Tuesday, January 10, 2023

The Penn Township Board of Supervisors met this evening at 6:00 p.m. at the Penn Township Municipal Building, 157 East Airport Road, Butler, PA 16002 with the Chairman, Samuel M. Ward, presiding. Also present were Supervisors, Douglas A. Roth and Wilbert J. Mowry, Jr., Township Manager, Linda D. Zerfoss, Land Use Administrator, Clinton A. Bonetti, and 12 Township residents and visitors.

Supervisor Ward announced that the Supervisors met in Executive Session on January 5, 2023, with the Township Solicitor on a legal matter.

Supervisor Ward made a motion and Supervisor Mowry seconded the motion to add a discussion on the HRG supplemental services at Harcrest Park. The motion carried.

**Minutes – 12/13/22 – 01/02/23**

Supervisor Ward made a motion and Supervisor Mowry seconded the motion that there be no additions or corrections to the minutes of the meetings held Tuesday, December 13, 2022, and Monday, January 2, 2023, they are approved as presented. The motion carried.

**Correspondence**

Penn Township Auditor Meeting – Mrs. Zerfoss reported the auditors met on Tuesday, January 3, 2023, and set the salary of a working supervisor at $36.71 per hour.

Audubon Society – Bulletin dated Winter 2023.

PENN DOT – Mrs. Zerfoss reported PennDot sent a letter stating that in line with their responsibility to develop plans for highway improvements in our area, PennDOT employees, consultants, or contractors may need to enter their property to conduct surveys, engineering studies, soil exploration, tests and/or soundings to gather information. They will notify residents if possible before entry.

Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors – News Bulletin dated December 2022.

Butler County Bureau of Elections advised that Wilbert J. Mowry, Jr. and Jane Sirkoch will be on the 2023 Municipal Primary Elector ballot.

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**Seminar**

PennBOC Region 6 will have a training course on Thursday, February 2 at the Hampton Township Community Center.

Supervisor Ward made a motion and Supervisor Mowry seconded the motionthat all involved be authorized to attend. The motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Mrs. Zerfoss read the list of invoices paid since the last report was read on December 13, 2022. Township Fund: $130,675.26, Fire Tax Fund: $2,512.04, Act 13 Fund: $15,616.97, Municipal Pension: $1,149.03, Police Pension Fund: $991.24. Deposits into the various Township Funds totaled $112,755.85. Balances were read as follows: Township Fund: $225,374.99, ARPA Fund: $518,566.95, Fire Tax Fund: $145,852.92,

Township Capital Savings Fund: $317,769.14, Act 13 Impact Fund: $872,556.24, Municipal Pension Fund: $724,641.79, Police Pension Fund: $1,395.009.90, State Fund: $89,815.09. Supervisor Roth made the motion and Supervisor Ward seconded the motion that the Treasurer’s Report is approved as presented. The motion carried.

**Zoning Department**

Mr. Bonetti read the December 2022 Zoning report and the 2022 Annual Zoning report.

Mr. Bonetti resubmitted the Helltown Brewing Site Plan which had been tabled at the December meeting in anticipation of receiving the HRG review conditions. Mr. Bonetti stated the Butler County Planning Commission reviewed the Helltown Brewing, Site Plan, #22243, and had no comments on this plan and that the Penn Township Planning Commission recommended approval with the HRG review conditions. Supervisor Ward made a motion and Supervisor Mowry seconded the motion to approve the Helltown Brewing site plan located off Fairway Lane with the HRG conditions. The motion carried.

**Police Department**

Mrs. Zerfoss read the Police report for December 2022 and presented the 2022 Annual Police Report.

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**Road Department**

Supervisor Roth provided a copy of proposed equipment purchases for the Public Works Department from the Cleveland Brothers and from Thom’s Equipment as follows:

* Cat 306 CR Mini Hydraulic Excavator - $99,000.
* Cat 259D3 Compact Track Loader - $74,900.
* Cat 420 XE Backhoe Loader - $148,500.
* Equipment trailer - $12,140. (To haul the mini excavator and compact track loader)

Supervisor Mowry made a motion and Supervisor Roth seconded the motion to table the discussion on these equipment purchases for further review. The motion carried.

Supervisor Roth reported the new guide rail on Old Plank and Mushrush Roads has been completed.

**Recycling Report**

Supervisor Roth stated that Christmas trees are being processed into mulch at the Penn Township Public Works Department location on Three Degree Road. The trees must be free of any decorations.

