

TOWAMENSING TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES
TOWAMENSING TOWNSHIP BUILDING
April 7, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

7PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Penny Kleintop, Chairperson/Treasurer; Tom Newman, Vice-Chairman; Rodney George, Supervisor/Road Master; Thomas Nanovic, Solicitor; and Lora Nothstein, Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Towamensing Township Supervisors Meeting March 3, 2011

Motion made by Supervisor Rodney George, seconded by Vice-Chairman Tom Newman.

Vote: 3 to 0. All in Favor.

Approval of Bill List 4/1/2011

Motion made by Vice-Chairman Tom Newman, seconded by Supervisor Rodney George.

Vote: 3 to 0. All in Favor.

Treasures Report

Motion made by Supervisor Rodney George, seconded by Vice-Chairman Tom Newman.

Vote: 3 to 0. All in Favor.

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

Steve Kralik complained to the supervisors about a neighbor who is constantly burning. This action has made impossible for him to open windows, doors and sometimes it is so bad he needs to leave the area. He has tried to talk to the neighbor but the man walks away. He wanted to know what the supervisors can do about the situation.

Supervisor Penny Kleintop said we do not have burning ordnance and the next time it happens to contact the township office and give the office staff the information and a supervisor will go out and investigate. But it is not a township issue; the neighbors should try to work it out among themselves.

PLANS AND SUBDIVISIONS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Towamensing Township Volunteer Fire Company Insurance

Fire Chief Wayne Knirnschild wanted the supervisors to call an executive session on the basis that he is a township employee and wanted to discuss the issue in private.

Solicitor Tom Nanovic expressed to the supervisors that the fire company volunteers are not considered employees.

Supervisor Penny Kleintop said she would rather have this discussion in public.

The issue is smoking at Bingo at the Fire Company and the Workman's Comp Insurance. If the Township agrees to pay the workman's comp. And they condone smoking in the building at the event, and then they could be setting the township up for liability issues in the case of a person or persons suing the Fire Company for damaging their health; also township feels that the "Gold Club" that has been established was done so after Federal Regulation went into effect in 2008 that prohibited smoking in all public locations.

Issues was Tabled till more information was received.

Motion made by Vice-Chairman Tom Newman, seconded by Supervisor Rodney George.

Vote: 3 to 0. All in Favor.

Note: no additions or changes to previously submitted Fire Company Events.

Proposal by Hanover Engineering to rewrite SALDO & Zoning

Roy Christman addressed the supervisors stating that at least one supervisor from Lower Towamensing and members of their Planning Commission will attend the Towamensing Township Planning Meeting to discuss the benefits of having Hannover Engineering write both Townships Zoning and SALDO. There would be a savings of \$5000.00 per Township if both townships agree to have Hannover do the project.

Motion made to conditionally approve the use of Hanover Engineers; pending the approval of a workshop with Hanover, Lower Towamensing Township and Towamensing Township; also the approval of Lower Towamensing Township to use Hannover Engineers.

Motion made by Vice-Chairman Tom Newman, seconded by Supervisor Rodney George.

Vote: 3 to 0. All in Favor.

Flag Replacement at pole located at Fire Company

Supervisor Penny Kleintop asked Fire Chief if there was a date set for the flag replacement>

Fire Chief said he called and received no response.

Supervisor Penny Kleintop asked the Fire Chief to give the township the phone number and contact information and the zoning officer would write a letter to AT&T.

Ratti Property Update

BCO Carl Faust contacted the property owner with the list of violations. Property owner Richard Ratti said he has the property for sale and now has the property boarded up. Carl Faust will check the property again in 2 weeks to make sure everything was taken care of.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve food allowance for employees that are attending PSATS.

Motion made by Vice-Chairman Tom Newman, seconded by Supervisor Rodney George.

Vote: 3 to 0. All in Favor.

Approve class for secretary: Funding Solutions; Grant writing--\$125.00 at PSATS, April 17, 2011

Motion made by Vice-Chairman Tom Newman, seconded by Supervisor Rodney George.

Vote: 3 to 0. All in Favor.

Approve class for secretary: Conference for Administrative Assistance-\$0.00 in Allentown, May 5, 2011

Motion made by Vice-Chairman Tom Newman, seconded by Supervisor Rodney George.

