

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

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Regular 10AM Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Present at the Meeting

Tony Prudenti – Chairman

Katie Orlick - Secretary

James Akins – Supervisor (absent)

Paul Datte – Solicitor

Glenn Hummel – Vice Chairman

Mike Begis – ARRO Consulting

Karen Wittig – Treasurer

Jeremy Frable – Road Master

I. General

A. Chairman, opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and Introductions at 10:04 AM.

B. Chairman called for a motion to approve and pay the bills. Glenn Hummel made the motion.

Chairman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 2-0

II. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only – 5 Minute Time Limit

Jodi Mulcahy – West Penn Pike – Water Concern – Her well is dry. She asked the Board of Supervisors if she would be able to get an expedited well permit. Moyer will be drilling the well. She has been without water for so long. Moyer Drilling put her well as a priority. She said the driller would be at her place within two weeks. Chairman asked the secretary to contact Bill Brior and ask him to get the permit issued as soon as possible. The secretary gave her the well permit application to fill out. Our Solicitor Paul Datte suggested she fill out the application today and get it submitted. Attorney Datte asked the secretary to contact Bill Brior and let him know that the Supervisors would like this well permit application acted upon as soon as possible. Ms. Mulcahy said she has not heard back from anyone about Jay Land. Chairman said he did contact Jay Land. Chairman said all that we could go by is hearsay. However, since the drought started Mr. Land said he cut “harvesting water/ extracting water by 40%. Ms. Mulcahy believes that according to her interpretation of his permit he should be rectifying her issue if she is in his watershed. Attorney Datte asked Ms. Mulcahy if she knows for sure she is in his watershed. She said the Delaware River Basin told her that she is in his watershed. Mr. Land told her she is not. She believes she is in Jay Land’s watershed. She said Jay Land told her he hired a hydrogeologist and they said she is absolutely not in his watershed and his partners refuse to help. His partners think then they would be responsible for drilling everyone’s well that goes dry. She wants that to be noted. She feels that according to his permit he should be fixing the wells that he is effecting. Chairman said we would have our Attorney follow up with Jay Land. Attorney Datte asked Ms. Mulcahy if she has anything in writing from Jay Land. She said she does not. Chairman asked if she had anything from the DRBC in writing. She does and will send it over to the secretary. The secretary would then forwarded to Attorney Datte. Ms. Mulcahy said she was told that there is a public water source close to her. Chairman believes they were referring to Lime Kiln Rd. Ms. Mulcahy said it has been an absolute mess, physically and mentally. The stress of not having water, having to come to the Twp. for water just to flush her toilet. She said she is exhausted. She has to take money out of her IRA just to pay for well to be drilled.

Attorney Datte asked her to forward the DRBC email and he will contact Jay Land. Chairman said later in the meeting he would be reading a message from the DRBC. He said it is a problem everywhere right now,

It is not just us, especially because of the drought. Chairman said that Jay Land brought the Tanker Truck full of water for anyone to use. The Twp. did not ask for it, he said things are bad with the drought it may help. Chairman said he is also bringing cases of bottled water to help. Jeremy Frable said we received three pallets of water. Chairman said before she leave let us give you some cases of water. Attorney Datte said the Borough of Schuylkill Haven is on a water reduction restriction because of the Tumbling Run Reservoir. Attorney Datte said he has never seen that reservoir so low. Chairman said he received a suggestion from Sgt. Kaczmarczyk to pass a resolution to expedite all well permits in these cases of drought. Attorney Datte said the Board could just make a motion to direct your permit officer to issue well permits as promptly as possible. Glenn Hummel made a motion to instruct Bill Brior to expedite any well permit applications for dry wells from the recent drought. Chairman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 2-0

III. Land Use – NONE

IV. Old Business

A. J.E Morgan Memorial Park – Phase II – Development – Awarded – Chairman read the award letter from Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) – Chairman read on behalf of Governor Josh Shapiro, they would like to congratulate us on a grant awarded in the amount of \$86K. The grant is from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program administered by DCNR. Funding for projects comes from a variety of sources including the state Keystone Recreation, Park & Conservation Fund, Environmental Stewardship Fund, ATV and Snowmobile Management Restricted Accounts and PA Heritage Area Program and the federal Land & Water Conservation Fund & Recreational Trails Program.

