

**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, July 18, 2022**

**Present at the Meeting**

**Tony Prudenti – Chairman**

**Katie Orlick - Secretary**

**Tim Houser – Supervisor**

**Paul Datte – Solicitor**

**Glenn Hummel – Vice Chairman**

**Mike Begis – ARRO Consulting, Inc.**

**Karen Wittig – Treasurer (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 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**

**A.** Todd A. Deem said he petitioned the Board and he feels the majority of the property owners along SR895 wants it to be zoned Highway Commercial. Mr. Deem wanted to know why it wasn't incorporated. Chairman said we did not get the draft back yet and he feels that there was another Zoning District that would fit better right there. Chairman asked Attorney Datte if we are still on schedule. Attorney Datte said no, he is waiting for Urban Research and Development to get us the draft. Attorney Datte said he is ready to advertise whenever. Chairman asked the Secretary to follow up with Urban Research and find out what was going on.

Terri Knoedler asked what Anti-Nepotism is in regards too. Chairman said it is a policy we are working on for the Township. It is an Anti-Nepotism Policy in hiring and providing a repealer, provisions regarding validity and the effective date of the ordinance. Basically it is no immediate family member of any elected Supervisor shall be eligible for Township employment to any position in the Township at the time of such hiring or appointment. Terri Knoedler said is it just for Supervisors. Chairman said, yes.

**III. Land Use – NONE**

**IV. Old Business**

**A. Bid Opening for Crawler Loader –** Chairman said there was one bid. Chairman opened the bid. The bid was from Mark Leid Farm, New Holland, PA for a 2005 Deere 655C II Crawler S/N LU655CX007337. The Bid was \$52,000. Chairman called for a motion to award the bid. Glenn Hummel made a motion to award bid contingent on it being signed. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

**B. Well for J.E. Morgan Memorial Park –** Chairman called for a motion to accept the lowest bid for the Well for the J.E. Morgan Memorial. Glenn Hummel made the motion for the lowest bidder. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. Chairman abstained from vote because he is a sub-contractor for Boyle Mechanical. Motion carried. 2-1 Boyle's bid was \$11,422.40. Glenn Hummel asked Attorney Datte if the Well Driller doesn't use everything listed on the quote, will the amount be lowered. Attorney Datte said you will have to discuss it with Boyle Mechanical.

**C. Municipal Rd. Speed Limit** – Chairman said since we reduced the speed limit on Zion Stone Church Rd., the Township had three other requests for reducing speed limits on other roads. Zion Stone Church Rd., is about four miles and it cost the Township \$2K. Chairman’s concern is the cost. If we changed every road in the Township and put up signs the cost would be astronomical. Chairman called for a motion to adopt Resolution #20 of 2022, a resolution imposing and designating a speed limit of 25 miles per hour for motor vehicles on a portion of municipal road within West Penn Township pursuant to Township Ordinance #7 of 2000; providing for certain repealers and validity; & establishing the effective date. Glenn Hummel made the motion to adopt the Resolution. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. Chairman opposed because of the cost of signs. Motion was carried. 2-1

