

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

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**Zoning Ordinance Hearing(5PM) & Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 5, 2023**

Present at the Meeting

Anthony Prudenti
Timothy Houser
Glenn Hummel

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

I. Draft Zoning Ordinance 2nd Hearing

Charlie Schmehl, from Urban Research and Development Corporation gave a brief summary of what is in the proposed ordinance. This Zoning Ordinance is an update to the current Zoning Ordinance the Township has. The Zoning Ordinance primarily regulates the uses of land. Which areas are allowed for different types of residential development, different types of agricultural development, commercial development, industrial development and institutional development? Municipalities are divided up into Zoning Districts. The Zoning Districts allow for different types of development. Charlie Schmehl, referred to the updated Zoning Map that shows the proposed districts in different parts of the Township and describes the range of things that could be built.

Zoning also looks at the densities of development, lots sizes, and whether there is water and sewage service. Charlie Schmehl said he worked with a committee, Township Supervisors and the Planning Commission through many different issues. Charlie Schmehl stressed that anything that is legal today will continue to be legal. Under State law this is a concept called Non-Conforming Uses. Charlie Schmehl explains that if you have a legal commercial business in a residential area, you can keep that business in operation although it is not allowed under the current Zoning, because it was legal when it first went in. Under the State Law you are guaranteed the right to continue that business, you can expand within limits, sell it and can change it to a new business as long as the new business is not more of a negative impact than the existing business.

Charlie Schmehl said the memo describes some of the goals in this process are to promote agricultural preservation but in the manner that is fair to the property-owners. Maintain an attractive rural character in most areas of the Township. Protect natural resources, particularly groundwater, creek corridors, very steeply sloped lands and wetlands. Provide compatible land uses, this is so we don't have someone building an asphalt plant next to housing developments. Streamline regulations so it will make it easier to do routine things such as roof repair or a deck or a small addition. Charlie Schmehl said under State Law we have to provide an area for a variety of housing opportunities. We encourage the preservation of useable and attractive open spaces within larger residential developments. We have a goal of promoting additional business Activity to provide increased tax revenues and expanded employment opportunities, and to diversify the sources of Township revenues. We look to direct most new intensive development to selected areas with good highway access. We want to prevent and control uses that would threaten significant nuisances or hazards. And we would promote reuse and rehabilitation of historic buildings.

The Zoning Districts include:

CN Conservation District – includes the Blue Mountain along the southern part of the Township and Mauch Chunk Ridge along the northern part of the Township. Significant portions of the CN are comprised of State Game Lands and other very steeply sloped lands.

The Conservation District would continue to allow single-family detached houses on 10-acre minimum lots, except that 1.5-acre lots would be allowed if proposed building area would not include areas of 20 percent or greater slopes.

AC Agricultural Conservation District is a new district. This is the Northeastern part of the Township, including areas along Dairy Rd. This district is similar the Conservation District, except it would start with a 3-acre minimum lot size if open space development (cluster) options would not be used. If open space option would be used, one-acre minimum lot sizes would be allowed if 50% of the land would be preserved. Lots of 1.5 acres would be allowed if proposed building area would not include areas of 20% or greater slopes.

AG Agricultural District – This makes up most of the Township. This district would continue to primarily allow agricultural uses and single-family detached dwellings on 1.5-acre minimum lots. If the open space options would be used, one-acre minimum lots sizes would be allowed if 30% of the land would be preserved. With ZHB approval, the AG district would continue to allow commercial outdoor recreation. Mining would no longer be allowed. Agricultural Industry would not be allowed. Agricultural Industry would be allowed in Highway commercial & Industrial Districts.

RR Rural Residential District – This district includes areas that surround concentrations of existing homes, including area near the Elementary School on School Rd., north of Pine Hill Rd., residential portions of South Tamaqua, areas on Mush dahl Rd. east of Clamtown, Valley Park estates & north of Golf Rd. and an area north side of SR895 on both sides of Rabbit Run Rd. The RR district would continue to mainly provide single-family detached houses on one-acre minimum lots. Lot sizes could be reduced as small as 1/3 acre if there are central water & central sewage services.

