

PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS  
175 OAK GROVE ROAD, PINE GROVE, PA 17963  
DECEMBER 10, 2008 MEETING MINUTES

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**CALL TO ORDER** - Chairman Larry Zimmerman called the December 10, 2008 meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 PM. Attending were Supervisors Allen Aungst, Judith Lehman, Diane Tobin and Jerry Wise. Solicitor Gino DiNicola and Zoning Officer Clinton Koontz were absent. Also present: Sect. / Treas. Kathy Ferguson, Roadmaster Ralph Geist, Bernie Kulkaski, Dennis Fidler, Donald Wenrich, Terry Ritzman, Joan Schwer, other residents; list on file.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

- ♦ Bernie Kulkaski said he would like to comment on the speed limit changes.

**MINUTES / FINANCIAL ITEMS**

- ♦ **November 17, 2008 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 November General Fund beginning balance was \$503,700.28, November receipts were \$56,519.24, November expenses were \$234,802.29 (including transfer of \$188,838.40 to Capital Reserves Fund) and the General Fund November ending balance was \$325,417.23; the Combined Funds ending balance was \$3,266,462.63. Aungst moved to approve the November Treasurer's Report, Wise seconded the motion, all were in favor; motion carried 5 to 0. Aungst moved\* to approve the transfer of up to \$21,000 from Liquid Fuels Fund to the General Fund for reimbursement of expenses. Tobin seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.
- ♦ **Approval of Bills** – Ferguson added two items that were not included on the list: Ron Klinger (\$450) for a new water tank plus installation and Suedburg Fire Company (\$10,000) for the annual donation which was supported by an expense report from them. Tobin moved to approve paying the bills including the two additional items totaling \$23,934.38. Lehman seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.

\*Motion rescinded Jan. 14, 2009

**PERSONS TO BE HEARD**

- ♦ **Matt Williard**, Light-Heigel Representative – Matt Williard presented the proposed 2009 fee schedule to the Board of Supervisors. Williard said the one change to the fees is adding an hourly rate for component one and two sewage modules as they require more time. Williard said other prices remain the same.

**REPORTS**

**Finance Committee** – Aungst said it was discussed at the budget meetings to start the year with only \$100,000 in the General Fund. After discussion, Aungst moved\* to authorize the treasurer to reduce the balance in the General Fund checking and savings accounts to \$100,000 and transfer the excess money to the PLGIT account in the Capital Reserves Fund at the end of December. Wise seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.

\*Motion rescinded January 14, 2009

**Engineers Report / Planning Commission Report**

- ♦ **Mary Lehman Sketch Plan of Record** – Dennis Fidler reviewed the plan with the Supervisors. Zimmerman moved to approve the plan, Tobin seconded the motion. All were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.
- ♦ **Frantz Parcel A3 Sewage Module** – Aungst moved to approve the sewage module and Zimmerman seconded the motion. All were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.
- ♦ **Letter re Zoning Reviews** – Aungst said the Planning Commission wanted to go on record saying plans should be reviewed by the Zoning Officer before they approve them. Zimmerman asked if anything official needs to be done and Aungst said the Zoning Officer got the letter.

**Landfill Inspector** – Aungst asked about “QDAT” on the report and Lehman said it referred to the daily average total for the month. Wise asked if Ingenco is generating electric inside Gold Mills and if it is going to the grid. Lehman said it is happening and goes to the grid only when it is asked for, they are still flaring some gas.

**Recreation Board** – Aungst said the benches were ordered and should be available in January. Aungst said the \$40,000 grant for the bathroom facilities was approved and they are waiting for the paperwork to come through. Zimmerman noted a new member is needed on the Recreation Board.

**Roadmaster** – Aungst asked Geist if he met with Kretulskie to measure the roads. Geist said Joe Kretulskie (PennDOT rep) will be here January 6<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM to do the measurements. Geist asked Zimmerman what is unsafe about having the plows on the trucks when they are not plowing (in reference to the motion made at last month’s meeting). Zimmerman said the plow is too wide. Geist said some of the road crew have been here twenty five years and there has never been any accidents or damage done and it should be the drivers not three people on the Board who decide if it is safe to drive without the plows on. Geist said it takes longer than five minutes to put the plows on and asked the Board members who voted in favor of last month’s motion if they had a CDL. Zimmerman asked Geist if he was going to follow the rules or not and Geist said he didn’t know, it was a matter of safety. Discussion followed on the issue. Tobin moved to allow the drivers to decide whether or not to have the plows on the truck, Lehman seconded the motion. Donald Wenrich said as a point of order they have to rescind the old motion and Tobin said the new motion overrides the old motion. More discussion was held on the issue. Tobin, Lehman, Aungst voted in favor of Tobin’s motion; Zimmerman and Wise opposed the motion, motion carried 3 to 2. Aungst said he will investigate what the other municipalities and the state are doing; he still feels it is not necessary to have the plows on.

