**West Penn Township Board of Supervisors**

**27 Municipal Road**

**New Ringgold, PA 17960**

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

**Regular 7PM Monthly Meeting**

**Monday, September 9, 2019**

**Present at the Meeting**

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

**Timothy Houser – Vice-Chairman Paul Datte – Solicitor (absent)**

**Theodore Bogosh III – Supervisor Rodd White – Lehigh Engineering, LLC**

 **Karen Wittig – Treasurer**

**I. General**

**A. Call to Order**

Chairman opened the Regular Monthly meeting @ 7:00PM with Pledge of Allegiance & Introductions.

**B. Public Comment on Agenda Items** - NONE

**C. Review of Meeting Minutes** – August 5th & 19th, 2019

Chairman called for a motion to accept the minutes from August 5th & 19th, 2019. Tim Houser made the motion. Ted Bogosh III seconded the motion. Motion was carried. 3-0

**D. Treasurer‘s Report** – August 2019

Chairman called for a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Tim Houser made the motion. Ted Bogosh III seconded the motion. Motion was carried. 3-0

**E. Approval of Bills** for August 2019

Chairman called for a motion to pay the bills. Tim Houser asked the Treasurer about the Impound Lot’s Account & Invoices. Mr. Houser wanted to know if the invoices were from the towing companies for bringing the vehicles to our lot. Chairman wanted to know if the invoices need approval because technically the Township is just reimbursing the Towing Company. Chairman asked the secretary to follow up with Attorney Datte about the Impound Lot Funds. Chairman called for a motion to approve the bills for August 2019. Tim Houser made a motion to approve the bills for August of 2019. Ted Bogosh III seconded the motion. Motion was carried.3-0

**F. Solicitor’s Report**

Paul Datte was unable to attend the meeting. Chairman asked the Secretary if Paul Datte had anything to inform the BOS. The Secretary said Attorney Datte sent an email of what needs to be discussed.

1. Attorney Datte filed an Assessment Appeal for exemption of the Cramer property acquisition. Attorney Datte would like to have a witness for the hearing just to testify to the intended use of the property for recreation purposes. Chairman asked the BOS who would like to attend the hearing. Tim Houser & Ted Bogosh III had prior commitments. Chairman would attend the hearing with Attorney Datte.
2. Attorney Datte was contacted by the Solicitor for Walker Township as to the potential arrangement for police coverage by West Penn Twp. in Walker Twp. Attorney Datte noted that we would need to negotiate an agreement with Walker Township. Each Township would need to adopt an Ordinance under the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act to approve the Agreement. Chairman explained that Walker Twp. would like West Penn Twp. Police Department to patrol their area. Chairman stated that the agreement is in its early stage and both parties have to agree on shared services. Chief Johnson provided the BOS with a rough outline of what we would give to Walker Twp.

West Penn Township would provide Walker with 24/7 coverage. Walker would have 520 hours/ year, 10/wk of patrol time and be on call 24/7. If a call is answered when West Penn is not on duty, then those hours would be deducted off the remaining hours left for that week. If Walker Twp. would request any special activities that time would be deducted from patrol time. Walker Township would be billed monthly. Walker Township would receive a monthly report from West Penn Twp. of their activities & patrols. Both parties would enter into & agree on a year contract. West Penn reserves all management rights, any revenues resulting from any arrests and Civils made in Walker Township would forfeit to West Penn Twp. Schuylkill County 911 would stay as West Penn Twp. primary dispatch service.

Chairman asked the BOS what were their thought on this subject. Tim Houser said he would like to know how much Walker Township is willing to pay for our services. Chairman said it was discussed to have Walker Twp. pay us $20,000 for 520hrs/yr plus West Penn Township would get to keep all revenue from citations, fines & impound fees. Ted Bogosh III said his understanding of the agreement is West Penn would patrol about 10hrs/wk. If we got a call for Walker Township, we would respond and deduct the time spent off of the 10 hours patrolled for the week. If Walker Township would have a lot of Police activity and they get close to the time allowed, we may have to renegotiate the agreement. Ted Bogosh III also said entering into an intermunicipal agreement with another Township will give us the opportunity to be eligible to receive more grant funding.

Chairman’s is concerned if $20,000 is enough to compensate our services. Chairman realizes it is $20K plus fine money but we do not know what kind of call volume is in Walker Twp. West Penn Township does not have any idea of how much revenue we would generate from fines. Chairman wants everyone to realize that $20k plus fines may not cover payroll, wear & tear of the cars, gas, liability insurance and workers comp. West Penn Township does not want to lose money on this agreement.

