

**TOWAMENSING TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS' MEETING MINUTES**  
**TOWAMENSING TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING**  
**February 4, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:30 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 Re-Organizational Meeting Minutes – January 4, 2016

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

Towamensing Township Meeting Minutes – January 4, 2016

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

Bill List and Payroll from January 2016

**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.

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

Resident Paul Shinsec, of 1665 Station Street, spoke on behalf of the Save Carbon County committee. A landowners' meeting concerning the Penneast Pipeline is scheduled for February 18 at the Fire Co. to discuss "easements, eminent domain and your rights" featuring Attorney Peter Carfley of Lavery Law, Harrisburg. There is still the question as to whether the pipeline is considered a public utility.

Resident George White, of 1055 Deer Lane, also spoke concerning the pipeline.

Resident Margaret Shinsec passed on a thank-you to the crew who took care of the roads during the January 23, 2016 snowstorm.

Resident Howard Williams, of 340 Stagecoach Road West, spoke of a drainage issue by his home, which is located at the corner of Stagecoach and Hazelwood. He stated that the flow of water is eating away at the road. He asked whether “the Ordinance” would affect his existing structure, which was built in 1864. He is worried about eminent domain and his house being unsafely close to the road. The Supervisors stated that there are currently no eminent domain proceedings from the Township moving forth toward his house and there are no plans to change those roads at that location. He requested of copy of the meeting minutes.

Resident Richard Hall, of 55 Raymond Street, asked what was going on with the property at 25 Raymond Street where the property owner is in violation of the zoning codes. Carl Faust and Solicitor Nanovic met with the owner, Jason Martz and his attorney on site. Martz applied for a zoning permit, which was denied. His two options are to remove all non-conforming materials from the site or file for a variance. If the owner files for a variance, Mr. Hall, as the complainant, will be notified so that he and anyone whose property is within five hundred feet of Mr. Martz’s property lines can attend the hearing before the Township’s Zoning Hearing Board in order to have a voice in the matter.

## **PLANS AND SUBDIVISIONS**

None.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Pipeline Update: Discussed during Public Participation.

Update on Fire Company Audit by Kirk, Summa & Co.: The Supervisors have not received a full and complete audit at this time. Chairperson Kleintop stated that Dale Kirk reported full cooperation from Gary Anthony and Eric George in supplying necessary documents and answering of questions.

Fire Company - List of Officers and Directors, List of VFRA Officers, and Fire Co. liaison to be provided by the Fire Co. in accordance with Ordinance No. 2015-6: Today a new list was provided by Eric George.

**Motion:** Supervisor Guy Seifert made a Motion to ratify Eric George as President of the Fire Co., seconded by Chairperson Penny Kleintop.

All in favor. Motion carried.

**Motion:** Supervisor Guy Seifert made a Motion to reject Wayne Knirmschild as Fire Chief, seconded by Chairperson Penny Kleintop. Vice-Chairperson Thomas Newman abstained.

Motion carried.

Solicitor Nanovic recommended that a letter is sent to the Fire Co. and Board of Directors about the Supervisors’ decision and to request that two names are provided for consideration as Fire Chief within 45 days.

**Motion:** Chairperson Penny Kleintop made a Motion for Eric George to continue as the liaison between the Township and the Fire Co., seconded by Supervisor Guy Seifert.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Seifert asked Eric George whether it was felt that the Supervisors’ request is a violation of Fire Co. By-Laws. Eric responded, asking, “Can we violate our By-Laws?” Supervisor Seifert stated that the

Township trumps the Fire Co. The Township is a government entity. The Fire Company is an organization. He added an instance provided by the Fire Chief, who when asked why there were no adding machine tapes to verify bingo income had responded that the adding machine was inaccurate.

Supervisor Seifert stated that the Township will enforce Ordinance No. 2015-6, no matter what and would like the Fire Company's compliance. The audit performed by Kirk, Summa & Company will "show the holes".

Chairperson Kleintop said, "We want the Fire Company to flourish. The Supervisors have the duty, by law, to make sure we have a good Fire Company".

Supervisor Seifert thinks that the Fire Company should re-think the process.

Vice-Chairperson Newman said, "We look forward to a continued and revitalized relationship with the Fire Company".

Supervisor Seifert stated that the main problem has been lack of communication, directed to Wayne Knirmschild. The Supervisors goal is the make a viable Fire Company and to bring back those driven away by the current personnel. He also believes that there are not enough people asking questions of these current personnel.

Chairperson Kleintop expressed appreciation for the reports being submitted to the Supervisors by Eric George.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Set Agricultural Security Area Board Meeting: Friday, March 18, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

Approve Towamensing Township Street Excavation Ordinance No. 2016-1:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

Approve re-appointment of Connie Bieling to the Planning Commission:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

Approve Fire Police for Pioneer Challenge, Black Bear Triathlon, which takes place at Beltzville State Park on May 15, 2016:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

Approve the Fire Co. to attend the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Jim Thorpe on March 13, 2016:

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

## **ROAD MASTER REPORT**

The report was read aloud by Chairperson Kleintop.

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

## **ZONING OFFICER REPORT**

Available in Township office

## **SEO REPORT**

Available in Township office

## **FIRE COMPANY REPORT**

President and liaison Eric George reported on 4 calls for the month of January.

## **PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT**

Available in Township office

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

A letter of appreciation was received from the Palmerton Area Library for the Township's donation of \$4,000.00 for the 2016 year.

Eric George: The Board of Directors of the Fire Co. met to discuss the letter from the Supervisors dated January 5, 2016, which stated that the requested list of officers and directors received on January 4<sup>th</sup> was incomplete, not satisfying the requirements of Ordinance No. 2015-6. The election of officers took place on December 2, 2015 as per the By-Laws.

## **OFFICIALS**

Reminder: Township's Facebook page is for dissemination of information only.

Reminder: Winter road maintenance takes precedence over garbage collection.

Reminder: Garbage is not to be dumped on the Township Property. Motion lights have been installed. Surveillance cameras will be installed in the near future.

Zoning Office Hours for February 2016: Tuesday, February 2; Wednesday, February 10; Wednesday, February 17; and Wednesday, February 24 - 5 p.m. to 7 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](mailto:bmisinspector@gmail.com)

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** Supervisor Guy Seifert made a Motion to adjourn, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Thomas Newman. All in favor. Motion carried.

8:03 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Resumed after meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Brenda L. Drew