

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

Phone (570)386-4507

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**Regular Meeting
Monday, June 7, 2021**

Present at the Meeting

Anthony Prudenti

Timothy Houser

Glenn Hummel (on phone)

Karen Parish – Mullen & Lonergan Assoc. (CDBG)

Ron Zimmerman - CDBG

Karen Wittig – Treasurer

Katie Orlick – Secretary

Paul Datte – Solicitor

Mike Begis – ARRO Consulting

I. General

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

B. Public Hearing with Karen Parish & Ron Zimmerman to discuss CDBG Funding. This hearing was to inform the public about funds available & provide opportunity for citizens to comment on Community Development & Housing needs of West Penn Township. Hearing Minutes dated 6/7/21 are attached. Delroy Haas asked about income levels for housing & also asked about which home improvements qualify.

Art Sterling asked for application because he has a family in mind that may need help.

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

D. Review of the Minutes – May 3rd & 17th, 2021

Chairman called for a motion to accept the meeting minutes from May 3rd & 17th, 2021. Tim Houser made the motion. Chairman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

E. Treasurer's Report – May 2021

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

F. Approval of Bills – May 2021

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

G. Solicitor's Report

Chairman asked Attorney Datte if he had anything to report. Attorney Datte said there is Resolution # 16 of 2021 we would like for the BOS to adopt. This Resolution creates a resident's district to create a speed limit of 25mph on Mush Dahl Rd., between SR 443 & the first intersection, which is Chain Circle (T-902). Chairman called for a motion to adopt Resolution # 16 of 2021. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

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.

A. LAM Associates modification request. Chairman asked Mike Begis from ARRO Consulting, Inc. what information he had for Land Use. Mr. Begis said the Planning Commission had a brief meeting on May 25, 2021, to consider a modification for LAM Associates Subdivision. Chairman said he is associated with the LAM Associates Subdivision; he would like to refrain from discussion or vote of this modification. Mr. Begis said the modification that is being requested is from the SALDOs section 104.E Requirements. That section says the adjoining Township “may” review it & West Penn Township “may” consider the adjoining Township’s comments. Mr. Begis did say we modified this section for another plan previously. The Planning Commission is recommending the modification to the BOS. Tim Houser said it is just a modification is saying we do not want to seek comments from the adjoining municipality. Mr. Houser said who would get the tax revenue if the parcel is in both townships. Attorney Datte said where ever the house sits will get the tax revenue. Glenn Hummel made the motion to accept the Planning Commission’s recommendation and accept the request for modification of Section 104.E. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. 2-1 Chairman abstained from vote.

III. Operations

A. Engineer’s Monthly Report – May 2021

Mike Begis from ARRO Consulting, Inc. reported that they did not have any general engineering to report for this period. Planning Commission was discussed previously under Land Use. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Engineer’s Monthly Report. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

B. Code Enforcement Monthly Report – May 2021

Mike Begis said there were several complaints for the month of May. Mr. Begis said if the BOS had any questions about the Code Report. Chairman did say he liked the report format for the Code Report & did not have any questions. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Code Enforcement 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 – May 2021

Chairman read the Sewage Enforcement Officer’s Report. The SEO’s report consisted of 4 New Permit Applications, 7 Test Probes, 6 perc tests, 6 Site Evaluations, 12 Interim Inspections, 5 design reviews & 1 subdivision review. There were no Malfunctions for the month of May. 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 – May 2021

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, completed the Quarry Road Project. Currently waiting for one more invoice to finalize paperwork & submit to Conservation District for final inspection. The Road Dept. also started the Laurel Lane grant project & started sweeping intersections & developments. Road Dept. had a quote for a New Holland Tractor & a trade price for the old TS100 tractor, \$69,043.87 & got a price for Kuhn TBII mower, \$13,600.00. Chairman read the Maintenance Report.

Chairman asked the BOS their thoughts about the equipment. Glenn Hummel said maybe we can move the money we had for the Pole Building & get the tractor instead this year. Chairman agreed because of the price of lumber & construction this year. Chairman said we can revisit the Pole Building maybe for next year. Tim Houser said he does not have a problem moving that money because of the lumber costs this year. Glenn Hummel made the motion to move forward with the purchase. Tim Houser seconded the motion for the tractor & the loader. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0 Chairman called for a motion to purchase the Kuhn TBII mower for \$13,600. Chairman made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 2-1 Tim Houser abstained. The extra money needed for the purchase will come out of the bridge fund. Chairman wanted to talk about Spring Rd. & St. Peter's Rd. It had come to the Chairman's attention that residents are having a difficult time seeing what the middle of the road is. The Township's plan was to scratch pave & fix Spring Rd. & put in new pipes in on St. Peter's & next year Tar & Chip those Roads but until then the safety issue needs to be addressed. Chairman would like to make a motion to paint the road after scratch pave & put the pipe in. but before we Tar & Chip with a single line in the middle of the road. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0 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

