

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:30 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Motion:** Chairperson Penny Kleintop called for a Motion to ratify the re-opening of the previous Board of Supervisors meeting held on October 8, 2015. Supervisor Guy Seifert made said Motion, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Thomas Newman.

All in favor. Motion carried.

**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 – October 8, 2015 Board of Supervisors' Meeting

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

Bills List and Payroll from October 2015:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report from October 2015:

**Motion:** Supervisor Guy Seifert made a Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, 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.

Resident Paul Shinsec distributed the November Report and discussed the recent meeting pertaining to the PennEast Pipeline project. He stated that some surveyors are trespassing on residents' property although they have submitted rescinding letters. Carbon County is the only county through which the proposed pipeline is passing to have all impacted townships registered as intervenors. He asked whether our township would consider an ordinance to keep surveying out of public right-of-ways, as Hopewell Township, NJ has done.

**PLANS AND SUBDIVISIONS:**

None

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

A Budget meeting has been set for 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at the Municipal Building.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Approve and Adopt: *Resolution No. 2015-7 – Establishment of Application and Permit Fees Under The Towamensing Township Zoning Ordinance*

**Motion:** Vice-Chairperson Thomas Newman made a Motion for approval, seconded by Supervisor Guy Seifert.

All in favor. Motion carried.

**Approve and Adopt:** *Resolution No. 2015-8 – Establishment of Application and Review Fees Under The Towamensing Township Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance*

**Motion:** Vice-Chairperson Thomas Newman made a Motion for approval, seconded by Supervisor Guy Seifert.

All in favor. Motion carried.

## **FIRE COMPANY REPORT:**

Response to Supervisors' letter dated, October 9, 2015, requesting accounting of the VFRA Funds:

Fire Chief Wayne Knirnschild began his response by stating that at the "meeting in Jim Thorpe, Tom (Newman) came over and said don't worry about it, it's all taken care of", meaning that he was told by Vice-Chairperson Newman that the request did not have to be honored. Vice-Chairperson Newman stated that he had made a mistake which he clarified to Wayne and referred to the two sets of accounts which the Fire Co. is to maintain in order to correctly manage the VFRA funds separate from other Fire Co. funds. Wayne also stated that "Gary (Anthony) was instructed to provide a report and he's not here". Wayne stated that he spoke with the Auditor General who told him to give the Supervisors a copy of the last audit of VFRA funds but that they already had been sent a copy. Wayne stated that he had said "Gary, give them whatever they want, get the books out there". He was also concerned about the possibility that the Supervisors would "divvy up" the current Fire Relief funds among other neighboring townships' fire companies which respond to calls within our township as part of the mutual aid agreement. He then provided a list of fourteen calls outside of the township which were responded to by Towamensing Fire Co.

The following are additional remarks provided by the Fire Chief: Due to limited responses, the Fire Co. no longer sends out membership drive letters. Six to eight members regularly come to drills. One hundred eighty hours of training are required before a member can fight fires and the cost to outfit one firefighter with gear is approximately \$11,900.00.

Chairperson Kleintop stated that she called the Auditor General's Office and was directed to the DCED website to access the prior State audit (01/01/2009 to 12/31/2011) of the VFRA funds. The audit findings stated "our inability to review canceled checks or imaged checks constitutes a scope limitation on our audit".

Wayne was asked whether the Fire Co. "relief board" was separate from the other officers. He stated "no" and that Gary Anthony is currently the treasurer of both boards.

Chairperson Kleintop stated that other volunteer fire companies provide financial statements and an accounting to their Supervisors. Our Township tax dollars also pay for all of the fire company insurances and fuel as well as an annual donation of \$5,000.00. She stated that all that was asked was for him to provide us a copy. Wayne stated that he told the person in charge to provide a copy of the audit.

Chairperson Kleintop read the above referenced letter aloud and then stated that as of today, Wayne did not respond to the letter from our office, which made a simple, polite request. Wayne again stated, "I don't have the information, Gary does".

Vice-Chairperson Newman stated that when he spoke to Wayne, he felt that we had a right to ask for receipts for township donations. VFRA funds are of public record. He stated “we had a right to ask for an accounting of funds the Township supplied to the Fire Company”. Vice-Chairperson Newman stated that he asked Wayne for these two reports by this November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Wayne then stated “I don’t have access to these reports or checks. I don’t sign checks. Gary has the checkbook.”

Chairperson Kleintop discussed a phone call received by the Township Secretary from Senator Yudichak’s office asking for assistance in contacting the Fire Co. in reference to grant closeout paperwork for a \$14,000 grant applied for and received by the Fire Co. The Township office was contacted in the hope that the Township could encourage the Fire Co. to complete the overdue paperwork. Wayne stated that the State had never sent him any paperwork to complete.