**D. Mill Lane** – Chairman said we did some investigating and the secretary will inform us on what we learned. The Secretary said she reached out to the FSA (Farm Service Agency), they referred her to the County’s AG Coordinator Brittney Moore. Brittney Moore said she is also working with our Zoning Officer about these concerns. Secretary said she emailed over the concerns so the AG Coordinator know exactly what are the concerns of our residents. Secretary did speak to the farmer. He said he was roasting soybeans. The farmer said he is organic and the only thing he uses while roasting is propane to roast the soybeans. The secretary said she reached out by email and a phone call to the PA Soybean Board and sent all the questions & concerns to them. The secretary is waiting for a response. Secretary said someone mentioned Bio solids and the Secretary left a message for Tim Craven from DEP and left a message and email questions and all the concerns so he had record of what our concerns are. The Secretary stressed that she has continuously asked what our rights as a Township would be in dealing with these situations. Can we get a copy of the Manure Plan Management Reports? Can we be notified? Are we allowed to know what the farmer is spreading? Who does inspections? Are we allowed to request soil testing? Secretary also asked about tilling the manure under. The response I got that it is not a requirement but it would be more beneficial to the farmer if they did. Ilisa Sacknoff-Hoppes asked about permitting. Secretary said she asked the Code Enforcement Officer and she said, it obviously was a farm because of the Silos on the property. The secretary said she asked if the use would expire on the property. The Secretary said she is working on it to see what we can find out. Chairman said the Board is looking into a Manure Management Ordinance. Tim Houser said we may be able to have something in place that would require the farmer to tarp the manure before they are able to spread it. Mr. Houser said it has to stay so many feet away from anybody’s well or streams. Tim Houser would like to talk to Duane Miller, who is the County Agent to get a little more familiar with the information. Tim Houser said they can store manure under the Right to Farm Law. Chairman said the farmer is willing to come to the meeting. Chairman thanked Karen Wittig for helping with collecting the information. Ilisa Sacknoff – Hoppes asked about the truck traffic on her road because of this farmer. Tim Houser said there was an old driveway that went up to where the old mill, can we require them to widen their driveway where the Tractor Trailers are coming in? Attorney Datte said were they issued a driveway permit? Attorney Datte said as long as the use isn’t grandfathered we can require them to widen the driveway. Chairman said they did get a driveway permit and it has on it that it is a 30ft entrance. Tim Houser said to ask the Road Master to go out and measure the driveway.

**E. Discussion & Potential action to advertise for consideration of the Anti-Nepotism Policy –**

Motion to advertise to advertise Ordinance #1 of 2022, an Ordinance establishing a Personnel Police regarding Anti-Nepotism in hiring and providing for repealer, provisions regarding validity and the effective date of the Ordinance. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0 Attorney Datte said we should be on track to adopt it for the August 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Attorney Datte will take care of the advertising of the Ordinance.

**F. Hearing for Zoning Ordinance Update** – Attorney Datte did not hear from Urban Research & Development yet on the status of the Zoning Ordinance Draft. Chairman instructed the Secretary to contact Charlie Schmehl from URDC in regards of our draft for our Zoning Ordinance.

**V. New Business – NONE**

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

**VII. Correspondence – NONE**

**VIII. Public Comment on General Items**

**Shawn Phillips** – asked the Board about the drainage that was supposed to be done on St. Peters Rd. Chairman referred Mr. Phillips to explain the situation to Jeremy Fable, Road Master. Jeremy Fable will look into the drainage issue on St. Peters Rd.

**Terri Knoedler** – thanked Chief Bonner, Secretary and everyone up at the police Department for always having a positive response whenever she needed to contact them.

**Jay Land** – He is attending the meeting on Mr. Knoedler’s behalf. Mr. Land said there were earlier discussions about Fort Franklin Rd. and a dust issue. Mr. Land is looking for the Board’s approval to tar & chip the portion of the road that was discussed about the dust issue. Chairman said I believe the discussion was to put Soybean Oil on the road to control the dust. Chairman said the problem was the Township got a Dirt & Gravel grant for that road and technically we wouldn’t be able to do anything for five years. Chairman had the Road Master look into it. Jeremy Fable reached out to the Soil Conservation on the Friday before the meeting on his own time and Soil & Conservation does not have a problem with that portion of the road getting Tarred & Chipped. Jeremy Fable said if we wanted to pave it that would be a problem. However, Tar & Chip, the Soil & Conservation District would consider it as a form of dust control and would have no problem with it. Chairman thanked the Knoedler’s for doing it. Jay Land said AMS will be doing the Tar & Chip. Chairman called for a motion to permit the Knoedler’s to hire AMS to Tar & Chip a part of Fort Franklin Rd. under Jeremy Fable’s supervision. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0. to Chairman said we are lucky and thanked the Township employees for everything they do. Chairman also thanked residents for stepping up to the plate as well. Chairman said over we had Leiby’s Dairy donate 8 Electric Hand Dryers. Scott Soley donated lights for up at the recycling site. The Knoedlers donated to have the portion of Fort Franklin Tarred & Chipped. A resident paid for the Speed Strips for the Police Department. Chairman said you put it all together and it’s amazing how kind and generous our residents are.