Chairman likes that we can have another police officer on duty that Walker will be paying for but with another police officer comes more liabilities. Chairman said he feels we should give this agreement a shot & if it works out great, if not then we get out of the agreement. Tim Houser said he does not want to see less police but he does not want to see more police. Mr. Houser said it is because of the whole parameter of how PA treats Townships that have their own police department as opposed to Townships that do not have police departments. Townships do not get extra funding from the state for having a police department. Mr. Houser is not opposed to this agreement he would like to see more on the funding side of this deal. Chairman disagreed; he said with having a police department we do qualify for state grants. Chairman said if we have this shared agreement with other Townships we would be eligible for even more funding. Chairman believes we should try this shared agreement with Walker Township. The agreement is for a year. If it works out for both Townships then great if not we tried it.

Chairman opened the discussion about the Shared Police Agreement to the public.

**Carl Greve –** feels it is a good idea. Mr. Greve believes that if we look into some numbers to make sure it does not impact West Penn Township negatively. Mr. Greve said if the Township feels there would be a positive return on it, there would be no reason not to try it.

**Matt Bailey** – feels that it is a good idea. Mr. Bailey suggested that there should be some contingencies with in the agreement. Mr. Bailey said it would be beneficial if we had a clause in the agreement that states if Walker Township goes over the money allotted for their police protection, they would pay us accordingly for our services. Chairman said we can do what Mr. Bailey suggested or go the opposite way. If Walker Twp. goes over the money allotted, then West Penn backs out and the State Police is back on duty. Mr. Bailey likes the fact that we would be able to help another community and it allows West Penn Twp. Police Department gain more exposure. Chairman said it would give our part timers more hours and they would stay working for West Penn as well. Chairman said West Penn Township has two full time officers & eleven part- time officers. When an officer leaves West Penn Twp. it is usually because they are looking for more hours. If the WP Police Dept. decides to pick up Walker Township for shared services, our Twp. would be able to give the part timers more hours which means they may stay longer.

**John Garber** – said he is not against having more police coverage but he feels the Road Department needs more help.

**Clint Schock (Twp. Road Master)** – asked the BOS if West Penn will cover Walker’s emergency calls. Ted Bogosh III said yes we will be on call 24/7 but any time we respond it comes out of Walker’s 10/week. Mr. Bogosh III said if Walker Twp. runs out of time & money then it would revert back to the State Police. Mr. Schock asked the BOS if we respond to all calls quickly are we setting ourselves up for trouble down the line. Mr. Schock said there is a fine line between liabilities vs. responsibility. Mr. Schock said if we always have a quick response & Walker runs out of money, then we have the State Police respond, and it’s not as quick & something goes seriously wrong that could have been prevented by that quick respond. Would the Township be held liable for not responding because of money? Is it West Penn Township’s responsibility to help if there is an emergency? The BOS said they will discuss that with the Solicitor.

**Bill Varano** – suggested if you have questions about Walker Twp. running out of time or money, make sure you address it up front.

**Chester Snyder** – No comment

**Art Sterling** - he feels it is a good idea but he has a problem with the money. Mr. Sterling stated $20K for 520 hours = 38.46/hr., that would have to cover the officer’s wages, fuel, insurance and wear & tear of the cars and workers’ comp. Mr. Sterling feels that $20K is not enough money for everything that is involved.

**Tim Houser** said this meeting was the first time he heard about the $20K. Mr. Houser said that there are a lot of things that need to be factored into the price. Mr. Houser said he would like to talk to Walker Township to see what they are willing to do to compensate West Penn Twp. for their service. Chairman asked Mr. Houser what does he feel the Twp. needs to do in order to come to an agreement. Mr. Houser said he would like a meeting between West Penn Twp. BOS & Solicitor and Walker Twp. BOS and their Solicitor. Chairman instructed the secretary, Katie Orlick, to set up the meeting at everyone’s earliest convenience. Ted Bogosh III asked the Secretary to include the Chief Brian Johnson.

**John Garber –** asked the Chairman if the agreement would mean we were going to be a regional police department. Chairman said no, but we would be multi-municipal which will open us up for more grant opportunities.

