

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

Phone (570)386-4507

Fax (570)386-5851

**Regular Meeting
Monday, January 4, 2021**

Present at the Meeting

Anthony Prudenti
Timothy Houser
Glenn Hummel

Karen Wittig – Treasurer
Katie Orlick – Secretary
Paul Datte – Solicitor (phone)

I. General

A. Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:30PM with the Pledge of Allegiance & Introduction.

B. Public Comments on Agenda Items Only (5 Minutes Time Limit) – Chairman asked if there are any public comments on Agenda Items Only. - None

C. Review of the Minutes – December 7th & 21st, 2020

Chairman called for a motion to accept the meeting minutes from December 7th & 21st, 2020. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

D. Treasurer’s Report – December 2020

Chairman called for a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

E. Approval of Bills – December 2020

Chairman called for a motion to approve & pay the bills. Tim Houser made the motion with the exception of one bill from Lehigh Engineering, LLC. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion was carried. 3-0

F. Solicitor’s Report

A. Chairman asked Attorney Datte if he had anything to report. Attorney Datte said, no. Chairman wanted to know about the status of the DeAngelo Agreement. Attorney Datte said, no, he will follow up with him. 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- ARRO Consulting, Inc. - NONE

III. Operations

A. Engineer’s Monthly Report – December 2020

Chairman asked the secretary if there was an Engineer’s Report. Secretary did not receive one for the month of December.

B. Code Enforcement Monthly Report – December 2020

Chairman asked the secretary if there was a Code Enforcement Report. Secretary did not receive one for the month of December.

C. Sewage Enforcement Officer’s Monthly Report – December 2020

Chairman read the Sewage Enforcement Officer’s Report. The SEO’s report consisted of 2 New Permit Applications, 2 Test Probes, 2 Perc Tests, 2 Site Evaluations, & 2 Interim Inspections. There was one Malfunction for the month of December. Chairman read the Malfunction Report. 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

D. Road Department's Monthly Report – December 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, mowed shoulders, trimmed & chipped trees, graded shoulders, & did winter maintenance on trucks. Road Master ordered the MACK Tandem Truck. The Road Dept. plowed & cindered the snow & ice storm. December 7th-11th, 2020 all workers were off due to COVID. Road Master attended a Floodplain Mapping Workshop. Chairman read the Maintenance Report. Chairman said a gentleman of the Township donated a couple of loads of Anti-skid to the Township & we reduced our taxes for 2021. Chairman also stated the Road Dept. received two grants for the coming year approximately \$140K. Tim Houser asked the Road Master about the communications with the school district during snow storms. Clint Schock said there is a system in place of notifications of what the school does with bad weather. Clint Schock asked to have an executive session with the BOS. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Road Department's Monthly Report. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion was carried. 3-0

E. Police Department Report – December 2020

Chairman read the police report. The police report consisted of 8,098 miles patrolled, 119 citations issued, 77 written warnings, 196 total traffic and 349 total calls. Fine money received was \$4,548.80 plus total impound \$830 which equals to \$5,378.80. West Penn Police along with Santa helped 15 families which helped 50 kids. Tamaqua Police Chief Hobbs also assisted in the program. Chairman thanked Chief Hobbs & the Tamaqua Police Dept. for working so closely with us. There were 11 magistrate hearings & 2 county hearings. Chairman read the Police Dept. Yearly Report. The Police Dept. for the year patrolled 87,459 miles, 2,304 traffic citations, 3,242 warnings, 938 traffic warnings, 147 criminal charges, 103 accidents, \$65,014.40 fines, \$60,345 impounds, \$30,345 pay out to Towers, 3,653 calls & 143 district court hearings & 22 county court hearings.

Chairman called for a motion to accept the Police 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 – December 2020

Chairman read the Fire Company's report. 24 Total calls for the month of December. Emergency Responses included 1 structure fire, 4 Motor vehicle accidents, 2 Trees/wires down, 2 Automatic Alarms, 2 Medical Assists, 3 Fire Police calls, 1 propane leak & 1 Brush Fires. Fire Company had no Hall Rentals due to COVID-19. Upcoming Event is the monthly breakfast 1/10/21. 2020 Yearly Totals: 271 total calls answered, 79 tree/wires down, 49 motor vehicle accidents, 24 automatic alarms, 7 landing zones, 22 medical assists, 4 unknown type fires, 5 vehicle fires, 26 fire police calls, 10 structure fires, 1 search & rescue, 5 chimney fires, 22 brush fires, 2 pump detail, 1 odor investigation, 3 stand by, 4 chief requests, 1 ATV accident, 4 carbon dioxide and 2 utilities investigations 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

G. Ambulance Monthly Report – December 2020

Ambulance did not have their report for December.

IV. Old Business

A. Chairman announce that West Penn Township has a new conference call # which is 1-720-740-9868 and the access code is 6076465. Glenn Hummel said when you dial in you should announce yourself.

V. New Business

A. Chairman wanted to discuss Park Drive with the BOS. We had a correspondence about uneasy activity on Park Drive. Chief said we can cite disorderly conduct if the noise is after 10 PM & 7 AM. Chief Johnson said they should call and our dept. will go out and give them a warning first. If it would happen again in the same time frame they will be cited. Chairman asked the secretary to reach out to the resident with that sent in the concern and let them know how they should handle it.

