

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

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**Regular Meeting
Monday, June 5, 2023**

Present at the Meeting

Anthony Prudenti
Timothy Houser
Glenn Hummel

Karen Wittig – Treasurer
Katie Orlick – Secretary
Mike Begis – ARRO, Engineer
Paul Datte – Solicitor

I. General

A. Tony Prudenti called the meeting to order at 6:00PM with the Pledge of Allegiance & Introduction.

Chairman announced that at 5:30PM, the Board had an executive session regarding personnel matters.

B. Public Comments on Agenda Items Only - NONE

C. Review of the Minutes – May 1st & 15th, 2023

Chairman called for a motion to accept the meeting minutes from April 1st & 15th, 2023. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

D. Treasurer’s Report – May 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 Chairman asked the Treasurer if we got reimbursed from the fraud that was happening to our account. Karen Wittig the treasurer said yes, immediately. Chairman explained that in the last two weeks someone hacked of bank account. Chairman thanked Karen Wittig, Treasurer, for doing such a great job with the Township’s Finances and for monitoring them so closely. He also, thanked her for acting so quickly getting our accounts secured.

E. Approval of Bills – May 2023

Chairman called for a motion to pay the bills. Glenn Hummel said he withheld a bill from the Ambulance Association, to look into it a little further. Chairman called for a motion to approve the bills except for the Ambulance Association. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

F. Solicitor’s Report

Attorney Datte said the first item on his report is for the Board to take into consideration for adoption is the International Maintenance Code Ordinance #1 of 2023. It has been properly advertised and posted. This is in reference to adopt the 2021 Edition of the IPMC. We did make some changes to that Edition that the Board recommended. Chairman called for a motion to adopt the International Property Maintenance Code Ordinance #1 of 2023. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Tim Houser reluctantly seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0 Paul Datte continued to say that we talked about the Peddling & Soliciting Ordinance, he feels the Ordinance that is in place now is good. However, we have to adopt a Resolution to adopt the form of the application. Chairman called for a motion to

adopt the Peddling/Soliciting Resolution #11 of 2023. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. One opposed. Motion was carried. 2-1

Attorney Datte continued discussions about the update to our Zoning Ordinance. He said Charlie Schmehl is still working on the text revisions that have been discussed. We do have a revised Zoning map. Which addresses the Mill Dr. situation? If acceptable it should be the last suggested revision to the map. This is not the permanent revision to the map, this is a suggested revision of the map. Utilizing this as the final version. This map will be incorporated with the text. Charlie Schmehl hopefully can get everything back by next meeting and we can send back to the Planning Commission and then advertise for our next hearing.

Ilisa Sackhoff Hoppes – asked the Board if her property was still Agricultural and the Mill was Highway Commercial. Chairman said he wants everyone to know that this is still a proposal. Ilisa Sackhoff Hoppes said ok.

Chairman asked Attorney Paul Datte to explain the process at this point. Attorney Datte said, he is still uncertain on the timing of this because we are still working on some revisions. Once we have all that, we would be in the position that the Board of Supervisors, feel like it can be published and put out there for consideration and reviewed by the public. It will have to go to the Township Planning Commission & the County Planning Commission. They will have 30 days to review it and comment on it. The comments will go back to the Board of Supervisors and the BOS will decide whether or not to accept those comments and revises the ordinance or not. There will need to be one more public hearing scheduled before the Board of Supervisors for consideration and any other comments people may have on the ordinance. Once the Board has the comments in hand, then the Board at any meeting, can then adopt the Ordinance or decide to revise it again after the next public hearing. There will be an advertisement in the newspaper and it will be posted at the Township. The single advertisement will do two things. It will inform the public when the public hearing will be for the ordinance and it will indicate at a public meeting, no sooner than 7 days after the advertisement (this will be advertised once a week for two consecutive weeks.) no sooner than 7 days after the second of time that notice appears and no later than 60 days after that notice appears, the board would consider the ordinance for adoption. The board will establish this schedule at one of their public meetings. 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 – NONE