Chairman gave an update on the recycling site. We received a quote from 2 Vets General Contracting, LLC for an 8 ft. Chain Link Fence for \$4,098. The Twp. would have to deposit 60%. Tim Houser made the motion to get the fence. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. Motion was carried. 3-0

E. Police Department Report – May 2021

Chairman read the police report. The police report consisted of 8,027 miles patrolled, 249 total traffic & warnings and 315 total calls. Fine money received was \$5,664.80 plus total impound \$13,680 which equals to \$19,344.80. There were 18 court hearings.

The Police Dept. reported the 2021 Chevy Silverado unit #195 was placed in service. Hazleton Scrape will be removing cars 6/6, check was received \$8,925.00. The Dept. also repainted lines on highway, held written test for Part-Time Officers, two candidates took the test and both passed.

Chairman called for a motion to accept the Police Monthly Report. Tim Houser made the motion.

Chairman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

F. Fire Company Monthly Report – May 2021

Chairman read the Fire Company's report. 17 Total calls for the month of May.

Emergency Responses included 5 Motor vehicle accidents, 4 Trees/wires down, 2 Automatic Alarms, 1 Medical Assists, and 2 Landing Zones. The Fire Company conducted their monthly breakfast, Community Yard Sale, Memorial Day Parades and had their business meeting & monthly training. 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 Report

Chairman read the Ambulance Report. The report consisted of 37 total dispatches, 168 year to date.

Dispatch types included back pain, breathing problems, chest pain, fall victims, traffic accidents and fainting. The receiving hospital Lehigh Valley (Cedar Crest), St. Luke's (Allentown, Geisinger, Lehigh & Miners). Chairman questioned the totals. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Ambulance Report. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

IV. Old Business –

A. Chairman called for a motion to adopt Resolution #17 of 2021 – Entering into a Governmental Finance Lease Agreement with Mauch Chunk Trust Company for a 2022 MACK Granite Dump Truck for 5 years @ a lease amount of \$205,268.00 with an interest rate fixed at 1.27% per annum & principal annually beginning 2021 & interest payable monthly. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

V. New Business - NONE

VI. Correspondence

A. DEP – Silt Dam – Chairman read a letter from DEP in regards to the letter West Penn Township sent inquiring about the Desilting Property @ the bottom of Clamtown Hill. The letter stated that DEP made a commitment to DCNR to transfer the property to their management.

B. A Night in the Country – Chairman Read a letter from Northwestern Recreation Commission requesting traffic assistance for their event on August 21st with a rain date of August 22nd. Chairman called for a motion to authorize West Penn Township's Fire Department to have their Fire Police assist with traffic for the event A Night in the Country. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

C. Blue Ridge Franchise Agreement - the current Franchise Agreement will expire December 31, 2021. Blue Ridge is requesting an extension for another 5yr. term. Tim Houser asked if this is a fixed rate. Attorney Datte said it is a negotiable rate but there is a cap. Chairman said can they cut our bill? Attorney date said it is a negotiable point with these contracts. This discussion was tabled until next meeting. No action was taken.

VII. Business from Anyone on the Board

VIII. Public Comments on General Items

A. Chairman said someone would like to know if the Township can get a webcam for the meetings so residents can participate that cannot attend the meeting. The individual also said maybe we can apply for a grant to defer the costs. Tim Houser said COVID is letting up and he feels people can start coming to the meetings again. Chief Johnson said the School Board is no longer doing ZOOM Meetings. Attorney Datte said Orwigsburg and other municipalities are going back to the in person meetings. Chairman asked the public what they feel about webcam. Todd Deem suggested maybe with the cable franchise agreement ask for them to broadcast? Mr. Deem said the Township, Fire Company, police & ambulance shouldn't be paying for cable with this franchise agreement. Chairman said that necessarily wouldn't be a way for the residents to participate. Art Sterling said he votes no. The consensus was to go back to the way things were and have meetings in person.

B. Delroy Haas – how much is the recycling costing each taxpayer. Chairman said the set up for the recycling site was paid by the Township. Tamaqua Transfer is willing to haul the recycling away at no cost to the residents. It will be for West Penn Twp. Residents only.

Jeff Bradford said he should have everything we need to know about recycling for next meeting.

IX. Executive

Chairman called for an executive session @ 7:55 PM 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 @ 8:22PM

X. Adjournment

Chairman called for a motion to adjourn @ 8:25PM. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0 **Transcribed By:** Katie Orlick, WP Secretary