

West Penn Township Board of Supervisors

27 Municipal Road

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Regular 10AM Monthly Meeting

Monday, October 16, 2023

Present at the Meeting

Tony Prudenti – Chairman

Katie Orlick - Secretary

Tim Houser – Supervisor

Paul Datte – Solicitor

Glenn Hummel – Vice Chairman

Mike Begis – ARRO Consulting

Karen Wittig – Treasurer (absent)

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 our 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 – NONE

III. Land Use

A. Fegley Oil Company, Inc. – they want to replace their existing system (old White Diner) to a new system with a holding tank. Tim Houser believes this will be a better system and that they would have to maintain it and have it pumped regularly. In order to change that system, DEP is requiring the applicant to have the Supervisors adopt a resolution. Chairman called for a motion to adopt Resolution #22 of 2023. This Resolution is allowing Fegley's to have a plan revision to install a sewage system with a Holding Tank. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

IV. Old Business

A. Chairman asked Attorney Datte for a status on the Atlas Park property. Attorney Datte said he hasn't done anything lately with that but he will get on it. Chairman asked for Attorney Datte if he could have it done by the end of the year. Attorney Datte said, yes.

B. Chairman called for a motion to adopt Resolution # 23 of 2023, CDBG Budget for 2023. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

V. New Business

A. Chairman asked the Board if they would consider this proclamation. Chairman said a few residents asked the Chairman to stand behind Israel 100%. Glenn Hummel said he was 100% for it and Tim Houser said he has no problem with that as well. Chairman called for a motion. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0 Chairman asked the secretary to put on the digital sign that West Penn Township stands behind Israel 100%.

VI. Correspondence

A. West Penn Township Board of Supervisors would like to Congratulate Tony Kuhn on achieving Boy Scouting's Highest Rank, that of an Eagle Scout on October 14, 2023. Tony Kuhn was the scout that was involved in restoration of the retired mail box for retired U.S. flags. The Restored mail box is set up at the Fire Station.

B. Chairman read a letter from DCNR informing us that we did not get selected for grant funding for the J.E. Morgan Memorial Park - Phase II Grant. Chairman asked Mike Begis from ARRO Consulting, Inc. if he could reach out to Lorne Possinger to find out why we did not get funding. Mike Begis feels we should try to get the first phase of the Morgan Park wrapped up first. Chairman also asked Mike Begis if ARRO Consulting would consider applying for the grant again free of charge. Mike Begis said he is not sure we can do it for free however most of the work is done so he doesn't feel it would be a whole lot of money. Glenn Hummel said last time we reached out to Lorne Possinger he gave us pointers of what we can do better, please reach out to him again and maybe we will be able to get funds next year.

VII. Public Comment on General Items

Jim Dean – spoke about the Eastern Schuylkill Recreation Committee, which he is a part of. ESRC has been struggling in the past two years with people volunteering to be part of this organization. Currently, Nate MacDonald is heading up the ESRC. Jim Dean said one thing the BOS asked the ESRC to do is to put together a sketch of a building of what we can put down at the Atlas Park. Jim Dean & Nate MacDonald agreed to make it huge and let the BOS cut it down if need be. We wanted to include as much as we can with having a big multipurpose room that could be used for basketball, volleyball and even soccer. Jim Dean said maybe a camping area, general store and an office for the ESRC.

Jim Dean expressed how important it is to participate, come to meetings and work together to bring these projects together. He said some municipalities got out of the ESRC. He asked if we would continue to support these recreational activities within the Tamaqua Area. Chairman said we did pay our dues to the ESRC. Chairman said as far as Schuylkill Township dropping out, Chairman expressed to them how important it is to be a part of the ESRC. Chairman said Schuylkill Township feels that over the past couple years they got nothing from ESRC. Jim Dean disagrees with that and offers Nate MacDonald to come up with something to some what has been done. Chairman recommended Nate MacDonald to attend one of the Schuylkill Township's monthly meetings.

Tim Houser expressed to Jim Dean that when we acquired the donated land for our new Atlas Park it was conveyed to us that the YMCA may want to be a part of this project. Tim Houser said if we were able to get a field house to have indoor sports it would be a great asset to us and the surrounding communities. Tim Houser said it would be expensive and everyone would have to work together.

Jackie Selitto – asked if we were going to fill the two police officers' positions that left the department. Chairman said if she waits until after the BOS executive session she will find out what is happening.

Jackie Selitto - expressed her concerns for the Police Department and she wants to make the BOS aware of how important local police protection is for our community. She wants to make sure the BOS are making their decisions for the future and the long term goals of our community not just for immediate goals. She is concerned because she has family that will be here for the next thirty years or more. Chairman understands her concerns. He expressed the Township's number one priority is keeping the children safe because they are our future. Chairman said we put \$16K in the budget into West Penn Elementary School to redo the front of their building so it could be safer for everyone. Glenn Hummel said to Jackie Selitto that she can help West Penn Township by getting rid of the stigma about closing the Police Department. The BOS assured everyone that the Police Department is not closing, and we have been growing the police department. Glenn Hummel asked her to please help us and get rid of that rumor. Jackie Selitto said if she sees steps in the right direction, absolutely. Chairman recommended Jackie Selitto come to the budget meetings.

Delroy Haas – he said he heard that the Township did not have police coverage at night. He asked if we had 24/7 coverage. Tim Houser said it is at 24/7 coverage. Chairman said we always had police coverage, however one week we had the State Police to cover some shifts. The Chief wrote the State Police a

letter asking for help when we wouldn't have someone to cover a shift. The State Police assigned officers for our area to back us up.

VIII. Executive Session

Chairman called for a motion to go into executive session at 10:28AM. 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 10:49AM. Executive session was for personnel issues. Chairman said the Chief of Police has a request. The Chief of police is requesting the BOS to approve to conditionally hire of Shawn Kistler, contingent on certifications being met. Chief asked to have a conditional employment for Shawn Kistler that he passes all requirements and 10/6/2023 would be the start date of the conditional employment. Chairman called for a motion. Tim Houser made the motion to hire with conditions that he passes all required tests. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

Chairman called for a motion to abolish administrative position for the police department. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Chairman opposed. Motion was carried. 2-1

IX. Anything Else from the Board

X. Adjournment

A. Chairman called for a motion to Adjourn at 10:49AM. 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

Budget Workshop - Budget Meeting was canceled.