**Matt Bailey –** commented that he doesn’t believe we should have our solicitor crunch the numbers for the agreement. Mr. Bailey feels that Walker Township should provide the Township with the numbers and West Penn Township can come up with a calculated formula for average costs of all the factors. Mr. Bailey said the bottom line is we want to save money. West Penn & Walker Twp. should figure costs out together then ask the solicitors their opinion. Chairman said Ted Bogosh III was in charge of the Police Department this year. West Penn Twp. did very well with grants. Our Police Department was able to get license plate readers for their vehicles. The License Plate readers help the department track more vehicles which lead to more fees which gives the department more revenue.

The Twp. is discussing the budget for 2020, and they are looking to purchase two new vehicles for the Police Department.

**II. Land Use**

1. Chairman asked Rodd White from Lehigh Engineering to explain the Foster Land Development Plan. Mr. White stated that there was a submission of a land development plan for the Tyler C. Foster Poultry Operation, located at 401 Cold Spring Rd. The property is zoned Agricultural & there is a single family residence on the property. Chairman asked if the single family residence is in with the proposed Land Development Plan. Mr. White stated no, it is already an existing accessory use. Mr. White asked if anyone in the audience was here representing the Land Development Plan. The applicant Tyler C. Foster was at the meeting. Mr. White asked Mr. Foster to proceed and explain to the BOS his intentions. Mr. Foster stated he is looking to put up a single chicken house layer barn. Mr. Foster said his residence is encompassed within the area. Chairman asked Mr. Foster if that is where he lives today. Mr. Foster said yes. Rodd White said it is about 40,000 sq. ft. building that consists of the area for the chickens & an egg room. Tyler Foster stated the area for the chickens is 604 ft long x 63 ½ ft. wide. Mr. Foster said it would house 40K birds & 4000 roosters. Mr. Foster said he would also have a manure storage building. Tim Houser asked the applicant if he was in conjunction with the Embrovac. Tyler Foster stated that is where he got his contract from. Mr. Houser wanted to know if he was going to follow what they did and dry & mix manure for fertilizer. Tyler Foster stated no he has a manure storage building that will house 6 months of manure. Mr. Foster said he would be exporting his manure. Mr. Houser wanted to know if Mr. Foster had a manure management plan. Mr. Foster said a manure & odor management plan was submitted & approved by the state but they had to amend them because initially he was doing two boiler houses & now he is just doing one layer house. Mr. Foster resubmitted for the one layer house. Mr. Houser asked about a setback from the stream contingent of the wet land area. Are there any additional setbacks? Mr. White said he was not sure & will have to look into it. Another area Mr. Houser was concerned with is the Tractor Trailers making a turn and staying in their own lane. Mr. Houser wants to make sure the driveway mouth is wide enough for the trucks to make the swings in & out of your property. Mr. White said that was already addressed. Tim Houser had another concern about that the number of trips these tractor trailers make. Tractor Trailers cause a lot of wear & tear of the roads. Mr. Houser wanted to know about how much does a tractor trailer weigh that would be coming from his farm. Tyler Foster said approx. 80K pounds.

Rodd White said the Planning Commission recommended Conditional Approval based on the conditions of Lehigh Engineering’s letter dated Sept. 9, 2019.

Mr. White would like the applicant’s engineer to provide verification/ surveyor certification of survey. The applicant has agreed to provide verification of the property line closest to the proposed building. Mr. White stated the applicant will provide the Development & Performance agreement. The applicant will provide upon completion of Conservation District & County’s technical review. The applicant will also provide the Ownership & Maintenance Plan Agreement, upon completion of Conservation District & County review. The applicant was also instructed to provide the Township the E&S report & to get DEP approval. Chairman said he cannot see the Township holding the Foster’s Plan up because of different agencies. The only concern Rodd White had been the issue with the property line and he is having that addressed.

1. **Planning Commission recommended to the BOS to** accept the applicants request for two modifications for the Foster Land Development Plan. The modifications the applicant requested is 501.A submitting their plan as Preliminary/Final and 503.B.3.a change in drafting standards. Tim Houser made the motion to accept the modification to submit plan as preliminary/final. Ted Bogosh III seconded the motion. Motion was carried. 3-0

Tim Houser made a motion to accept the applicant’s request for drafting standards. Ted Bogosh III seconded the motion. Motion was carried. 3-0

West Penn Twp. Planning Commission recommended to the BOS to conditionally approve the Foster’s Land Development Plan. Tim Houser made the motion to conditionally approve the Foster’s Land Development Plan. Ted Bogosh III seconded the motion. Motion was carried. 3-0 Tim Houser made the motion to adopts Resolution No. 23 of 2019 Conditional Approval Resolution for the Foster Land Development Plan. Ted Bogosh III seconded the motion. Motion was carried. 3-0

1. Chairman aske Rodd White about the Danielle Billetz- Reppert Annexation/Consolidation Plan. Mr. White said all the comments were fixed and the Annexation was approved. Mr. White said the applicant can get her plans recorded. Tim Houser made the motion to accept the Danielle Billetz- Reppert Annexation/Consolidation plan. Ted Bogosh III seconded the motion. Motion was carried. 3-0

**III. Operations**

1. **Engineer’s Monthly Report – August** 2019

Chairman asked Rodd White to review his reports with the BOS.

