**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, December 16, 2019**

**Present at the Meeting**

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

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

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

**Karen Wittig – Treasurer**

**I. General**

**A.** Anthony Prudenti called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance & Introductions at 9:00AM.

**B.** Approval of Monthly Bills

Chairman called for a motion to approve our monthly bills. Ted Bogosh III made the motion. Chairman seconded the motion. Motion was carried. 2-0

Chairman discussed the URDC invoices with the BOS. There are invoices that were questioned because one of the meetings had been canceled. The Twp. got charged for the meeting that was canceled. The Secretary questioned Charlie Schmehl about the invoice. Mr. Schmehl’s response was the date of the meeting is incorrect on the invoice. However, it did not change the number of meetings that we held with the Township. Mr. Schmehl said each invoice in 2019 was based upon the work that was done for that month. Paul Datte said he will have to take a look at the contract and find out what the Township can actually be charged for. Chairman instructed the Secretary to email Attorney Datte the contract for URDC & the Invoices for him to review.

Chairman read a report for the record from Supervisor Ted Bogosh III, Chairman Zoning Steering Committee to the BOS. The report is as follows:

I wish to inform my fellow Supervisors, Tony Prudenti & Tim Houser, as my duty as chairman of the Zoning Steering Committee of the following:

1.) Mid-summer of 2018 it was discussed that URDC was awarded a contract on 10/17/2017. The contract called for 12 public meetings at a cost of $19,500 and that if additional meetings were called for at $450 per meeting, plus costs.

2.) Volunteers were gathered to appoint 14 people to the Steering Committee including myself. Note by 4-6th meeting, volunteer attendance dropped to 5-6 of the original appointees to steering committee who continued to push for details & completion of revisions to this point.

3.) No updates were provided on work progress by URDC due to Charlie Schmehl forgetting & stating, “He has a heavy workload”.

4.) October 2018 was the first of the 12 meetings projected, plus public presentation/comments to formulate a complete revised Zoning Plan.

5.) The changes the Steering Committee would recommend would eventually be included in URDC revisions. An estimated loss of 4 productive meetings resulted in further discussion re-requesting revisions. Thus, no progress was made & now West Penn Township will be charged additional $450 & expenditures per meeting, for November & December meetings. There are potentials for further expenditures in the future.

6.) The Steering Committee objective was to simplify & streamline the Zoning Ordinance. Making it less difficult for residents to build, expand & remodel as well as encourage new businesses to find locations here easily. Lastly, the final draft has not been reviewed or accepted by the Steering Committee as of this date of December 16, 2019.

Chairman instructed the Secretary to get Paul Datte all the information in regards to URDC & their invoices. Attorney Datte suggested the Secretary to give the information to Ted Bogosh III as well.

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

**III. Land Use**

Chairman called for a motion to adopted Resolution No. 25 of 2019 Conditional Approval of the Oliver Final Subdivision & Lot Consolidation Plan. Ted Bogosh III made the motion to adopt Resolution No. 25 of 2019 to Conditional Approve the Oliver Final Subdivision & Lot Consolidation Plan. Chairman seconded the motion. Motion was carried. 2-0

**IV. Old Business**

Chairman called for a motion to release James Hower‘s Escrow. Chairman asked Secretary to give a brief explanation for releasing the funds. James Hower sent a letter requesting the release of his money that we had in escrow. Mr. Hower’s Plan was withdrawn in 2012. The Secretary & Treasurer did research to make sure all acquired expenses were deducted from the balance of the escrow. The remaining escrow left was $2840, which will be released back to Mr. Hower upon the BOS approval. Ted Bogosh III made the motion to release the escrow funds. Chairman seconded the motion. The motion was carried. 2-0

**V. New Business**

**A.** Chairman called for a motion to adopt Resolution 26 of 2019 the Adoption of the 2020 Budget & the 2020 Tax Rate. The Tax for 2020 will be for 4.75 Mills, Per Capita Tax $5/Yr., Earned Income Tax ½%, LST Tax $52/Yr., Real Estate transfer tax ½%. Ted Bogosh III made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 26 of 2019 adoption of the 2020 budget & tax rate with a stipulation of if there is $9K set aside in the budget for Water Extraction & we don’t use those funds it will go towards road repair in the Twp. Chairman seconded the motion. The motion was carried. 2-0 Chairman stated we passed the Budget with No Tax Increase.

