

The regular meeting of the Wheatfield Township Supervisors was held Tuesday, September 6, 2011 in the Township Building. Jim Fuller called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Jim Fuller, Barry Schrope, Annette Mullen, Johanna Rehkamp, Vicki Jenkins, Lester Nace, Dexter Potter, Dave Jenkins, Jeff Beinhower, Dianne Dahlin, Justin Kretzing, David Mills, Kevin Bissonnette, Wes Smith and Bob Foltz.

Barry Schrope led the pledge to the American flag followed by a brief moment of silence in honor of the men and women who serve our country in the armed forces.

Jim Fuller announced to those in attendance at tonight's meeting that Dianne Dahlin will be recording the meeting.

The minutes of the August 1, 2011 meeting were presented to the supervisors and posted for attendees in the township building prior to the September 6, 2011 regular meeting for public viewing. Annette Mullen stated when she made the motion to approve August minutes she did not want to strike what Dianne Dahlin said, she just stated to keep what she had and put Jim Fuller's correction in the minutes. The secretary will review the tape. Annette Mullen made the motion to conditionally approve the minutes presented by the secretary pending review of the tape, Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor.

Dianne Dahlin states she does not know if what she said can be changed, but Jim can put in what he actually said. Mrs. Dahlin asked if the constable that was here last month will be here monthly. The supervisors advised he was here as a citizen.

David Mills would like to thank the township for hauling all the stone to the softball field and for continuing to help Wagner Park and recreation in the community.

Kevin Bissonnette of the Duncannon Fire Co. would like to thank the person who came out and turned on the lights and opened the restrooms at Wagner Park when they had a search detail there last weekend.

Bob Foltz states he would like to thank the township as well for hauling the stone. Bob advised the person who turned on the lights at Wagner Park for the search detail was Shawn Fuller from the recreation board.

Kevin Bissonnette of the Duncannon Fire Co. and Justin Kretzing of the New Bloomfield Fire Co. were here tonight to answer questions and provide information regarding the letter they have prepared for the supervisors regarding current funding (letter on file). The letter states the 2011 donation of \$45,000 given to the fire companies is equivalent to 0.2365 mills (\$29.66 cost per parcel) and that over the next four years they request the amount to be increased to 0.4 mills (\$50.18 cost per parcel). Kevin stated all municipalities they cover are receiving the same proposal based off of the same millage rate, whether it is by donation or a fire tax is up to the supervisors. Kevin stated the letter breaks down as to where they would like to go over the next few years and also breaks down where they are at right now with dollar amount of the donation, current millage rate and proposed increase rate. Justin states they are trying to plan for the future because they have a lot of major purchases between apparatus and apparatus housing. Kevin stated the money will be put into a reserve account which would only be used to purchase fire apparatus and they would notify the supervisors of their intent prior to spending any money out of the reserve account. Justin indicated they have spent double the hours in fundraising last year than they did in training. Barry Schrope thanked Kevin and Justin for getting the information to them prior to starting the budget process so all information can be looked at. Annette Mullen asked the secretary to put the letter received on the website. Dianne Dahlin asked if the money is being divided evenly or by parcel coverage. Kevin stated there are a total of 1,517 parcels under separate deeds in Wheatfield Township and the supervisors would decide how to split the donation. Annette Mullen asked if some of the parcels could be plain land and Kevin advised yes some could be plain land. Annette advised she understands the fire companies do not want to spend all their time fundraising when this is all volunteer work and that she wishes this was out of the township hands and was a county issue, because this is a county wide issue. Annette states the township gives this money and we trust the fire companies who are not elected officials to use the money appropriately. Kevin states there are two approaches on that, when the township gives a donation all the state requires is that the fire companies show how it was spent, there is no stipulation on how they spend it. If the supervisors choose to do a fire tax there are regulations on how the money can be spent, they cannot spend it for things that are not essential for providing fire protection. Dianne Dahlin asked if the fire tax has to go by property value, can it not go by a flat tax on income, how do renter's pay. Kevin states a fire tax can only go off of property value. Justin

stated they are not suggesting the millage rate is the only way to go, if the township likes the donation system that is fine as well. Kevin states they are not looking for an answer tonight, they understand this will need to be discussed and that other meetings may be needed. They just wanted to provide the information before the budget process. The supervisors thanked Kevin and Justin and advised the information will be looked at.

The planning commission will be holding a public meeting at the Duncannon EMS building on November 15, 2011. The meeting will be in regards to the Comprehensive Plan and citizen survey results. Jim Fuller made a motion to donate \$100 to the Duncannon EMS for the use of the building, Annette Mullen second the motion, with all in favor.