B. Zoning Ordinance Status – Attorney Datte did not hear anything from Charlie Schmehl at this point. He will reach out to find out the status. Chairman spoke about the pending ordinance doctrine.

C. Atlas Park – Attorney Datte said he has the signed deed. He had an additional document that the Chairman signed today. Attorney Datte said then we could get the deed recorded as long as there are no other comments from the recipient of the letter.

V. New Business - NONE

VI. Business from anyone on the Board

Reminders:

A. Recycling will be closed, Friday, November 22, 2024.

B. West Penn Township will be closed the week of Thanksgiving on Wednesday, Thursday & Friday; November 27th – 29th, 2024 Recycling will be closed Thursday (28th) & Friday (29th)

VII. Correspondence

A. Chairman read a letter from a resident that resides on Mill Dr. Her name is Althea Lorah. She said she was a little anxious about what was happening to her road. She said the Good Lord told her to guard her tongue and see what happens, which she did. She was very happy to see that they fixed her road and said they did a wonderful job!

B. Chairman read a letter from Tamaqua Public Library. They are asking the Township to consider a donation and show support for this important resource in our upcoming budget.

C. DRBC – Chairman read a letter from the DRBC stating that DRBC Executive Director Steve Tambini announced a special hearing to be held on November 19 at 1:30PM. This meeting would be held to accept public input on the persistent dry conditions throughout the DRBC and how to address them. The purpose of the hearing is to seek input from interested parties as the Commission considers declaring a “water supply emergency” if conditions worsen. The letter explained what they were doing and how they are watching the water conditions. The DRBC is a federal-interstate government agency responsible for managing the water resources within the 13,539 square- mile Delaware River Basin without regard to political boundaries. The five Commission members are the governors of the Basin states (Delaware,

New Jersey, New York and PA) and the commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' North Atlantic Division, who represents the federal government. To register for the November 19th public hearing visit the DRBC website.

Chairman would like a letter of correspondence to the DRBC from the Township. The letter should say all commercial extracted water within the DRBC feel should be stopped until the drought is over. Chairman made the motion. Glenn Hummel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 2-0 Board agrees to have Attorney Datte to write the letter.

Jodi Mulcahy said she has been in contact with the DRBC. She said that they told her that they do not regulate Jay Land. Chairman said he is not just stating this for Jay Land but for all. She feels there is no regulations. She feels that no one is following through with reports. She feels the reports are not going to where they are supposed to be going. Attorney Datte said it is important for us to go on record.

VIII. Public Comment on General Items

A. Shawn Phillips – feels that South Tamaqua Coal Pockets need to clean up the road. He said the amount of Coal that is left on the road is damaging people's vehicles. Shawn Phillips call the Coal Pockets and asked for a manager to give him a call back. He did not get a response yet. Shawn Phillips asked if the Township would be able to mandate them to clean up the road. Chairman said that is not a Township road. Chairman said we could reach out to them. Attorney Datte said we might want to reach out to the Bureau of Mining and Dept. of Environmental Protection frequently there are permit requirements. Glenn Hummel asked Sgt. Kaczmarcyk if it is something they could be cited for. Sgt. said they might be cited if they did not secure their load in the vehicle but we would need to know the vehicle it was coming off.

On another note, Chairman would like to recommend having landscaping done at the Township. He said but after looking at the proposed budget, we will have to hold off on the landscaping for now.

Chairman said we received an application for a part-time Police Officer. Chairman asked Sgt. when he would be available to have an interview. Sgt. said the sooner the better.

IX. Executive Session – NONE

X. Adjournment

A. Chairman called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:33AM. Glenn Hummel made the motion. Chairman seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion was carried. 2-0

Transcribed by:

Katie Orlick, West Penn Township Secretary