

TOWAMENSING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
TOWAMENSING TOWNSHIP BUILDING
Meeting Minutes
August 6, 2020 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Guy Seifert, Chairperson/Treasurer; **Scott Mosier**, Vice-Chairman; **John Kleintop**, Supervisor; **Thomas Nanovic**, Solicitor-absent; **Jessica Ahner**, Secretary; **Carl Faust**, Zoning Officer; **Greg Haas**, Engineer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Towamensing Township Meeting Minutes, June 8, 2020 Board of Supervisors Meeting – **Motion**, Scott - John **2nd. AIF**- Motion Carried

Bill List and Payroll from June 5-July 6, 2020 - **Motion**, Scott– **2nd** John – **AIF**, Motion Carried

Treasurer’s Report as of June 30, 2020 -**Motion**-Scott **2nd** - John **All in favor**- Motion Carried

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - 5 MINUTE LIMIT: Please sign the book if you would like to address the Board.

Michael Harris 3050 Forest St, Susan Muscavage & Bruce Hackenburg 3020 Forest St complaint about house sold recently at 3030 Forest and they have an Air B&B and there is not a property owner there. I lived in my home for over 30 years had great neighbors and now I am dealing with loud music through all hours of the night. Guy said not to interrupt you but they are in violation of zoning and it is a problem in the township and we are working on it. Carl had two complaint letters on that address and sent violation letters out the problem is the tax office only had that address on file. My wife put it in the mail on Tuesday, August 4th and I posted the property today. When I was there, there were 15 people in the home and the house has 3 bedrooms. Per Guy so they are in violation of our ordinance the problem is we need on this particular instance. Michael asked what the township is doing to prevent this? Carl said they are in violation of short-term rental and Air B&B is not permitted in the township, that is where we are starting. There are some ordinances in other townships that we are going to look at. They have 30 days to file for a variance or stop what they are doing.

Mark Althouse thanked the township for no parking signs in his yard. You asked for proof about Jenkins marathon yard sale. Everyone knows what they are selling. The place looks like a wreck and there are so many violations for how many years now, what’s going to happen next year?? Can we get something on the books to stop this?? They are impeding the highway you can’t make a swing down here with a trailer. Sometimes you can’t get through with two passing cars. Per Guy, do you understand this really restricts what we can do from them conducting business. Mike Fink is saying now there is a change of business and no driveway big enough for them to conduct business. Carl now working on parking issues. Crystal Fink said but that’s not the only thing he has a change of business. Guy said we are not asking for forgiveness next year. Mark asked if he can keep no parking signs or give back to township? Scott said whatever he wanted to do. Phones were dropped over by the house and didn’t know who they belonged to. Yes, they are ours from the accident.

Anne Messick not from Towamensing Township but would like to know if she can speak as a concerned citizen of Beltzville State Park. Guy agreed for her to speak. She spoke with Alma on August 3rd and she told her there were changes due to the overcrowding of park. This past week I noticed the trails I walk my dogs on were

closed. There was also no place to park and there were no parking signs posted. I feel like I am getting cut off from the use of the park. Guy - I'm sorry you feel that way but this is a big issue and has always been an issue except this year we have the problem with New York and New Jersey coming in and not taking care of our park or obeying the rules. So now people that live here are being restricted. There are other places you can walk on the other side. Another problem is DCNR doesn't want to man the park or do the job they are suppose too. Anne asked if there a safe place for me to park? Guy said I can't answer that but I know if you park under a no parking sign you may be towed.

Linda Christman – Towamensing Township is the most covered area in Carbon County that the pipeline effects. We should be concerned about this. They changed the map as you can see. The pipeline company came in 6 years ago sat us down and said we are running out of gas people need gas. They still haven't lifted a shovel of dirt in six years. They started with plans to go from Luzerne County, PA to Mercer County, NJ. I have to tell you as of now that plan is dead. That is not going to happen because the pipeline company has to do 5 very, very difficult things. Those of us opposing only have to stop them from getting around these things. So the odds are in our favor. So now they have changed the ridge so what they are now proposing is a PA only pipeline. So, you may ask so how can you go from a 115mile pipeline to a 58mile pipeline? SO now what they are doing what they call Phase 1 and stopping in Bethlehem Township. From there it will connect to other pipeline's and it will take the gas to Philadelphia and beyond but through other connections. So that's the pipeline. As I said I think the pipeline from Mercer NJ is not going to happen and they have to do too many things. Per John so New Jersey has been very successful from them coming into their state. Are we able to piggyback on how they stopped them in PA? Linda said we could but we have a different government. For example, the state gave me money to preserve my farm. They can assert their right and say well our interest isn't in agriculture anymore it is in the pipelines. They shouldn't do that because our state is very much more friendly to oil then gas then pipelines. John said yes, we opened up to fracking. Linda - So, I think the state will not assert their right although they have the same right as we do. John asked if we know if the Bethlehem water shed gave permission? Linda said they did, the got a very good deal. The one thing that could stop this pipeline in PA is if the Delaware River permission. If they say no, they won't be able to proceed into PA or NJ. We are working on that. The other thing is that the oil and gas industry is just that fracking is cratering. Per Guy so all this may fix this. If this projects stalls long enough, here we are 6 years later, it was to start in 2017 and here we are in 2020 and they haven't built anything yet. I think it stalled long enough for the economics to no longer make sense. Per John I think residents and others going up against big business in areas it affects is a major hurdle. John thanks and says we appreciate the update to Linda.

