

PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
175 OAK GROVE ROAD, PINE GROVE, PA 17963
JANUARY 7, 2008 MEETING MINUTES



CALL TO ORDER - Chairman Larry Zimmerman called the January 7, 2008 meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 8:10 PM. Attending were Supervisors Allen Aungst, Judith Lehman, Diane Tobin and Jerry Wise. Solicitor Gino DiNicola was absent. Also present: Sect. / Treas. Kathy Ferguson, Gerry Heffner (SEDCO), Bernie Kulkaski, Bonnie Brown, Donald Wenrich, Don Simpson, Tom McMullen, Brian Tobin, other residents; list on file.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

- ♦ Bernie Kulkaski said he would like to comment on Solar Innovations and Swatara Creek.

MINUTES / FINANCIAL ITEMS

- ♦ **December 12, 2007 Meeting Minutes** – Ferguson noted the supervisors did not get the minutes on time because of the holidays, lack of assistance in the office, days spent working on the lists for the landfill and some personal days off. Zimmerman moved to approve the meeting minutes and Aungst seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.
- ♦ **Treasurer's Report** – Ferguson said there was no report because the information had not been received from the banks. Aungst discussed the rates for investment of the PLGIT term accounts maturing on January 16, 2008 and he recommended leaving the money in the PLGIT Class account until the February meeting. Aungst moved to put the PLGIT term accounts maturing on January 16, 2008 into the PLGIT Class account until the February meeting, Lehman seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.
- ♦ **Approval of Bills** – Tobin moved to approve paying the bills totaling \$23,881.89. Lehman seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.

REPORTS

Elected Auditors – Zimmerman noted the Auditors meeting would be held January 8, 2008 at 7 pm in the Township Building.

Engineers Report / Planning Commission Report

- ♦ **Swatara Creek CLC, Reduction of Letter of Credit** – Bernie Kulkaski said there is an impending problem with a Swatara Creek sewer line and wanted to know if there were provisions in the Letter of Credit to cover the sewage. Discussion followed and Zimmerman said a letter about any problems should be received by the Board before our engineer does the inspection. Aungst moved to approve a Reduction of \$17,766.10 in the Swatara Creek CLC letter of credit. Lehman seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.
- ♦ **Solar Innovations Final Plan** – Kulkaski asked if the cul-de-sac and box culvert are part of the site development plan. Zimmerman said it is not part of Solar Innovations Final plan, SEDCO is trying to get a grant to do the culvert.
Gerry Heffner said SEDCO has requested funding from DCED in Harrisburg for the box culvert, contingent on the Solar Innovations project going through. Heffner said SEDCO is working with Benesch for the design of the culvert.
Zimmerman said there was a question on bonding money for the pond, but he doesn't see it as an issue because it is in the construction sequence on the prints and if they don't follow the print, Schuylkill Conservation can stop them from proceeding. Tobin said our ordinance says the applicant must execute an improvements agreement and provide financial security. Zimmerman said it is up to the Board if they want to require the bond.
After discussion and review of the plans, Zimmerman moved to approve the Solar Innovations Plan, Wise seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.

REPORTS, cont.

♦ **SEDCO Improvement Agreement**

Heffner said in May of 1992, SEDCO made an agreement with the Township that when any portion of the Industrial Park was sold or developed, SEDCO would pay back to the Township \$960 for each acre. Heffner said the Solar Innovations plan involves 14.01 acres and he presented a check to the Board from SEDCO in the amount of \$13, 449.00.

♦ **Andersen to Brown Lot Annexation Sketch Plan of Record** – Zimmerman moved to approve the Andersen Sketch Plan of Record. Lehman seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion carried 5 to 0.

♦ **Wessner Lot 2A Sewage Planning Module** - Aungst moved to approve the Wessner Sewage Planning Module. Wise seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.

Landfill Inspector – Lehman said the highest tonnage received so far was 200 a day; they will be increasing the amount.

