

TOWAMENSING TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS' MEETING MINUTES
TOWAMENSING TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
May 5, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS - 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Attendees joined Vice-Chairman Newman in a moment of silence for fallen soldiers.

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 – April 7, 2016

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

Bill List and Payroll from April 2016

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

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

Charles Laviolette reported on the various offerings and activities taking place at the Palmerton Area Library during the month of May.

George White of 1055 Deer Lane suggested that the Township purchase “burn ban” signs to post on main roads, as they do in neighboring Monroe County, to inform residents that a burn ban is in effect. Supervisor Seifert reminded residents to call the Communications Center prior to burning.

PLANS AND SUBDIVISIONS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Pipeline Update: *Save Carbon County* newsletter available

Paul Shinsec discussed recent articles hypothesizing that fracking is causing minor earthquakes and tremors in areas across the country. He also commented on the proposed wind farm planned just over the Township line in Penn Forest Township on Bethlehem Water Authority land. There will be monetary benefits for both agencies.

Enact Ordinance: No. 2016-2 - Defining and Regulating Driveway Construction; Setting Forth Requirements for Permit Applications, Forms and Fees and the Approval and Issuance or Disapproval Thereof; Providing for Correction of Improper Work and Prescribing Penalties for Violation. Engineer Greg Haas provided clarification on specific points within the Ordinance.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Woods Campground: Financial Security Reduction Request – Greg Haas inspected the property and reported that the owners are moving forward with site improvements. The requested reduction figures reduce the amount from \$299,655.79 to \$154,559.59.

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

ROAD MASTER REPORT

The report was read aloud by Chairperson Kleintop.

Swenson V-box Salt Spreader was recently sold on Municibid Online Auction site for \$5,000.00.

Approve the advertising of 2016 Bituminous Paving Road Project for Bids. Greg Haas read the list of roads to be included in the project, stating that all documentation is ready to go.

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

New garbage truck purchase from Garbage Truck Fund – May 14, 2016 chosen as a discussion meeting date with Roadmaster, Supervisors and truck vendors.

Motion: Supervisor Guy Seifert made a Motion to approve the meeting, seconded by Vice-Chairman Thomas Newman.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Residents may email questions or concerns to the Roadmaster: ttroad@ptd.net

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Report from Paul Hoppel: The Commission provided a letter to the Supervisors referencing Ordinance No. 2008-5 which states that “the historic resource inventory and historic resource map may be revised from time to time by resolution of the Board of Supervisors”. The letter lists the structures that have fallen into disrepair and/or no longer exist. It also lists structures which have been improved. The Greenzweig School has had a hole cut in the floor for extermination access and Supervisor Seifert is sending a roofer to do the needed repair to the slate roof. Vice-Chairman Newman suggested looking for an estimate from a painting contractor. The inventory spreadsheet is currently being updated by the office staff.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Two new structures have been built on the softball field. Our crew removed brush and planted new bushes provided by Country Junction at cost. Greg Haas and Scott Mosier are working on a solution to the drainage issues.

The soccer field driveway will receive more gravel. Supervisor Seifert suggested paving an apron where the driveway meets Interchange Road. There was discussion about more fill being requested for addition fields. Greg will evaluate field elevations and provide a report of the amount of fill needed. There was also discussion of the Township providing funds for replacement of goal posts, whether pvc or aluminum.

Motion: Chairman Newman made a Motion to purchase 2 aluminum goal posts at a cost of \$3,000.00, seconded by Supervisor Seifert.

All in favor. Motion carried.

ZONING OFFICER REPORT

SEO REPORT

Available in Township office

FIRE COMPANY REPORT

President and liaison Eric George provided a fire call log for the month of May.

Eric George also provided a letter drafted after the May 4th business meeting. It stated, “a motion was made and seconded to submit a second name for fire chief. A vote followed by the eligible voting membership, which passed in favor of. We hereby submit the names of Wayne Knirmschild and Jeremy Haydt for the position of Fire Chief. Although there is no legal right to demand this, we want to keep a constructive relationship with the Twp. by submitting the two names required by Ordinance 2015-6.”

Motion: Chairperson Kleintop made a Motion to appoint Jeremy Haydt as Towamensing Township Volunteer Fire Co. Fire Chief, seconded by Supervisor Seifert.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Seifert asked Eric why Bingo was suspended at the Fire Co., by whom and whether it was a conscious decision to “get your house in order”? Eric replied that he thought so and that the Fire Co. was looking into the profitability of bingo and other fundraisers.

Chairperson Kleintop commented that the Township office was receiving numerous visits and calls inquiring as to why the “Township” shut down Bingo. The last Bingo was held on April 12th. She reminded attendees that it was shut down by the Fire Co. She also commented positively on the group of young firefighters who attended the May 4th Fire Co. meeting.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

Available in Township office

Connie Bieling reported on the Local Government Day activities held at the Township on April 29th, in which she and Roy Christman, with participation by Chairperson Kleintop and Vice-Chairman Newman, educate Towamensing Elementary 6th graders on the inner workings of local government.

Engineers for The Shire, a former subdivision project, have contacted the Township desiring to complete a reverse subdivision.

CORRESPONDENCE

4,638 lbs. of electronic waste were collected and recycled during the Spring Cleanup event in April.

Route 209 Paving Project meeting will be held at the Fire Co. on June 16, 2016. The public is welcome from 7 to 9 p.m.

OFFICIALS

Zoning Office Hours for May 2016: Tuesday, May 3; Wednesday, May 11; Thursday, May 19 and Wednesday, May 25 - 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

Vice-Chairman Newman wished everyone a Happy Mother's Day. Paul Shinsec stated that he is glad that the Supervisors are committed to a strong fire company.

ADJOURNMENT

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

7:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brenda L. Drew