Times News and Jessica recording.

Roy Christman – Historical Commission gave memo in July and I understand you were not in agreement with Greenzweig School in Trachsville. The Beers family donated the school to the Township. The building was built in 1895 Historical Society would like guidance on what to do with Greenzweig School. It needs a lot of repair. The structure of the building is sound but some of the boards are dry rotted. It does need other repair Supervisor Siefert had to fix the roof. The Historical Commission does not know what to do with the building and that's why we are asking to have a meeting with the supervisors. We would like a Workshop. Guy and Supervisors approved.

Mike Fink wanted to talk about variances and residential lots around here that are being misused. They are being used as commercial use. Some may have a variance to that. I personally think a variance is being misused in the township. He thinks some of these residential properties that are running businesses out of their property should be looked into and not be so friendly to throw variances out there. Then have someone like me spend hundreds and thousands of dollars to do it properly on a commercial lot. They are being let go with doing whatever they want. I know there are some commercial properties that want to build a garage or addition or maybe driveway or parking on their commercial property that are rightfully following under our codes and the township is not allowing them to do. What is that showing them by our township saying no or our township allowing residential properties run these businesses off their residential lot. That is very, very bad. You know,

I could have gone right down the road from my commercial lot and spent \$20,000 on a 2 acre lot came in here for a variance and did whatever the hell I wanted. No, I spent \$100,000 on a commercial lot and a \$70,000 battle in a 6year battle that I have to go through. He is strongly against the variances and believe they could be good for certain things. If I think I need to be closer to a property line or something. That is awesome for a variance. However, these businesses on a residential lot they have to stop. The ones that are out there now have to be looked into. It's not fair to the people that are trying to do it right. If the people on the board do not understand that then maybe something needs to be done about that too. I think the township is opening themselves up to new problems. Names in this township mean a whole lot and that is how these variances are getting pushed through and why they are letting business run on residential lots. Names mean a big thing. That's all I got to say about that. Guy thanked him.

PLANS AND SUBDIVISIONS

Jerusalem UCC plans -

Per Brian Gasda of Lehigh Engineering, the problem we were having at the last meeting is where the storm water was discharging. I talked with your engineer and honestly still think what we proposed will still work but and looked at the other alternative to discharge the water across the road this way there will be no discharge of water across the road. The letter I included in the handout is a letter from the neighboring church. That letter states that they will allow the stormwater discharge on the property pending approval from the township. We will get an easement to allow that stormwater to flow. With that the only change is we lowered the pipe a few feet so it will so it can get under the road and change the slope from ½% to 1%. We did not get the surveyor out but do expect the pipe will be about 86 feet plus or minus 5 feet. The discharge of the head wall will be outside of the township right away. So will be a few feet that keeps the township of if the discharge blocked or anything. We will have the head wall wrapped up with some rift raft to handle any out flow from the basin. This potential basin over a 2year storm will discharge 0.16 cubic feet per second of water as the pipe drains. That is almost nothing but a couple garden hoses going through that pipe. Even in a 100year storm it would be 0.5 cfs. The water will be discharged onto their property there is a natural drainage that it follows. We will provide the surveyed information once that is done. In doing all this our waiver request is no longer applicable so we would withdraw that request for the waiver. We think this plan is now ready to move forward. Looking back at Carbon Engineering's review comments the things that need to be done the speed study was recognized with those modifications at 30mph, the Carbon county Conservation District letter, Nanovic reviewing agreements and easement paperwork.

At this time, I would like to ask the board to reconsider our request of conditional approval given the stormwater change and lack of any waivers needed to be done.

Greg said he thinks he good with the change his only question is how far does the easement have to go into the other property? Does it go through their property entirely or just around the outlet structure in the outlet? They will need to show this on the plan. Why don't you show an easement around the outlet structure of the rift raft any grading and you note the Lutheran Church have confidence that is any work is needed in that easement area that your client is responsible for that work.

