

PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

175 OAK GROVE ROAD, PINE GROVE, PA 17963

JANUARY 14, 2009 MEETING MINUTES

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**CALL TO ORDER** - Chairman Larry Zimmerman called the January 14, 2009 meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 PM. Attending were Supervisors Allen Aungst, Judith Lehman, Diane Tobin and Jerry Wise. Also present: Solicitor Gino DiNicola, Sect. / Treas. Kathy Ferguson, Roadmaster Ralph Geist, Zoning Officer Clinton Koontz, Joan Schwer, Aimmee Reiter, residents and others; list on file.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS** – No comments.

**MINUTES / FINANCIAL ITEMS**

- ♦ **December 10, 2008 Meeting Minutes**
- ♦ **January 5, 2009 Reorganization Meeting Minutes**  
Tobin moved to approve the minutes, Aungst seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.
- ♦ **Treasurer’s Report** – The December General Fund beginning balance was \$325,417.23, December receipts were \$895,172.60 and December expenses were \$891,367.40. (Receipts and expenses include bank transfers of \$716,064.71 to close a Sovereign bank account and \$74,411.12 distributed to fire companies to close their PLGIT accounts). The General Fund December ending balance was \$329,222.43 and the Combined Funds ending balance was \$3,256,452.00. Lehman moved to approve the December Treasurer’s Report, Aungst seconded the motion, all were in favor; motion carried 5 to 0.
- ♦ **Approval of Bills** – Tobin moved to approve paying the bills totaling \$17,260.48. Lehman seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.

**PERSONS TO BE HEARD** - None

**REPORTS** – Zimmerman moved the Zoning Officer and Roadmaster reports up on the agenda so they did not have to stay for the rest of the meeting.

**Zoning Officer** – Zimmerman said there was one approved permit in December.

**Roadmaster** – Agenda items were discussed with the Roadmaster and Tobin said the road crew did an excellent job on the roads during the recent storm activity.

- ♦ **Speed Limit Changes** – Aungst presented the list of changes (list on file) he recommends after checking the roads with the Roadmaster. The list included speed limit changes on Oak Grove Road, Old Forge Road, Brookside Road and adding curve signs at several places. Aungst said Wise suggested adding to the list a curve sign on Chapel Drive at the entrance to the trailer court. Zimmerman recommended adding a “stop sign ahead” sign to Brookside Road. Tobin asked if they need to put up reduced speed signs if they lower the speed limit on a road. DiNicola said he can check the Motor Vehicle Code on that. Aungst moved to authorize DiNicola to prepare and advertise an ordinance to amend the speed limits on the list, Wise seconded the motion. Aungst, Wise, Zimmerman and Tobin voted in favor of the motion, Lehman opposed the motion, motion carried 4 to 1. Lehman said she opposed the motion because there will be no one to enforce the speed limit and there is no need to spend the money on it.
- ♦ **2009 Paving Project** – Discussion was held on the money in the Liquid Fuels Fund and Ferguson said the transfer of money to reimburse General Fund for Liquid Fuels expenses did not get done in December. The Board discussed keeping the money in the Liquid Fuels account in order to have more money for the road project this year. Aungst moved to rescind his motion on December 10, 2008 to transfer up to \$21,000 from Liquid Fuels to the General Fund. Wise seconded the motion to rescind the December 10<sup>th</sup> motion. All were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.

### **2009 Paving Project, cont.**

Zimmerman said there is approximately \$260,000 available for the road project this year. Estimated costs prepared by Joe Kretulskie and the Roadmaster for Birds Hill Road, Brookside Road and Swopes Valley Road were discussed. Zimmerman moved to pave Brookside Road and Birds Hill Road for the 2009 road project, Aungst seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0. Zimmerman said Geist should let them know when they would be ready to do the roads. Geist said he will talk to Washington Township about their portion of the road and the item was tabled until next meeting.

- ♦ **Clubhouse Road** – DiNicola said last year they discussed taking over the road from the County and they had reached a draft agreement, but in talking with Mr. Evanchalk he found out that Washington Township owns part of the road. DiNicola said Washington Township will need to be part of the agreement to take over the road if the Board is still interested in pursuing it. The Board said they would like to take over the road and DiNicola will move forward with the paperwork.

### **Engineers Report / Planning Commission Report – No comments.**

**Landfill Inspector** – Lehman asked for approval from the Board for her and Dan Grow to attend a seminar in Harrisburg regarding new DEP regulations, the cost of the seminar is \$50 per person. Tobin moved to permit Lehman and Grow to attend the seminar, Aungst seconded the motion; all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.

