

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

**Phone (570)386-4507**

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**Regular Meeting**  
**Monday, June 3, 2024**

**Present at the Meeting**

Anthony Prudenti – Chair  
Glenn Hummel – Vice Chair  
James Akins – Supervisor  
Jim Bonner – Chief of Police

Karen Wittig – Treasurer  
Katie Orlick – Secretary  
Jeremy Frable – Road Master (absent)  
Mike Begis – ARRO  
Paul Datte – Solicitor

**I. General**

**A.** Tony Prudenti called the meeting to order at 6:03PM with the Pledge of Allegiance & Introduction.

**B. CDBG Program Public Hearing for FY 2024**

Chairman started the hearing by reading an opening statement about the program. Chairman said the purpose of the hearing is to provide the opportunity for citizens to comment on the Community Development and Housing needs of West Penn Township that could be addressed by the Community Block Grant Funds. West Penn Township would be receiving approximately \$98K. No less than 70% of the funds must be used for activities that benefit lower to moderate-income purposes and up to 30% could be used for activities to eliminate slums, blight, such as demolition. To date CDBG funds have been used to fund handicap barrier removal at the J.E. Morgan and Zions Park, the Township Building, the Police ANNEX and Housing Rehabilitation. The Township has also reserved funds for demolition but not yet completed the project using these funds. Following this hearing, the Supervisors will select projects to meet the Federal guidelines. A single public hearing will be held for all Schuylkill Co. Community Grants in September. Any interested residents could sign up for more information on the program & hearings. Stated for the record, the Township does not intend to cause any displacement of people from their homes when carrying out these projects. The County has relocation and acquisition policies that details the benefits and process of any activities cause any displacement. Ron Zimmerman, Grant Manager from the County attended the hearing to answer any questions about the program. Ron Zimmerman said the County offers a housing rehab program. He explained income limits and explained Schuylkill Community Action handles housing rehabilitation. Chairman asked if we could use any of the funds for road work. Ron Zimmerman said he spoke to Mike Begis about this before. Jeremy Frable said there is a road that may qualify. Ron Zimmerman said they were going to look at the location Jeremy Frable recommended at the end of the week. The income levels need to be low to moderate in that area. The area would need an income survey to be done in that area. If it meets the threshold with low to moderate income, something may be able to be done there.

Chairman asked Ron Zimmerman, where we go from here. Ron Zimmerman said we would get together with the Township to see what we could come up with for projects. Chairman asked when he would like to do it. Chairman was hoping for before our next public meeting, Tuesday, June 18, 2024 @ 9AM. Chairman thanked Ron Zimmerman for everything he does. Ron Zimmerman said West Penn Township is an entitlement community because we have more than 4000 residents means we are guaranteed CDBG funding.

**C. Public Comments on Agenda Items Only - NONE**

**D. Review of the Minutes – May 6<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024.**

Chairman called for a motion to accept the meeting minutes from May 6<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Jim Akins made the motion to accept the minutes from May 6<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

**E. Treasurer’s Report – May 2024 – QuickBooks Update - Report will be June 18, 2024**

**F. Approval of Bills – May 2024**

Chairman called for a motion to approve and pay the bills for May. Jim Akins made the motion to approve the bills for May 2024. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

**G. Solicitor’s Report**

Attorney Datte said he reached out to Charlie Schmehl from URDC and asked for suggested definitions, regulations, zoning districts where Data Technology Centers & Services, Tini Homes and Glamming could be provided for by Right or Special Exception. Attorney Datte said once he hears back from Charlie Schmehl we should be good to go. He feels the solar provisions are complete; we are just waiting on the other items just mentioned. We will then incorporate them and wrap it up. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Solicitor’s Report. Jim Akins made the motion to accept the Solicitor’s Report for May. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

**II. Land Use**

**A. Duschak Land Development Plan for Solar, located along Ash Circle & Ridge Rd. in the AG Zoning District.** Mike Begis said the Planning Commission recommended conditional approval of the Final Land Development Plan contingent on comments being satisfied from ARRO’s letter dated May 24, 2024, Bill Brior and the Schuylkill Co. Planning. They need to address six outstanding comments but it was recommended by the Planning Commission to conditionally approve contingent when all comments are satisfied. Chairman asked Attorney Datte if he was satisfied about the decommissioning note on the plan. Attorney Datte said yes he was. Attorney Datte said the note on the plan requires them to decommission. It is enforceable by the Township. The property owner is responsible for decommissioning. Chairman called for a motion to adopt Resolution # 18 of 2024, approving the Final Plan for the Duschak Solar Land Development contingent on all comments being satisfied from ARRO’s letter dated May 24, 2024, Bill Brior and Schuylkill Planning Commission. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Jim Akins seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0 Attorney Datte said the Council for the Developer is present this evening. Attorney Datte said they will get Mike Begis a cost estimate and then they could do the development agreement.