VI. Correspondence

A. Letter from the Department of Transportation

Chairman read a letter from the Dept. of Transportation in regards to PennDot contracting with Drive Engineering, Inc., French Engineering, LLC and Tri-State Traffic Data, Inc., vendors of the Dept. of Transportation's Highway Safety & Traffic Operations Division, to collect traffic data on municipally owned roads between January 2021 & April 2021.

Tim Houser asked if we can request certain roads to be studied. Tim Houser asked if we could include Blue Mountain Dr., Zion Stone Valley Rd., & Pine Hill. Chairman asked the secretary to reach out to Jason Hershock.

B. Liquor License Transfer

Chairman read a letter from the Liquor Control Board for the transfer of Blue Lizard Vineyard & Winery, LLC to Noble Beast Winehouse, LLC. Attorney Datte stated the transfer is within the Township so a hearing is not necessary.

C. Chief Johnson asked if he can advertise for a 32-hour part-time patrolman. Chairman asked Attorney Datte if we can advertise for a part-time patrolman before the position is available? Attorney Datte said, yes. The BOS agreed to let the Chief advertise for the part-time patrolman.

VII. Public Comments on General Items

A. Ted Rosen – Mr. Rosen would like to know the status of the draft Water Extraction Ordinance.

Chairman said that with COVID, a lot of things are on hold. Chairman said our Ordinance is a pending ordinance doctrine because we already advertised and had a public hearing. Chairman said if someone wanted to come in and do something they would have to follow the new ordinance. Chairman asked Attorney Datte if he knew the status. Attorney Datte said he reached out to the Water Extraction Attorney and their advice was they wanted to follow up with the Hydrogeologist to review Hydrogeological Provisions. Unfortunately, the Hydrogeologist that we hired, retired in 2020, which that is causing a little bit of delay in getting their comments back of those provisions.

Mr. Rosen asked about 2 DRBC applications, one for Fort Franklin & one on Kepners Rd. Mr. Rosen wanted to know if the BOS were going to address those applications? Chairman said it is a pending issue and the BOS would not like to make any comments on something to that is just proposed at this time. Attorney Datte said, at the BOS direction, himself & Curtin & Heefner are monitoring the Fort Franklin Application. Attorney Datte questioned the Kepners Rd. application because those wells are not in or Township.

Jay Land said the Kepners Rd. application is a 20 yr. old application that renews every 10yrs., he believes.

Mr. Land said it was approved 20 yrs. ago & it is just being renewed.

Ted Rosen asked the BOS wants to know their position on the Fort Franklin Application. Chairman said he feels that he doesn't want to comment on this right now because of liability reasons. Tim Houser said we are waiting for reports from the Hydrogeologist and everything is moving slowly because of COVID. Tim Houser said he is not going to make any judgement until he hears all of the facts from the Hydrogeologist and from the Attorneys. Attorney Datte said the docket is being monitored and there is no final docket activity. Attorney Datte said we will be getting a report and we will go from there. Attorney Datte said he agrees with Tony and Tim at this point it would be premature to discuss any aspects of it. Glenn Hummel said he cannot publically give a yes or no answer without having the facts & the process to take its steps.

Ted Rosen asked if it was the same Hydrogeological firm. Attorney said, yes, it is the same Engineering Firm. Ted Rosen wanted to know if the New Hydrogeologist is just looking at the draft ordinance or is he looking at any DRBC application that impact West Penn. Attorney Datte said not any but he is looking the draft and the application we are aware of. Attorney Datte said the Kepners Rd. DRBC Application, he is not aware that there is any review of that application.

Ted Rosen asked when would the Hydrogeologist come up with the report? Attorney Datte said he will look into that.

VIII. Business from Anyone on the Board

Glenn Hummel asked Clint Schock if a resident reached out to him about Spring Rd. off of SR443. Glenn Hummel said it was about water runoff. Clint Schock said no one reached out to him about that.

Glenn Hummel wanted to know the status of the SR 443 property. Glenn Hummel asked if someone should stop by to remind him about the application. Attorney Datte said he would recommend that to see what he is going to do or not do.

Glenn Hummel asked about recycling and location. Tim Houser's concern is who would monitor it. The location may be at the Fire Company or the Ambulance Garage. It would be appreciated if one of those locations would partner with us for the residents. If the residents don't have a location where they can recycle they would have to pay for it. A lot of people cannot afford extra costs.

Jeff Bradford, Fire Chief said he loves the idea of helping the community, but the Fire Company's concern is Liability.

Val Coombe, president of the Ambulance, concerns are monitoring the recycling.

Attorney Datte suggested if you put it at the Fire Company, maybe they could lease that part of the property to the Township and then it would be covered under the Township's liability. Clint Schock said he doesn't believe a non-profit can lease. Attorney Datte said, if the issue was unrelated business income, the Fire Company can always lease it for a \$1. The main reason for the lease would allow the Township to cover it under their liability insurance. The Township can list the Fire Company on the Liability Insurance as an additional insurer. Chairman said to the Chief & President to take this conversation back to their Departments and let them know what we discussed and let us know if anything has changed with their decision about allowing the Township to set up recycling on their property. Val Coombe said maybe we can figure out a way that it would benefit the Ambulance & the Fire Company.

IX. Executive Session - NONE

X. Adjournment

Chairman called for a motion to adjourn @ 7:25PM. 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