SR Suburban Residential District – This district is currently in two areas: The Pines Mobile Home Park south of SR895 & the former Villas Crossing Golf Course on Golf Rd. Charlie Schmehl said there has been some public discussion about the formal Golf Course because it is for sale. The Zoning is the same as the proposed zoning. If someone could get approval from the State for central water and central sewage system, it would be possible to build housing up to 6 homes per acre. We have to have some place in the Township we can point to where the Zoning allows Townhouses and apartments. The SR district also would continue to allow manufactured/mobile home parks with a maximum density of 5 homes per acre.

VC Village Center District – This district included the center of Clamtown & part of South Tamaqua. A few additional areas along SR 443 & SR 895 are proposed to be added to VC, including near Clamtown, near existing businesses along SR 895 and in the Mantzville Area along SR 443. This area is for less intense Commercial Uses. Lot sizes can be reduced to ¼ acre if there is both central water & central sewage services. For homes with a well and septic, one-acre minimum lot size would continue to apply.

HC Highway Commercial District – This district includes many areas along SR309 between Pine Hill Rd. and Mush Dahl Rd., areas along SR443 from West of Valley Rd. to SR309, areas along SR309 from south of SR443 to south Tamaqua and near the intersection of Mill Dr. & SR443. This district would continue to allow a very wide range of commercial uses. The more intensive uses require Zoning Hearing Board Approval, such as Agricultural Industry.

LI/B Light Industrial/Business District – This district would continue to apply to an area of land along the north side of SR895, east of SR309. It is logical to continue to have two industrial districts. The Light Industrial district should continue to allow for many industrial uses and selected complementary commercial uses. The Commercial Industrial district should allow all of the uses of LI District plus uses that need special controls because of potential nuisances or hazards. Under the State court decisions, each Municipality is supposed to have buildable locations that allow for every legitimate land use. Therefore, there needs to be at least one district that allows uses such as a trash transfer station or chemical plant.

CI Commercial Industrial District – This district is for a wide range of Commercial Industrial uses. The current General Industrial district includes the former Atlas Power Complex land west of Clamtown (which is now in Agricultural use) and part of SR309 in South Tamaqua, which includes some trucking-oriented uses. The Industrial uses that are likely to cause nuisances and hazards would continue to be permitted by right, while more intensive and potentially hazardous uses would need Zoning Hearing Board approval.

EI Extractive Industrial District – This district would continue to include the Andreas Quarry in the southeast part of the Township, south of SR895. Mining would need conditional use approval from the Supervisors. The district would continue to allow a number of other commercial & industrial uses. The more intensive uses would need conditional approval, such as trash transfer stations.

Charlie Schmehl said that has been working with a committee, a separate engineer and a separate Attorney on regulating ground water and spring water withdrawal. URDC was asked to include that information in the Zoning Ordinance.

Flood-prone Areas are regulated by a separate Floodplain Ordinance that meet the minimum federal and state regulations on development in the 100-year floodplain.

Billboards – Charlie Schmehl said we have to have some place in the Township to place Billboards. A number of court decisions have required municipalities to allow billboard in at least one district, of at least 300 square feet. West Penn meets this requirement by allowing 300sq. ft. billboards in the Highway Commercial District, which is proposed to continue. In comparison, most billboards along major highways are 672 sq. ft. per side.

Charlie Schmehl said that was the overview of the new zoning ordinance and if anyone has, any questions feel free to ask.

Jason Oswald - asked if his garage on SR895, Summer Valley Rd. up to the Trailer Park could be zoned Highway Commercial. The Township told him we could not do that. Then he asked if we can just change just the property of the garage and the Township said we could not do that because that would be spot zoning. Mr. Oswald questioned some properties that he feels are spot zoning in the Township. He wanted to know why they were allowed to be singled out and his shop was not. Mr. Oswald also questioned that auto repair garage is not allowed in VC. Chairman asked Charlie Schmehl if that was true. Charlie Schmehl said an auto garage is an allowable use in the Highway Commercial District. The concern is that SR895 and Summer Valley Rd. is not suitable for a large amount of new traffic or a lot of new development because of the Floodplain, wetlands and steep slopes and the narrowness of the road. The goal of the VC District is to allow for less intense businesses that would mainly serve local residence. Charlie Schmehl said the existing use of the Auto Repair garage can continue and it can expand within limits and can be sold as a non-conforming use.

