

West Penn Township Board of Supervisors

27 Municipal Road

New Ringgold, PA 17960

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Regular 10AM Monthly Meeting

Monday, January 18, 2021

Present at the Meeting

Tony Prudenti – Chairman

Katie Orlick - Secretary

Tim Houser – Supervisor

Paul Datte – Solicitor (Phone)

Glenn Hummel – Vice Chairman

Mike Begis – ARRO Consulting, Inc.

Karen Wittig – Treasurer (Phone)

Public Joining the meeting through conference call:

(5 Participants from General Public on the phone)

I. General

A. Anthony Prudenti called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance & Introductions at 10:00AM.

B. Approval of Monthly Bills

Chairman called for a motion to approve our 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

A. Chairman announced that the Planning Commission Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 26, 2021 is canceled. There are no plans to review for the month of January. The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, February 23, 2021 @7PM.

IV. Old Business

A. Chairman called for a motion to Re-Appoint Scot Dietrich for a 6 yr. term, expiring December 31, 2026 to the Park Commission for Zion Stone. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

B. Chairman read the Ambulance Report for December 2020. The ambulance had 37 calls this month & 427 year to date. They assisted in Tamaqua, New Ringgold & Rush Township. The calls consisted of abdominal pain, breathing problems, chest pain, falls, sick, traffic accidents, and lift assists. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

V. New Business

A. Chairman said that HAM Radio contacted West Penn Twp. & informed them that the State Police will be decommissioning the communication tower on Archery Club Rd. HAM Radio would like the BOS approval to take over the tower. A representative from HAM Radio was on the conference call. Mr. Dale from HAM Radio thanked the BOS for allowing him to speak at the meeting. Mr. Dale is a part of Tamaqua Wireless Assoc. Tamaqua Wireless created a network of repeater systems that allow for emergency communication throughout the County. Tamaqua Wireless does have a communication system in West Penn Township but unfortunately it is at a private residence & is in need of some maintenance. The Tamaqua Wireless Assoc. was contacted by John Matz of the Emergency Management Agency informing them about the State Police Decommissioning the Pole at the Archery Club. Tamaqua Wireless would like to take over that communication tower. Tamaqua Wireless Association spoke to the members of the Archery Club and as of now that will not be an option at this

time. Tamaqua Wireless Association wanted to bring to the BOS attention that they are in need of a site for a communication tower & they would like the Board's approval to pursue it. The Tamaqua Wireless Assoc. is requesting a letter of support from the BOS. Tim Houser had a question for Attorney Paul Datte. Chairman said the state police had to go for a variance to have the tower. Tim Houser would like to know if there was any special consideration given for the Variance because it was the State Police? Tim Houser also wanted to know if the State Police abandoned the tower would they have to take it down or can they let another communication system use it. Attorney Datte said he would have to review it. Attorney Datte said it sounds like a Conditional Use they would have had to get approved for. Chairman read the letter for Tamaqua Wireless.

Attorney Datte stated as long as the Township is not taking any responsibility for it. Chairman said they are not, that the letter is basically a letter of support. Attorney Datte asked the Secretary to look for this conditional use hearing & the decision in her files for this matter. Attorney Datte suggested the BOS to take action to approve sending the letter subject to review of the conditional use proceedings, to see if there are any restrictions on the use. Chairman called for a motion to send the letter subject to compliance of Township Ordinances. Glenn Hummel made the motion to approve the letter to allow HAM in seeking the use of the communication tower or find a new location for a tower but subject to Township regulations. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

B. Chairman called for a motion to adopt Resolution # 5 of 2021 Bituminous Materials for Small Quantities. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried.

C. Chairman called for a motion to adopt Resolution # 6 of 2021, Establishing the UCC base permit fees for all types of construction permits. Tim Houser had a question about Ag Buildings. They are exempted for UCC fees for building. Tim Houser questioned different cost for permits. Tim Houser asked if someone has a concern/complaint will that be public. Chairman said the Twp. is not allowed to disclose the individual making the concern/complaint. Tim Houser made the motion to adopt Resolution # 6 of 2021. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

Chairman welcomed Mike Begis from ARRO Consulting, Inc., They are now our Primary Engineer for the Twp.

VI. Business from anyone on the Board

A. Glenn Hummel asked about the Bella Terra Farms Land Donation. Mr. Hummel wanted to know if we can move forward with the grant project. Attorney Datte said once we get the agreement for the land we can move forward with appraisal & grant. The BOS agreed to have ARRO Consulting, Inc. give a quote to apply for the grant for West Penn Twp. Grant Application starts at the end of January. Attorney Datte suggested we get the appraisal done now. Attorney Datte said the Appraisal can be part of the grant application. Chairman asked secretary to contact the appraiser to get the appraisal done.