**IX. Executive Session** – Chief Bonner requested an Executive Session. Chairman called for a motion for an Executive Session for Possible Litigation & Personnel Issues at 11AM. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0 Chairman called the meeting back to order at 11:25AM Chairman would like to amend the Agenda to allow the Chief to talk about his LPR readers. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0 Chief Bonner explained the LPR Readers and how his Dept. uses them. An LPR is a License Plate Reader System. The System will take a picture of the license plate and it gets sent through a data base and will inform the Police Officer everything they need to know about the owner and vehicle. If they have a “Hit”, they confirm it. The System can do Wanted Persons, Missing Persons, Meghan’s Law Violator’s and Amber Alerts. Chief Bonner explained why the Police Dept. Impounds Vehicles. Chief Bonner asked if anyone had any questions. The Board thanked Chief Bonner for his presentation on LPRs. Chairman and the Board acknowledge Chief Bonner and his Department for all they do.

**X. Anything Else from the Board**

Glenn Hummel and the Board acknowledged Jeremy Frable and the Road Department for all they do. Mr. Hummel also, encouraged everyone to go out to the J.E. Morgan Park and check out the work of the road department and the soccer field. Chairman also thanked Mike Begis from ARRO Consulting, Inc. for the help at J.E. Morgan Park as well.

**XI. Adjournment**

Transcribed By:

Katie Orlick

West Penn Township Secretary



ARRO Consulting, Inc.  
1239 Centre Turnpike  
Orwigsburg, PA 17961  
P: (570) 366-9534

August 9, 2022

Brian McQuillen  
789 Penn Drive  
Tamaqua, PA 18252

**RE: Concern Response  
37 Mill Lane, West Penn Township**

Dear Sir or Madam,

I have investigated your concern that was presented to the Township on July 7, 2022 regarding 37 Mill Lane, Tamaqua, PA 18252.

In regards to your complaint regarding Section 314 of the Zoning Ordinance; the property is located in the Agricultural (AG) zoning district and the present use of the property appears to be agricultural purposes with grain storage which appears to be present on the property for many years which would not require the owner to apply for zoning permits for the use of the property. The use of the property for burning or roasting oats as "Processing of Agricultural Products" is a new use of the property and will require a Zoning Permit. We are actively enforcing on the property regarding this matter.

In regards to your complaint regarding Section 502.A & 502.G. of the Zoning Ordinance, pertaining to noxious smoke and any other condition in such manner or in such amount as to adversely affect the reasonable use or value of the surrounding area or adjoining premises or be dangerous to public health or safety. This property has been utilized for agricultural purposes with grain storage present on the property for years. I contacted the Department of Agricultural and the Schuylkill Conservation District (SCD) and discussed the property. They indicated that due to the agricultural use of the property, the property is exempt from air quality matters with Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

In regards to your complaint regarding Section 801 & 802 of the Zoning Ordinance, pertaining to Administration of the Zoning Permits - General Procedure and Permits & Certificates. I believe, this complaint was answered above.

Furthermore, there is no evidence of violations of the zoning ordinance as described in your letter at the property at the present time.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 570-366-9534 or [shannon.darker@arroconsulting.com](mailto:shannon.darker@arroconsulting.com)

Very truly yours,  
ARRO Consulting, Inc.

Shannon M. Darker  
Zoning/BCO/Permit Officer

Cc: File 11140.00 – Parcel Folder

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