

TOWAMENSING TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS' MEETING MINUTES
TOWAMENSING TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
December 4, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Penny Kleintop, Chairperson/Treasurer; Tom Newman, Vice-chairman-Absent; Guy Seifert, Supervisor; Thomas Nanovic, Solicitor; Brenda Drew, Secretary; Carl Faust, Zoning Officer; Greg Haas, Engineer-Absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Towamensing Township Meeting Minutes – November 6, 2014

Motion: Supervisor Guy Seifert made a Motion to approve the Minutes, seconded by Chairperson Penny Kleintop.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Bill List and Payroll from November 2014

Motion: Supervisor Guy Seifert made a Motion to approve the Bill List and Payroll, seconded by Chairperson Penny Kleintop.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Motion: Supervisor Guy Seifert made a Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Chairperson Penny Kleintop.

All in favor. Motion carried.

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

Tax Collector R. Bruce Reiner provided the Supervisors with a copy of some important points from HB1590, passed by the Legislature in October 2014, as it pertains to tax collection in our State. He also reminded us of his hours for the month of December. His office can be contacted to set up an appointment.

Wayne Knirnschild, Township Fire Chief, discussed the request for a tanker to temporarily replace the one going in for repair. Solicitor Nanovic stated that while he was corresponding with the insurance companies, there had been no discussion with Wayne about paying for a substitute tanker, only the repair quote for the tanker. Supervisor Seifert volunteered to contact the Township's Insurance Agent to try to rectify this year old issue.

PLANS AND SUBDIVISIONS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Copies of the Final Draft of the new Zoning Ordinance and Map were received today from Steve Dellinger of Hanover Engineering. Chairperson Kleintop stated that the next step is to have the Planning Commission make a formal motion to recommend the adoption of the Ordinance and Map at the Meeting on Monday, December 8, 2014. The Board of Supervisors would then hold a public meeting in order to discuss it. Copies of both the Ordinance and Map have been submitted to the County Planning Commission for review.

NEW BUSINESS:

Presentation of Draft of a Resolution to oppose the PennEast Natural Gas Pipeline:

Residents George White, Diane Connor, Sue Maroney and Bill Kellner discussed their many concerns over the pipeline including the request for our Township to adopt a resolution to stop it completely. Additional items discussed were the creation of a non-profit group for the purpose of soliciting donations for such things as signs, procuring funds to provide for emergency responders, the disturbance of the land, and questions about the municipality's perceived lack of action. Both Chairperson Kleintop and Supervisor Seifert discussed PennEast's use of divisive tactics when the Township actively sought to hold informative meetings with them and also the "smoke and mirrors" nature of the meetings that they held in neighboring townships. It was also suggested that residents actively negotiate while forming a group alliance.

Adopt the 2015 Budget:

Supervisor Guy Seifert made a Motion to table the adoption, seconded by Chairperson Penny Kleintop. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approve and Sign Resolution 2014-3: Annual Garbage Collection Fees

Supervisor Guy Seifert made a Motion to table the approval, seconded by Chairperson Penny Kleintop. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approve Ordinance 2014-2: Tax Levy

Real Estate Tax – 2 mils

Earned Income Tax – 1%, with ½% to School District & ½% to Township

Real Estate Transfer Tax - 1/2 of 1.0% effective rate to Township

Local Services Tax - \$10.00

Per Capita Tax - \$5.00

Supervisor Guy Seifert made a Motion to table the approval, seconded by Chairperson Penny Kleintop. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approve Towamensing Township Fire Police to assist at the May 31, 2015 Black Bear Triathlon at Beltzville State Park:

Supervisor Guy Seifert made a Motion to approve, seconded by Chairperson Penny Kleintop.

All in favor. Motion carried.

The following dates were set for upcoming meetings:

End of the Year Meeting – Tuesday, December 30, 2014, 3:00 p.m.

Re-Organizational Meeting – Monday, January 5, 2015, 5:00 p.m. followed by the Board of Supervisors Meeting for the month of January.

Township Auditors Meeting – Tuesday, January 6, 2015, 3:00 p.m.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Recreation Field Use Application was received from Chris Allen, President of the Towamensing Soccer Club, for the 2015 year.

Supervisor Guy Seifert made a Motion to accept the application, seconded by Chairperson Penny Kleintop. All in favor. Motion carried.

ROAD MASTER REPORT

Resident Elsa Kerschner requested that potholes be repaired at the intersection of Koch Road and Pohopoco Drive. George White requested that the potholes by his residence on Deer Lane also be repaired. Supervisor Seifert stated that the Township is working on a 10-year plan for road repair/replacement, concentrating on 7 miles per year.

A report is available in the township office.

Residents may email questions or comments to: ttroad@ptd.net

ZONING OFFICER REPORT

Available in township office

SEO REPORT

Available in township office

FIRE COMPANY REPORT

Available in township office

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Available in township office

CORRESPONDENCE

Chairperson Penny Kleintop read a letter from Charles Laviolette, who is moving out of the township and is relinquishing his position as the township representative on the Board of Trustees for the Palmerton Area Library. There is currently no replacement.

She also read a letter from Daniel & Lisa Hughes and Alfred Natale expressing special thanks to our Zoning Officer, Carl Faust, for his expertise, knowledge and true professionalism during the process of converting their carwash into a tire and auto center.

OFFICIALS

The Township office will be closed Wednesday- Friday, December 24-26, 2014 and also January 1, 2015.

Zoning Office Hours for December 2014: Wednesday, December 3, 10, 17 & Tuesday, December 23 - 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. No office hours the week of December 29.

Carl Faust, Towamensing Township Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer, can be reached by calling: 570-943-2577 or 610-681-4202.

Email: bmisinspector@gmail.com

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Supervisor Guy Seifert made Motion to adjourn, seconded by Chairperson Penny Kleintop. All in favor. Motion carried.

8:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brenda L. Drew