Attorney Datte asked Charlie Schmehl to explain again about the grandfathering of existing uses. Charlie Schmehl stated that a Non-Conforming Use could continue to operate, you could expand up to 50%, you can sell to a new operator and you could change the use as long as it is not more intense than the existing use. Chairman was understanding that Auto Garage without gas pumps would be allowed in VC. Charlie Schmehl said no it is not an allowable use.

Charlie Schmehl said it is currently residentially zoned the proposal is to change it to VC, which allows a wide range of commercial uses.

Jay Land – wanted a little clarification that Charlie Schmehl brought up. Mr. Land said Charlie raise the issue of spring water harvesting extraction. Jay Land asked the BOS whether the Township or any of the Committees has done any work, studies, reports or analysis by any professionals, that indicates there is a reasonable chance that a spring as defined under federal & state law exists in the E1 Zoning district. Jay Land questioned if we created something that does not exist. Charlie Schmehl said he did not do the work he was asked to include the work that was done by the other committee, engineer and attorney to be included in the Ordinance. Jay Land said if this is intended to regulate spring water harvesting, and if there are no springs in the E1 Zoning District are we adopting an ordinance that is exclusionary on this base. Chairman said the Quarry. He asked what is spring water. Jay Land said the definition of spring water under federal and state law is water that naturally flows to the surface. However, the development allows for the harvesting of the water before it gets to the surface. Mr. Land believes by specific language in the FDA regs and rules says no, quarry water is not spring water. Jay Land wanted to know if the Township did a study to know if there are springs at the quarry. He said he knows the answer because he did the studies. Chairman said we did have a hydrogeologist study. Jay Land said for the record there were no studies done. Attorney Datte said for the record we had a hydrogeologist involved, sitting here tonight we cannot that there is or there isn't spring water at that site, within the E1 district.

Ted Bogosh – wanted to discuss excessive lighting. Charlie Schmehl said page 103 & 104. It regulates the height of lighting near a dwelling. Maximum of 35ft. that is mainly an issue in by like a shopping center. Charlie Schmehl said their primary concern is not star gazing, our primary concern is compatibility with the neighbors.

Terri Knoedler – her concern was a motion sensor light on Fort Franklin. She said when you drive by it is right in your eyes Chairman said it could be looked at.

Shawna Usher – wanted to address the water extraction. She feels there needs to be limits on water extraction. She feels that water extraction companies are stealing our community's water. She spoke about and wanted some clarification on water and the aquifers. She expressed her concerns about water extraction and who should be paying for certain studies. Attorney Datte referred her to the Ordinance. Attorney Datte said any existing uses, legally that are in the Township are grandfathered under the Ordinance. Shawna Usher questioned 10K gallons of water/day. Attorney Datte again encourage Shawna Usher to read the Ordinance. Charlie Schmehl said it is page 47-51.

Brian Costenbader – Archery Lane ~ questioned the property near the Golf Course. He is concerned that in that area can have six residents/acre. He feels they would have to have public water & sewer. Chairman said absolutely. Charlie Schmehl said you cannot have more than one home/ acre unless you have central water & sewer. Charlie Schmehl said it goes through a very involved DEP process that is extremely hard to do. He spoke about the surrounding roads. Charlie Schmehl said the Township has the ability to require the developer to improve the immediately adjacent road segments. PennDOT can also

require improvement to roads that are a half mile away. Mr. Costenbader also asked about slopes. He wanted to speak out about it. His concern is he came to West Penn Township to get away from huge developments. Chairman said he understands his concerns but at this time nothing has been proposed.

Ilisa Sackhoff Hoppes – Mill Dr. – She wanted to clarify her zoning district on Mill Dr. Attorney Datte asked if their house faces Mill Dr. They said yes. Attorney Datte said he thinks the front of the property is split. He thinks the front is AG and the rear is commercial. Ilisa Sackhoff Hoppes asked if it is staying Highway Commercial. Chairman said yes.