Guy's question is this an opportunity for us to piggy back the basin and put it at the road right on the corner. We then we would have to be part of that easement. Well that's a different conversation we are not having it now. Guy asked Greg to talk to Bob at planning meeting.

John's question about Scott Bieber's letter and drain trap design. Grease trap needs to be shown and put by sink in kitchen not only in basement, agreed from Lehigh Engineering.

Guy makes **motion** to accept conditional use per Greg's letter dated June 7th plus Easement of property & payment of fees. **John 2nd, AIF – Motion Carried**

OLD BUSINESS

Borough of Beaver Meadows Joint board of appeals UCC matters. **John motion** to accept joint board of appeals **Scott 2nd, AIF – Motion Carried**

NEW BUSINESS

Carbon County Commissioners requesting support letter for upgrades of Emergency Services Training Center – **Guy Motion – John 2nd, AIF – Motion Carried**

Jim Thorpe Police Dept assistance from Fire Police during Oct. 2020 weekends – **Scott Motion** for fire Police to help **John 2nd, AIF – Motion Carried**

Bid Packages needed for Diesel/Heating & Anti-Skid/2A modified material Greg can do them the only thing is no bids for FB2 material because not a good product and recommend Superpave 19ml binder instead – **Scott Motion** for Greg to do Bid Pkgs – **Guy 2nd, AIF- Motion Carried**

Short-Term/Transient Rentals/Airbnb's - Carl thinks we need Workshop. Have to do zoning ordinance.

Mutual Aide Agreement/Fire Protection/Polk & Penn Forest Township – Per John not really needed?? Fire Companies can set a reimbursement. Tom thinks we should have one.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

None

RECREATION COMMITTEE

None

ROAD MASTER REPORT

Paving Complete

Update on Recycling Center – Tom @ APM to come August 12th

Kenetta Lane – Garbage to end August 31, 2020 – Guy is there a long-term fix? Residents fix roads or put dumpster there? 15 residents.

Station Street driveway issues – Greg has an idea and need to do title work on one of the properties. He thinks he will need to file a citation against one of the property owners. Will send them a letter with warning ad give them 30 days to respond and if they don't respond then we go with the citation.

Email questions or comments to ttroad@ptd.net

ZONING OFFICER REPORT

Available in township office

SEO REPORT

Available in township office

FIRE COMPANY REPORT

August 6 report for month of July from Eric George was that the Fire Co. responded to 10 emergency incidents:

7/4/2020 – Motor Vehicle Accident 209 & Forest Inn Rd
7/4/2020 – EMS Assist 80 Ridgeview Dr
7/14/2020 – Motor Vehicle Accident 209 & Stable Rd
7/16/2020 – Burning Complaint 35 Twin Flower
7/19/2020 – Fire Police at Beltzville State Park
7/20/2020 – Motor Vehicle Accident with down pole and wires 209 & Hazelwood
7/22/2020 - Dwelling Fire 1345 Hazelwood Rd
7/25/2020 – Motor Vehicle Accident 465 East Stagecoach Rd
7/26/2020 – Carbon Monoxide Alarm – 175 Barbara Ave
7/31/2020 – Wires Down 9170 Interchange Rd
8/1/2020 – Fire Police at Beltzville State Park

Tyler Reggio sworn in as Fire Police he went through all the training. Guy Seifert Swore him in.

Guy made motion to make disbursement of funds in the amount of \$30,000 split 4 ways (\$7,500 each) to Towamensing, Aquashicola, Franklin and Polk Fire Companies. **Scott 2nd – AIF, Motion Carried**

Alma was told the state has more money to handle this than this township. DCNR needs to do their job and close the roads themselves. Rangers are out but not all of them. Game Commission was issuing citations. Eric said directing traffic went a little easier than expected.

Billing for fire companies to recoup material funds. If resolution is supplied it gives more leverage for us.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Available in township office

Next meeting is Monday, August 10, 2020 at 7 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE

Roy Christman appreciation letter for gerrymandering support & Carbon County municipal Governments status report

Valor house thank you

OFFICIALS

Reminder: Next meeting September 3, 2020, 7:00pm

Zoning Office Hours for August 2020:

Thursday, August 6th 4:00-6:00 pm
Thursday, August 13th 4:30-6:30 pm
Thursday, August 20th 4:30-6:30 pm
Thursday, August 27th 4:30-6:30 pm

Carl Faust, Towamensing Township Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer, can be reached by calling: 570-943-2577. Email: bmisinspector@gmail.com

Executive Session 8:57pm – 9:16pm

Motion to adjourn at 9:20 p.m. by Scott – 2nd John – AIF Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Ahner, Secretary