

**West Penn Township Board of Supervisors  
27 Municipal Road  
New Ringgold, PA 17960**

**Phone (570)386-4507**

**Fax (570)386-5851**

**Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, September 8, 2020**

**Present at the Meeting**

Anthony Prudenti  
Timothy Houser  
Glenn Hummel

Karen Wittig – Treasurer  
Katie Orlick – Secretary  
Rodd White – Lehigh Eng.  
Paul Datte – Solicitor

**I. General**

**A.** Tony Prudenti called the meeting to order at 6:33PM with the Pledge of Allegiance & Introduction.

1. Terry Arner a news reporter for the Times News has been reassigned to another Borough/Township to do his reporting. The BOS recognized Mr. Arner for his fair & balanced reporting at West Penn Township.

**B. Wreaths Across America**

1. Paul Corinchock was a guest speaker at our meeting. Mr. Corinchock asked the BOS if he can speak at our Township meeting about Wreaths across America. Mr. Corinchock was accompanied by his wife, Elizabeth, of Tamaqua, PA. Mr. Corinchock gave a brief history of how Wreaths Across America got started. It all started with a 12-year-old paperboy winning a trip to our Nation’s Capital. The paperboy visited Arlington National Cemetery which changed his life forever. As he got older he felt that he wanted to make a difference and a positive impact on the world so he formed Wreaths Across America, a non-profit organization. This organization places a wreath on Veteran’s headstones all over the world. The wreath is a symbol to Remember of Fallen U.S. Veterans, Honor those who served and to Teach our children the value of Freedom. Mr. Corinchock said sponsors & volunteers are the backbone of this organization. Mr. Corinchock said to sponsor a wreath is \$15. If you sponsor two wreaths they will add another to your sponsorship. The Location Coordinators Eric & Christine Zizelmann, Paul & Liz Corinchock and their family organized a Wreaths Across America Ceremony at Sky-View Memorial Park on Saturday, December 19, 2020 @ Noon. They will be placing wreaths on the headstones of our Veterans. Go to their website, Wreaths Across America & sponsor a wreath or volunteer your time for this special organization. Chairman asked the BOS if we can put Mr. Corinchock’s information on our website. The BOS agreed and said that his sponsor site is “WE 4 WAA” Chairman said he will sponsor 3 wreaths for the BOS. Tim Houser said he will also sponsor 3 wreaths.

**C. Public Comments on Agenda Items Only (5 Minutes Time Limit) - NONE**

**D. Review of the Minutes – August 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

Chairman called for a motion to accept the meeting minutes for August 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

**E. Treasurer’s Report – August 2020**

Chairman called for a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Tim Houser said he spoke with the Treasurer about EIT money. Mr. Houser’s concern is the EIT money coming in during COVID because a lot of people are out of work. Tim Houser said the Treasurer said we are good with our EIT money. Chairman asked the Treasurer about our estimated Liquid Fuels payment for next year. Treasurer said

Liquid Fuels is down an estimated 10%. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Timothy Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

#### **F. Approval of Bills – August 2020**

Chairman called for a motion to approve the bills. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

#### **G. Solicitor's Report**

Paul Datte said he prepared a draft of the Soccer Association's Lease Agreement. Attorney Datte said he needs some information to complete it from the BOS. Attorney Datte asked the BOS to review the agreement & give their comments to him.

Attorney Datte said he has to talk with Rodd White to finish some things they are working on for the Township.

Chairman informed Attorney Datte that he would like to have an Executive Session for possible litigation. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Solicitor's report. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

### **II. Land Use**

**A. Miller & Rex Subdivision** – Planning Commission recommends Conditional Approval for the Miller & Rex Subdivision. Chairman called for a motion to adopt Resolution # 17 of 2020, conditionally approving the Miller & Rex Subdivision Plan contingent upon ARRO Consulting, Inc., Schuylkill Planning/Zoning & Bill Brior's comments being satisfied. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

### **III. Operations**

#### **A. Engineer's Monthly Report – August 2020**

Chairman asked the BOS if they had any questions for Rodd White of Lehigh Engineering, LLC. Chairman asked Rodd White about the Update of our Comprehensive Plan. Rodd White said it is up for review at the end of this month. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Engineer's Report. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