Randy Miller – St. Peters Rd. – questioned the zoning of the farm next to his farm on SR309. His concern is a survey dispute. Randy Miller said he has three surveys that show his original survey is correct. Chairman asked if the case is still going on. Randy Miller said yes. If that is made Highway Commercial and the survey is right and the buildings are not correct to the property lines, what does he do then. Randy Miller said he will have his lawyer do what he needs him to do. Chairman said it is a civil matter. Attorney Datte said when the litigation is resolved and there aren't any more appeals and if you feel that there is something because of that lawsuit that impacts the zoning, please come back in and we will be able to take a look.

Leann Thomas – asked if her sister would need to do a survey to get her name off the deed of her three lots. Attorney Datte said he is not sure why that advice was giving in 2017, but if you have a description for the entire property, the five lots, the parcels that belong to your sister can be described with reference to that entire description except with the two parcels that go to Ms. Thomas. Attorney Datte is not aware tonight of the need to survey the other three lots.

Craig Achenbach – Golf Rd. – questioned the zoning of suburban residential by the Golf Course. If that became Townhouses, would that require a water treatment plant and a sewage treatment plant, who pays for that. Attorney Datte and the Chairman said the developer.

Shawna Usher – Villas Crossing Rd. – her concern is the development of the land of the old Golf Course. She feels the current landowner took advantage of the system. She offered to buy the property at farm price acreage and the realtor did not accept the offer. She said it is farm land right now why isn't it zoned agricultural. Charlie Schmehl said we have legal obligations under state law that we must have buildable locations where we allow Apartments and Townhouses. This area has been zoned this way since the eighties so we are continuing the current zoning. She gave a story about her farm. Charlie Schmehl said we do not look at our zoning as economic benefits we look at it as the requirements of state law. Tim Houser said he lived in this Township for seventy years. He seen a lot of houses come into the Township. Developers can develop whether it is in Ag or Suburban Residential. They would go to the Zoning Hearing and request a variance or go in front of the Board for a conditional use. Tim Houser said development is coming what we have to do is control it.

Ilisa Sackhoff Hoppes – wanted confirmation from the Board that everything that was worked out with the Mill through the Zoning Hearing stays in place. Chairman said, yes.

Attorney Datte said at this point the Supervisors would not have any more changes to the Zoning Ordinance. He said it is likely that at our next Board of Supervisors meeting we will be adopting the Zoning Ordinance. Monday, September 18, 2023 we may have final adoption.

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

II. General

A. Tony Prudenti called the meeting to order at 6:30PM following the Proposed Draft Zoning Ordinance Hearing with the Pledge of Allegiance & Introduction.

Chairman made a special introduction for State Representative Jamie Barton.

Chairman called for a motion to amend the Agenda for an Oath of Office. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

Chairman sworn in Theodore Bogosh as a Fire Policeman for West Penn Township.

Chairman again wanted to clear up any rumors about the Police Department, CSI Camp and the D.A.R.E. Program. The West Penn Board of Supervisors will NOT be shutting any of those programs down. Chairman responded to an email from Michelle Bitter talking about the closing of the programs. Chairman feels strongly that we will not be closing them. His feelings on those programs is if it helps or saves just one child, it is well worth it.

Glenn Hummel added that there was a rumor that was falsely started from someone from the CSI camp on Facebook. We addressed it at last meeting and said there has been no talk about that happening. The rumor resurfaced again and he asked the administrator of the site to take it down it is not true. Glenn Hummel called Mrs. Bittner to clarify that the Board does not intend to do away with the department or any of those programs. Chairman asked each board member if they had ever had any intentions of doing away with those programs. Glenn Hummel said absolutely not. Tim Houser has none as well.

