

West Penn Township Board of Supervisors

27 Municipal Road

New Ringgold, PA 17960

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Regular 10AM Monthly Meeting

Monday, November 20, 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

I. General

A. Anthony Prudenti called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance & Introductions at 10:05AM.

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 - NONE

IV. Old Business - NONE

V. New Business

A. Chairman called for a motion to approve a request for Chief Bonner & his Officers to attend a mandatory course for Control Tactics on November 28, 2023. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

B. Chairman called for a motion to hire Dane O'Brien as a West Penn Township Part-Time Police Officer. Chairman said he worked here before. Left and went to Palmerton for a Full-Time position. Palmerton is not offering overtime for now so he asked to come back to us Part-Time. Dane O'Brien is approved for weights & measures which is a plus to us. Tim Houser made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

Tim Houser asked if the reason why Palmerton cut overtime, was it was because of budgetary restraints. Chairman said, yes. Tim Houser asked the board to note that.

VI. Business from Anyone on the Board

A. West Penn Township will be closed for Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 23 – Monday, November 27, 2023. Recycling will be closed Thursday (23rd) & Friday (24th).

VII. Correspondence

A. Chairman Congratulated Thomas Graham on becoming an Eagle Scout. He had his Ceremony on Sunday, November 19, 2023. We appreciate his time, commitment and hard work he put into becoming an Eagle Scout. Congratulations Thomas. Tim Houser said he would like to commend the Troop in West Penn for all that they are doing. There have been quite a few Scouts achieving this highest honor and he thanked Damon Krall and some parents to help make this happen. Tim Houser commended them on the job they are doing. The Board of Supervisors agreed.

VIII. Public Comment on General Items

Larry Stival – Expressed his concerns about the speed on SR895. He has expressed his concerns and is frustrated about that when he submitted a Right-to-Know through PennDOT, they denied his request. He said in the last three weeks he witnessed triaxles, trucks, and motorcycles passing in a no passing zone. He asked if we can get some no passing signs. He asked if the Township could see if that area qualifies for a residential area. That may allow us to reduce the speed limit. It seems when we approach PennDOT with our requests it falls on deaf ears. Chairman asked the Chief of police if we could put white lines on a state road to run speed. He asked the Chief if we could put up no passing signs on the state road. The Chief stated that he does have white lines on that road. We cannot regulate signs on the state road. Chief said and enforcement? Larry Stival said it would be nice to see a police vehicle on that road sometimes. Chairman asked the Chief if we can put the speed sign up on that road. Chief said we had it there already. But this time of the year it doesn't work properly because there is not a lot of daylight to charge it. Chief said unless you would like me to plug it into Mr. Stival's house. Tim Houser said we approached PennDOT many times about this and the intersection AT SR309 & SR895 and all that they can say in response is that it does not meet the criteria. Glenn Hummel said they are putting rotaries in anymore on these highways. The communications say there may be more accidents with these but there will be less fatalities. Mr. Stival also spoke about the area by the Easy Market. Larry Stival feels maybe we should publicize the responses PennDOT gives us. The Board discussed options of what they can do to help the situation. Glenn Hummel said we recently priced the solar speed limit signs. He said they are expensive but maybe we should start budgeting for so many a year to put out throughout the Township. Tim Houser said we will have to get permission from the state to see if we can put them up on state highways. Chairman said he would like to go one step further and have the electronic speed enforcement happen. Chief Bonner said that is very expensive. It is good for big cities but we wouldn't be able to afford it. Attorney Datte said the issue with that is technically you cannot see who is driving. The owner of the vehicle would get the ticket. Chairman gave a game plan of what we can do. Jim Akins said you have to address the problem if you ask him. He feels we should have another sit down meeting with PennDOT and get our state representatives to attend. Chairman asked the secretary to set up a meeting, after January 1st, 2024 with PennDOT. Chairman said once we have that meeting set up ask Larry Stival to join us.

Don Hoppes – said you can ask Val Coombe about how many accidents are on SR309 & SR895.

Chairman asked Secretary to find out from PennDOT if we could set up electronic speed limit signs on state highways.

Michael Jachowicz - Dairy Rd. - expressed his concerns about the speed limit on Dairy Rd. He feels there should be speed limit signs. Chairman said if there are no signs means the speed limit is 55MPH.

Chairman said we can have the Chief of Police go out to measure the distance between homes to see if we can consider the area as a resident district. If it is a resident district by law, we can change the speed to 25MPH. If that area qualifies the residents would usually pay for the speed limit signs. Mr. Jachowicz also expressed his concerns about the trucks speeding on Dairy Rd. He said they use their Jake brakes practically on that whole road. He feels they shouldn't be going that fast to have to use those brakes. Attorney Datte was asked to look into an Ordinance about trucks using Jake Brakes.

Chairman asked the Board if Attorney Datte could draw up an Ordinance right away if he finds we can regulate when vehicles can use Jake Brakes. Attorney Datte said he will look into it. Attorney Datte said

we can establish an Ordinance then do Resolutions for certain areas & regulations. Board agreed to have Attorney Datte look into the Ordinance. Chairman asked the Chief to paint lines by his house.

Shawn Phillips – St. Peter’s Rd. – asked about line painting on St. Peter’s Rd.

Brian McQuillen – asked if the Board can ask Attorney Datte to send a letter to the businesses in the Township ask them to control their drivers and about Jake Brakes.

IX. Executive Session

X. Anything Else from the Board

A. Tim Houser asked the Board to donate \$1000 to the Lions to help pay for the water system at the Zion Stone Church Park through the money that is set aside for park development. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Tim Houser seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

B. Glenn Hummel said they Police Dept. with the reductions we made in August he is just about back in line to where it was. Board expressed that the Chief has done a great job.

XI. Adjournment

A. Chairman called for a motion to Adjourn at 10:53AM. 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 – Karen Wittig, Treasurer said we should have a balanced budget after some changes were made. The balanced budget would be \$2,574,451.00. It includes the .25 mill increase. We put back what we took off during COVID. Board has concerns about if they continue to increase wages like we have been it may hurt down the road. Chairman called for a motion to advertise the budget at \$2,574,451.00 for 2024. Tim Houser made the to advertise the budget for public inspection. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0