Monday, April 11, 2016

The Penn Township Board of Supervisors having notified the residents in advance met this evening at 5:50 p.m. to conduct a CDBG Hearing for the 2016 Allegation. This was the 1st of 2 public hearings and was conducted by Wendy Leslie, CDBG Coordinator. She advised that the allocation for 2015 was $90,139 (73,969 activity and $16,170 administrative). She anticipates a similar allocation for 2016 but has not received any information regarding this. She stated past projects included Church Road, Renfrew and Tap-In Fees for the sewer project. The hearing ended at approximately 6:00 p.m.

At 6:00 p.m. the regular monthly Board of Supervisors meeting was called to order. Attending this meeting was Chairman, Samuel M. Ward, Vice-Chairman, Douglas A. Roth and Supervisor, Wilbert J. Mowry, Jr. Also in attendance was Township Manager, Linda D. Zerfoss, Land Use Administrator, Clinton A. Bonetti, Solicitor, Philip Lope, Stenographer, Cheryl Morris and 25 Township residents.

Minutes – 03/21/16

Motion by Supervisor Ward and seconded by Supervisor Mowry that there being no additions or corrections to the minutes of the meeting held Monday, March 21, 2016 they be approved as presented. There being no questions or comments from the audience, the motion carried.

Ike Kelly – Butler County Airport – Asked if any decisions had been made with regards to closing Monroe Road. He stated he talked to Penn Valley and it seems like they were in favor of closing the road. There was only 1 resident that he has not been able to reach. He presented a list of alternative routes and the times it took to reach various points if Monroe Road was closed.

Correspondence

PSATS – Copy of 2016 Proposed Resolutions for consideration at the PSATS’ Annual Educational State Conference.

Ken Hawk – Announcing he is the owner, president and general manager of WSNQ AM 1620 in Saxonburg, also known as Saxonburgradio.com.

PSATS – Entry forms for the Association’s Youth Awards Contest. Entries must be submitted by July 1, 2016.

PA Public Utility Commission – Letter advising a final inspection was conducted on March 10 at the public at-grade crossing in Renfrew. All work has been completed in accordance and all outstanding matters have been satisfied.

The Driveway Sealers – Offering a free asphalt inspection and estimate at the municipal building.

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Correspondence - Continued

CWM Environmental – Notifying the Township of their intention to file an NPDES permit renewal application with DEP to allow for the discharge of treated sanitary wastewater to an Unnamed Tributary to Robinson Run from the Cherry Hill Corporation.

PSATS News Bulletin – March-April 2016 on Federal News, Capitol Roundup, Plan to Attend PSATS’ Annual Educational Conference and Trade Show, Training Opportunities at Hershey, Lawmakers Consider Local Government Legislation, and This and That.

Penn State Extension – Newsletter dated Spring 2016.

Penn Dot – Quarterly moving forward newsletter dated Spring 2016.

Julie Rihn – Request to use Harcrest Park on April 17 from 8 a.m. till noon for their Hunting Retriever Club. There will be approximately 12 of them and the seasoned dogs will be off leash and the younger dogs and pups will be on leash. They will be running drills to help teach the dogs retrieving skills and they will clean up after their pets and park in designated areas. She also advised they are fully insured. Supervisor Roth stated he has no objection to them using the park, he requests that they put up a sign showing what will be happening.

Penn Township Veterans Association – Newsletter showing what’s happening with the Penn Township Veterans Association in the next few months.

Seminars

The following seminars have been scheduled:

Basic Training for Municipal Secretaries and Administrators, 05/04, Ramada Ligonier, Ligonier, PA

Intermediate Accounting, 05/24, Doubletree Pittsburgh Monroeville

ARIDE (Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement), 05/19 and 20 at the Kiskiminetas Township Building

Motion by Supervisor Roth and seconded by Supervisor Mowry that all involved be authorized to attend. There being no questions or comments from the audience, the motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report

Mrs. Zerfoss presented the list of invoices paid since the last report was read on March 21, 2016. Township Fund: $53,592.73, Fire Tax Fund: $9,078.20, Municipal Pension Fund: $324.08, Police Pension Fund: $240.09. Deposits into the various Township funds totaled $47,893.96. Balances were read as follows: Township Fund: $710,533.44, Fire Tax

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Treasurer’s Report - Continued

Fund: $53,835.80, Ledger Act 13 Impact Fee: $419,084.94, Municipal Pension Fund: $420,676.94, Police Pension Fund: $958,948.39, State Fund: $399,259.31. Motion by Supervisor Mowry and seconded by Supervisor Ward that the Treasurer’s Report be approved. There being no questions or comments from the audience, the motion carried.