Rodd White referred to Task # 4 – Water Wheel Bridge

 Township representatives, Lehigh Engineering & Witman Engineering met at the bridge to discuss a plan of action to fix the bridge. Bill Witman will provide Lehigh & the Township with a proposed action plan for repairs with cost estimates. As of now Witman did not give an update or a cost estimates to the Township. Chairman asked Rodd White to follow up and see if he can get the cost estimates for the next meeting which is on September 16, 2019.

 Mr. White also spoke about the intersection of SR309 & Blue Mountain Dr. The BOS is concerned with trucks turning onto SR309. Lehigh was to prepare a cost estimate for the work required to improve the intersections. The Twp. met with Penn DOT to discuss options. The BOS asked Rodd White if we can have those costs estimates for the Highway Occupancy Permit & full submission of the plan by Monday. Mr. White said we would have them by Monday.

1. **Code Enforcement Officers Monthly Report – August** 2019

Chairman asked Rodd White to review his Code Enforcement Report with the BOS.

Chairman questioned a property on SR 443 with the high grass issue. Rodd White said his group will be working on that in the next couple of days.

Chairman asked about the status of the complaint about a towing business on SR895. NOV was issued and a cease & desist was ordered.

Laurel Lane – Notice of non- compliance was issued on Sept. 6, 2019 after a site inspection. Mr. White took a look at the driveway in question before the meeting. Chairman wants the simplest solution to correct the problem.

Maggie’s Kitchen –Chairman stated we work on complaints. The Township Representatives just don’t drive by and tell someone they are in violation. The new owner called the Chairman and said he is trying to do everything right and now he is told he needs an architect which is going to cost him a lot of money. Rodd White said there was a demolition permit issued to the previous owner. Ralph Hummel was doing another inspection and when he drove by Maggie’s Kitchen, he noticed the restaurant wasn’t being demo but renovated then he investigated the situation. Chairman said with the building being a commercial building, does he need a land development plan. Mr. White said the scope of the work being done outweighed the work permitted. Maggie’s Kitchen would have to apply for a UCC permit. Chairman asked why Maggie’s Kitchen would need a stamped engineer plan when he is not changing the structure. Rodd White said he is not sure of all the requirement of UCC but he does know if his firm told someone they need a stamped plan it was in the law. Ted Bogosh III asked Lehigh if they can assist Maggie’s Kitchen on getting their permits. Chairman said Maggie’s Kitchen was told they need a stamped plan to proceed. Rodd White said yes he needs a stamped plan. Chairman questioned why the plan needs to be stamped because they are not changing the existing structure they are changing the inside. Chairman said it can cost them another 4-5 thousand dollars just for a stamped plan. Chairman asked Rodd White to reach out to Maggie’s Kitchen to see if Lehigh can help him so it would not cost him an arm & a leg to make something better. Chairman asked Rodd White if the Township had to follow the UCC code. Rodd White said he could not answer that at this time. Tim Houser said it does not make sense if you are not changing the foot print of the building and you still need an engineer, just to stamp a plan.

Chairman said we asked Bill Anders to help us with a DCNR grant for the park. He quoted us $1500-$1800. Rodd White asked the Treasurer how much did Lehigh charge. Karen Wittig gave Rodd White the amount Lehigh charged the Township. Rodd White said the Township will get a credit for the difference.

Chairman said there is a property owner that has a neighbor that has been giving him a hard time about his property appearance. The Property owner would like the Township to come out and inspect his property to see if he is in compliance with the property maintenance ordinance. The Township contacted Lehigh Engineering, LLC to inspect the property. The property owner had no violations besides what the property owner said he would remove which was an inoperable snow blower, small pile of misc. metal along with small pile of weeds. Chairman asked Rodd White to send a letter letting the property owners know both parties in question are in compliance with the Property Maintenance Ordinance & no NOVs were issued.

