

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' PUBLIC MEETING  
JULY 20, 2009**

**CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL - DECLARATION OF QUORUM:**

The Penn Township Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Monday, July 20, 2009 at the Penn Township Municipal Building. President Prieber called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M., with a roll call of members. Present were Commissioners Preiber, Heilman, Rewa, and Felix. Commissioner Goldsmith was absent with notice. Also present were Solicitor Tilley, Manager Garvick, Police Chief Rhodes, Zoning Officer Menges and Engineer Bortner.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG FOLLOWED BY A PERIOD OF SILENT MEDITATION:**

All in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, which was followed by a period of silent meditation.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

President Prieber announced that following the public meeting this evening, the Board of Commissioners would convene in an executive session with the Solicitor for the purpose of discussing legal and/or personnel issues.

Commissioner Prieber read a letter from Pat Stegos thanking the Board for the memorial resolution that was adopted for her late husband, Philip Stegos.

Commissioner Prieber announced that the township has been using postcards and phone calls to inform residents of potential violations of Township ordinances rather than automatically sending formal Notice of Violation letters.

**PERSONS TO BE HEARD/CITIZENS COMMENTS:**

Edward Jenkins, 216 Azalea Drive, expressed concern about the loud noise and backyard fires that have been occurring in his neighborhood. He stated that he has contacted police several times and they have stated there is nothing they can do. Mr. Jenkins expressed concern that his property has been damaged because of smoke from the fires. He requested an ordinance be adopted with regards to open fires. He stated that the police would not respond to his calls. In addition, Mr. Jenkins again requested information about the proposed ball field for Young's Woods.

Al Phares and Pam Brown, 60 West Granger Street, expressed concern about the house trailers across the street from their home. They are concerned about the noise and the drug trafficking that is occurring. The police department has responded when they have been called. The neighbors are considering moving. Solicitor Tilley stated that there are several programs that have been implemented and organized that they could pursue to help the police, such as Community Watch. There has been retaliation against the neighbors when they call the police. The trailers are rented and the landlord is aware of the problem. They have contacted the police about starting a neighborhood watch program and will meet with the Chief Rhodes following the meeting.

## **RECOGNITION OF BOY SCOUTS FOR EARTH DAY PROJECTS:**

President Preiber stated that on May 2, 2009 volunteers from St. Joseph's Boy Scout Troop 103 donated several hours of their time to pick up trash along Township roads as part of an Earth Day project. The Scouts and parent volunteers were: Richard Slusser, Lucas Slusser, Peter Slusser, Jr., Jake Simmons, Joey Cirabisi, Mark Evich, Maureen Evich, and David Zinn. The Board of Commissioners thanked Troop 103 and all the volunteers who took part in this event. President Preiber then presented each with a certificate of recognition.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

The minutes of the June 15, 2009 meeting of the Board of Commissioners were approved as submitted.

## **TOWNSHIP REPORTS - STANDING COMMITTEES:**

### Public Safety Committee - Commissioner Felix:

Commissioners Felix/Rewa moved to adopt Ordinance No. 700, amending Section 127-14 stop intersections of the Penn Township Code. Motion carried on 4-0 roll call vote.

Commissioners Felix/Rewa moved to approve the Township hosting a National Night Out event on August 4, 2009 at the Community Park. Motion carried 4-0.

### Personnel Committee - Commissioner Heilman:

Commissioner Heilman had nothing to report.

### Finance Committee – Commissioner Heilman:

Commissioners Heilman/Felix moved to approve Township warrants in the amount of \$1,003,289.54. Motion carried.

Commissioners Heilman/Felix moved to approve a supplemental agreement with PennDOT for the Center Street Project. Motion carried.

Commissioners Heilman/Felix moved to approve a request from the Hanover Lions Club for a waiver of both sign and building permit fees for a chicken barbeque on July 18, 2009. Motion carried.

### Public Works Committee - Commissioner Rewa

There were no additions or changes to the Engineer's Report.

Commissioners Rewa/Felix moved to adopt Ordinance No. 701, accepting a right-of-way on Breezewood Drive. Motion carried on a 4-0 roll call vote.

Planning & Recreation Committee – Commissioner Felix:

Commissioners Felix/Heilman moved to approve a request dated June 4, 2009 from Conewago Enterprises for a waiver of the land development requirements to install a concrete pad. Motion carried.