Vote: 3 to 0. All in Favor.

Approve class for Road master, assistant road master, crew member Phil Costenbader: Tree Trimming - \$0.00 in Lehigh County, June 22, 2011.

Motion made by Vice-Chairman Tom Newman, seconded by Supervisor Rodney George.

Vote: 3 to 0. All in Favor.

Accept Roy Christman's resignation from the Palmerton Area Library Board

Motion made by Supervisor Rodney George, seconded by Vice-Chairman Tom Newman.
Vote: 3 to 0. All in Favor.

Accept recommendation to appoint Mr. Charles Laviolette to the Palmerton Area Library Board
Motion made by Vice-Chairman Tom Newman, seconded by Supervisor Rodney George.
Vote: 3 to 0. All in Favor.

Set time and date for Agricultural Security Board Meeting
Date set for April 14, 2011 at 3:30pm; Towamensing Township Meeting Room.
Motion made by Vice-Chairman Tom Newman, seconded by Supervisor Rodney George.
Vote: 3 to 0. All in Favor.

Approve Kidder Township to the Joint Board of Appeals regarding "Uniform Construction Code".
Motion made by Vice-Chairman Tom Newman, seconded by Supervisor Rodney George.
Vote: 3 to 0. All in Favor.

Sign Blue Ridge Cable Technologies Franchise Agreement
Motion made by Vice-Chairman Tom Newman, seconded by Supervisor Rodney George.
Vote: 3 to 0. All in Favor.

Local Government Day set for April 27, 2011 from 1:20 to 2:50pm; Towamensing Elementary School 6th Grade class(s) will come to the township building and be given information on how local government works, local history and recycling operations.
Motion made by Vice-Chairman Tom Newman, seconded by Supervisor Rodney George.
Vote: 3 to 0. All in Favor.

ROAD MASTER

Set date for Township Road Inspection
Road inspection will be held on 2 days, April 13th & April 20th starting at 8:00am.
Motion made by Vice-Chairman Tom Newman, seconded by Supervisor Rodney George.
Vote: 3 to 0. All in Favor.

Insurance proposal for 2008 Chevy Truck
Option #2 was chosen; where township will have the right to salvage the truck.
Motion made by Vice-Chairman Tom Newman, seconded by Supervisor Rodney George.
Vote: 3 to 0. All in Favor.

Received Liquid Fuels Check: \$191,540.56

Received Road Turn-back allotment: \$3,080.00

Open Bids for Paver
Bids rejected, will be re-advertised; no date set for new bids.
Motion made by Vice-Chairman Tom Newman, seconded by Supervisor Rodney George.
Vote: 3 to 0. All in Favor.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

OFFICIALS

Zoning Office hours for April

April 6TH, 13TH, 20TH, 27TH, from 5:00PM to 7:00PM

Zoning Officer can be contacted at the township web site for additional appointments:

info@towamensingtownship.com; in comments put attention Christine or by phone: 610-681-4202 ext: 11

Letter will be send to thank Sgt. Cawley and the Lehigh State Police for patrolling James Lane & Palm Circle—cars passing school busses when they are loading and un-loading children.

If there are any other incidents the complainants should notify the school so they can have the bus driver submit a writer report to the State Police identifying the vehicles so violators can be cited.

Palmerton Area Veterans Memorial

Richard Nothstein asked the township for a list of residents and addresses to mail fliers for the memorial.

This memorial is specific to people that were living in the Palmerton Area School District at the time they entered the service. Dedication will be Sunday, November 11, 2012.

Vice Chairman Tom Newman said that the actions of PPL in clearing under the power lines is effecting local crops of our farmers and the township will support our local farmers and residents in an effort to halt the destruction of crops and trees.

Vice-Chairman Tom Newman mentioned that in light of the Palmerton School District raising the property School tax by as much as 12%, the township should not do anything to raise taxes. Tom Newman made a motion that the township should cease and desist on any & all plans, bids etc on all building projects in the coming year. The motion died for lack of a second.

Zoning Officer Christine Meinhart made mention that political signs were up to early, they can be placed 30 days before an election and need to be removed 7 days after election.

Executive Session

8:25 to 8:50

ADJOURNMENT

8:50pm