Chester Snyder questioned why does Maggie’s Kitchen need an Architect? Chester Snyder said he changed his business roof from a flat roof to a peak roof and he didn’t need an Architect. Rodd White said UCC requirements may have change since then. Chester Snyder said he does not understand why we can’t make this process easier. Chairman called for a motion to accept the code enforcement‘s report and the engineer’s report. Tim Houser made the motion. Ted Bogosh III seconded the motion. Motion was carried. 3-0

1. **Sewage Enforcement Officer’s Report** – **August** 2019

Chairman read the Sewage Enforcement Officer’s Report. Bill Brior’s activity report for 7/30/19-8/31/19 consisted of one design review, one new permit issued, four Interim inspections & two subdivision plan reviews. There were no reported malfunctions investigated during this period. Chairman asked the Secretary if Attorney Paul Datte reached out to Duane Schwicker of East Penn about the Andreas Sewage issue. Secretary said not that she is aware of. Chairman asked the secretary to remind Attorney Datte to reach out to Mr. Schwicker. Chairman called for a motion to accept the August SEO Report. Tim Houser made the motion. Ted Bogosh III seconded the motion. Motion was carried. 3-0

1. **Road Department’s Monthly Report** – **August** 2019

Chairman reviewed the Road Department’s Monthly Report with the BOS. The August report consisted of:

1. General Maintenance of the Township Buildings & Equipment.
2. Mowing Shoulders along Township Roads.
3. Installed 16 new drain pipes on Ash Circle.
4. Opened grates & pipes along Township Rds.
5. Painted a back room of the office where the power boxes are located.
6. Patched pot holes with cold patch.
7. Cleaned up branches & limbs along Township Rds.
8. Cut/clean trees & brush for PPL at Park East.
9. Replace large pipe on Wertman Hallow Rd.
10. Replaced large pipe on Andreas Rd.
11. Repoint & repair concrete on Township Bridges. Chairman asked Roadmaster Clint Schock if the bridges were the County Bridges. Roadmaster said they were Township Bridges. The County Bridges got done when the County sent a crew to show us how to maintain them.
12. Sweep loose stone off tar & chipped rds.
13. Mowed walking trail.

Chairman continued with the Maintenance Report of equipment & trucks for the Twp. The JCB was fix/fabricate with new locking pins for bucket cylinder. The Ts100 mower had several hydraulic lines replaced with bearing & support plate. (The mower’s bearing s & support plate have been replaced every year since 2010. The shaft may be bent). TS115A Mower had its hydraulic lines; cab air filter replaced & charge ac. The New Holland backhoe had its hydraulic line replace and fixed air tubes for AC. Road Department also fixed several small issues with the chain saws & whacker.

Chairman questioned Road master Clint Schock about some complaints the Township had received. Chairman asked the Road Master if he addressed the issue at 2020 Valley Rd. Clint Schock said he is not sure what to do about this issue. The Township filled the potholes in with cold patch and after a heavy rain it pushes out. The Township tried blacktop the same thing happened. Clint Schock said the problem is the water runs down on the edge because there is nowhere for the water to go. Mr. Schock feels he will try concrete to see if that holds. Clint Schock said he doesn’t know what other option we have. The drainage for the Development is not meant for what is there. Road Master said they claim every house you put in is 750gal/min of runoff. Chairman said regardless when they developed that land and it was laid out right they had to have pre & post development rates after the land was built up. Chairman asked Clint Schock to contact the person with the complaint and tell then your intention of how you think you are going to help fix their issue.

Chairman asked Road Master Clint Schock about the complaint about the tree falling into the creek. Clint Schock said he is aware of the complaint but he feels there is nothing the Township can do. The neighboring property owner did call DEP. DEP said if it happened by itself like an act of God there is nothing DEP can do. Clint Schock said we can’t do it because it is not on our Right-of-way. Chairman said in the second class twp. code if it pertains to a water issue you can go on someone’s property to fix the issue. Chairman would like the Road Master to call the Complainant. Road Master & Chairman will discuss after the meeting. Tim Houser had a concern about a previous complaint at the intersection of Penn SR443 & Mill. Mr. Houser said the bushes obstruct the driver’s view of pulling out onto the highway and can potentially be very dangerous. Clint Schock believes Jan Miller from Lehigh Engineering, LLC was contacting Penn DOT to see if the brush can be cut because it is on their right-of-way. Ted Bogosh III asked Clint Schock if he spoke to the owner. Mr. Schock said he asked the BOS last meeting if he should address it with the property owner but he was told not to because the property already got NOVs about the property. Chairman instructed the Road Master Clint Schock to contact the property owner and ask if the Twp. can cut the bushes to make that intersection safe.