### **III. Operations**

#### **A. Engineer/Zoning Monthly Report – May 2024**

Chairman asked Mike Begis from ARRO Consulting, Inc. if he had anything to report for the month of May. Mike Begis said he provided the BOS a report and he would be happy to address any questions the BOS may have. Glenn Hummel asked Attorney Datte the status of Atlas Park. He said our grant will be expiring soon and we do not want to lose the money. Attorney Datte said he will follow up. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Engineer's monthly report. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Jim Akins seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

#### **B. Code Enforcement Monthly Report – May 2024**

Jim Akins said he spoke to Jim Dean and he had some personal matters he had to take care of in the last 10 days. He said he would get his report together for our next meeting.

#### **C. Sewage Enforcement Officer's Monthly Report – May 2024**

Chairman read the sewage enforcement officer's report. The report consisted of 4 New Permit Applications, 10 Test Probes, 5 Perc Tests, 4 Design Reviews, 3 Interim Inspections, 4 Site Evaluation, and 4 Design Reviews. 2 Well Designs. 1 Malfunction was reported. Strouse Brothers Septic Service corrected malfunction. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Sewage Enforcement Officer's Report. Jim Akins made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

#### **D. Road Department's Monthly Report – May 2024**

Chairman read the Road Department's Monthly report. The report consisted of General Maintenance to the Township Building & Equipment, Patched holes with cold patch, Graded shoulders on St. Peter's Rd., Millhead Rd., and Berry Rd., Cleaned up trees and limbs along Township roads, Painted stop bars at intersections along State Rds., Paved High Dr., (Low Volume Grant), Scratch Paved Rick's Rd., Mowed grass along Township Roads and Hauled infield mix to West Penn Park & J.E. Morgan Park. Jeremy Fable and his crew attended an 811-safety class in Wilkes Barre. Chairman also read the Maintenance Report. Jim Akins took a moment to compliment the road crew. Mr. Akins said that the grading project has not been done in a while and Jeremy Fable and his team have been attacking the Township with grading the edges of the roads and doing it professionally. He has residents stop him and say what a great job they are doing. Jim Akins thanked the road crew for their great job. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Road Department's Monthly Report. Glenn Hummel made the motion to accept the Road Department's monthly report for May. Jim Akins seconded the motion. All in Favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

#### **E. Police Department Report – May 2024**

Jim Akins read the Police Report. The Police Dept. had 5,894 miles patrolled 227 total citations & warnings, 9 motor vehicle accidents and 84 Total calls. Jim Akins said the Chief also attached his frequency report. Jim Akins complimented the Police Department on a great job with the frequent breaks and the activities over the holiday weekend. Chairman also congratulated the Chief. Jim Akins made the motion to accept the Police Report. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

#### **F. Fire Company Monthly Report – May 2024 - NONE**

#### **G. Ambulance Monthly Report – May 2024**

Chairman read the Ambulance Monthly Report. The Ambulance Report consisted of 184 calls year to date. May had 29 total calls. 25 West Penn, 3 Tamaqua, and 1 in New Ringgold. The outcomes of the calls were 10 Treated and Transported BLS, 2 Cancelled, 2 Lift Assists, 1 No Patient Found, 1 No Treatment Required, 1 Refused Treatment, 3 Stand-By with Public Safety, 1 Standby, 1 Treated but not Transported, 1 treated, transferred to Air Medical and 8 Treated, Transported, with ALS. Receiving Hospitals were 5 St. Luke's Miners, 3 St. Luke's Carbon, 8 Lehigh Valley Carbon, 1 Cedar Crest LVHN & 1 St. Luke's Geisinger. The calls consisted of abdominal pain, back pain, cardiac arrest, breathing problems, chest pain, falls, fire, traffic accidents, stroke, lift assists, medical alarms, traumatic injury, fainting and psychiatric problems. Glenn Hummel asked were the 29 calls all covered by Penn Mahoning? Karen Crostley said the 29 they covered and we might have to call off one or two times. Glenn Hummel asked if possible let us know how many calls altogether that were in West Penn Township and let us know how many calls were answered by Penn Mahoning. Chairman called for a motion to accept the Ambulance Report. Glenn Hummel made the motion to accept the Ambulance Report for May 2024. Jim Akins seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

