

PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

175 OAK GROVE ROAD, PINE GROVE, PA 17963

JULY 11, 2007 MEETING MINUTES ~~~~~

CALL TO ORDER - Chairman Larry Zimmerman called the July 11, 2007 meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:05 PM. Attending were Supervisors Zimmerman, Jerry Wise, Allen Aungst, Herman Clemens and Judith Lehman. Also present: Solicitor Gino DiNicola, Sect. / Treas. Kathy Ferguson, Diane Tobin, Bernie Kulkaski, Donald Wenrich, Tom McMullen, Terry Ritzman, Bob Sweigart, other residents; list on file.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS - Diane Tobin said she had a statement regarding the Host Municipal Inspector that she would like to read. Zimmerman said the Board would hear her statement under persons to be heard. Donald Wenrich said he had questions on the Comprehensive Plan engineer's quotes.

MINUTES / FINANCIAL ITEMS

June 13, 2007 Meeting Minutes - Lehman questioned several items. Lehman said on the motion to fill in the pond area she had said the pond area was already filled in and Zimmerman said the motion was to expand the Recreation area. Aungst said the motion was to expand the Recreation area by filling in the pond. Zimmerman said the pond is still not filled in totally. Lehman asked if they received the permit for it and Aungst said according to the letter received a permit was not required for that area.

Aungst moved to approve the June 13, 2007 meeting minutes, Wise seconded the motion. Aungst, Wise, Zimmerman and Clemens voted in favor of the motion; Lehman opposed the motion. Motion carried 4 to 1.

Treasurer's Report - The beginning balance of the General Fund was \$325,629.75, June General Fund receipts were \$64,841.68, June General Fund expenses were \$50,968.76; the ending balance of the General Fund is \$339,502.67. The Combined Township Funds ending balance is \$2,750,688.16.

The Board received the Year to Date Budget Report and income reports for May and June that were prepared by Ferguson. Lehman noted several items were over budget and Aungst said \$34,000 was recovered from PEMA for the bridge clean out and there should be a substantial amount coming from PennDOT to put us back under budget.

Ferguson recommended the Board transfer \$150,000 from the General Fund Money Market Account with a current 2.74% variable interest rate to a PLGIT 90 day fixed term account at 5.2% interest. Clemens moved to approve the transfer of \$150,000 from the Lebanon Valley Money Market Account to the Capital Reserves Fund in PLGIT. Aungst seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.

Ferguson noted for the record that payroll check #2222 was signed by two supervisors last month, leaving no signature line for the treasurer to sign.

Aungst moved to approve the Treasurer's Report, Lehman seconded the motion, all were in favor; motion carried 5 to 0.

Approval of Bills - Ferguson noted for the record that purchases she makes at Sam's Club are done on her own time when she is there on other business and only if it is economical for the township; she does not charge the township mileage to go there.

Zimmerman moved to approve paying the bills totaling \$43,812.85, Clemens seconded the motion, all were in favor; motion carried 5 to 0.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD

- ♦ **Roberts Road - Bernard Kulkaski** asked if the engineer had looked at the turn around or culvert for Roberts Road, he is waiting to pave until something is done. Discussion on the road, a culvert and a possible cul-de-sac followed. Zimmerman said it hinges on what SEDCO is trying to do with the water situation in conjunction with the Solar Innovations project and he doesn't see anything happening within the next six months; nothing formal is in progress with Benesch because they are waiting on a possible grant.
- ♦ **Storm Water - Bernard Kulkaski** asked the Board what their position is on Act 167 and storm water prevention. Zimmerman said he is against the act because it places too many restrictions on residents building a home and said the County is working on storm management. Aungst discussed the board the county has formed to review the DEP model stormwater ordinances and a meeting he was invited to; more discussion followed.
- ♦ **Host Municipal Inspector - Diane Tobin** read a statement on the construction of Pad 12 at the Landfill and the need for a full time Host Municipal Inspector. Clemens moved to reinstate the Host Municipal Inspector to full time effective immediately.

A discussion followed on the cost to the township of employing the Host Municipal Inspector; it was noted that DEP reimburses the township for half of the salary and the Pad 12 host agreement will have the Landfill giving the township \$10,000 towards the cost.

Donald Wenrich, Diane Tobin and others said it should not be an issue of cost, but having the inspector there during the construction to monitor it. Aungst said he doesn't think the activity warrants a full time inspector, Zimmerman agreed. Discussion followed and Aungst seconded Clemens' motion to reinstate the Host Municipal Inspector to full time effective immediately. Clemens, Aungst and Wise voted in favor of the motion and Zimmerman opposed the motion. As Host Municipal Inspector, Lehman abstained from voting and motion carried 3 to 1.

Wise said he found it interesting the people who were greatly in favor of having the landfill here are now expressing their concerns about reinstating the Host Municipal Inspector, it seems redundant to him. Tobin responded to his comment by saying nobody said the landfill was good for the township, but it is good for the township to have an inspector there full time. Wenrich said it is in the minutes they wanted the inspector full time when they cut the hours to part time, so they haven't changed; the landfill is here and they couldn't stop it. Discussion followed.

REPORTS

Engineers Report / Planning Commission Report

- ♦ Nyer Sketch Plan of Record Sewage Planning Module – Aungst moved to approve the Nyer Sewage Planning Module, Clemens seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.
- ♦ Glore Family Trust Request for Planning Waiver & Non-Building Declaration – Aungst moved to approve the Glore request, Wise seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.

Landfill Inspector – Lehman said she worked an hour over her twenty hours the week ending 7/01/07 when she was in a meeting, but she was willing to give the time to the township. Aungst moved to pay Lehman the hour of pay, Clemens seconded the motion. Aungst, Clemens, Zimmerman and Wise were in favor of the motion and Lehman abstained from voting; motion carried 4 to 0.