**Zoning Officer** – Zoning Officer was not present. Zimmerman said there were six approved permits in November.

## OLD BUSINESS

- ♦ **Speed Limit Changes** – Bernie Kulkaski asked what the Board of Supervisors decided on for Old Forge Road. Aungst said he wants to get together with the Roadmaster and drive the roads, he feels there are four locations that need to be changed. After a brief discussion, the item was tabled.
- ♦ **Pine Hill Escrow Account** – Zimmerman discussed the changes made to the bill and said some stone still needs to be added. Zimmerman said we need to talk with Nestle about the escrow account.
- ♦ **Landfill Gas Proposed Agreement** – Zimmerman said the estimate of what they are using at Gold Mills was way off and they are only selling to the grid on Saturdays and Sundays, during the week half of the gas is being flared off. Zimmerman said we should be getting a new agreement soon, probably for 3% with an agreement to renegotiate later.
- ♦ **Contractors Ordinance** – Zimmerman tabled this item until next month’s meeting.
- ♦ **Health Insurance Rates** – Ferguson said the bill for all employees has only increased by \$112 per month for health insurance and the dental insurance has stayed the same.

## NEW BUSINESS

- ♦ **Adoption of 2009 Budget** – Aungst moved to adopt the 2009 Budget, Zimmerman seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0. Aungst said we should send a letter to the landfill saying the \$10,000 donation to the fire companies should be paid to us to distribute since it is a part of the Host Agreement and part of our budget process. The Board asked Ferguson to call the landfill about this.
- ♦ **January Meeting Dates** – The Board agreed to have two meetings in January. The reorganization meeting will be held January 5<sup>th</sup> and the regular Township meeting will be January 14<sup>th</sup>.
- ♦ **Appoint Open Records Officer** – Tobin moved to appoint Kathy Ferguson as the Township Open Records Officer. Aungst seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.

## CORRESPONDENCE

- ♦ **Pine Grove Borough Hydrant Information** – The Board agreed Tobin could talk to the Borough Council and look into the Township responsibilities for the hydrants. This item was tabled.
- ♦ **Roberts Road** – Zimmerman said Benesch has the things ready for the cul-de-sac and culvert and wants a meeting. The Board of Supervisors scheduled the meeting to be advertised for December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM. Zimmerman said he would call and confirm the meeting date with Benesch.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

- ♦ **Terry Ritzman** asked if the fire companies could have a list of the fire hydrants and the Board said yes. Ritzman asked about the money budgeted for the fire companies and Zimmerman said it includes money from the landfill and the firemen's relief fund.
- ♦ **Bernie Kulkaski** asked when they will vote for three supervisors and Tobin said in the primary and the general election in 2009. Kulkaski questioned some of the fees on the schedule presented earlier in the evening by Light-Heigel and they were briefly discussed. Zimmerman said Kulkaski could call Light-Heigel for further explanation.
- ♦ **Lehman** said she is working on the resident list for the landfill with Frances Heinbach to have it ready for the end of the year.
- ♦ **Ferguson** said the tax on the small parcel near the Ravine Memorial was not paid and now needs to be paid with cash. Tobin moved to authorize the treasurer to get a cashier's check to pay the tax, Lehman seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.
- ♦ **Aungst** said Dave Horst (Benesch) would like to hold a meeting in January to work on the zoning ordinances, no decision was made. Aungst said he attended the meeting in Minersville on November 20<sup>th</sup> about a proposed Council of Governments. Aungst said 25 people attended from eleven municipalities; the next meeting will be held on February 17th at the St. Clair Fish & Game.
- ♦ **Aungst** said Jim Kohr recommended all the emergency lights be replaced with new ones and he submitted a quote of five lights replaced for \$950. Tobin moved to approve the replacement of the emergency lights, Zimmerman seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.
- ♦ **Ferguson** said the statement of values for the property and equipment needs to be reviewed for the insurance company. The Board said the Roadmaster should look at the equipment listed and they discussed having a real estate appraiser look at the building, but agreed to send the property values statement in with no changes.
- ♦ **Ferguson** said the Board of Supervisors at the budget meeting had considered closing the fire company PLGIT accounts and turning the money back to them by the end of the year. Aungst said he talked to the treasurer for Suedburg and was told they would most likely be withdrawing it next year for purchasing a truck. Zimmerman moved to authorize the closing of the fire company PLGIT accounts and checks given to each fire company before the end of the year. Lehman seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.
- ♦ **Lehman** asked Aungst if he had checked the odor in the township building. Aungst asked if Hlavaty's had been here and Ferguson said they checked the duct work and sprayed the condenser, but they found no reason for the mold odor. Discussion followed on the air quality in the office building. Zimmerman said the problem would be solved with a commercial quality dehumidifier for the basement and dry it out. Tobin moved to check into getting a dehumidifier for basement to remedy the situation, Aungst seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0. Tobin will get prices for the January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- ♦ **Tobin** noted a special election will be held on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**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,**

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**Kathy Ferguson, Secretary / Treasurer**

**Approved by the Board of Supervisors on January 14, 2009.**