

TOWAMENSING TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS' MEETING MINUTES
TOWAMENSING TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
February 5, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING – 6:30 P.M.: New Towamensing Township Zoning Ordinance and Map

Chairperson Penny Kleintop greeted residents and stated that this hearing was taking place prior to the scheduled Supervisors' Meeting. She deferred to Solicitor Nanovic who stated that it was indeed the public hearing of the proposed new Zoning Ordinance and Map in order to receive comments and inform residents. Attendees were encouraged to speak and ask questions. Steve Dellinger stated that all State mandated procedures and requirements for preparing the Ordinance and Map have been met. The most significant change on the map is the addition of the Conservation Recreation District. Supervisor Seifert stated that zoning didn't change significantly but definitions were corrected and clarified. The Planning Commission also had a public meeting to discuss the Ordinance, took input and as a result, some minor changes were made. Chairperson Kleintop expressed appreciation for the input from the Planning Commission, and to Supervisor Seifert, Zoning Officer Faust and Engineer Haas for the numerous hours spent working on the changes and corrections. Supervisor Seifert made a motion to adjourn the Hearing, seconded by Vice-Chairman Thomas Newman. All in favor. Motion carried. 6:36 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Towamensing Township Meeting Minutes – January 5, 2015 Re-Organizational Meeting and Board of Supervisors' Meeting:

Motion: Vice-Chairperson Thomas Newman made a motion to approve the Minutes, seconded by Supervisor Guy Seifert.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Bill List and Payroll from January 2015:

Motion: Supervisor Guy Seifert made a motion to approve the Bill List and Payroll, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Thomas Newman.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Motion: Supervisor Guy Seifert made a Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Thomas Newman.

All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW TOWAMENSING TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE AND MAP:

Motion: Supervisor Guy Seifert made a motion to advertise to enact the New Zoning Ordinance and Map at the March 5th Board of Supervisors' Meeting, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Thomas Newman.

All in favor. Motion carried.

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

Diane Conner, of 232 SEI Pike Lane, Lehighton, PA, thanked the Board of Supervisors for working with the community to draft a Resolution to oppose the potentially harmful effects of the PennEast Pipeline on the residents and the environment of our Township.

PLANS AND SUBDIVISIONS:

Woods Campground Waiver Request – Steve Gitch from Keystone Engineers filled in for Eric Snyder, representing the Woods Campground. There were waiver requests made pertaining to road shoulders, spillways and fencing of infiltration basins. Greg Haas summarized the redesigns, street designs and recommendations for safety access. There was discussion between Patrick Gremling, one of the owners of the Campground, Supervisor Seifert and Greg Haas. Supervisor Seifert stated that these are after-the-fact waiver requests, having constructed items improperly, and that now they are asking for waivers. Chairperson Kleintop and Vice-Chairman Newman had questions about road construction and emergency equipment access. Chairperson Kleintop asked who made the decision to change the road shoulders construction rather than following the approved plan.

Motion: Supervisor Seifert made a motion to table the Waiver Request and take it to the Planning Commission on February 9, 2015, and also to the Fire Chief for comments. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairperson Newman.

All in favor. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

PennEast Pipeline

Vice-Chairman Newman spoke on the pros and cons of numerous projects that have impacted our Township, and also the negative impression made by the representatives of PennEast as we attempted to meet with them in our Township, stating that ultimately the plight of the actual residents is most important. Supervisor Seifert agreed with Vice-Chairperson Newman and stated that, nationwide, we need to address individuals harmed by pipelines by possibly developing corridors in the future.

Motion: Supervisor Seifert made a motion to pass the “Resolution To Oppose The Potentially Harmful Effects Of The PennEast Pipeline On The Residents And The Environment Of Towamensing, Pennsylvania”, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Thomas Newman.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Bond Increase

Motion: Supervisor Guy Seifert made a motion to approve the increase in the Treasurer’s Bond Limit from \$550,000.00 to \$1,500,000.00, with a premium increase from \$924.00 to \$1,934.00 for the year, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Thomas Newman.

All in favor. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Set a date for the Agricultural Security Meeting

Meeting was set for Friday, February 27, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. at the Municipal Building. Secretary of the Agricultural Security Committee, Roy Christman, spoke on the purpose of this State program to protect farmers and farmland.

Ordinance Authorizing the Participation of Towamensing Township in the PSATS Unemployment Compensation Group Trust Pursuant to The Intergovernmental Cooperation Law AND

Ordinance Authorizing the Participation of Towamensing Township in the Pennsylvania Townships Health Insurance Cooperative Trust Pursuant to the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Law

Motion: Supervisor Guy Seifert made a motion to approve both Ordinances. Both were seconded by Vice-Chairperson Thomas Newman.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Appoint new Towamensing Township Representative to the Palmerton Library Board of Directors

Motion: Supervisor Guy Seifert made a motion to appoint Kathy DeKorte, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Thomas Newman.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Approve Fire Police for June 20, 2015 Pac-Makers Association Car Show in Palmerton, Pa.

Motion: Supervisor Guy Seifert made a motion to approve, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Thomas Newman.

All in favor. Motion carried.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION:

A report is available in the township office.

RECREATION COMMITTEE:

Matt George and Jason Green were present. Matt stated that the leagues want to utilize the softball field and would like to put up new sheds by the Babe Ruth or softball fields in order to store equipment. They wanted to ask permission of the Supervisors before soliciting donations. The Supervisors agreed and told them to contact Carl Faust with their plans. There was also discussion of future plans to build a concession stand and restrooms by the softball field. Supervisors reminded them that we purchased new swings and bases for the field, that the softball field was aerated and seeded last Fall and that the fence will be completed this year.

ROAD MASTER REPORT:

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:

Approve Towamensing Township Volunteer Fire Company 2015 Fundraiser List for Workers Comp.

An updated list is still unavailable.

Motion: Supervisor Guy Seifert made a motion to table approval, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Thomas Newman.

All in favor. Motion carried.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT:

Available in township office

CORRESPONDENCE:

OFFICIALS:

Zoning Office hours for February 2015 – February 3, 11, 18 and 25 - 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The schedule has been revised to the first Tuesday evening of the month and Wednesday evenings of the month thereafter.

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: Guy Seifert made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice-chairman Thomas Newman.

All in favor. Motion carried.

7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda L. Drew, Secretary