There were no additions to the Zoning Officers Report.

The following subdivision plans were formally filed:

- P09-13 – Final Subdivision Plan – Anita Miller – Lot No. 2
- P09-14 – 670 Baer Avenue Townhouses
- P09-15 – High Pointe at Rojen Farms – North

Commissioners Felix/Heilman moved to approve the following subdivision and land development plans:

- P08-07 – Arby's and Tom's Convenience Store
  - P09-09 – Verizon Wireless – Bittering Site
  - P09-11 – Final Lot Addition Plat – Wolverine, LLC
  - P09-12 – Final Subdivision Plat – Final Phase – Martins Ridge
- Motion carried.

Commissioners Felix/Heilman moved to approve the following extension requests that will expire on October 19, 2009:

- P03-03 – Bowman Tract Apartments
  - P04-25 – South Heights
  - P04-26 – Stonewicke
  - P06-23 – Brookside Avenue Townhouses
  - P07-27 – Sterling Brown
  - P08-20 – Park Hill Manor
- Motion carried.

Health & Sanitation – Commissioner Rewa

Commissioners Rewa/Heilman moved to award the 1980 Model R Mack Truck Tractor to James Rinker for a bid price of \$1,050. Motion carried.

Commissioners Rewa/Heilman moved to award the 1983 International S1900 Dump Truck to James Rinker for a bid price of \$250. Motion carried.

Commissioners Rewa/Heilman moved to award the 1990 Kubota Model F2400 Front Mower to James Rinker for a bid price of \$820. Motion carried.

Commissioners Rewa/Heilman moved to award the 1981 Alkota Model 643 pressure cleaner to James Rinker for a bid price of \$50. Motion carried.

**MANAGERS REPORT:** There were no additions/corrections to this report.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Heilman stated that in this uncertain and perilous economic climate these items are a small sample of what we are being exposed to and told to accept:

“York County increases property taxes by 3.75%, Penn Township increases property taxes by 15.5%, and the school district increases property taxes by 3.99%. York County pressures our state legislators and governor for a 1% increase in sales taxes from 6% to 7% a 16.6% increase. Our state legislators do nothing to change the reliance upon property taxes. And I hear no citizen outrage.

Our electricity supplier while making a profit at current rates demands that we accept a 30% rate increase. Our state legislators who created this debacle do nothing. And yet I hear no citizen outrage.

The Environmental Protection Agency and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection order us to upgrade our sewage plants. These imposed upgrades will cost Penn Township \$18,000,000 or more and Hanover Borough an estimated \$25,000,000. Sewer rates will likely double for property owners in West Manheim, Penn and Hanover. Two major front-page articles appear in the local newspaper in one week on this. And still I hear no citizen outrage.

I for one am very outraged at this continued assault on my pocketbook, my property, my home and my standard of living.

On Sunday, July 19th in the Hanover Evening Sun a letter from Dawn Cox, West Manheim Township, finally expressed outrage – the first I’ve heard. Dawn, I have really bad news, come 2010 property taxes will again increase, your electricity will cost 30% or more, and your sewer rates will likely double. Ditto to all other residents of West Manheim, Penn and Hanover Borough.

A note to builders and contractors anxious to start construction on land they own in Penn and West Manheim, two miles or a little farther from where I am sitting, west, a little northwest, electricity rates are not increasing and sewer rates will not double. Think about that.

Everyone in West Manheim, Penn and Hanover Borough must start a daily bombardment of mail, email and telephone calls relentlessly on our two state senators and our representative in Washington to demand that EPA stop this nonsense until 50% funding is available. And to our state senators and representatives in Harrisburg the bombardment continues until (a) they demand that PA DEP put a stop to this nonsense and, (b) until they do something about the electricity rate increase they caused and (c) until they finally implement property tax relief.

Doing nothing, ladies and gentlemen, is not an option. Think your finances are in trouble now? Just wait till this time next year. “

**CITIZEN’S QUESTIONS TO THE COMMISSIONERS REGARDING DISCUSSION**

**ITEM:** None

**QUESTIONS FROM PRESS:** Questions from the press were received and answered.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioners Heilman/Rewa moved for adjournment at approximately 7:29 P.M. Motion carried.

Respectively submitted,

Kristina J. Rodgers  
Township Secretary