III. Operations

A. Engineer's Monthly Report – May 2023

Chairman asked Mike Begis from ARRO Consulting, Inc. if he had anything to report for the month of May. Mr. Begis asked if we had the Beila Terra Farms Subdivision was recorded yet. Secretary said yes, we are waiting for the applicant to return from Florida then Paul to get the deed and have the property transferred in our name. Paul Datte said he will coordinate the deed with the property owner. Mike Begis said DCNR was looking for an update on the grant status. Paul Datte said the subdivision of the plan is completed and recorded and we will now coordinate execution of the deed by the owner. Mike Begis said he will need a copy of the deed to upload on the grant portal. Chairman asked the Board to review the remaining items on ARRO's Code Enforcement Report and asked if they had any questions. Mike Begis referred to the code report and explained what was being done about the property at Chestnut Circle. He explained that a lot of progress has been made on the property. The septic issue has

been satisfied. The electric was turned on. One outstanding item is the chimney repair. The owner does have a contract to get it done and the completion of the job would be August 31st. Mike Begis asked the Board is that a good timeline for that. Tim Houser said he did notice the area being cleaned up. Tim Houser asked about another property. The secretary said there is a judgement on that property. Tim Houser also inquired about the property in Snyders. Secretary said she believes we were waiting to see if the IPMC would pass to have more leverage condemning the property. Glenn Hummel asked Mike Begis about a property on page three of his report. Chairman asked if the Board if they would accept the Engineer/ 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 –May 2023

Chairman asked if anyone has any questions. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Code Enforcement 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 2023

Chairman read the sewage enforcement officer’s report. The report consisted of 1 New Permit Applications, 1 Test Probes, 3 Perc Tests, 1 Design Reviews, 1 site evaluation, and 3 Interim Inspection. No Malfunction Reported. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Sewage Enforcement Officer’s 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 2023

Chairman read the Road Department’s Monthly report. The report consisted of General Maintenance to the Township Building & Equipment, Installed shale on Rabbit Run Road (Dirt & Gravel Road Project), Trimming grass around bridges & guiderails, Cleaned trees & debris off Township roads, fixed Potholes with Cold Patch, Mowing shoulders along Township Roads and attended Safety day in Allentown for PA ONE-Cali. Chairman read the Maintenance Report. Chairman said the Road Department is requesting to hire two people. Chairman called for a motion to hire Karl Paisley retroactive May 22, 2023 as a Full Time Road Laborer and Noah Mateyak retroactive May 30, 2023 as a Seasonal Road Laborer. 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 the Road Department’s Monthly Report. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried.3-0

E. Police Department Report –May 2023

Chairman read the Police Report. The Police Dept. had 7,356 miles patrolled 263 total citations & warnings, & 5 motor vehicle accidents. 248 Total Calls. Chairman said topics to discuss will be approving Zaprazny Quote and Discussion of Towing fees. Chief Bonner said we can discuss Towing Fees at a later time. Chairman called to approve the salvage quote from Zaprazny for 4 vehicles at \$1,975.00 (2008 Chrysler \$420, 1999 Nissan \$377, 2004 Ford \$703 and 2004 Nissan \$475.) Glenn Hummel made the motion. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0 Chairman called for a motion to approve 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 – May 2023

Chairman read the Fire Company’s report. 21 Total calls for the month of May. The report consisted of 3 motor vehicle accidents, 7 wire/tree down, 1 automatic fire alarms, 1 medical assist, 1 Fire Police Call, 1 carbon monoxide, 2 Structure Fires, and 4 brush fires. The department had their monthly meeting, dry

hydrant inspections, pump operations/driver training, pool fills, building maintenance and ladder & truck maintenance. They had their monthly Breakfast & Bingo fundraisers in the month of May. 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 – May 2023