B. Public Comments on Agenda Items Only - None

C. Review of the Minutes – August 7th & 21st, 2023.

Chairman called for a motion to accept the meeting minutes from August 7th & 21st, 2023. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

D. Treasurer’s Report – August 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 – August 2023

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

F. Solicitor’s Report

Attorney Datte said nothing to report except he prepped for the zoning hearing this evening. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Solicitor’s report. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

III. Land Use

A. Glenn Snyder – 2-lot Subdivision

The plan proposes the subdivision of existing 4.22 acre deeded parcel into two separate parcels. New lot 1 will contain an existing residential structure and appurtenances and is served by existing on-lot sanitary sewage & on-lot water supply. New lot 2 is proposed to remain vacant.

Chairman called for a motion to accept the Planning Commission recommendation to accept the applicant’s request to modify Section 902 recorded plan on a Mylar and grant a waiver instead of a

Mylar will provide paper copy. 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 Planning Commission's recommendation to accept the applicant's request to modify Section 1019 Concrete Monuments and grant a waiver to use steel pins INSTEAD OF THE CONCRETE MONUMENTS. 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 Planning Commission's recommendation and conditionally approve the Glenn Snyder 2-lot subdivision plan contingent on all comments being satisfied on ARRO Consulting's letter dated 8/22/23 and adopt Resolution #19 of 2023 for the Glenn Snyder 2-lot Subdivision. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

B. Jerome & Melissa Keifer Lot Line Adjustment

The Plan proposes the subdivision of existing 6.79 acre into two separate parcels. Property located on Deere Lane. New lot 1 will contain existing residential structure & appurtenances & is served by an existing on-lot sewage & on-lot water supply. 5.28687 acre is proposed to be annexed with the adjoining 3.14-acre New lot 1 will be 8.43 acre.

Chairman called for a motion to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation and conditionally approve the Keifer Lot Line Adjustment contingent on all comments being satisfied on the ARRO Consulting's letter dated 8/22/23 and adopt Resolution #20 of 2023 for the Jerome & Melissa Keifer Lot Line Adjustment. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

Brad Rock from Lehigh Engineering is the designer of the plan and is at the meeting to represent the plan. He explained the it is a father & son; each own a lot. They are transferring the bulk of the land From one parcel to the other. Still remaining with two parcels. Tim Houser asked if each parcel has its own driveway. Mr. Rock said, yes and they both have one single family dwelling.

IV. Operations

A. Engineer/Zoning's Monthly Report – August 2023

Chairman asked Mike Begis from ARRO Consulting, Inc. if he had anything to report for the month of August. Tim Houser spoke about subdivisions and if they split the parcel into more than three splits they have to pay into recreation. Chairman said yes that would be a major subdivision. How do we keep track of how many time a piece of land gets cut? He wanted to know how we can keep tract. Attorney Datte asked the secretary do we tract that somehow? The secretary said it is hard to tract especially with the land that has been split years ago. 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 – August 2023

Chairman asked if the Board had any questions with the Code Enforcement Officer's report. Tim Houser questioned a property that has been on the list for a while. Mr. Houser wanted to make sure we are still pursuing it. He also, questioned the Galloway Property in Snyders. Attorney Datte said he believes the new Code Enforcement Officer is handling that one. Chairman asked Attorney Datte to look into the first property Mr. Houser questioned as well. Chairman called for a motion to accept the code enforcement monthly report. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

C. Sewage Enforcement Officer's Monthly Report – August 2023

Chairman read the sewage enforcement officer's report. The report consisted of 1 New Permit Applications, 8 Interim Inspections, 1 Test Probes, 1 Perc Tests, 1 Design Reviews, 1 Site Evaluation, No Malfunction Concerns and 4 Subdivision Plans. 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 – August 2023

