with their Halloween Parade on Tuesday, October 22 @ 7PM with a rain date of Wednesday, October 23rd @ 7PM.
3. Reminder Zoning Update Committee is scheduled for Monday, September 23, 2019 @ 7PM at the Annex.
4. The Comprehensive Plan Advisory Meeting is canceled for tonight. The meeting will be rescheduled on Monday, September 30, 2019 @ 7PM at the Annex.
5. Planning Meeting for Tuesday, September 24, 2019 is canceled, No Plans Submitted.
6. Schuylkill County Fall Clean Up - October 10-12, 2019. Participation forms have to be in by September 26, 2019.

**VIII. Public Comment on General Items**

**Carl Greve** – said he overheard a conversation about why do we have to support the school district & give them $16K for security. When we pay taxes, shouldn’t the money come from that? Chairman believes we are all in it together & we are talking about safety for our children. The majority of students that go to West Penn Elementary are West Penn Township residents. If we can make it safer in any way for our students even if it comes out of our budget we should do so. Tim Houser said when this first started we were looking into a system that would alert our police which would give better response time. The response time is critical in a situation like this. It is for the safety for everyone involved. Tim Houser said it is money well spent to protect the kids.

**Matt Bailey** asked about the system. Chairman said the School District plans to redo the main entrance and make it more secure instead of installing the intruder detection system.

**Dave Pflueger** – Mr. Pflueger does not want his tax money going to the school district. He said he pays enough in taxes.

Mr. Pflueger asked the BOS if the Township was going to bail out the Andreas area with their sewage problem.

Mr. Pfleuger wanted to know if the BOS was going to use his tax money to that too. Mr. Pfluegar said he paid $18K for a sand mound. Attorney Datte said if a system is instituted down in Andreas the people will have to pay for it. The Township may have to put the initial money in to get it started but the residents that are connected to it will pay for it. If the Township does an investigation and determines nothing can be done there then those fees would be dispersed throughout the Twp. If it can be fixed the users are the ones that ultimately pay for it.

Chairman introduced Larry Wittig Chairman of the Tamaqua School Board who joined the meeting. Chairman said to Mr. Wittig, previously in the meeting the BOS discussed the $16K that was donated to the school district to update security at the West Penn Elementary. Chairman said the discussion came about when some people questioned why we are donating money to the school district when we pay taxes. Chairman said we donated the $16K because it is for security for our school and the majority of those students are residents of the Twp.

Larry Wittig asked the Chairman if he was looking for a comment of what we are going to spend the $16k on. Chairman said; yes. Mr. Wittig said we engaged in a feasibility study in part of the vulnerability of West Penn School. Mr. Wittig said the school was built in 1958 and the entrance way is all glass. There is a third grade literally right around the corner of the entrance. Mr. Wittig said the early detection unit would be pointless down at the WP Elementary because if a shot was fired to get in, it may be too late.

Mr. Wittig said in terms of prioritizing funds, securing the entrance would be it. The School District appreciates the money and it should be done within the fiscal year. Ted Bogosh III asked Mr. Wittig if the School District considered decorative steel grading for over the glass areas rather than bricking everything up. Mr. Wittig said we want something that is effective & deterrent to the extent that you can. Mr. Bogosh III said one of the things he brought up is our police dept. is doing a lot more patrolling over at the school area. Mr. Bogosh III said he suggested we use the funding for more patrolling in the area. Mr. Wittig said the unpredictability of when patrols happen are very important. Chief wanted to comment that all lives are important no matter where they come from. The Chief also believes the department patrolling at any time is a deterrent because you never know when they will be there. Chief said making changes to the entrance way will help. You don’t want to make it look like a prison but you don’t want it to look like a soft target either. Mr. Wittig said we are looking for permanent solutions.

**Matt Bailey** –said in regards to the intersection of Blue Mtn. Dr. is there any opportunity to look on the south side of Blue Mtn. Dr.? Mr. Bogosh III asked where it drops off into the creek. Mr. Bailey said; yes.

Mr. Bogosh III said we can’t backfill there. Mr. Bailey is asking if there is any opportunity to straighten Blue Mountain a little bit. Chairman asked Mr. Bailey when this is all done; he would like Mr. Bailey to come back to the BOS to address the line painting on SR 309 with Penn DOT.

Chairman announced that Lehigh Engineering, LLC is refunding the Township $3,426.

Complaint On Water Wheel – People that put in driveways, are responsible for their driveways.

**IX. Executive Session** - None

**X. Adjournment**

Chairman called for a motion to adjourn the 10:40AM meeting. Tim Houser made the motion. Ted Bogosh III seconded the motion. Motion was carried. 3-0

Transcribed By:

Katie Orlick

West Penn Township Secretary