Chairman read the Ambulance's May Monthly Report. The May monthly report is as follows: 30 Total Calls for the month of May. 139 Total Calls Year to Date. Municipalities included 3 Tamaqua, 1 New Ringgold and 24 West Penn Township. The receiving Hospitals included 6 LVHN Carbon, 1 LVHN Cedar Crest, 7 St. Luke's Miners, 4 St. Luke's Carbon, and 1 St. Luke's Allentown. Outcome – 10 Treated transported BLS, 1 Canceled, 4 Lift Assist, 5 Patient Refusals, and 9 Treated, Transported w/ ALS. The calls consisted of Abdominal Pain, Fall Victim, Breathing Problems, Hemorrhage/Laceration, Lift Assist, Medical Alarm, Sick Person, Poison/Overdose, Traffic Accident, Traumatic Injury and Fainting. Karen Crostley noted that the report was completed using their charting software. She will have more detail once she goes through the report from the county. She will explain how many calls were covered by other companies & which companies helped Penn Mahoning. She was also pleased to note they just hired 4 new people. Chairman called for a motion to accept the May Ambulance Report. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

IV. Old Business

Glenn Hummel asked about the status of the Rails to Trails, East Penn to West Penn. He asked if it was ever resolved. Chairman said, no. Chairman explained that the Quarry feels they own the Railroad Right-of-Way and we were donated a Railroad Right-of-way and it looks like there were two railroad Right-of-Ways and we both own one. Paul Datte agreed. Paul Datte suggested we sit down with the Quarry to see if this could get resolved. The Quarry is in the process of giving some land to the Andreas Sporting Club. They may let us use the Right-of Way and maybe allow for parking.

V. New Business

A. Chairman announced that the 2023 CDBG Program will have a public hearing at the Township on Monday, June 19, 2023 @ 9:30AM. Tim Houser encourages the residents to participate in the hearing and if they know anyone that may benefit from these funds to make them aware that there is help for low to moderate income families. Carl Greves asked if they had a reverse mortgage would they be able to qualify. Those questions can be asked at the hearing.

VI. Correspondence - NONE

VII. Business from Anyone on the Board

A. Tim Houser said he was up at the recycling bin and he would like to make a comment. The Eagle Scout's Project is up there and he did a really nice job on the mail bin for Retired Flags. It looks fabulous! Great job! Glenn Hummel asked who would be emptying it. Tim Houser said they will be having a ceremony where they would officially Retire the Flags. Glenn Hummel said it was full. Chairman asked the Secretary to reach out to the Eagle Scout and see if it could be emptied.

B. Glenn Hummel discussed the Ambulance situation. He said we are not getting the information we are looking for. We asked for a budget the last two years and did not receive one. Glenn Hummel's concern is the Township is giving \$45K to the Ambulance Association and we do not get any information we ask for. We want to ensure the tax payers money is being spent correctly. Penn Mahoning is on a Provisional License which means they cannot staff 24/7. Glenn Hummel does not want to see Penn Mahoning have to close its doors however, they are not doing anything to make things better. Glenn Hummel would like

to bring to the Board, when Penn Mahoning is in service make them primary and when Penn Mahoning is not in service have Tamaqua as our Primary. That way we have guaranteed coverage all around and let the mutual aid come in beyond that. Glenn Hummel feels Penn Mahoning refuses to give a budget, they refuse to give exposure to transparencies to the expenditures and they purchased an Ambulance last year and it was supposed to be on the road immediately. We are going into the middle of June and the Ambulance is nowhere near being certified to be on the road. Glenn Hummel said that was \$23K of the taxpayers' money that should not have been spent.