Chairman read the Road Department's Monthly report. The report consisted of General Maintenance to the Township Building & Equipment, Cleaned shoulders on Pine Ridge Rd. for paving, Painting stop bars at intersections. Paved cross pipes on Dogwood Lane, Locust Lane, Troxell Valley, Lime Kiln and Red Hill Rd., Cleaned trees off Township Rds., Hauled in 2A Mod. for the High Drive Project, Paved bad sections of Dogwood Lane & Mantzville Rd., Trimmed grass around Township bridges & Mowed grass along Township Rds. Road Master applied for Dirt & Gravel and Low Volume Road grant for Arrow. He also met with the Conservation District to finalize the Rabbit Run Road Project. Chairman also, read the Maintenance Report. Tim Houser said the Road Department did a nice job on Mantzville Rd. He also said the Road Master informed him that the Paver's engine might be blown. Tim Houser said that maybe we can turn to our State Representative for some help. Tim Houser said we are applying for a grant and maybe if we had Representative give us his support may make a difference. Representative Jamie Barton said that the treasurer Karen Wittig & Secretary Katie Orlick came to a grant seminar that he gave. The Board thanked Representative Jamie Barton for his services and everything he has done in the past. Representative Jamie Barton said he is here to help and here to serve.

Chairman said for his eight years that he has been on the board Jeremy Fable got around 1million dollars' worth of grants. Chairman thanked the Road Master for what he has done for the Township. 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

Chairman made a motion to approve Jeremy Fable to attend a Dirt & Gravel & Low Volume Maintenance Workshop. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

E. Police Department Report – August 2023

Chairman read the Police Report. The Police Dept. had 4,399 miles patrolled 181 total citations & warnings as of 8/31, & 6 motor vehicle accidents as of 8/31. Total calls 271. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Police Department's monthly report. 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 Richard Clink's resignation. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0 He resigned due to personal reasons.

F. Fire Company Monthly Report – August 2023

Chairman read the Fire Company's report. 21 Total calls for the month of August. The report consisted of 3 Motor Vehicle accidents, 7 Wire/Trees Down, 0 Automatic Fire Alarms, 2 Special Assignments, 2 Fire Police Call, 1 Structure Fires, 1 Landing Zone and 1 Chief Request. The department had their monthly meeting. They had their monthly fundraisers such as the Fire Company Cash Bingo. They did driver training, diver training, equipment drills, gear & air pack drills, ladder & hose deployment & truck maintenance. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Fire Department's Monthly Report. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

G. Ambulance Monthly Report – August 2023

Chairman read the August Ambulance Monthly Report. The August monthly report is as follows: 40 Total Calls for Unit 935 the month of August. 253 Total Calls Year to Date. Municipalities included 1 Coaldale, Schuylkill 1 in East Brunswick., 8 Tamaqua and 30 West Penn Township. The receiving Hospitals included 2 Geisinger- St. Luke's, 8 LVHN Carbon, 3 LVHN Cedar Crest, 1 LVH Schuylkill –East, 2 St. Luke's - Carbon and 6 St. Luke's Miners. The calls consisted of Abdominal Pain, Back Pain, Breathing Problems, Chest Pains, Fall Victims, Fire Stand by, Hemorrhage/ Laceration, Lift Assist, Poison/ Overdose, Stab/Gun Shot Wound, Sick Person, Traffic Accidents, Fainting, and Patient Evaluation. Chairman called for a motion to accept the August Ambulance Monthly Report. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0 Chairman thanked the Ambulance Association for their service.

V. Old Business - None

VI. New Business

A. Chairman called for a motion to adopt LSA Grant Resolution #21 of 2023. This will allow our officials to execute all documents for the Statewide LSA Grant. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

VII. Correspondence

A. Chairman read a correspondence from the Lions Club. They announced the Halloween Parade will be Wednesday, October 18th @ 7 PM, with a rain date of October 19th. They also, informed the Board that they did receive their permit from PennDOT to have the parade. They also provided their liability insurance.

B. Chairman announce the Fall Clean Up & Recycling Event. He said there are flyers on the table where the Agendas are placed.

VIII. Business from Anyone on the Board

A. Chairman reminded department heads that September 18, 2023, Budget meetings will start.

B. Glenn Hummel asked the Chairman if he would like to discuss what day the Township would like to have their Trick-or-Treat night because of the turnout of tonight's meeting. Valerie Coombe recommended we have it on Halloween, October 31st, to avoid town hoppers. Chairman polled the meeting attendance about Trick-or-Treat night. The majority of the attendees agreed with having it on Halloween, Tuesday, October 31st. Val Coombe also wanted to discuss the time because the Ambulance Association would like to invite the children out before they trick-or-treat for a hotdog and snacks on behalf of the Penn Mahoning Ambulance. The board will make their final decision at next meeting.