#### **B. Code Enforcement Monthly Report – August 2020**

Tim Houser asked Rodd White If Lehigh Engineering was ready for the upcoming court case with the Pallet business on Park Drive. Rodd White said Ralph Hummel is ready and Attorney Datte will assist. Glenn Hummel asked Rodd White the status of SR443 Clamtown, the Sword property. Rodd White said they need a driveway permit, the sign permit was issued and a condition that was issued involving a berm. Chairman said maybe we should do a Zoning Interpretation of the Zoning Decision so we know if the property is in compliance. The BOS agreed the property owner is responsible to correct the any violations. The Twp. needs to follow up and make sure everything is in compliance. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Code Enforcement's Monthly Report. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

#### **C. Sewage Enforcement Officer's Monthly Report – August 2020**

Chairman read the Sewage Enforcement Officer's Report. The SEO's report consisted of 2 New Permit Applications, 7 Test Probes, 3 Perc Tests, 1 Design Review, 1 New Permit Issued & 1 Subdivision Plan Review. There were no Malfunctions for the month of August. Chairman discussed fees and said that the Twp. does not make money on Permits, Zoning Hearings, & SEO costs. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Sewage Enforcement Officer's Monthly Report. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion was carried. 3-0 Chairman called for a motion to approve the

Well Isolation Distance Exemption Form for property 807 Lizard Creek Road, Andreas, PA 18211. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

**D. Road Department's Monthly Report – August 2020**

Chairman read the Road Report. The report consisted of general maintenance to the Twp. Building & Equipment, Patching Potholes on Dirt & Paved Roads, Clean & Dug Out Pipes, Clean trees & garbage off roads, Graded Shoulders, Installed Pipe & started to pave on Sycamore Rd., & Mowed @ Atlas Park. Chairman also read the Maintenance Report of the Road Equipment. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Road Department's Monthly Report. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

**E. Police Department Report – August 2020**

Chairman read the police report. The police report consisted of 8,500 miles patrolled, 230 citations issued, 98 written warnings, 328 total traffic and 333 total calls. Fine money received was \$7,834.17 plus total impound \$2,085.00 which equals to \$9,904.17. The Chief is working on the 2021 budget. Chief is looking into the PA Chief's Assoc. Accreditation Program. Chief is also working on a community event for all to take part in (Police, Fire, EMS, Lions Club, & Andreas Sporting Club) called the West Penn Fall Festival. The Chief is looking into the legal process for West Penn to obtain a salvage license. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Police Department's Monthly Report. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

**F. Fire Company Monthly Report – August 2020**

Chairman read the Fire Company's report. 34 Total calls for the month of August. Emergency Responses included 3 Motor vehicle accidents, 11 Trees/wires down, 3 Automatic Alarms, 0 Search, 5 Fire Police calls, 4 Medical Assists & 2 Dwelling/ Structure Fires. They did not any hall rentals due to COVID. Fundraisers included a Breakfast pick up only. The Fire Dept. will also have a Wrestling Show Fundraiser. The Fire Dept. filled pools & did birthday parades. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Fire Department's Monthly Report. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

Chairman said the Township is discontinuing recycling at the Police Station @ the end of the year because of liability. We have been looking into other options for recycling. The Township reached out to the Fire Company and asked if they would allow Recycling Bins, which would be donated by a local garbage company up by their garages. We are waiting for the Fire Company's response. The Fire Company was going to get a price for insurance, & a price to pave & fence in an area for the recycling bins. The Chairman said the Township would do a one-time donation to do that as long as they are willing to have it on their property & maintain it from this time forward. Chairman said that is an option we are looking at. The County is looking into putting an Ordinance into place for Recycling. There is a ZOOM Meeting, Tuesday, September 14 @ 4PM. This meeting is to come up with different ideas for a recycling ordinance. If The Township does recycling themselves, we can allow West Penn residence to use the facility. If we go through the County, then all of Schuylkill County would be allowed to use it. Chairman asked if the Fire Department does do recycling he asked if we can get volunteers from different organizations to make sure it is only our residence using the recycling bins. Chairman said we may do a recycling day cleanup for large items. Chairman also announced there is a 2020 Schuylkill County Fall Cleanup in Tamaqua @ Tamaqua Transfer, the week of Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> from 7AM-4:30PM & Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> from 7AM – 11AM.