**Recreation Board** – Aungst said Fox is working on the engineering for the bathroom and they are waiting for the paperwork to come through for the \$40,000 grant for the bathroom facilities. Discussion was held on what work could be done before the grant paperwork is received and Aungst said any work that is done before will not be covered by the grant. Aungst moved to approve the purchase of conduit for the electric and pipe for the water lines, Zimmerman seconded the motion; all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- ♦ **Pine Hill Escrow Account** – The board agreed to have DiNicola review the agreement with Nestle to see if a letter should be sent about the remaining money.
- ♦ **Landfill Gas Proposed Agreement** – DiNicola said a draft agreement was received with a 3% benefit, no \$10,000 minimum benefit and an agreement to renegotiate later; he does not have copies to sign, but will get them to our office if the Board approves the agreement. Zimmerman moved to approve and sign the Landfill gas agreement with a 3% benefit and renegotiation at a later date. Lehman seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.
- ♦ **Contractors Ordinance** – DiNicola said Ferguson gave him information from PSATS that shows this is being worked on at the state level and a law requiring home improvement contractors to be licensed with the Bureau of Consumer Protection may be in effect by July. After discussion, the Board removed this item from the agenda.
- ♦ **Pine Grove Borough Hydrant Information** – Tobin is collecting information on the hydrants and this item was tabled.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- ♦ **Annual Township Authority Report** – The Board discussed the report for the inactive Township authority. Tobin moved to authorize the chairman to sign the report, Lehman seconded the motion. Tobin, Lehman, Aungst and Wise voted in favor of the motion, Zimmerman opposed the motion, motion carried 4 to 1.

## CORRESPONDENCE

- ♦ **Mill Creek Bridge Report** – The engineering report from an independent PennDOT inspector showed a crack on the side of a support beam. Zimmerman asked if an ordinance is required to restrict the weight on the bridge and DiNicola said it may require an engineering study. Aungst said he checked and there are no cracks underneath the beam or the other side of the beam. After discussion the Board asked Lehman to have Geist contact the person who sent the letter and set up a meeting with him to discuss the bridge.
- ♦ **PSATS Survey** – Aungst agreed to complete the survey on intergovernmental cooperation.
- ♦ **Ethics Forms** – Forms were distributed to the Supervisors to be completed.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

- ♦ **Joan Schwer** asked where the bridge is they talked about. Aungst said it is on Oak Grove Road before Old Forge Road.
- ♦ **Aimnee Reiter** asked for the estimated cost of the road project and Zimmerman said \$229,000.00.
- ♦ **Lehman** made a motion to have the Township provide full time employees with short term disability insurance. Lehman gave information from a policy that PSATS carries and the Board discussed the issue. Zimmerman said he would want more information and he would not be in favor of that policy because it doesn't pay the employee enough. Tobin asked if they have to participate in the PSATS medical coverage policy to have the short term disability policy and Lehman said no. Lehman said she is not saying they have to decide on a policy tonight, her motion only says the Township will provide a short term disability policy for full time employees. Tobin seconded the motion made by Lehman. Lehman and Tobin voted in favor of the motion. Zimmerman, Aungst, and Wise opposed the motion, motion was defeated 3 to 2. The Board said Lehman should get a written copy of the PSATS plan and Ferguson should check with our current medical coverage to see if they have a short term disability plan.
- ♦ **Aungst** said Dave Horst (Benesch) would like to hold a meeting to work on the zoning ordinances and gave several possible dates. The Board agreed to meet on February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6 PM. Ferguson will email the information to Horst.
- ♦ **Aungst** said it was decided at the December meeting to start the year with only \$100,000 in the General Fund, but in looking at the small difference in interest rates and the added expenses for the culvert and cul-de-sac, he felt they may want to leave the money in the General Fund. Aungst moved to rescind his motion on December 10<sup>th</sup> to transfer all but \$100,000 out of the General Fund accounts. Wise seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.
- ♦ **Aungst** said a resident on Oak Grove Road (Mutschler) wants to cut part of the bank back along the road at his driveway to improve their sight distance. Zimmerman said the only regulation the Township has is the width of the driveway. Also discussed was the fact the resident would have to make sure he is only cutting the bank on property he owns.
- ♦ **Aungst** said in regards to the email about the Zoning question called in to the office, he thought it had been established that it should be faxed in. The Board said Ferguson should tell the person to fax the question in for the Zoning Officer and put it in his bin.

**ADJOURNMENT** - At 9:18 PM Zimmerman moved to adjourn the meeting, Lehman 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 11, 2009.**