IX. Public Comments on General Items

Jason Oswald – Summer Valley Rd. – spoke about the Police Department's budget. He asked if the \$25K overage was a projected overage or is that what they are over. Glenn Hummel explained and said it is what they are actually over and now by the end of August they are \$30K over. Tim Houser agreed. Jason Oswald asked if the Board knew the Department was over why did they wait until now. Glenn Hummel said the Chief of Police was sent an email that he never responded too. We told them to watch and the department's spending didn't change causing their budget to be over. Jason Oswald asked where does the Impound money go? Why can't some of that money offset their budget. Jason Oswald said it seems to him that there is a personal issue inside within the Supervisors and Police. Chairman said it has nothing to do with them, it is all budgetary. The Impound Money goes into the General account. If it doesn't it would look like we would be Impounding people's cars for revenue not for safety. Chairman

said when the Police Department does need money, we would take it from General. Mr. Oswald feels we need more than one full-time officer. He feels we should not have to go to State Police Coverage because when there is an incident we have to wait so long for someone to respond. Glenn Hummel said our Police Chief sent a letter to the State Police about coverage in the Township. The State Police made a decision on how they can help with coverage and what was directed at that point was that the Frackville State Police now has someone assigned to this area every day. They will be our Department's backup going forward and each of their shifts will come down to our Township.

Terri Knoedler – Fort Franklin – She agrees with Jason Oswald about the Police Force. She asked if we are over budget, how do we pay the State Police for their service. Chairman said we do not pay the State Police. She feels we should have our own Police Force. Chairman said we do have full coverage of our Township. Chairman said he is not sure if he agrees with two full-time officers. He feels we should have a full-time administrator.

Angelo Selitto – Andreas- He was wondering if we could create flyers or stickers to support our local police.

He is willing to do something like that and any money that was made he would give back to the Township to help the Police Department. Chairman said we appreciate and we will discuss something like that.

David Morgan – asked what happens to the funds that they receive from citations. Karen Wittig, Treasurer said it goes into the General Fund. She said the income we get in goes towards paying the \$400K of the Police Budget. Mr. Morgan wanted to know why we couldn't use that General funds to offset the police budget. Mr. Morgan wanted to know if the budget was public knowledge. Attorney Datta said you can have it if you do a Right-to-Know. Tim Houser said we do. Mr. Houser said that one of the police cruisers got totaled and we had to put out \$65K for a new cruiser car that wasn't budgeted for. Tim Houser said somehow the Chief got his money to get that new cruiser car. We had to dip into the General Fund to do that. Tim Houser said we cannot keep dipping into the General Fund all the time if they are constantly going over their budget. Tim Houser said the Chief has been making great strides this month in getting his budget back in order, by the end of the year there is hope that it will be back in line. Chairman said everything is back in line except for the police secretary, instead of 40hrs she is 20hrs. Mr. Morgan feels Chief Bonner is the best the Township has ever had. He feels the number one thing in this Township should be safety and we should have it in the budget no matter what. Mr. Morgan said fundraisers may also help. He spoke about the beautiful painting that was displayed during the National Night Out event. He said maybe we can get T-shirts made of that. Mr. Morgan praised the police and expressed what a great job they do.

Glenn Hummel explained what the Board put in place to help bring the budget back for the police department. Glenn Hummel said expense wages are the quickest way to cut costs. There was a shift taken off but put back into place, they cut the secretary from 40hrs to 20hrs but kept her benefits in place, we cut overtime, and curbed any non-essential spending. The Chief, Glenn Hummel, Chairman and Tim Houser discussed the budget and where they feel it went wrong and what they will do to fix it.

Jane McQuillen – Penn Dr. – asked the Board if the public can get more information on the properties that are in violations of codes. She is not asking for names but may be property address. She feels it would help especially if the property was her neighbor, then she wouldn't have to file a concern. Attorney Datta said you would have to file a Right-to-Know request.