Chairman said the positive thing is that they did just hire 4 new people. Chairman questioned if that would give the Township 24 hr. coverage. Then he said he got a call from someone that feels the money should stay in West Penn Twp. Chairman said our responsibility for the citizens of the Township is to make sure they get hr. coverage for Ambulance Service. Glenn Hummel said he agrees that the taxpayers' money should stay in West Penn however, the only way to do that is to withdraw the money allotted to the Ambulance Association. Chairman clarified that we just don't give the Ambulance Association the money, we pay bills with it. The problem Glenn Hummel had was they weren't submitting the bills right away. Glenn Hummel said then the vendors were sending the bills but at that point we didn't know whether that the right work got done because the Ambulance didn't review them. Glenn Hummel is frustrated. Glenn Hummel's view is to follow the Com Center's recommendation. Make Penn Mahoning Ambulance Association Primary Coverage when they are in service and we make Tamaqua our secondary. If both Ambulance Associations are tied up, then the mutual aid will kick in. Glenn Hummel would cut back the finding to \$30K. He would take the bills that Penn Mahoning spent up until this point of the year and the money we already paid out for them, count that into the \$15K and give \$15K to Tamaqua. Tamaqua would have to submit their bills to us for the \$15K. Glenn Hummel said no wages, no workers comp, just strict bills. This would be to support the Ambulance Associations financially for the unit and/or expenses they may have with the unit. Chairman said he likes the idea, however, we promised them \$45K. Chairman said they will be doing fundraisers too. Chairman feels they are trying. Tim Houser feels it is very frustrating not getting the information that we ask for. But feels they just hired four more people and will be having the fundraiser. Tim Houser feels we need to stress to them we are looking at alternatives and let them know if we don't get the information we are looking for we will be taking an alternative route. Tim Houser highly recommends they come up with the information that was requested. Tim Houser is willing to give them until July to see if they make any more progress. If they don't then he will agree with Glenn Hummel. Tim Houser said he feels he would cut the funding to \$20K & \$20K.

Donny Hoppes – gave his view of the situation. Chairman said the bottom line is we need 24/7 coverage. Glenn Hummel made a motion to amend the Agenda to take a vote on the Ambulance Association. Tim Houser would like to wait another month. Glenn Hummel removed his motion. Tim Houser made a motion to see if there is any other progress and if we receive the information that Glenn Hummel asked for by July 1st and if not we go with Glenn Hummel's plan. Chairman seconded the motion. All in favor. Glenn Hummel opposed. Motion was carried. 2-1

VIII. Public Comments on General Items

Jason Oswald asked if Dogwood Lane was in the plans to be fixed. Jeremy Frable said, yes, he has to put another pipe in then he plans to do it.

Ilisa Sackhoff Hoppes – she asked for an update of Penn & Mill Dr. Kevin Hoppes stated there is an unregistered vehicle on the property as well. Tim Houser said now that we adopted the IPMC, we may

be able to push a little harder with some of the properties that have been in violation. Attorney Datte said under the IPMC there are procedures that make things a little easier.

Chairman said the Police Chief had to leave the meeting because he wasn't feeling well.

Terri Knoedler – asked when Fort Franklin Rd. would be fixed. Jeremy Frable spoke to her husband and said about two weeks he will be up to get it fixed. Terri Knoedler asked if Randy Miller got permits for what is going on at his property & for his addition he put on his barn.

Terri Knoedler also question Tim Houser permits of his septic system. Ms. Knoedler said, Nov. 8, 2021, Mr. Houser said and she quoted, that he was bending the rules of his septic system. Tim Houser stated the rules weren't bent. Mr. Houser explained the septic system at his mother's farm failed. Mr. Houser couldn't meet the setbacks for new house requirements. Mr. Houser contacted Bill Brior and asked if he can put in a new septic. Bill Brior said yes, because it is an existing home. Mr. Houser stated that he had to put one of the largest sand mound system that cost over \$30K. Paul Datte said the rules weren't bent and he got his permit and it was very expensive. Terri Knoedler asked Paul Datte where is her well permit. Paul Datte said you have a week and talk to your Attorney.

Don Hoppes asked the Board for a list of what they want from the Ambulance Association. Chairman said he wants 24/7 coverage. Tim Houser said he wants to talk with Glenn Hummel. He knows we are looking for a game plan of what you are going to do elevate the problem. Glenn Hummel will give it to Tim Houser.

Delroy Haas asked about the CDBG program and the income limits.

Don Hoppes asked about the CDBG Program.

Brian McQuillen – asked about a walking path for old people.

IX. Executive Session

X. Adjournment

Chairman called for a motion at 7:20PM to adjourn the meeting. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

Transcribed By: Katie Orlick

West Penn Township Secretary