Zoning Department

Valley Community Services Conditional Use – Supervisor Ward stated the decision that Penn Township has made in adopting its Zoning Ordinance is that certain Conditional Uses are appropriate for the districts, but that certain conditions should be imposed to make sure that the use does not result in an adverse impact to the health, safety, and welfare of the Township residents.

Valley Community Services’ request for Conditional Use of a Personal Care Home or Boarding Home is not applicable by definition.

Despite the obvious inconsistency in Use Category title of Group Home vs. Group Care Facilities, it is clear that this is not a permitted use in the R-1 zoning district.

More than forty residents of Renfrew attended and twenty-one testified, at the Conditional Use hearing on March 21, 2016, expressing safety, traffic, site storm water, and welfare concerns with this proposed facility.

Mrs. Hernandez provided a list of nine websites which referenced issues concerning adult and child group home or group care facilities.

Mr. John Schuster (former Zoning Hearing Board member) argued the conditional use definition for a Group Home. I did not comprehend his argument during the hearing, but after reviewing the Use Category chart, now understand and agree with the point he made.

Group Care Facilities/Group Homes are not a permitted Conditional Use in the R-1 low-density, single-family Residential District.

Group Care Facilities and personal care/Boarding Homes are conditional uses in the RE – Residential Estate District.

Housing provisions for persons with disabilities described in the Valley Community Services application are clearly included in Penn Township’s Zoning Ordinance in the RE District, but not in the R-1 District.

As another example, the Zoning Ordinance allows Lodging – Hotels/Motels in the Commercial and Limited Industrial Districts, but not in RE and R-1 Districts.

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Valley Community Services Conditional Use - Continued

In consideration of the Penn Township Zoning Ordinance and the Renfrew residents’ concerns, I will make a motion that the Valley Community Services’ request for Conditional Use of a proposed Personal Care Home or Boarding Home/Group Home or Group Care Facilities located in Renfrew be denied. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Mowry. Supervisor Roth asked if it was allowed as a Conditional Use. Solicitor Lope stated Personal Care/Boarding Home is allowed in the R-1 District. Supervisor Roth said the idea of a group home is to take care of people and feels it’s a shame that these residents are being discriminated against before they even move in. Supervisor Ward stated we have a split decision and took a roll call vote. Supervisor Ward voted denied, Supervisor Mowry voted denied and Supervisor Roth voted to allow. With the majority voting against Valley Community Services the motion carried. There being no questions or comments from the audience, the motion carried.

Police Department

Mrs. Zerfoss read the police report for March 2016.

Road Department

Supervisor Roth reported he met with Ralph from Suit Kote. He also reported Steve came and looked at the roads and agreed there are some issues and will be in touch by the end of the week. Supervisor Roth said he hasn’t advertised the road project due to the proposed gas work on South Crisswell Road. Mr. Bunyan asked about the bonding issue and was this for work that was done last year. Supervisor Roth said yes.

Recycling Report

Mrs. Zerfoss had a news bulletin from the Butler County Department of Recycling and Waste Management on recycling.

Parks and Recreation Department

Mrs. Zerfoss reported HRG submitted the proposed plans to provide landscape, architectural and engineering services for Penn Township Harcrest Park, Phase 1 Recreation Improvements to DCNR for approval. Supervisor Roth stated the plans include moving the playground over to the entrance.

She also submitted a newsletter from the Audubon Society.

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Public Relations Department

No report.

Old Business

None.

New Business

None.

Act 537 – Saxonburg Authority

Supervisor Roth had no report and the Authority was meeting this evening.

Audience Participation

Janet Mannas – Thanked the Board for listening to them.

Bob Donaldson – Also thanked the Board.

Jill McDonald – Thanked Supervisor Roth for speaking for those that can’t speak for themselves.

Supervisor Ward seeing no further audience participation requested a motion to adjourn. Motion offered by Supervisor Ward and seconded by Supervisor Roth. There being no questions or comments from the audience, the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:31 p.m.

Approved: Respectfully Submitted:

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