

MINUTES
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
MAY 3, 2011

The Penn Township Public Works Committee met in public session on Tuesday, May 3, 2011 at 7:00 PM. Present were Chairman Goldsmith and Commissioners Prieber, Rewa, Felix, and Heilman. Also present were Manager Garvick, Township Engineer Bortner, WWTP Supt. Mahone, Highway Foreman Mahan, and Administrative Assistant Rodgers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Commissioner Goldsmith announced an executive session was held prior to the meeting to interview applicants for committee vacancies.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the April 5, 2011 Public Works Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: None.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Township Engineer Bortner reported that he and Manger Garvick met with Steven Malesker from C.S. Davidson regarding the bridge inspections that occurred in 2009. The Ridge Avenue and Blettner Avenue bridges are in good structural condition. The Karen Lane Bridge is in serious condition due to diagonal cracks in the fascia beams. There were seven bridges in York County with this condition and this is the only one that has not been fixed. C.S. Davidson is going to give the Township an estimate on the engineering costs for the project. The repair will cost about \$17,000 and it was suggested that it could be done under an emergency repair. Township Engineer Bortner stated that in 2005 this type of bridge had a life expectancy of fifty years. However, in 2006 a bridge similar to ours collapsed somewhere in Pennsylvania and that reduced the life expectancy to five to ten years. Although the current bridge report shows a 10-year estimated life, there will be no service life estimates provided on future reports. Township Engineer Bortner provided a copy of the bridge inspection report for review. The photos indicate where the cracks are located. The recommendation in the report is to remove the blacktop and replace it with concrete. Engineer Bortner will get all the costs associated with the project and report back to the Committee.

REPLACEMENT OF FORD DUMP TRUCK: Township Engineer Bortner reported that township truck T-4 ran into the back of another township truck, T-6. T-6 suffered minimal damage but T-4 suffered extensive front end damage. After reviewing the options to have it repaired or replaced, they have decided to replace it. The Township insurance carrier will pay \$7,000 to total the vehicle. Manager Garvick contacted the York County Municipal Mangers group and was informed that York Township has a 1993 F350 with a dump bed and snowplow available for purchase that is comparable to our damaged F450 truck. One advantage is that the York Township vehicle is a four-wheel drive whereas the current vehicle has only two-wheel drive capability. The Committee is in favor of making an offer of \$4500 to York Township for the vehicle.

WAIVER REQUEST HANOVER F.O.E.: The Committee received a request dated April 6, 2011 from Hanover Land Services for a waiver of the landscaping and bufferyard requirements for the Hanover Fraternal Order of Eagles land development plan. The plan shows the addition of two parking areas. The Penn Township Planning Commission will review this request at their next meeting.

MODIFICATION OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE: Manager Garvick reported that the Committee has been considering the modification of the Township's zoning ordinance regarding the definition of corner lots. He provided a diagram to the committee that showed the proposed lot with one front yard instead of two for a corner lot. The additional side yard will allow sheds, stockpiling and six-foot fences along with other items allowed in side yards. There are currently individuals storing items in front yards that are not allowed. Manager Garvick feels a change in the definition may be in violation of the Municipalities Planning Code. He is recommending an opinion from the solicitor. Some of the committee members are concerned because the front yard will now become a side yard affecting the adjoining property. The committee recommended that the definition of a corner lot remain as it is. It was noted that any individuals currently in violation of the ordinance should be contacted.

MAINTAINING ABANDONED PROPERTIES: Manager Garvick stated that we are approaching that time of year when abandoned properties become a maintenance issue. Over the last several years, staff has been spending more and more time trying to figure out which bank owns the abandoned/foreclosed properties in order to get them to maintain the lawns. Other municipalities have been seeing some success by hiring lawn maintenance contractors to take care of the property and then lien the property for the lawn care expenses. The Committee recommended pursuing a maintenance plan for the properties. Manager Garvick will contact the Township solicitor to pursue a plan to deal with abandoned/foreclosed properties.

ADOPTING RECREATION AREA: Administrative Assistant Rodgers reported that a two and half acre tract from the Whispering Run subdivision has now been dedicated to the Township. Ordinance No. 724 has been prepared to adopt this property. This is the final tract of land that will be added to the Penn Township Community Park and will bring the park to a size of 32.5 acres. The ordinance will be adopted at the next Board of Commissioners meeting.

STUMP GRINDING: Township Engineer Bortner reported that last year the Township began planning timber maintenance program for the parks and recreation areas. After review with a forester it was found that several of the parks have stumps that are harboring insects which could be hurting the growth of the park. There are about 150 stumps in the Community Park and Youngs Woods. The Township received a \$7500 quote for grinding the stumps but it was not clear if the quote included restoring the area. Township Engineer Bortner stated that he is renting a stump grinder and the total project will cost between \$4,000 and \$5,000, including rental and replacement blades. There is concern about the infestation of the insects possibly infecting the healthy trees. Commissioner Heilman stated that they will have to watch the use of the machine because it may become overheated along with making sure that restoration is completed. Township Engineer Bortner feels the project can be completed in a week.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS: The Committee decided to hold all the July committee meetings on July 5.

CITIZENS QUESTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE REGARDING DISCUSSION ITEMS:
None.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Jeffrey R. Garvick, Manager