Chairperson Kleintop noted that a piece of fire company equipment, which was allegedly sold to a relative of Wayne, might possibly still be on the list of vehicles being insured by the township and there was never notification. She asked who handled the sale and whether it had been advertised and properly sold. Wayne stated that he had nothing to do with the sale. Vice-Chairperson Newman then directed Wayne to email the VIN # of the sold truck and the current brush truck to verify. Wayne agreed to provide that. Supervisor Seifert stated that it is not the Township’s responsibility to chase down the Fire Company to keep the lists of equipment and conditions up to date. It’s their responsibility to notify the Township. He also asked for the sale price and other pertinent information. Chairperson Kleintop stated that this was all a matter of a lack of cooperation from the Fire Chief. The Township is all open records with Certified Public Accountants auditing the finances, not appointed auditors. She requested open communication from the Fire Chief. Supervisor Seifert reminded Wayne that the person that Wayne continues to blame for not providing records to the Township (Gary Anthony) is actually a fulltime employee of the township for more than 26 years. Wayne stated that his request to Gary is in the Minutes from the prior night’s meeting at the Fire Company. Wayne stated that he has been asking for an audit of the Fire Company books.

**Motion:** Supervisor Seifert made a Motion that the Township pays for their Accountants to audit the last three years of the Fire Company Books. Chairperson Kleintop seconded the Motion. Vice-Chairperson Newman abstained.

Motion carried.

Wayne stated that “you can do that and we’re not going to turn the books over, I don’t think. I’ll lock the doors. See my lawyer, our lawyer”. Wayne then stated that Mr. John Nonnemacher is auditing the Fire Company books next Thursday night. Solicitor Nanovic then asked Wayne why he wasn’t taking advantage of the Supervisors’ offer to pay for the audit. He also stated that the Supervisors admire all of the work Wayne has dedicated to this Fire Company. Wayne then stated that he wished they’d get more involved and that they are always asking how much money was made at events.

Chairperson Kleintop stated that everyone wants the Fire Company to flourish as it did in the past, with its many social events and that the Township has offered to pay for the audit by Certified Public Accountants.

Wayne then stated, “Come on out and audit my books. Please see Gary. He has all the paperwork. I don’t keep the bookwork. I don’t handle money.” He then stated that he went to Gary’s house to tell him to provide the requested paperwork.

Solicitor Nanovic then suggested that the Township and the Fire Company work together on ‘this’. Wayne asked whether the Township would pay to have Nonnemacher audit the books. Chairperson Kleintop stated that the Supervisors will take it under advisement, to use and/or meet with John Nonnemacher, and will let the Fire Company know who is decided upon.

Chairperson Kleintop also stated that there will be another advertised Board of Supervisors Meeting this month.

## **RECREATION COMMITTEE:**

None

## **ROAD MASTER REPORT:**

A report is available in the township office and was read aloud by Supervisor Seifert.

Residents may email questions or comments to: [ttroad@ptd.net](mailto:ttroad@ptd.net)

## **HISTORICAL COMMISSION:**

Towamensing Township Historical Preservation Award:

Chairman Karl Rolappe presented Carol Copeland of 445 Strohl's Valley Road the award for her extensive renovation of her Class 1 (over 100 years old) farmhouse. Carol spoke of the two-years of construction and difficulty and also read the list of former owners. She shared a copy of an old list found in the walls and a photo of couple who lived there in the past.

Karl also discussed the status of the Greenzweig School and fund-raising Cookbook. An exterminator reported that the building should be tented to get rid of powder post beetles for a cost of \$6,000. Since those funds are unavailable, they may decide on individually applied applications of pesticides. Supervisor Seifert is proceeding with the roof repair. The Cookbook should be available at the beginning of December and the funds raised from the sale will go toward repairing the exterior woodwork.

## **ZONING OFFICER REPORT:**

Available in township office.

## **SEO REPORT:**

Available in township office

## **PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT:**

Available in township office.

Member James Shafer mentioned that the owners of All-American Concrete had attended the last meeting in order to discuss their recent purchase of 8315 Interchange Road and a request for the waiving of the Land Development Plan while constructing a dry storage building to house equipment for their business. The Planning Commission did not recommend the request to the Board of Supervisors.

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Chairperson Kleintop read aloud a thank you note from Carl and Shirley Gross of 1720 Owl Creek Road noting the great job paving Jefferson Street and Pine Run Road. The Township has also received positive phone calls.

## **OFFICIALS:**

### Reminders:

- There is an additional Board of Supervisors Meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 19 at 7:00 p.m.
- The Staff Meeting regularly held the fourth Thursday of each month was moved to Wednesday, November 25 due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.
- The December Board of Supervisors Meeting date was moved to Thursday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Resident John Wasilowsky of 120 Pine Lane spoke to the Supervisors of a second house which was built approximately 40 years ago on a parcel located at 460 Beers Lane. The owners use his private road for access to that second house. There was no record of this structure at the County Assessor's office and this homeowner hasn't ever paid taxes on this second dwelling on the parcel.

Zoning Office hours for November 2015 –Tuesday, November 3; Wednesday, November 11; Tuesday, November 17 & Tuesday, November 24 - 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

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 Seifert made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Newman. All in favor. Motion carried.

8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda L. Drew, Secretary