B. Glenn Hummel asked about the distribution of funds from the DCNR grant. Secretary said she reached out for the status and followed up and they said in a few weeks we will have a conference call about the grant agreement & distribution of funds.

C. Glenn Hummel said the Fire Company gave us approval to put the Recycling Site at the Fire Company. The issue that we ran into is the Hauler does not have a dumpster to place there. Glenn Hummel said we may have to purchase a recycling bin for the site. Chairman said the price of getting recycling back is going to cost us some money. We will also have to probably fence & pave the area. Glenn Hummel asked the Road Master how fast can he prep the site for the recycling bin. Glenn Hummel asked the BOS to move forward and get the recycling bin & get the site prepped for the bin. Chairman said the estimated cost for the recycling bin is \$8,000. The BOS were concerned about the costs but

acknowledges that West Penn Township residents want to recycle. Glenn Hummel made the motion to move forward with the purchase of the recycling bin & the preparation of the site. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0 Glenn Hummel said the Fire Company asked if they can do a fundraiser in connection with the recycling bin. The Fire Company would like the Approval to sell annual stickers, which will allow them to know who is coming in & out of the site. Chairman said it will be opened certain hours and it will not be opened on weekends. Chairman said he thinks the stickers are a good idea. Chairman asked Attorney Datte if they can do that. Attorney Datte said permits or stickers should be issued by the Township in his opinion. Attorney Datte asked will there be a contract with the hauler? Chairman said, yes. Attorney Datte said he suggests we talk about the administration of the recycling program a little further.

D. Glenn Hummel addressed the police department's weapons. Glenn Hummel said the Police Department Officers use their own personal weapon for duty. Glenn Hummel asked the BOS to consider the Township buys the weapons and issues them to the officer. Glenn Hummel said then the Township would own the weapons. Chairman asked if it was in the Police Dept.'s budget to purchase weapons. Tim Houser asked if the Officer resigns or quits the weapon stays in the Township. Chief Johnson said, yes, the weapon can't be used on anything outside the Township. The reason why Tim Houser asked that is because a lot of times an officer gets attached to the weapon they use. Chief Johnson said they can purchase it from us if that was the case and we can transfer ownership.

E. Tim Houser would like to have a workshop with the BOS about the upcoming contract negotiations. Attorney Datte said you can schedule it, conduct the workshop and just announce that you had a workshop at the following public meeting. Chairman asked Attorney Paul Datte to talk to the Secretary about when he would be available to have a workshop. Attorney Datte said he would like to schedule it because he has other things to discuss with the BOS.

VII. Correspondence – None

VIII. Public Comment on General Items

A. Terri Knoelder – She said the Road Crew did a great job on Fort Franklin this summer, however in her opinion the materials used for the subbase contained too much clay and the water isn't draining properly. She gave some suggestions what we should have used and where to get the materials. Ms. Knoelder also questioned if the one place had proper permits for selling shale on SR895. She asked if the volunteer township consultant, Ted Rosen, could look into that. Attorney Datte, stated let's be clear, for the record "Ted Rosen is Not a volunteer township consultant for the Township." Chairman asked Ms. Knoelder if she wanted to fill out a concern form and submit it to the Township about the gentleman selling shale. Ms. Knoelder said, no. Chairman said if you have a concern or you want to know if someone has the proper permits, you can file the concern form anonymously and the Township will investigate it. Ms. Knoelder asked if a concern is brought up at a meeting, do they need to still fill out a concern form? Chairman said, yes. Tim Houser said, if someone gives just a public comment on a concern that is fine but if they want the Township to act/investigate on it, they will have to file a written concern with the Township. Attorney Datte said, a lot of residents have public comments but if they want an action or an investigation about a concern/comment then they will need to do a formal written concern form and submit it to the Township. Tim Houser said he is in charge of the road department, and stated that to fix the dirt road, the Township received grant money which needed to be inspected and the materials had to be approved based on the grant criteria & specs.

IX. Executive Session

A. Chairman called for a motion to go into an executive session @ 10:55AM for possible litigation. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

Chairman called back the meeting @ 11:16AM, the executive session was for potential law suits.

X. Anything Else from the Board

A. Mike Begis gave the BOS an update on the malfunctioning cell tower in South Tamaqua. Mike Begis from ARRO Consulting, Inc., also discussed a Bridge Inspection located by Copperhead Chemical. The Company called and asked if they needed any permits from the Township. Mr. Begis said they did not need permits for the repairs & we requested they give us a copy of their Bridge Report.

B. Chairman thanked Clint Schock and the road dept. for the project they are working on. Chairman said it may save the Twp. close to \$8K.

XI. Adjournment

A. Chairman called for a motion to Adjourn at 11:20AM. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

Transcribed By:

Katie Orlick

West Penn Township Secretary