#### **IV. Old Business**

##### **A. Picnic Tables for J. E. Morgan Park**

The Board received a quote for 10 picnic tables of \$8,328.20. The company gave us a \$400 break per table. Each table cost \$832.82. Chairman said we do have some money in the park fund but we also reached out to some individuals that may donate toward the cost of the tables. Attorney Datte said maybe CDBG funds could be used. Glenn Hummel said the CDBG funds may only be used if they were ADA accessible spots. Glenn Hummel said they are Treks and they are durable and will last forever. Township would have to pick them up. Art Sterling recommends getting concrete base tables and make them yourself. He feels that is a lot of money for a picnic table. Jim Akins made a motion preliminary approve the purchase of them at max of \$832.82 per table. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

#### **V. New Business**

##### **A. Reward for Stolen Signs on Zion Stone**

Chairman explained that someone has been stealing speed limit signs on Zion Stone Church Rd. and other areas in the Township. Chairman feels we should give a reward to anyone with information that leads to the conviction of whoever has been stealing the signs. Jim Akins said not just for Zion Stone but also for all over the Township. Chairman called for a motion to give a \$500 reward for information on the stolen signs contingent upon a successful conviction. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Jim Akins seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

##### **B. Salvage Quotes**

Chairman said we have some more cars to salvage. We contacted three Salvors to give us a quote on the vehicles. The vehicles included a 2003 Saturn Ion and a 2004 Dodge Caravan.

**Zaprazny's - \$930.00**

**Harry's U Pull It - \$1000.00**

**Warner's Hazleton Scrap - \$600.00**

Jim Akins made a motion to go with Harry's U Pull It for \$1000.00. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

**VI. Correspondence - NONE**

**VII. Business from Anyone on the Board**

Jim Akins said he wanted to remind everyone that the West Penn Township's CSI Camp is June 17-21, 2024. It is a great program and a great opportunity for kids. Chief Bonner believes the class is full.

**VIII. Public Comments on General Items**

**Brian McQuillen** – asked the Board what are the benefits for approving plans for land developments or subdivisions before all comments & agreements are satisfied. Chairman said technically they are not approved until the comments are satisfied. Attorney Datte said the plans are not signed and released to the applicant until the comments & agreements are satisfied. Brian McQuillen asked who is making sure that the comments are met. Chairman said the people that are signing off on the plan. Bill Brior will not sign unless he has what he needs. Mike Begis said he looks at the plans and the secretary looks at the plans. Jim Akins said it is a conditional approval meaning if comments are not satisfied it is not approved. It specifically says in the Resolution what needs to be addressed.

**Michael Jachowicz** - expressed his concerns about Dairy Rd. The road is deteriorating in front of his house. He said he asked for something to be done two months ago and still nothing has been done. Chairman said we are backed up and we are working on speed limit on that road, storm water and the road deterioration.

He also expressed his concerns about an Embrovac truck turning on Valley Park Rd. to Golf Rd. to Wash Creek Rd. He said he has a video of them almost running a car off the road. He said the road is not suitable for a tractor-trailer. He said it is a safety concern and he has video. Chief Bonner asked to see the videos. Chairman asked the Chief to speak with Embrovac to ask if their truckers could use a different route. Chief Bonner said absolutely and he would also like to see the video.

**Delroy Haas** – asked if an outhouse is historical. He spoke about farm trucks on roads as well.

**IX. Executive Session - NONE**

**X. Adjournment**

Chairman called for a motion to adjourn at 7:00PM. Glenn Hummel made the motion to adjourn. Jim Akins seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 3-0

Transcribed By:

Katie Orlick - West Penn Township Secretary