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

**A.** Water Extraction – Ted Bogosh III wanted the Chairman to read a statement from him.

The statement is as follows:

Water Concerns

At the request of Ted Rosen I called DRBC project review official Mr. Kovatch. He stated there is a USGS well in the Fort Franklin area that has been monitoring ground water for over thirty years & thought the Fort Franklin wells are below DRBC monitoring requirements, they are required to report their water withdrawal to PA DEP & their consumption can be viewed by logging into the PA DEP website. Any approved increases above 100,000 gallons per day will result in monitoring. DRBC does have the authority to restrict ground water withdrawal if drought or problems occur. We are outside the area that requires a drought management plan & with funding cuts; we are not likely to be added. DRBC does not monitor small local springs & streams but does monitor major water ways. By measuring the salt concentrations at the mouth of rivers they are able to assess ground water conditions. Mr. Kvetch’s statements are the same as in previous communication with him & I believe there are adequate checks in place to insure a safe, reliable, and monitored water supply for our Township. DRBC & DEP respond to complaints about well problems, spring water reduction, & stream flow problems locally. To micromanage DRBC & DEP is a waste of Township funds & lack of trust in State & Federal authorities. If there are complaints about water, they can be presented to DRBC & DEP directly or through the Township office. They have responded to complaints in the past. We have a well ordinance in place that is very restrictive. We do not have authority to regulate well water withdrawals and we do not have the staff or equipment to monitor wells that are already reporting their water flow. All new wells are recorded at the county courthouse.

**B**. Small Business – Ted Bogus III wanted to express the importance of doing business with local businesses within the Township when it is available.

**C**. Zoning Steering Committee – There will be a Zoning Steering Meeting on January 13, 2020 to review the draft zoning ordinance more information will follow.

**D**. Ted Bogosh III wanted to mention another handicapped access point into the municipal building at the side door. Mr. Bogus III feels we should open & mark the door as handicap access because he feels it’s safer & it is covered. Initially, Mr. Bogosh III thought the front door handicapped access wasn’t in compliance with the standards. The standard for the turning points of a handicapped ramp is 48” with a 36” flat foot space. Clint Schock, Road Master & Glenn Hummel measured the landing and it is in compliance. Chairman instructed Road Master to mark that entrance as handicapped.

**VII. Correspondence** – This section will be discussed in executive session because it has to deal with possible litigation.

**VIII. Public Comment on General Items - None**

Chairman asked Chief Johnson if he had anything for the BOS. Chief said he gave the BOS a cost analysis of hiring another full time police officer.

**IX. Executive Session**

Chairman called a motion for an executive session. Ted Bogosh III made the motion to go into an executive session at 9:30AM. Chairman seconded the motion. Motion was carried. 2-0

Chairman called the meeting back to order at 10:03AM. Chairman said they had an executive session because of potential law suits.

**X. Anything Else from the Board**

**A.** Chairman announced the Reorganization Meeting will be on Monday, January 6, 2020 starting at 6PM followed by our regular monthly meeting at 7PM.

**B**. Chairman presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Supervisor Ted Bogosh III for his Years of Service & his Dedication to the Township.

Chairman, also announced the Comprehensive Advisory Board meeting for Monday, December 16, 2019 is canceled due to the weather.

**XI. Adjournment**

Chairman called for a motion to adjourn the 9:45 AM meeting. Ted Bogosh III made the motion. Chairman seconded the motion. Motion was carried. 2-0

Transcribed By:

Katie Orlick

West Penn Township Secretary