Recreation Board – No minutes were received. Bonnie Brown said their secretary was not at the last meeting; they discussed the restrooms with John Myers and they changed the January meeting to January 14th. Aungst said he approached two possible sources for fill for the Recreation Area; one is the old railroad bed before you go up Beuchler Road. Don Simpson said Feeser is moving a lot of dirt at Swatara Creek; maybe they could get some from him. Aungst asked if the road crew can be used to load the trucks and haul the dirt to the Recreation Area if his source approves us having the dirt. Tobin asked if we are purchasing the dirt and Aungst said no, he would come back to the Board if that changed.

Zimmerman moved to use the road crew and Township equipment to move dirt to the Recreation Area if the dirt is available. Lehman asked if dirt would be available from Newstead. Zimmerman said they could check into it. Lehman seconded Zimmerman's motion. Tobin questioned the need for permits before moving the dirt and Zimmerman said none are needed in the Township for grading. Aungst said it is above grade level. Lehman asked who requires permits for dirt moving. Aungst said this is taking dirt where dirt was taken before. Zimmerman called for a vote on the motion, all were in favor, (Tobin said her vote is aye providing we are okay with permits for dirt moving activity), motion carried 5 to 0.

Roadmaster – Roadmaster was not present, no comments on the report.

Zoning Officer – Zoning Officer was not present. Zimmerman said there were three permits approved for December. Lehman said she received a phone call and fax for zoning information. Ferguson was unable to locate the fax for the Board to review. Ferguson said the fax was from a woman working at a sign company who is trying to get permits for a Dollar Store to be located on Tremont Road; the fax had zoning classification, ordinance requirements and signage questions on it.

Lehman asked who she should go to for the information. Ferguson said the woman had been leaving messages for the Zoning Officer, but had not received a call from him. Lehman said there are 22 phone calls listed on the report, why doesn't he make one more call to tell her where to find the information; the office personnel were told by the Board not to give zoning information out on any of the issues. Lehman asked where the people find the information they need and asked why the Zoning Officer can't answer their questions. Wenrich said they should buy a zoning book. Ferguson said people who buy the book often come back with questions.

Aungst said to call him when the fax is found, he will look at it. Tobin said to put it in the correspondence folder for next month.

OLD BUSINESS

♦ **Office Assistant Applications** – After a brief discussion, Tobin moved to hire Cathy Moyer as the part time Office Assistant to start on January 14th at \$10 per hour with a ninety day probation period and in the event Moyer declines the position, to hire Michael Adams. Lehman seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.

- ♦ **Board of Supervisors Comments on Benesch Draft of the SALDO** – Zimmerman asked the Board if

They had looked at the draft and said Benesch is ready to send the next section to us. Tobin said she did not have the original book to compare it with and they hadn't lined out what was changed.

Aungst said he wanted to question why they have 30 business days for the Planning Commission submissions. Ferguson said we have 30 calendar days now and 30 business days would be a substantial difference, it has been discussed the time frame is too long. Aungst said in definition of "structures" wind towers should be added and copies going to Township Code Enforcement Officer which we don't have maybe should be removed. Zimmerman said that should stay in. Tobin said they should line out what they have removed and note what they have added. Ferguson said they do not have a digital format of our current book.

The Board agreed they should submit the comments they have and get the next section as changes can be made at any time. Tobin said for any comments they add or things they delete in the draft version, Benesch should use strike-outs and italicize items; the Board agreed. Aungst asked if the Planning Commission had any comments and Ferguson said it was discussed at their meeting, but they did not have any comments or additions.

- ♦ **Roberts Road Cul-de-sac** – Kulkaski asked if the box culvert and the cul-de-sac are the same thing and Zimmerman said no. Zimmerman said he talked with the engineer and they plan to have a sketch plan of the location for the next month's meeting. Zimmerman said it is not tied to the box culvert, but they plan to use the dirt from the culvert, so they need to have the plan done for the cul-de-sac before they start the culvert.