**G. Ambulance Monthly Report – August 2020**

Chairman read the Ambulance Report. The Ambulance Report consisted of 23 total calls this month & 277 calls year to date. The types of calls were abdominal pain, assault, back pain, breathing problems, falls, and sick people. The Ambulance assisted Tamaqua Ambulance six times & Walker once. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Ambulance Report. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

**IV. Old Business** - NONE

**V. New Business**

**A.** Motion to adopt the Fair Housing Resolution # 18 of 2020. Chairman called for a motion to adopt the Resolution. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

**VI. Correspondence**

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

**A.** Chairman reminded Department heads that the Twp. will have their first Budget Workshop following the Monday Morning Meeting on September 21, 2020.

**B.** Chairman set up a round table discussion for comments and ideas for the donated Bella Terra Farm during the BOS meeting on October 5, 2020 @ 6:30PM.

**C.** Supervisor Glenn Hummel said Ingrid DeBellis, a resident of West Penn Twp. contacted him & asked if she can have Fire Police or the West Penn Police Department help direct traffic during her Auction she is planning to have on October 31<sup>st</sup> & November 7<sup>th</sup>. She is willing to donate to those organizations for their help. She is anticipating a large turnout for this Auction & feels traffic control is necessary to keep everyone safe. She also would like to request permission to park along Zion Stone Church Rd. The Chief suggested she reaches out to Soley to use his field to park. The BOS were undecided what to do.

Supervisor Hummel said maybe she should talk to the State Police for control traffic. She would have to pay them hourly to control traffic. Supervisor Hummel also expressed that he feels she was kind enough to let us know about this situation. Attorney Datte said it is a State Highway suggested we contact her and let her know that we do not feel comfortable doing traffic control because of it being a major high traffic location and we recommend that she contacts the State Police. Supervisor Hummel said if she is unsuccessful getting the State Police's help then we can see if our Fire Police will help. Chairman said if she is unsuccessful with the State Police then we will see if our Fire Police or our Police Department is available for those days. Chairman asked the Secretary to each out to Ms. DeBellis and let her know our recommendations. If the State Police does not give her satisfaction then we will request our Police Department to allow more officers on duty that day with her reimbursing the Township for their hours,

**D.** Chairman said we had the back of the Twp. Building painted along with the Police Department by Peter's Painting. He said the quote for that work was \$4,550. We added some additional things for them to fix and now our bill is \$5,429.26. Chairman called for a motion to pay the Peter's Painting bill. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

**VIII. Public Comments on General Items**

**A. Todd Deem** – said the Senate is voting on Senate Bill 1281, which is the Move Over Law. Todd Deem would encourage everyone to vote for it. Chairman asked the Secretary to contact Representative Jerry Knowles & Senator Argall and tell them that West Penn Township is in favor of Senate Bill 1281, the Mover Over Law. This bill will help protect the Police, Fire & EMS, Towers and any other first responders.

**B. Mark Marek** – 585 McIntosh Lane – Mr. Marek said he was here on behalf of the senior citizen of West Penn Twp. & would like to address the BOS about the 3% Blue Ridge Franchise Tax Fee. Mr. Marek

believes the Franchise Tax is unfair. Mr. Marek told the BOS that his Blue Ridge Bill keeps increasing. Mr. Marek filed a Right-to-Know requesting information on the Franchise Tax and told the BOS what the Twp. received in Franchise Tax in the past couple years. Mr. Marek said he is aware the Township will be doing their 2021 budget and would like to request that the 3% Franchise Tax be eliminated & replaced with a revenue neutral alternative that can be shared with all Township residence. Chairman said if we would do our 537 Plan everyone would have to pay for sewage whether you have one person or 5 people living in your household. Chairman's point is a lot of things are not fair. Chairman said he is not speaking for the rest of the Supervisors but he is not raising Real Estate Taxes. Mr. Marek is just looking for a break. The BOS thanked Mr. Marek for trying to come up with a solution. Chairman invited Mr. Marek to come to a budget meeting. Tim Houser said it would be the worst time ever to have a tax increase in the Township. Mr. Marek said that there is some verbiage in the Agreements that may need to be reviewed & changed our era.

**IX. Executive Session**

Chairman called for a motion to go into executive session for personnel & possible litigation @ 8:17PM.

**X. Adjournment**

Chairman called for a motion to adjourn @ 8:56PM. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Chairman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

Transcribed By:

Katie Orlick

West Penn Township Secretary