Ted Bogosh III asked the BOS about the plans for intersection of Blue Mountain Dr. & SR 309. Chairman said we are waiting for a cost estimate from Lehigh Engineering, LLC before we proceed. Ted Bogosh III & Clint Schock asked the BOS if they would like the Road Dept. to put in the stone & pipe at Blue Mountain Dr. Chairman said no he would like to wait for the cost estimates. Ted Bogosh III said if we go with Penn DOT we will need a whole new traffic study & current site distance. Chairman & Rodd White agreed that Penn DOT would have to do another traffic study and you would have to use current site distance. Ted Bogosh III said there is no way you’re going to get the site distance there. Mr. Bogosh III said that is one of the problems with that intersection right now. Rodd White said you still may get authorization to approve a condition even if it does not meet the new site distance. It would still be improving a traffic condition. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Road Dept. Monthly Report. Tim Houser made the motion. Ted Bogosh III seconded the motion. Motion was carried. 3-0

1. **Police Department’s Monthly Report – August 2019**

Chief Johnson joined the meeting late and the Chairman updated the Chief on the topics already

discussed at the meeting. Chairman informed the Chief that the BOS discussed West Penn Twp. taking over Walker Twp. police service.

Chairman said that we will be scheduling a meeting between West Penn Twp., our Solicitor & Walker Twp. BOS & their Solicitor. Chairman reviewed the August Police Report with the BOS. The Police Report consisted of 6,659 miles patrolled, 284 traffic citations issued, 84 written warnings issued, total traffic 368, 12 non-traffic citation, and 335 total calls answered. The Police Dept. brought in $5,311.93 in fine money & $1,525.00 in impound money received. Other Police involvement consisted of court time at 20 hearings magistrate level & one county level hearing. Chief noted that the impound lot project is complete & the chief met with the towing companies about the impound lot policies. Chief Johnson also met with Penn DOT & BOS to discuss the traffic issue at Blue Mtn. Dr. Chairman asked the Chief what he thought of the discussion with Penn DOT. Chairman asked Chief Johnson what he felt about the meeting with Penn DOT. Chief Johnson said Penn DOT will give us their options for the intersection and we will have to choose what we want to do. Chief said he spoke to Penn DOT about the speed limit leading up to Blue Mtn. Dr. but they didn’t seem very interested in what we felt can be done to help with the traffic concerns. Chief said he is working on the 2020 police budget to submit to the BOS. Chief Johnson would like to have an executive session with the BOS to discuss personnel & policy.

Chairman asked the Chief about the new fee schedule for the Impound Lot. Chief said he had to raise the fees because there is a lot more costs & work involved than anticipated. Chairman called for a motion to adopt Resolution No. 22 of 2019. Establishing new fees for the Impound Lot. Tim Houser made the motion. Ted Bogosh III seconded the motion. Motion was carried. 3-0 Chairman called for a motion to accept the August police report. Tim Houser made the motion. Ted Bogosh III seconded the motion. Motion was carried. 3-0

**F. Fire Company’s Monthly Report** –**August 2019 – Did not give a report for August.**

**G. Ambulance Monthly Report** – **July/August 2019**

Chairman reviewed the ambulance report with the BOS. The ambulance report consisted of 35 calls for the month of July & 35 calls for August. The calls they responded to were abdominal pain, allergic reaction, fall victims, sick people, and traffic accidents. The West Penn Ambulance helped Tamaqua & East Brunswick Twp. Chairman called for a motion to accept July/August Ambulance Reports. Tim Houser made the motion. Ted Bogosh III seconded the motion. Motion was carried. 3-0

**IV. Old Business**

Tim Houser spoke to the BOS about an annuity that he was issued years ago along with Brian McQuillen & Bob Steigmeier for work they did in the Township. Mr. Houser ‘s annuity is being held by John Hancock & West Penn Twp. in Mr. Houser’s name. Chairman asked is there an annuity for everybody. Mr. Houser said no just in my name. The others that were issued the annuity already had theirs released. Mr. Houser does not like the performance that John Hancock is having with his annuity. Mr. Houser would like to request the BOS release his annuity so he can enroll it in Edward Jones which Mr. Houser feels it’s a better paying proposition.