Tobin asked if they are going to bid the box culvert project and Zimmerman said yes, he thinks that is how SEDCO has it written up. Tobin asked if we are going to bid the cul-de-sac project. Zimmerman said no, our guys can do that; it is basically putting dirt in place, rolling it in and putting blacktop down. Tobin asked if they are going to bid the project if they put pipe in instead of the box culvert. Zimmerman said no, the crew can put pipe in. Tobin asked if our engineer is designing it and Zimmerman said yes. Gerry Heffner said they feel confident the funding will come through for the culvert.

CORRESPONDENCE

- ♦ **Auditor General, 2006 Liquid Fuel Audit** – Ferguson said the audit for Liquid Fuels was completed on December 28th with everything found to be accurate and no findings to report.
- ♦ **Skelly and Loy, Information wanted on Franklin Breaker** – Ferguson said the company is doing an environmental impact study and wants a statement from the Board. The Board said Ferguson should reply they have nothing official to report.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- ♦ **Bernie Kulkaski** asked Aungst if he abstained from the vote on Solar Innovations, Aungst said yes, he thinks he did.
- ♦ **(Township / Borough Merger)** Kulkaski said it is no secret he supports the merging of the Borough and the Township and asked the Board if they would consider putting a non-binding question on the ballot asking if the Borough should merge with the Township to get the public opinion. Kulkaski said he went to a meeting at the Borough and suggested the merger.

Tobin said she thinks it is the choice of the people to make that decision and she does not oppose putting it on the ballot, however she thinks before it gets put on a ballot the people need to be educated on the pros and cons so they can vote. Lehman said there is information coming on a class on merging municipalities; she would like to attend. Tobin said there is a process to follow, part of the process would be a question on the ballot, and both municipalities would have to do it at the same time. Wenrich said he agrees with Tobin, there needs to be information on the advantages and disadvantages.

(Township / Borough Merger), cont.

Brian Tobin said there have been other places in State Representative Seip's district where DCED has come in and talked to municipalities about merging; they would take them through the whole process, show them the risks and give information on grant money; he suggested the Board talk to them before putting something on the ballot.

Tom McMullen said the Board could invite DCED here to give us information and advertise it so people could come to find out the advantages and disadvantages of a merger. Brian Tobin said he thinks the Borough should agree to it before they do that.

Aungst said he would like to find out from the Borough if there is any interest from them.

Tobin moved to proceed with getting information on merging from DCED with Representative's assistance if the Borough is interested in getting the information. Lehman seconded the motion.

Zimmerman said instead of voting no, he would like to have time to think about it since Kulkaski is the only one he has heard talk about it. Lehman said she has heard about it quite often and Tobin said she mentioned it a few years ago. Zimmerman said he would like to talk to people before they have DCED come in and McMullen said he doesn't have the information to talk to people about it.

Zimmerman called for a vote on Tobin's motion. Tobin and Lehman voted in favor of the motion, Zimmerman, Aungst and Wise opposed the motion, motion was defeated 3 to 2.

Aungst said there is a point in time a merger will eventually take place, he would like it to be on a positive note.

Tobin moved for the Board of Supervisors to speak with Borough Council to see if they are interested in looking at the pros and cons of merging municipalities. Lehman seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0. The Board agreed to have Tobin set up a meeting with the Borough Council.

- ♦ (PennDOT Reimbursement) Aungst said he talked to Bruce Karper from PennDOT, he asked us to meet with them to discuss the issue in Harrisburg on January 23rd. Aungst said he and Bill Hanley or Tim Holden would go to the meeting. Aungst said he will take all the documentation to the meeting and if they don't agree to reimburse us, he feels it is time to appeal.
- ♦ Tobin said we should proceed with our road projects for a timely bid; she has a list of roads to do. Aungst said they should go on a road inspection, Zimmerman agreed. Zimmerman moved to advertise a road inspection at 8 AM on February 9, 2008. Lehman seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:40 PM Tobin moved to adjourn the meeting, Aungst seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Ferguson, Secretary / Treasurer

Approved by the Board of Supervisors on February 13, 2008.