

MINUTES
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 5, 2010

The Penn Township Public Works Committee met in public session on Tuesday, October 5, 2010 at 7:00 PM. Present were Chairman Goldsmith and Commissioners Rewa and Felix. Commissioners Prieber and Heilman were absent with notice. Also present were Manager Garvick, Township Engineer Bortner, Highway Foreman Mahan, WWTP Supt. Mahone and Administrative Assistant Rodgers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Commissioner Goldsmith announced that an executive session was held following the Finance Committee meeting last evening to discuss personnel issues.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the September 7, 2010 Public Works Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: Derek Higgs, 1006 Marietta Avenue, presented a letter from property owners on Marietta & Hirtland Avenues near the Rutter's Farm Store on York Street. They are concerned about the traffic patterns being created by the customers using the Rutter's store. According to Mr. Higgs, there were no traffic studies done on the adjacent streets when the project was proposed. Mr. Higgs stated that he had filed a lawsuit against the Township, which was eventually taken over by Rutter's. The suit requested to have a traffic study performed on the residential streets. There was a study done but according to Mr. Higgs it was flawed and even though traffic during peak hours has decreased there is traffic along the residential streets all the time. Many of the patrons of Rutter's turn down Marietta Avenue and turn around in private driveways in order to access Rutter's from Blooming Grove Road on the "right in only" entrance or they disregard the signs and make left hand turns into Rutter's from Blooming Grove Road.

On another matter, he stated that there is also a problem with parking along Marietta Avenue that inhibits sight access onto Route 216. He is requesting the Township conduct a traffic study and corrects the problem by eliminating the parking. Manager Garvick stated that the cost of the study would be the responsibility of the Township but the study may not warrant any action or provide the recommendation that he may be seeking. Mr. Higgs stated that he had expressed concern about the traffic patterns and problems at the Zoning Hearing Board meeting when the case was being considered. Commissioner Felix stated that as Chairman of the Public Safety Committee he would address the situation with the Police Department as far as enforcing the speeding and illegal turns regulations. The issue of whether or not the ZHB acted within its bounds in granting approval is a moot point. The traffic studies would have been a requirement of the township's land development process. The Committee suggested that Mr. Higgs attend the Public Safety meeting next month and they will try to have some answers.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Township Engineer Bortner reported that brush and limb collection will begin next week and leaf collection will begin shortly thereafter. He reported that some of the paving projects have been completed.

YOUNGS WOODS PROPERTY LINE INFRINGEMENT: Manager Garvick reported that the property owners next to Youngs Woods at 287 Blooming Grove Road have taken some liberties by installing driveways on Township property. Vehicles are now being parked in Young's Woods. Manager Garvick reported that he has not received a response from a letter that was sent in August and the residents continue to park vehicles on Township property. There were no permits obtained for the driveway improvements made by the adjoining property owners. The Committee recommended proceeding with legal measures to have the neighbors stop using the property without permission.

YOUNG'S WOODS-COMMUNITY PARK TIMBER MANAGEMENT: Manager Garvick reported that he and Township Engineer Bortner meet with Lowell Thomas from L.T. Timber about removing some of the dead/damaged timber and tree stumps from the Community Park and Youngs Woods. The idea is to start managing the timber and growth in the parks as opposed to simply just removing dead trees periodically. The Township received a quote from L T Timber and the combined cost to have the proposed trees and stumps removed at both parks is \$18,000. Manager Garvick would like to include this in the 2011 budget but has not yet. There was some discussion on where the money would come from. It might be possible to trade some live trees in return for this work and the Committee felt it was important enough to consider. Engineer Bortner reported that the property lines for Young's Woods were staked out this summer as a result of a neighbor who had been in earlier about a specific tree that she felt was a threat to her property. It was determined from the survey that the tree in question was actually located on her property.

BUDGET DISCUSSION: The Committee reviewed the 2011 public works budget. Engineer Bortner is requesting an additional mower and a new truck. He noted that he added funds in account 438 that were not in the 2010 budget. The Highway Aid fund was used this year for the paving projects and as a result, all those funds will be depleted and be unavailable for 2011. He provided a list of streets that have not been paved in the last twenty to thirty years. He thinks all the roads should be paved at least once every twenty-five years. The truck he would like to replace is used about three days a week and has been in use since 1996.

CITIZENS QUESTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE REGARDING DISCUSSION ITEMS:
None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Jeffrey R. Garvick, Manager