

West Penn Township Board of Supervisors

27 Municipal Road

New Ringgold, PA 17960

Phone (570)386-4507

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Regular 10AM Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Present at the Meeting

Tony Prudenti – Chairman

Katie Orlick - Secretary (absent)

James Akins – Supervisor

Paul Datte – Solicitor

Glenn Hummel – Vice Chairman

Mike Begis – ARRO Consulting

Karen Wittig – Treasurer

Herb Woodring – Asst.to Board

Jeremy Frable – Road Master

I. General

A. Tony Prudenti, Chairman, opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and Introductions at 10:02AM.

B. Chairman called for a motion to pay the monthly bills. Jim Akins made the motion to approve the bills from last month. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion to pay the monthly bills. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

II. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only – 5 Minute Time Limit - NONE

III. Land Use - NONE

IV. Old Business

A. Dairy Rd. Speed Limit Resolution #16 of 2024. Chairman said at our last meeting we adopted a Resolution to reduce the speed from on Dairy Rd., from SR309 to Strauss Valley Rd. Chairman feels that the whole length of Dairy does not qualify as a residential district to reduce the speed limit. Chairman said if it does not qualify as a residential district then we would have to do a speed study. Chairman feels that some of the road does qualify just not all the way out to Strauss Valley Rd. Jim Akins said we could rescind the Resolution and do a speed study if we want to do the whole road or just do the section that qualifies to reduce the speed limit to 25mph. Chairman asked Jeremy Frable, Road Master if he knew the distance between the houses for it to qualify as a residential district. Jeremy Frable said he spoke with John Davis, representative from Penn DOT and he said the most is 300 ft. between houses in order to qualify. Jeremy Frable looked at the section in question and he would recommended we go from SR309 to the apartments above PVC Carriers. Jeremy Frable said that is your high-density area. Chairman agreed with Jeremy Frable. Glenn Hummel asked Attorney Datte his thoughts about the speed limit on Dairy Rd. Attorney Datte said the statue says the road is in the main improved with residences should be 300 ft. apart. Attorney Datte said there is some flexibility because it says in the “main”. Attorney Datte said he believes it was designed for areas that are densely populated, and then you have a stretch about a quarter mile then there are more houses. On the other hand, you say are the densely populated areas in the “main”. The definition is out of the motor vehicle code. This applies to all municipalities not just Townships. Attorney Datte said if you were trying to capture the more densely populated areas, he would recommend that we find a road or a point closer to SR309 and not all the way out to Strauss Valley Rd. Attorney Datte said you may want to rescind last meeting’s Resolution and adopting a new one with that different terminology. Glenn Hummel asked if we had to rescind it or repeal it. Attorney Datte said we could repeal or rescind it; however, you want to say it. Chairman asked if the person that made the motion has to rescind/repeal. Attorney Datte said Robert Rules,

recommends that. Jim Akins made a motion to repeal Resolution #16 of 2024, adopted at the May 6th meeting for the Dairy Rd. Speed Limit. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0 Attorney Datte said the new terminus for Dairy Rd. would be at Fox Lane and Penny Lane, which are private roads, however they are identified on the County map. Attorney Datte said we could adopt it at this meeting, which would be Resolution # 17 of 2024 Speed limit on Dairy Rd. to 25MPH from SR 309 to Fox Lane (Private Road). Glenn Hummel made the motion to adopt Resolution #17 of 2024. Jim Akins seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

B. Zoning Ordinance – Attorney Datte said that he made the Solar changes that were discussed at last meeting. He made changes from ARRO’s recommendations on some topics and other typos that were in the Zoning Ordinance.

Attorney Datte said other topics that were discussed like Data/Technology Centers/Services, Tiny/Mini Homes and Glamping need some clarification. Attorney Datte asked the Board if they want to include these topics now and have the amendments to the Zoning Ordinance pushed off until August. Attorney Datte said we could reach out to Charlie Schmehl to see if he has any input on those topics. Board of Supervisors agreed to wait and do all the amendments at once.

V. New Business - None

VI. Business from anyone on the Board – NONE

VII. Correspondence

A. Township received a letter from Tamaqua Borough requesting Fire Police help for the Memorial Day on Monday, May 27, 2024. Chairman called for a motion to have our Fire Police help with the Tamaqua Memorial day Parade. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Jim Akins seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

B. Flood Plain Management Training – Jeremy Frable is the Flood Plain Coordinator, Chairman feels that this training would be beneficial for him to attend. Chairman made a motion to allow Jeremy Frable to attend the Flood Plain Management Course on June 3rd & 4th. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

VII. Public Comment on General Items

Bill Varano – spoke about the speed limit on Dairy Rd. His main concern is public safety.

Chairman spoke about the J.E.Morgan Park. He asked the Board if the bathrooms should stay open during the summer. Glenn Hummel said his main concern is vandalism. The Board agreed if the gates are open to the public the bathrooms should be too. The next question the Chairman had for the Board was who would clean the bathrooms and supplies the toiletries for the bathrooms. Glenn Hummel wanted to know who cleans the Zion Stone Park Bathrooms. Chairman said Fred Gimbi. Glenn Hummel feels that Fred Gimbi should clean both parks. The Board spoke about the lease that they have with the soccer association. Glenn Hummel said that was for them to take care of the fields. Jim Akins said he has a suggestion; the leases during their season should be responsible to supply the bathrooms. Jim Akins said they had to supply their own job Johnny’s last year and now they do not have to do that. If the pavilion is rented the Township could make sure it is stocked and cleaned. Glenn Hummel said are we going to do it for Zion Stone as well. Attorney Datte said the lease with the soccer association is more for the outside up keep not for the bathrooms. Glenn Hummel feels that Fred Gimbi should clean the park or we advertise and get someone else to do it. Chairman suggested we ask the person that cleans the Twp. Building to clean those bathrooms. Jim Akins feels we should talk to baseball & soccer to see if they would take care of it during their seasons. Rentals we would take care of the bathrooms.

Chairman asked about Picnic Tables for the Pavilions. Glenn Hummel will make a call and the Chairman will look to see what Lowes offer on wooden picnic tables. Jeremy Frable agrees we need them because the road crew is constantly moving them back and forth and when both pavilions are rented that is when there will be an issue. Attorney Datte recommended we look into CoStar pricing for picnic tables.

VIII. Executive Session – NONE

IV. Adjournment

A. Chairman called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:35AM. Jim Akins made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

Transcribed by:

Katie Orlick

West Penn Township Secretary