

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

Phone (570)386-4507

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**Regular Meeting
Monday, February 6, 2023**

Present at the Meeting

Anthony Prudenti

Timothy Houser

Glenn Hummel(phone)

Karen Wittig – Treasurer(phone)

Katie Orlick – Secretary

Mike Begis – ARRO

Paul Datte – Solicitor

I. General

A. Tony Prudenti called the meeting to order at 6:14PM with the Pledge of Allegiance & Introduction.

B. Public Comments on Agenda Items Only - None

C. Review of the Minutes – January 3rd & 16th, 2023.

Chairman called for a motion to accept the meeting minutes from January 3rd & 16th, 2023. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

D. Treasurer’s Report – January 2023

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

E. Approval of Bills – January 2023

Chairman called for a motion to pay the bills. Glenn Hummel asked the Board to include the bills that the Ambulance submitted that were withheld last month as well. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

G. Solicitor’s Report

Attorney Datte said we have Resolution #7 of 2023 to adopt. This Resolution is to clarify Street names in the Timber Ridge Development. The Resolution was actually suggested by the County’s 9-1-1 Communication Center. East Hyland Drive will end where the loop starts and the entire loop will be Eagles View Dr.

1. Chairman called for a motion to adopt Resolution #7 of 2023 – Renaming certain roads within the Timber Ridge Development. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

II. Land Use

A. Chairman said he spoke to Mr. D’Angelo about the Atlas Park Property and everything should be ready to go when he comes back to the area. Glenn Hummel asked Mike Begis if there was a time limit on when we have to start the DCNR project for Atlas Park. Mike Begis said no. Mike Begis said there is a time line to finish a project, however you can ask for a time extension if needed. We are still waiting on DEP’s comments in order for us to get the property recorded and transferred into our name.

III. Operations

A. Engineer’s Monthly Report – January 2023

Chairman asked Mike Begis from ARRO Consulting, Inc. if he had anything to report for the month of January. Mike Begis said he provided the BOS a report and he would be happy to address any questions the BOS may have. Mike Begis also informed the Board that the bids for the concrete floors of the pavilions will be opened at the county commissioner’s meeting on Wednesday.

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

B. Zoning Report - January 2023

Chairman asked the Board if they had any questions for ARRO in regards to Zoning or the outstanding code violations. Chairman called for a motion to approve the Zoning Report. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

B. Code Enforcement Monthly Report – January 2023

Chairman asked Jim Dean about what is the status of the barn on Mush Dahl Rd. Mr. Dean said he is investigating it. Jim Dean said he is reviewing our property maintenance code. Tim Houser expressed he was never a fan of the International Property Maintenance Code, however he is frustrated that nothing has been done about the property in Snyders for years and our solicitor suggested we may want to look at the International Property Maintenance Code. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Code Enforcement Monthly Report. Tim Houser made the motion. Chairman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

C. Sewage Enforcement Officer’s Monthly Report – January 2023

Chairman read the sewage enforcement officer’s report. The report consisted of 2 New Permit Applications, 2 Design Reviews, 2 site evaluation, 4 interim inspections, and 2 Subdivision Plans. No Malfunctions Reported. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Sewage Enforcement Officer’s Report. Tim Houser made the motion. Chairman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

D. Road Department’s Monthly Report – January 2023

Chairman read the Road Department’s Monthly report. The report consisted of General Maintenance to the Township Building & Equipment, Installed Guiderail on Dairy Rd., Plowing & Cindering Township Roads, Received 150 Tons of Salt, Installed Wire on Pavilion at Morgan Park, Installed Basketball Poles at West Penn Park, Fixed Potholes, Fixed Street Signs and Mowed Brush Back along Twp. Roads. Chairman also read the Maintenance Report. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Road Department’s Monthly Report. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0 Tim Houser asked Jeremy Frable if we have the proper signage for the road names we just changed. Jeremy Frable said he will look into it. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Road Department’s monthly report. Tim Houser made the motion. Chairman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

E. Police Department Report – January 2023

Chairman read the Police Report. The Police Dept. had 8,370 miles patrolled 136 total citations & warnings, & 7 motor vehicle accidents. Chairman called for a motion to approve the Zaprazny Bid to Salvage the Impound Vehicles for a total of \$1,115. (2005 Acura \$415 & 2005 Cadillac \$700) Glenn Hummel made the motion. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried 3-0 Chairman called for a motion to accept Part-Time Police Officer Todd Woodward's resignation. Chairman read the resignation letter. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Chairman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0 Chairman called for a motion to accept the Police Report. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

F. Fire Company Monthly Report – January 2023

Chairman read the Fire Company's report. 16 Total calls for the month of January. The report consisted of 3 motor vehicle accidents, 1 car fire, 3 wire/tree down, 1 automatic fire alarms, 1 medical assist, 5 Fire Police Call & 1 Structure Fires. The department had their monthly meeting, did equipment inspections and firefighter search drills. They had their monthly fundraisers such as the monthly Breakfast & Fire Company Cash Bingo. 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 – January 2023