Tim Houser said he will have to have a Resolution from the BOS to release the annuity & have a medallion signed by a bank before Mr. Houser can have it released. Karen Wittig the Treasurer said we should look at the previous Resolution to see if the Township released everyone’s at the same time. Chairman instructed the Secretary to have Attorney Datte make up a Resolution to release Tim Houser’s annuity.

**V. New Business - None**

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

1. Chairman asked Ted Bogosh III if he would like to talk about road intersections first. Mr. Bogosh III said we talked about the intersection he wanted to talk about earlier in the meeting. Mr. Bogosh III has nothing further to discuss.
2. Chairman wanted to discuss the speed limit on Zion Stone Church Rd. Chairman was contacted by quite a few residents this month about speeding on Zion Stone Church Rd. Chairman asked Chief if we can paint some speed lines on the road to deter speeders. Chairman said he wanted to discuss the speed limit of the whole road. The speed limit by the park is 35mph until Horses & Horizons then it goes to another speed limit. Chairman wanted to know if we can extend the 35mph on the whole rd. Chief Johnson said it may meet the criteria that we would not be required to do a traffic study on the road before changing the speed limit. Chief said if it qualifies for Rural Residential then we may be able to change the whole road to 25mph. Chief Johnson will check the distance between the homes to see if that road qualifies for Rural Residential.
3. Lantern Flies – Chairman said they are in our Township. Chairman asked the BOS if the secretary can contact Penn State and tell them they are in our area and ask them if they have a game plan of what we can do about them. Matt Bailey said that the Lantern Flies flock to the Tree of Heaven. Ted Bogosh III stated they are nesting on Maples or anything that is sweet.
4. Ted Bogosh III asked the BOS if the Township can have their November Meeting at the Annex Building instead of the Fire Company. Mr. Bogosh III said the Annex is large enough & it is Handicapped Accessible. Chairman said let’s try the Annex and see how it works out. Chairman told the Secretary to advertise.
5. Chairman wanted to pick a date for Trick or Treat in West Penn Township. Treasurer suggested the last Saturday in October which is October 26th. Chairman asked the Chief what time he would like to have Trick or Treat. The BOS & Chief of police agreed to have it on Saturday, October 26, 2019 5:30PM – 7:30PM.

**VII. Correspondence**

1. Chairman wanted to remind all Department Heads that the first Budget Meeting will follow the 9AM meeting on Monday, September 16, 2019.
2. Zoning Update Committee is rescheduled for Monday, September 23, 2019 @ 7PM at the Annex.
3. The 2019 Schuylkill County Fall Cleanup & Recycling Event for Tamaqua is Monday, Sept. 16th through Friday, Sept. 20th 7AM-4:30PM; and Saturday, Sept. 21st 7AM-11AM.

**VIII. Public Comment on General Items**

**Carl Greve –** There were lines to be painted on School Rd. As of now there are no lines painted on School Rd. Clint Schock the Road Master said on the contract for the bid we did not have a date when the project needed to be completed. The Road Master tried to call the Company to have it done before school started and the Company was not returning phone calls. Clint Schock the Road Master asked if we can rescind the bid and get the other company to paint the lines. Chairman told Clint Schock to call John Davis to see if we can cancel the bid and try to get someone else to paint the lines. The BOS agreed that School Rd. needs to be painted. Road Master said he will make sure there is a completion date on all of the bid contracts for now on.

Jim Gurka questioned the BOS about addressing the Andreas Sewage Issues. Chairman stated we are looking at a bunch of options. Chairman stated we had a landowner in East Penn that has a treatment plant and put in some interest to help us with Andreas’ issue. The Township was also looking into a community well, which can open up isolation distances for residents to put a system in. Chairman said it is on our minds and we know we have to do something about it. Andreas isn’t the only area that needs sewage to be looked at. Mr. Gurka asked the BOS if the resident was capable

and willing to put in a sand mound, would they be required to hook into the public system? Chairman said if the Township put in the system then the home owner would have to hook up to the public system. Chairman said because it may be a private individual as a business the Chairman wasn’t sure if the home owner would have to tie into the system. Chairman asked the Secretary if she can have Paul Datte contact Mr. Gurka to discuss the Andreas’ sewage situation.

**John Garber –** is concerned with the speeding on Zion Stone Church Rd. Mr. Garber asked the Chief he can put white lines and do traffic detail down by his house. Chief plans to paint some lines on Zion Stone Church Rd.

