

West Penn Township Board of Supervisors

27 Municipal Road

New Ringgold, PA 17960

Phone (570)386-4507

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Regular 10AM Monthly Meeting

Monday, October 19, 2020

Present at the Meeting

Tony Prudenti – Chairman

Katie Orlick - Secretary

Tim Houser – Vice-Chairman

Paul Datte – Solicitor

Glenn Hummel – Supervisor

Ralph Hummel – Lehigh Engineering

Karen Wittig – Treasurer

I. General

A. Anthony Prudenti called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance & Introductions at 10:03AM.

B. Approval of Monthly Bills

The BOS questioned bills submitted by the Chief. The BOS wanted to know if the invoice was for the new cameras & battery packs.

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

II. Public Comment on Agenda Items - NONE

III. Land Use - NONE

IV. Old Business

A. Chairman called for a motion to authorize signers for purchases & title transfers on anything that was approved by the BOS. Chairman explained that he would like to recommend to the BOS that the Treasurer, Secretary or the Road Master can sign off on equipment or vehicle transfers as long as it was previously approved by the BOS. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion was carried. 3-0

V. New Business

A. Well Isolation Distance Exemption – Chairman read the well isolation exemption request form. The property is owned by Christy Bartczak, 177 School Drive, New Ringgold, PA 17960. The property requires the installation of a new alternate septic system to replace the malfunctioning septic system. The absorption area can only be located 94 feet from the existing well on the property. Because of the full 100ft. isolation distance for the well cannot be met, DEP requires that a well isolation distance exemption be completed. The Twp. will have no liability in signing the exemption. Tim Houser asked if the shortage for the isolation distance is on the existing home and not the neighbor's property. Terry Fritz said the shortage is not from the neighbor's property. Chairman called for a motion to approve the isolation distance exemption form. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion was carried. 3-0

B. Chairman called for a motion to adopt Resolution # 23 of 2020 approving the budget for the CDBG Program for FY 2020. Chairman read the Resolution aloud. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion was carried. 3-0

VI. Business from Anyone on the Board

A. Ralph Hummel – discussed with the BOS the Flood Plain Ordinance. FEMA is in the process of implementing new Flood Maps & they are requiring municipalities & boroughs to update their Flood Plain Ordinance to meet the new FEMA standards. Leslie Rhodes from PA Municipal League would review our Ordinance at no cost to the Twp. Leslie Rhodes would review it and then send the Ordinance back to the Twp. with her recommendations to update the Ordinance in conjunction with the new FEMA

Flood Maps. Chairman asked the secretary to send the Flood Plain Ordinance to Leslie Rhodes. Tentatively FEMA will be implementing the new Flood Plain Maps in April of 2021.

B. Chairman discussed purchasing a new trailer for the Road Department. Clint Schock got three quotes. The lowest quote was from Highway Equipment & Supply for \$28,500. Attorney Datte asked if it was CoStars? Chairman called for a motion to allow the Road Department to purchase the trailer contingent upon Highway Equipment & Supply being CoStars Approved. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in Favor. The motion was carried. 3-0

VII. Correspondence

A. Chairman read an email the president of the Tamaqua Rifle & Pistol Club located @ 111 Municipal Rd., New Ringgold, PA 17960. The letter was a request to the BOS to consider donating materials to the club for a drainage problem they have been experiencing. They requested 3x20' sections of 18" corrugated drain pipe & 3x 18" corrugated pipe couplings. Chairman asked the Road Master if we had this material to donate. The Road Master said he will have to look to see what he has in stock. Tim Houser questioned where they are going to reroute the flow of water to. Glenn Hummel made a motion to approve his request as long as the water that is being diverted stays on the property. Road Master's concern is that the pipe on Municipal Rd. weren't change to plastic yet. Chairman asked the Road Master to call the guy and go look at the area in question. Glenn Hummel made a motion to proceed with Clint Schock's approval of the situation. Chairman seconded the motion. All in favor. Tim Houser opposed. Motion was carried. 2-1

Tim Houser had another question for the Road Master. Mr. Houser asked about an intersection by Ridge Rd. Mr. Houser said he noticed a hole opening up by there on the state right-of-way. Mr. Houser asked if the state was responsible for fixing that hole. Clint Schock said he will look at it but the state is responsible but he feels that they will not fix it.

Glenn Hummel asked the Road Master if he looked at the pipe by Rockman's. Clint Schock said he will look at it.

Chairman announced the Township & the Police station will be having ADA renovations in mid-November. Funding is provided by CDBG Grant Program.

VIII. Public Comment on General Items

A. David Hayes – 10 Mush Dahl Rd. – Mr. Hayes would like to know how he can get speed limit signs on his road. Chairman asked if Mush Dahl has a speed limit. Chief said; "no". Chairman said to enforce speed, a speed study would have to be done or the stretch would have to qualify for residency speed limit. This depends on how many feet apart are the homes on that stretch. Mr. Hayes also, thanked the West Penn Police Department for their service. Attorney Datte instructed the Chief of Police to see if that section qualifies for the 25 MPH and if it does, get the information to the secretary and Attorney Datte will do a Resolution or an Ordinance to establish the speed limit. Chairman said at our next meeting the Chief will give a report to see if that can happen.

B. Mike Scott – proposed to the BOS a way to preserve history at the old silt dam in Clamtown. Our silt dam is the first place they dredge the river which was over 50 years ago. The old pipe that you see on the property was from the old dredge that piped the water into the basin to desilt. Mike Scott said it would be an awesome walking path back around the dam. Mike Scott has experience working with DEP restoring Flood Plains. A company that he works for owns the silt dam and would like to give it to DCNR. DCNR is not interested in acquiring the land. Mr. Scott believes that maybe a deal could be worked out with the Twp. to acquire the land and develop it as an historical park site.

Mike Scott said the Schuylkill Headwater Association may be able to give funding. DCNR has funding for all kinds of recreation projects. Mike Scott said it is beautiful back in there. Mr. Scott's idea for back there is a paved or stoned walking trail with different exercise stations throughout the trail. Mike Scott said the stone buildings can be used for some kind of historical site with plaques of the history of the site. Mr. Scott said we may be able to get the original dredge back to make a whole historical site. Mike Scott said

he envisions it being like a Locust Lake. Chairman's concerns are liabilities to the Township and the expense to maintain this potential development. Mike Scott said there are a couple of organizations that will help maintain it. Mike Scott also envisioned a log pavilion on that site.

Chairman asked Mike Scott if he would be willing to see this project through. Mike Scott responded; "that is what we do". Glenn Hummel said it would be a definite asset to the Township. Mike Scott suggested the Township get in contact with Todd Wood from BAMR (Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation). Chairman called for a motion to have Paul Datte contact the organization for the property discussed. Glenn Hummel made the motion to allow Paul Datte to move forward to try and secure the land. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion was carried. 3-0 The BOS thanked Mike Scott for all his information & for being willing to see this project through.

IX. Anything Else from the Board

X. Executive Session – Tim Houser requested an executive session for possible litigation. Chairman called for a motion for an executive session at 10:57AM. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion was carried. 3-0

Chairman called the meeting back to order @ 11AM. Chairman said we discussed possible litigation & personnel issues.

XI. Adjournment

Chairman called for a motion to adjourn the 11:10AM meeting. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

BOS had a budget workshop following the meeting. The BOS discussed budgets for Police Dept. & Road Dept.

Transcribed By:

Katie Orlick

West Penn Township Secretary