Insurance quotes have been received from Nationwide Insurance and W.J. Moore Ins. for property, liability, auto, umbrella, workers comp and public officials. The township is currently with W.J. Moore. W.J. Moore was \$230 less than Don Jacobs, Nationwide Insurance. Annette Mullen made a motion to remain with W.J. Moore Ins., Jim Fuller second the motion, Barry Schrope abstained sighting his wife works for Don Jacobs.

Annette Mullen made a motion for Trick or Treat night to be held on Monday, October 31, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor. The time and date will be advertised in the local paper and placed on the township website.

Jim Fuller stated the permit has not been received from DEP yet for the Dark Hollow Road box culvert replacement. Jim stated the engineer has prepared the construction print and the township is progressing as fast as we can. The bid notice has been advertised so no time will be lost. Bids are due September 29, 2011 and a special meeting will be held September 30, 2011 at 7:00 a.m. to open bids.

Jim Fuller advised the township has received a Writ of Summons notice from the Sheriff's Office concerning the possibility of a lawsuit over the fellow that pulled onto the railroad crossing on Towpath Road. The suit is against Norfolk Southern, Penn Dot, Penn Township and Wheatfield Township. The solicitor advised the township has to respond to the Writ of Summons which she has already started.

Jim Fuller advised the Quit Claim deed has been signed by the supervisors for the small triangle shaped portion of land showing on the topography study. The solicitor will handle the recording of the Quit Claim deed.

Jim Fuller stated he has spoken to Lee Williams about a sound system possibly for the township meetings. No documentation has been received, but he gave an approximate price of \$800.

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission has sent a letter requesting the township nominate or re-nominate one member to represent the Perry Southeast Plan Development Section. Bob Rhoades is the current representative and has been contacted; he is still interest in serving as the representative. Annette Mullen made a motion to re-nominate Bob Rhoades as representative, Barry Schrope second the motion, with all in favor.

Jim Fuller indicated the township is anticipating bid results from the Perry County COG for line painting this week. Dave Mills asked if Miller Township is involved in the COG and if they would be interested in line painting on Narrows Road. Jim advised Miller Township does not participate in the COG but would check with Larry Yohn to see if they would be interested in painting there portion.

Annette Mullen states with the budget process starting next meeting, she would like to have a road report from the roadmaster with the conditions of the road and also what big expenses will be needed this year for operating as the roadmaster such as equipment, will tires will be needed for the backhoe and the condition of the trucks. Annette states she would still like to know what the plan is for the Ford F450. Annette stated she thought it was going to be sold and now she finds out the township is keeping it. Annette stated the township has aging equipment and the township should not be treating it like our own farm equipment. Annette states the equipment we have now may last our life time but the township doesn't die it keeps on going and there is a fine line for when you can get the most value for your equipment versus through the years now you will be dishing out a lot of money out at the same time. Annette states she wants to start planning and thinking about the equipment. Jim Fuller stated as roadmaster to have the extra truck is a good thing, if something happens during a snow storm to one of the trucks they have the Ford F450 as a backup. Jim states he does not think the township could get nearly for the truck what the value is to the township. Jim states it is in excellent condition, it is a 2000, which is the only thing it has going against it. Annette stated she expects it to be communicated to all supervisors about the equipment and what the needs are and the condition of the roads.

Barry Schrope stated maybe the township should think about more guard rails along Narrows Road. There are a few curves that should have guard rails.

Jim Fuller stated Barry Schrope has suggested the possibility of a stop sign being placed at the Pleasant Grove/Windy Hill Road intersection. An ordinance would need to be passed and a road study be done, LTAP could be contacted for suggestions. Jim will check the ordinance book for other ordinances.

Barry Schrope stated it has been brought to his attention about the sign at Wagner Park regarding no hunting being permitted in the park. Barry stated he can see no hunting around the ball fields but the intention was to allow hunting back on the hill. Bob Foltz states the sign indicates no weapons, firearms or hunting permitted in the park and when the rec board wrote up the rules for the park they did not really want any weapons, firearms or hunting in the immediate play area of the park. Bob stated the sign will need to be changed and safety zone signs be posted. Bob asked the solicitor to look into the rules of the park and advise of any suggestions. Annette stated she would like someone from the recreation board to speak with Sgt. Ringer about how to best handle a situation of carrying a gun openly at the park. The solicitor will do research and advise.

Barry Schrope made a motion to approve the checks from the General Fund for the month of August with each supervisor abstaining from approval on those they had a personal interest in. They were as follows:

16650 – 16682, 0007-2011, 007-2011 and 07-2011, except 16659 and 16669, both approved.

16659, 16669 – Barry and Annette approved, Jim abstained.

Annette Mullen second the motion to approve the checks, with all in favor.

There being no further business Annette Mullen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki L. Jenkins
Twp. Secretary