**Parks and Recreation Department**

Supervisor Roth also reported the Park Committee met on January 5, 2023, with HRG and the Butler County Parks and Recreation representatives to begin the Phase II design development. Minutes of this meeting will be posted on the Penn Township website [www.penntownship.org](http://www.penntownship.org), under “Documents” in the 2023 Park Minutes folder as soon as they are available.

The HRG PowerPoint presentation was shown and discussed with the audience.

Supervisor Roth stated that the Park Committee discussed an option to move the proposed Phase II facilities to the newly acquired area North of the existing Phase I development. It was agreed to ask HRG to provide a supplemental proposal to develop alternative plans for the Phase II development in the areas South and North of the existing Phase I development. HRG provided a supplemental proposal, dated January 9, 2023, for multiple plan alternatives for both areas North and South of the Phase I facilities and an updated Master Plan in the amount of $16,120.00. Supervisor Roth stated that HRG anticipated that this will add three to six months to the schedule for the preparation of documents and the DCNR review and approval. Supervisor Roth made a motion and Supervisor Ward seconded the motion to approve the HRG proposal for supplemental services dated January 9, 2023. The motion carried.

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**Public Relations Department**

South Butler Community Library. Lori Stearns is the Penn Township representative of the South Butler Community Library. She stated the library is grateful for the donation and the signage support for their fundraisers and regular promotions. She stated the Thursday evening chess club welcomes players of all skill levels. They have hired some part-time help and extended their hours to 10-7 M-Th and 10-5 on Fridays and Saturdays. She encouraged the residents to check their website for upcoming activities such as Puzzle Exchange (January 17-31), Indoor Mini Gold (April 4/15), Pour Pain workshops (TBD), and Drug-Free Communities (ongoing).

**Route 8 at Airport Road Traffic Light Replacement update:**

Trans Associates, PennDOT, and Penn Township representatives met on December 21, 2022, to review the signal design and the signal head mast arms locations to finalize the necessary property easements and other design features. Minutes of this meeting will be posted on the Penn Township website [www.penntownship.org](http://www.penntownship.org), under “Documents” in the Route 8 and Airport Road folder as soon as they are available.

On 1/2/2023, we were notified that Penn Township has been awarded an Automated Red-Light Enforcement (ARLE) grant for $446,706 for the traffic light replacement at Route 8 and Airport Road.

A copy of this announcement will be posted on the Penn Township website [www.penntownship.org](http://www.penntownship.org), under “Documents” in the Route 8 and Airport Road folder as soon as it is available.

This was our fourth grant application for this project since 2017.

We are extremely grateful to our many partners, including the Butler County Commissioners, the Butler County Airport Authority, PennDOT, State, and Federal government representatives, the Audubon Society, the Butler County Country Club, and the Penn Christian Academy, for their letters of support.

On November 9, 2022, Penn Township retained Trans Associates to begin the design of this traffic light replacement.

On December 21, 2022, PennDOT, Trans Associates, and Penn Township representatives met to review preliminary design documents.

The Trans Associates preliminary traffic signal plan was shown and discussed with the audience.

Our traffic engineer, Trans Associates, has now incorporated comments from this meeting in the design.

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**Route 8 at Airport Road Traffic Light Replacement Update-Continued**

This new traffic light system will incorporate the latest traffic signal equipment technology and PennDOT standards.

Advanced warning, “Signal Ahead” internally-illuminated signs, and flashing beacons will be placed approximately 1,500 feet on Route 8 before the intersection.

Independently signaled left turning lanes, and pedestrian crosswalks will be placed on Route 8 at the intersection.

Trans Associates has reviewed the dynamic “All-Red” traffic light phase for the intersection.  The radar detection system can adjust the all-red clearance phase time longer based on oncoming vehicle speed.

Trans Associates has reviewed allowing the “Right Turn on Red” from Route 8 at the intersection.  It is likely that no “Right Turn on Red” will be warranted from Airport and East Airport Roads onto Route 8.

We trust this project will greatly improve traffic flow and safety at this intersection.

However, we must also change the “speed up to beat the light” mindset.  Rather, slow down in anticipation of the change to a red light.  Please drive safely.

**The Municipal Water Authority of Adams Township (MWAAT) update:**

The installation of the 3,000’ water service line from Airport Road to Larchwood Road is complete. Some additional restoration will be completed in the Spring of 2023.

**Scout Troop/Pack 53 update:**

Scout Troop 53 will hold its Klondike Derby on February 11, 2023, and if weather permits, a camping weekend at Bucoco.