**Bill Varano** – said if you get rid of the Tree of Heaven and the Sumac that will help control the Lantern Flies because those trees draw the bugs to them. Mr. Varano also said “SEVEN” spray will kill the Lantern Flies.

Mr. Varano also discussed with the BOS the new approved width of farm tractors is 18ft across. Chairman said most of our bridges are not that wide.

**Art Sterling** – expressed to the BOS that there is a high population of deer this year. Mr. Sterling requested from the BOS to put some deer crossing signs on Blue Mtn. Dr. The BOS said we would have to put them everywhere. Chairman suggested we put children playing signs there to try and slow traffic. The signs would come from a road that no longer have children by them.

**Matt Bailey** – wanted to discuss the long term of the Blue Mtn. Dr. intersection. Mr. Bailey said it was brought up last year in regards to the opportunity to repaint SR309 and create turning lanes. Mr. Bailey said it was proposed that we may try to get a turning lane coming down SR309 northbound. Mr. Bailey suggested we get another turning lane going southbound turning left onto Lime Kiln Rd, which is the road right before Blue Mountain Dr. If SR309 would be repainted from the intersection to Blue Mtn. Dr. to accommodate a left turning lane, why not do another turning lane onto Lime Kiln. The reason why Mr. Bailey is zoning in on the turning lanes is because if something is done on Blue Mtn. Dr. to accommodate a turn for a truck it would be completely out of the question. Mr. Bailey said if you accommodate Blue Mtn. Dr. to swing a tractor trailer so far that will negate the opportunity for a left turning lane. Mr. Bailey said in the long run he suggested, stop thinking about reengineering the whole road and go with utilizing the space that is already there. Mr. Bailey said the turning lanes are the way to go and suggested when Penn DOT does another traffic study it should be for at least 5 days not just 24 hours. Chairman said he appreciates Mr. Bailey’s suggestions & the Township appreciates that he is willing to donate land to us to help make our improvements.

Chairman said his one concern of repainting SR309 is it will be one lane starting at the intersection of SR309 all the way up past Blue Mtn. Dr. Mr. Bailey said that is not the steepest part of the mountain. Mr. Bailey said if there is concern about trucks losing their steam going up the mountain it is not at that point. Mr. Bailey said they don’t lose their steam until they get up past the old Sarge’s place. Chairman said he is not sure if Mr. Bailey caught it at the meeting but he said Penn DOT said the Township was to reline SR309 that the Township would be responsible to do it. Chairman is not worried about the money to repaint it but the liability is his concern. Chief added that Penn DOT said if you don’t make that wide enough & that tractor trailer goes over in that turn lane they will cx the whole plan. Chairman looks at it as he sees the left turn is a problem without the trucks but he also sees the trucks are a problem without the left turn so if the Township can just make that intersection a little safer, it would be a win, win. Chairman said we have a verbal donation from Mr. Bailey of some land. The Township also has a verbal donation to pay for the project from Jay Land. It is the Township’s due diligences to get a proposal to see what it would cost. Chairman said this projects keys on two things.

1. Mr. Bailey’s land donation.
2. Jay Land paying for the project.

Chairman stated to Mr. Bailey if he is telling us that he is not going to donate the land if it is putting in a turning lane and we have to take down another tree to make that turn wider then at that point I do not need the engineer to come up with that game plan because it will not work without the land donation. Mr. Bailey said he does not have an answer for that. John Garber said that the road entrance is supposed to be 100 ft. wide. Mr. Garber is saying the state may own a bigger right-of-way at that property that Mr. Bailey may not have to be involved. Mr. Bailey said that was one of his questions that he can’t get an answer to. Rodd White Lehigh Engineering said we can make a request to Penn DOT to give the Township all the information they have about the Blue Mtn. /SR 309 intersection.

**IX. Executive Session**

Chairman called for an executive session for the police dept. @ 9:17PM. Tim Houser made the motion. Ted Bogosh III seconded the motion. Motion carried. 3-0 Chairman called the meeting back to order at 9:42PM. Chairman said we talked about police personnel. Chairman asked the BOS if the Road Master can order more speed limit signs, 25mph & 35mph. Ted Bogosh III said we should have a supply on those signs on hand. Tim Houser suggested to the Road Master to take a ride down Zion Stone Church Rd. and figure how many the Township would need to post a different speed on that road.

**X. Adjournment**

Chairman called for a motion to adjourn the meeting @ 9:50PM. Tim Houser made the motion. Ted Bogosh III seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

Transcribed By:

Katie Orlick

West Penn Township Secretary