Glenn Snyder – Sunny Rd. – He said it sounds like a lot of the friction is because of a totaled car. He asked if the Township has insurance. Chairman said we do but the cop car was much older and we didn't get a lot of money back for it.

Scott Soley – West Penn Pike – Asked about the budget. He said he is at the Police Station quite a bit. Scott Soley said Carla Fritz does a lot of work at the Police Station. He said it is only another 20hrs. to find in the budget. Chairman said it makes total sense to him instead of having the Officer sit in the office and do paperwork. Glenn Hummel said he agrees. The problem is she was hired 20hrs. for the Road Department which that didn't work out and 20hrs. for the Police Dept. It is a great help but if he has to trade off on from another officer on the street, his take would be another officer floating between shifts to have another officer on the street and still maintain the administrative. Glenn Hummel said what Chief Bonner had described she does a lot of the work the officer should be doing.

Brian McQuillen – Penn Dr. – He wanted to know what was the decision about Stonehedge. Attorney Datte said we will address that at our next meeting. The Board has to make a decision by then.

Dave Morgan – wanted to know why our Ambulance Association is driving a Lehighton Ambulance? Chairman said Lehighton was nice enough to let us borrow their Ambulance. He asked why don't we have that in the budget. Attorney Datte said the Township does not run the Ambulance. They are a private nonprofit.

Karen Crossley – Penn Mahoning Ambulance – Said the two Ambulances they do own are both in the garage getting repaired. Lehighton Ambulance was gracious enough to allow us to use their Ambulance. Tim Houser asked Karen Crossley to let Mr. Morgan know how much a new Ambulance would cost. Karen said at least \$200K and a minimum of 2-3yrs to get it.

Tim Houser said everyone is looking at our budget and saying \$2Million Dollars but if we need a new truck, one was just priced out to be close to \$250K. When they are out plowing snow, you talk about the Police Department. This winter when we have a snow storm, we have 5 Fulltime road employees, 147 miles of roads to maintain, each employee has 30 miles of road that they have to plow, 60 miles when they do the other side. That doesn't include cindering or anything else. A \$2Million Dollar budget for the size of our Township is nothing when you want to look at it. We listen and hear everyone complain where we should be spending the money. We have an option if you want all this stuff. Your taxes will have to double or triple to pay for it. Chairman said he isn't raising taxes.

Valerie Coombe – she just wants to make sure we have police protection out there. Glenn Hummel said all three shifts are covered, seven days a week. Chairman said with the Full-time officer gone. State Representative Jamie Barton introduced himself. He said he represents 65K people in the state of PA. He has an office at 202 East Broad St. in Tamaqua, he has an office in Hamburg, PA and one in Harrisburg as well. He wanted to congratulate everyone at the front table. He admires that we hold each other accountable. He would also like to congratulate everyone for getting involved with their community. Engagement is very important. It is not easy but it is important to share your concerns. Supporting all first responders is also very important for a community to do. Rep. Jamie Barton gave his background and what he is involved in. He said he has a senior citizens expose going on and we should all be notified. It will be the 29th of this month at the Orwigsburg Memorial. He did a fantastic grant seminar and you were well represented for West Penn Township. Karen & Katie were there representing you in an effort to take tax payer money that should come to West Penn Township. They are here fighting for you. He also did a license plate event. They did the event at Cabela's. He plans to do it again.

He proposed a bill for insurance companies to pay the Ambulance directly. He understands the struggles our first responders are having. He said volunteers are important. It takes a strong community for everyone to help. He is here to support all of you. He thanked the Board for having him attend the meeting. Chairman thanked him for coming. Tim Houser thanked Rep. Barton personally because the 19 years he served, this is the first time he can remember a State Representative coming to our meeting.

X. Executive Session – Chairman called for a motion to go into executive session for personnel. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0
Chairman called the meeting back to order. In executive session personnel was discussed.

XI. Adjournment

Chairman called for a motion at 9:25PM. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Tony Prudenti seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. -0

Transcribed By: Katie Orlick

West Penn Township Secretary