Chairman read the Ambulance Monthly Report. The Ambulance Report consisted of 39 total calls. 27 calls were in West Penn, 11 Tamaqua, and 1 Lynn Township. Receiving Hospitals were St. Luke's Miners, Geisinger St. Luke's, St. Luke's Carbon, Lehigh Valley Carbon, Cedar Crest & Schuylkill East. The calls consisted of abdominal pain, breathing problems, cardiac arrest, choking, seizure, falls, traffic accidents, stroke, psychiatric problems & lift assists. 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 - NONE

V. New Business

A. J.E. Morgan Memorial Park – Phase II Grant

Chairman asked Mike Begis to give us an update. Mr. Begis said DCNR changed the parameter of the grant form last time. The maximum project cost is \$170K with a \$70K Match. Mr. Begis said we would now have to match 50% of anything over \$30K of the project. The project we tried to do last year is over the new maximum amount. Mike Begis said we can break the project into two. We would have to apply for what the Twp. feels most important to get done sooner. Mike Begis will check with DCNR to see what is more favorable for us to do.

B. Walking Trail (Railroad Bed that was donated to the Township)

Jeremy Frable, Road Master, was asked to start clear cutting the railroad bed. However, before he started he contacted the neighboring property owners to let them know his intentions. Jeff Frantz, owner of the Quarry said the part where Jeremy Frable was going to clear cut he felt was owned by him and not the Township. Jeff Frantz emailed the Township the information he has in regards to that property. Chairman asked Paul Datte & ARRO Consulting to look into it. Chairman said regardless who owns it we may be able to make a walking trail. Jeff Frantz said he was planning on selling the property to the Andreas Sporting Club & we may be able to lease it for 40 years. Glenn Hummel said this trail can eventually be connected to the 9-1-1 Trail.

C. International Property Maintenance Code

Chairman said that he spoke to our Solicitor and he said our current Ordinance doesn't cover anything about tearing a dilapidated property down. Chairman said that if we adopt the International Property Maintenance Code we may be able to fix things quicker. Our new Code Enforcement Officer recommends we adopt it too. Attorney Datte said we would adopt it as an Ordinance and we would fill in the blanks of what we feel should be enforced. Tim Houser's concern is with the grass issue. He said because we are so rural how we regulate when a lot of the properties are fields. Chairman feels farms should be exempted from that section. Glenn Hummel agrees and said we should move forward with it. Chairman asked Attorney Datte about a Board of Appeals for the International Property Maintenance Code. Chairman asked if we can just use the Property Maintenance Appeals Board if they would want to do it. Attorney Datte said we would still have to appoint them if they are willing to do it. Chairman said that we all agree for Attorney Datte to look into the International Property Maintenance Code.

D. Eagle Scout Project – Recycling Bin for Flags

Amanda Kuhn attended our Board Meeting on behalf of her son, Anthony Kuhn. Anthony would like to do a project in an effort to obtain the rank of Eagle Scout. Anthony was unable to attend the meeting, however, his mom called him and put him on speaker phone to propose his project to the Board of Supervisors. Anthony Kuhn is currently a Life Scout in Troop 755. Anthony would like to make a Flag Retirement Box. He suggested to the Board possible locations for the box. Mr. Kuhn said by the VFW or the recycling bins? Chairman said it was a wonderful idea. Chairman's question is, who is going to maintain the box? Anthony said Troop 755 will be responsible for removing & maintaining the flags. He also said that we can give anyone else a spare key if they want to help. Glenn Hummel asked if the bin would be up by the recycling bins. Tim Houser asked if they were going to have ceremonies when they retire the flags. David Krall spoke and said that they will certainly retire the flags properly and the VFW will be involved along with Troop 755 and the Fire Company. We would like to make it a significant event. The Lions Club will donate an old mailbox to be repurposed as the flag recycling bin. The Board agreed to try it out up at the recycling bin. The Board of Supervisors also feel it is a great idea. Chairman asked Paul Datte if we would have to make a motion about this project. Attorney Datte asked if Anthony Kuhn can give us a brief proposal in writing of what he would like to do so we can have that for the minutes. Anthony Kuhn's proposal is to restore a retired US mail deposit box in a manor acceptable to both parties for the use of depositing retired US flags. Once complete, said box will be placed on West Penn property in a location chosen by the beneficiary. Box will remain in place for a trial of 6 months, at which time either party may choose to have it relocated by West Penn Township Troop 755. Amanda Kuhn said sure and we would need to know who they can list as the beneficiary for this project. The beneficiary signs off on the completion of the project and if they feel any changes should be made. Amanda Kuhn asked who we should list. Attorney Datte said it should be the Chairman; Anthony Prudenti, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of West Penn Township. Chairman called for a motion to support the idea of the Flag Retirement Box. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

VI. Correspondence

A. Bob Doerr – Flag – Mr. Doerr was unable to attend the BOS Meeting.

B. West Penn Park Commission Letter – Chairman, read a Thank you letter for work that was done on the Basketball Court at Zion Stone Park. The letter was from the WP Park Commission.