Scout Troop 53 elected Soren Eagle as the Senior Patrol Leader. Other Scouts were assigned positions.

Scout Beau McDonald attended the meeting as a requirement for his Community Service merit badge.

**Meridian Road Closure update:**

Penn Township and the Penn Township Volunteer Fire Department representatives met with PennDOT District 10 representatives, Mike Mattis and Troy Adamosky, on January 5, 2023, to discuss the Meridian Road repair and the Renfrew bridge replacement projects. An updated emergency plan has

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**Meridian Road Closure Update-Continued**

been developed to include emergency actions in the event of the Renfrew bridge being closed due to flooding on Thorn Creek or an accident.

PennDOT will not start construction of the new bridge until Meridian Road is fully open.

PennDOT has placed a loader at the North end of the Meridian Road traffic barrier. In the event the Renfrew bridge is closed as a result of Thorn Creek flooding or an accident at the bridge, PennDOT will move the North and South barricades to allow emergency vehicle access to Renfrew and allow residents to exit and reenter Renfrew.

PennDOT will also make provisions during the Meridian Road reconstruction to allow emergency vehicle access to Renfrew and allow residents to exit and reenter Renfrew.

PennDOT, Emergency Management officials, and Renfrew residents will monitor conditions in the event stormwater begins to rise on Thorn Creek and will implement necessary emergency precautions. Renfrew residents will move their vehicles to higher ground (above the railroad tracks) and take precautions at their homes.

In the event of a traffic accident on or near the Renfrew bridge with an anticipated short duration, aerial evacuation will be on standby for medical emergencies.

Minutes of this meeting will be posted on the Penn Township website [www.penntownship.org](http://www.penntownship.org), under “Documents” in the Meridian Road update folder as soon as they are available.

Supervisor Roth advised that PennDOT installed guide rails along the Meridian Road closed area on January 10, 2023, to reestablish the one-lane traffic flow.

**2023 Penn Township Community Day update:**

The Penn’s Men group has discussed joining the Penn Township Community Day committee to plan the 2023 event.

**Stormwater Management Committee**

On 12/21/2022, the Butler County Board of Commissioners announced that Penn Township will receive a $768,945 grant for the stormwater remediation project on Thorn Creek at Dodds and Rockdale Roads. The total stormwater remediation grant award is $5,842,336 for the Municipalities of Seven Fields, Evans City, Harmony; and Forward, Cranberry, Lancaster, Penn, Adams, and Jackson Townships will have a

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**Stormwater Management Committee - Continued**

substantial impact to mitigate flooding and will provide an enhanced aquatic life environment. Supervisor Roth and the other Butler County Stormwater Management Committee members are to be commended for their efforts to bring these projects to fruition.

Supervisor Roth reported the Stormwater Management Committee met on 1/9/2023 in Jackson Township. Awards were formally announced, and Penn township received $704,485.00 for improvements to Dodds Road at Rockdale Road. This portion of road floods a lot requiring Township crews and Police to barricade the road to keep motorists from driving through flood waters. The project entails moving the portion of Dodds Road that floods to the South a short distance and raising the road 4 or so feet. A riparian buffer will be installed between the road and Thorn Creek. Supervisor Roth plans to meet with HRG and Dave Andrews from Connoquenessing Aquatic Alliance soon to discuss possible partnership. Supervisor Roth will also check into potential funding from the Penn State Dirt and Gravel roads program.

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

Supervisor Ward made a motion and Supervisor Mowry seconded the motion to approve the Butler County Stormwater Grant award of $768,945. The motion carried.

Mrs. Zerfoss will refer a question about local tax abatement on abandoned homes to the Township Solicitor for direction.

Mrs. Zerfoss stated that the Winterlake Estate Homeowners Association requested permission to use the Township building meeting room for their meetings. The Supervisors agreed that the meeting room can be used by this group only during normal business hours for security reasons.

**Act 537 – Saxonburg Authority**

Supervisor Roth reported that the Authority conducted normal business.

**Audience Participation**

Ms. Regal thanked the Park Committee for considering moving the Harcrest Park Phase II to the area North of the existing facilities.

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**Executive Session**

None.

**Adjournment**

Supervisor Mowry made a motion and Supervisor Roth seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:50 p.m.

Approved: Respectfully Submitted:

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Samuel M. Ward Linda D. Zerfoss

Chairman Township Manager

Board of Supervisors Penn Township