Tobin asked why the HMI has to ask for approval on overtime when the road crew doesn't, Zimmerman said because she is part time. Tobin asked if the Host Municipal Inspector must ask for approval for overtime when she is full time. Aungst and Zimmerman said yes.

Roadmaster – Roadmaster was not present. Tom McMullen asked why the road crew doesn't have a tar buggy to patch the cracks in the roads. Zimmerman said they rent one to do that and Aungst said plans are to bring it before the Board in the Fall.

Zimmerman said there is a hole in Lengel Lane where the pipe is rusted through. Discussion followed on the type of pipe to use under township roads. Zimmerman recommended using plastic for durability rather than concrete or metal. Lehman moved to use PennDOT approved plastic pipe under Township roads in the future, Clemens seconded the motion; all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.

Zoning Officer – Zoning Officer was not present; there were nine approved permits for June.

Recreation Board – Aungst moved to allow the Recreation Board to hire an excavator for a day to move dirt at the Recreation area, utilizing the Township trucks to do the hauling. Clemens seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.

OLD BUSINESS

- ♦ **Comprehensive Plan Engineer's Quotes** – Donald Wenrich asked if the original engineer that did the Comprehensive Plan was one who gave a quote, Zimmerman said yes. Wenrich asked why their bid was so high if they are looking at something they prepared. Discussion followed noting the Comprehensive Plan is not being worked on; it is the ordinances that are being reviewed to match the Comprehensive Plan.

Aungst moved to award Benesch the contract of \$22,300 to get the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinances and Zoning Ordinances to correspond with the Comprehensive Plan. Wise seconded the motion, all were in favor; motion carried 5 to 0.

- ♦ **Emergency Management Coordinator Status** – Zimmerman said he had no problem contacting her and she wants to remain as the Township Coordinator.

NEW BUSINESS

- ♦ **Pine Grove Landfill Temporary Tax Suspension Proposal** – DiNicola said his office received notice of an old case from 2000 when the Landfill filed an assessment appeal. DiNicola explained the assessment appeal and said the County has reviewed the appeal, their assessor has agreed with the Landfill's assessor and a tentative settlement has been approved. DiNicola said next month the Township will likely receive an agreement to sign; the Board does not need to take action tonight.
- ♦ **Host Agreement** – DiNicola said Ferguson should take steps to make sure the terms of the host agreement are met. After discussion, the Board directed Ferguson to send the Landfill a letter stating in light of the permit from DEP for Pad 12 the host agreement will now go into effect.

CORRESPONDENCE

- ♦ **PennDOT Bureau of Aviation Request to Schedule a Public Hearing** – Zimmerman moved to advertise a public hearing for an airport, Clemens seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0. Clemens moved to schedule the public hearing on August 6th at 7 PM, Lehman seconded the motion, all were in favor; motion carried 5 to 0.

Discussion on the letter received followed and Clemens moved to rescind the prior motions regarding a public hearing for an airport, Aungst seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0. Zimmerman moved to approve allowing the Bureau of Aviation hold a public hearing in the Township Building, Clemens seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.

- ♦ **PSATS Convention Date for 2008 changed to May 11 through 14** – It was noted the annual convention dates have changed next year due to the presidential primary election.
- ♦ **Treasurer's Bond Quote from Stump Insurance Agency** – The Board reviewed a quote from Randy Stump for a lower rate on the treasurer's bond; they agreed to reconsider the proposal at the re-organization meeting in January when the bond is renewed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- ♦ **Diane Tobin** said after thinking about Wise's comments, she finds it odd that people who were against the landfill aren't even questioning why we don't have someone there.
- ♦ **Terry Ritzman** asked for the status of the fire company merger. Wise said there was no meeting in June, but meetings are scheduled for the last Wednesday of the month. Wise said a problem is the meetings get cancelled last minute and there is no way of letting the people know.
- ♦ **Bob Sweigart** commended the Board on their decision to reinstate the Host Municipal Inspector. Sweigart said the position of a Host Municipal Inspector is to protect the people.
- ♦ **Donald Wenrich** said several months ago Zimmerman said there were many things the Board has not done and asked him if he has comprised a list. Zimmerman said no.
- ♦ **Bernie Kulkaski** suggested the Board take a look at making the **Township website** more active, posting the fire company meetings etc. Tobin said for the record she does not get paid to maintain the website and has not received anything from the supervisors to put on the website.
- ♦ **Clemens** asked about a county clean-up, it was mentioned that it is Washington Township's turn to host it.
- ♦ **Clemens** said he was invited to attend a hearing on HB1225 giving municipalities the authority to issue tax rebates of \$650 to households earning under \$35,000. Clemens stated his feelings on the issue in a draft statement. Aungst moved to authorize Clemens to represent the Board of Supervisors at the hearing. Lehman seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion carried 5 to 0.
- ♦ **Ferguson** said the Township received a school tax bill for the parcel they purchased in Ravine and noted there is probably a County real estate tax bill also. DiNicola took the bill and said he would contact the assessor's office and take care of changing the status to tax exempt.
- ♦ **Ferguson** said the Township never received acknowledgement from the Election Board that the question of changing the number of supervisors would be on the ballot in November. The Board directed Ferguson to send a letter asking the Election Board to confirm the question would be on the ballot.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:23 PM Aungst moved to adjourn the meeting, Zimmerman seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion carried 5 to 0 and meeting was adjourned.

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**Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Ferguson, Secretary / Treasurer**

Approved by the Board of Supervisors, August 8, 2007.