Chairman said he reached out to Lorne Possinger about the DCNR grant West Penn Twp. submitted. The Township was denied for the grant and the Chairman wanted to find out why. Mr. Possinger assures the Chairman nothing was done wrong but DCNR ran out of money this round.

C. Schuylkill Co. Election Bureau Letter – Chairman read a letter from the Election Bureau requesting that they use the Municipal Building as the Polling Station. The Board is fine with that.

VII. Business from Anyone on the Board

A. Lights for the Train – Glenn Hummel asked if anyone knows where the 5 Dusk to Dawn Lights are that were purchased as spotlights for the train. Glenn Hummel said he doesn't know if someone took them by accident or someone stole them. Chairman asked Chief Jim Bonner to look into it.

B. Board of Supervisors – Spoke about putting up the Veteran Flag Poles. Chairman said we already have the poles. Matt Hope donated 8 Poles. Tim Houser said it will be coming in Spring.

VIII. Public Comments on General Items

A. Steve Kowalewski – has a concern about big trucks not being able to make turns on Blue Mountain Dr. He said when they make the turn they hit the Verizon Relay Box and it gets smashed only to cause his phone to go out of service. Mr. Kowalewski said it is continuously happening. Verizon would fix it then a tractor trailer truck would smash it again. It is on the corner of the east side of Dorset Rd. Mr. Kowalewski said he called the secretary and said he was under the impression that we had an agreement with Jay Land that the trucks were not to use Blue Mountain Dr. The secretary was not aware of any agreement. Mr. Kowalewski called the phone company and the police department. The Police Dept. found out by Jay Land that there is a specific Route they are supposed to travel. The police department took pictures of the smashed relay box.

He is frustrated. Can someone put a guide rail up around that corner? Mr. Kowalewski asked what can we do about it? Chairman said it needs to be fixed. Glenn Hummel asked if it was in the Township's right-of-way. Jeremy Fable said yes it is. Jeremy Fable suggested we put up "Absolutely No Trucks" signs. Glenn Hummel said we may be able to approach Verizon and say we want to make the road proper width; they may do a work order to move the wires. Glenn Hummel said when he gets back from vacation he will look into that. Chairman said he would like to take care of this in a couple of ways. Chairman thinks we should do something to go around it to protect it. Chairman said we can look into guide rails, cement posts or something to protect it. Tim Houser said on Atlas Rd. they put cement blocks around it to protect it. Tim Houser said he doesn't know what liability we would have if someone hits it. The Board agrees something needs to be done. Glenn Hummel asked Mr. Kowalewski if he went to the Public Utility Commission. Glenn Hummel said that is what you need to do. Attorney Datte said maybe the Township should get with ARRO and see what is PennDOT standard for acceptable for Barriers. Chairman said he would like to go with guide rails. Glenn Hummel said we have to watch what side opens up. Glenn Hummel asked the Board to wait until he gets back. Chairman asked for Glenn Hummel to check it out before our next meeting. In the meantime, Tim Houser to put up like a flashing barrier sign. Chief made a note that the Mountain has been shut down numerous times. Through his investigation he cannot pinpoint what kind vehicle is hitting it. Glenn Hummel reassured the board he will look into it when he gets back.

Randy Miller – voiced his concern about the IPMC. Mr. Miller feels that people just don't understand Agriculture anymore. Would the IPMC protect Agriculture? Attorney Datte said we will take a look at the State's Agricultural Law and the ACRE Law. We will also take a look at weed and plant growth.

Delroy Haas – said just east of John Garber’s farm the road is breaking away, if the road department can take a look at it.

Ilisa Sackhoff Hoppes - Corner of Penn & Mill. Citation were filed at the DJ’s office; no hearing was scheduled yet. The property owner did not respond to the summons at this point.

Ms. Hoppes said there is another relay box smashed by SR443, if Glenn Hummel can take a look at that one too.

Carl Greves – his concern is bio-solids. A farmer had them dumped the other day. Mr. Greves asked if anyone was going to do anything about it or does he have to smell it for six months again. Chairman said we are looking into again. We went to DEP last year and they had their proper permit and a nutrient management plan. Chairman said we should be able to get notified of what is in the bio-solids. DEP told the secretary that you can buy this same base “fertilizer” at Home Depot. Tim Houser asked Paul date if we can require them to tarp it. Attorney Datte said he is not sure depending what the state law is.

IX. Executive Session – NONE

X. Adjournment

Chairman called for a motion to adjourn at 7:47PM. 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