

The regular meeting of the Wheatfield Township Supervisors was held Monday, November 4, 2013 in the Township Building. Barry Schrope called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Barry Schrope, Jim Fuller, Annette Mullen, Johanna Rehkamp, Lester Nace, Vicki Jenkins, Luke Roman (Perry County Times), Dexter Potter, Jeff Smith, Bob Rhoades, Chris Hinkle (Burget Associates), Herb Field, Leroy Beck, Don Neumayer, Dave Jenkins, Kathy Moore, David Mills, Paul Krieger, Marty Smith, Mary Smith, Kraig Nace, Byron Worner and Justin Kretzing.

Barry Schrope asked those who would like to speak to sign in and also if someone has something to say please raise your hand and wait to be called upon. When called upon please state your name so they know who is speaking and there is no discrepancy in the minutes.

Annette Mullen 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.

The minutes of the October 7, 2013 regular meeting and the October 18, 2013 budget workshop were presented to the supervisors and posted for attendees in the township building prior to the November 4, 2013 regular meeting for public viewing. There being no discussion on the minutes Barry Schrope asked for a roll call vote on the minutes. Annette Mullen stated yes she approves the minutes as presented by the secretary, Jim Fuller and Barry Schrope also stated yes. Annette asked if the roll call is happening because of the Jeremy Potter resignation situation. Barry stated yes that is why.

Chris Hinkle of Burget and Associates presented a subdivision plan for Miller Twp. to the supervisors. Chris stated there is a small portion on the backside of the plan that falls in Wheatfield Twp. The site is between Wheatfield Auto on Rt. 849 and the Miller to Wheatfield line about a mile. Chris stated they are looking for a waiver of review from Wheatfield Township. Chris stated they have to submit the plan yet to Miller Twp. and address all of their comments before a final plan would need signatures from Wheatfield Twp. The supervisors advised Chris to come back with a final plan and that there is no need to submit the plan to Wheatfield Township.

David Mills thanked the township for continuing to support recreation in the township.

Kraig Nace of the Duncannon EMS thanked the supervisors and residents of Wheatfield Township and if there is anything that is needed please let them know.

Byron Worner of the Duncannon Fire Co. thanked the supervisors and residents of Wheatfield Township as well.

Justin Kretzing of the New Bloomfield Fire Co. gave an update on the audit for the fire company. Justin stated they received a draft copy last week and offered to give the supervisors a copy of the draft. Justin stated he knows it is getting close to the end of the year, but the auditor has had their records since the spring. Barry Schrope asked if they anticipated having the audit complete by years end. Justin stated it will be done by the end of the year and that they anticipate the final copy this month. Jim Fuller asked for a copy of the draft audit.

Jeff Smith presented the road master report for last month. Jeff stated the road crew has trimmed trees on Hunkey Hollow along the guard rail at Rt. 274, sealed all ditches that were black topped on Hunkey Hollow and Dugans Mill, sealed Saw Mill, Montebello Farm and Narrows Rd., cleaned up storm damage from the heavy rain, graded shoulders on Hunkey Hollow, covered a pipe at Wagner Park by the pavilion, trimmed trees on Dark Hollow at Linton Hill, Pennells Church and Wheatfield Estates, graded shoulders at a problem area on Sulphur Springs, put the plow and salt spreader on the blue and red dump, changed the oil in the blue dump, changed the oil and fuel filter in the brown dump, changed the fuel filter in the red dump, started grading off the bank on Pennells Church, had to put a new front tire on the backhoe and had the tires rotated on the F250. Annette Mullen advised she has spoken to the recreation board and they are in need of fill. Jeff stated he has spoken with John Weldon regarding the fill he just needs to get with him as to where they want the fill.

Herb Field asked if the township has received any new information on the proposed cellular tower on Montebello Farm Road. Lester Nace stated he has been advised a sight has been selected, he is not sure where the sight is because a message was left from Network Building and Consulting on his phone and that he was advised it will be 2 – 3 months before they file an application for a permit. Herb stated Verizon is looking for a sight to put it a cellular tower and that his neighbor has signed a lease with Verizon. Herb stated he does not believe the tower should be in anyone's backyard. Herb stated he couldn't find any reference to cellular towers in the zoning ordinance. Herb stated there have been

studies that show the cellular towers reduce property values and there are also health effects such as sleeplessness, cancer, memory loss, etc. Herb stated the proposed site of the tower has 5 occupied dwellings right there. Herb believes the tower is a nonconforming use and should go to the township zoning hearing board and public hearings should be held. Herb stated the applicant should be required to say how they picked the site and if they looked at other sites in commercial or industrial areas and there should be bonding. Herb stated he would like to see the township approach this vigorously. Leroy Beck stated he agrees with Herb. Leroy stated the proposed tower would border 5 properties with 200 feet and he believes this is too close for residential homes. Cathy Moore stated she also agrees with Herb and also stated she has a copy of the letter that was sent to the property owners asking if they were interested in leasing a site to them. Annette Mullen stated that communication towers are addressed in the zoning amendment book. Annette stated towers can go in agricultural/residential, industry and commercial, they are restricted in open space, R1, R2, commercial C1 and floodplains. Barry Schrope stated the supervisors will look into this more with the zoning officer. Byron Worner stated a cellular tower in this area is needed for emergency services.

Barry Schrope stated at last month's meeting they received a notice from Jeremy Potter indicating he would like to resign from his position on the recreation board. Barry stated when it was voted upon he made a motion to accept the resignation and there was silence and nobody wanted to second the motion. Annette Mullen stated she didn't vote because Jim stated it wasn't a conflict of interest for him to vote and the next month he won't vote because he stated it is a conflict of interest for him to vote. Barry stated he went through some paperwork regarding basic principles for meetings and looking through that it states silence implies consent and those who do not vote agree by their silence. Barry stated he sent Jeremy a letter accepting his resignation and he spoke to John Weldon, Chairman of the Rec Board about it. Barry stated that is why he is doing the roll call voting, there are 3 possible votes; yes, no, abstain or silence. Barry stated a supervisor can only abstain if the supervisor receives monetary gain from the vote and after a roll call vote you still have to say how you vote and you must fill out a form as to why you are abstaining so that it may be kept on file with the minutes. Annette stated she would have abstained and filled out the form and asked if the supervisors want to make a motion. Jim Fuller stated there was a motion by Barry and it passed by silence. Annette stated the decision was made without the others being aware of it. Barry stated he made that decision because he is tired of the petty quarrels between her and Jim. Barry stated when someone has served the township for many years and asks to be peacefully removed from that position; it is not fair to that person because of the quarrels between the others not to accept it. Annette asked the solicitor when there is a disagreement can he do that. Johanna Rehkamp stated her concern was that there was not a second to the motion and felt it was not appropriate to even have a vote on it. Johanna stated no action should have been taken until there was a second on the motion. Barry stated it also states he can do a roll call vote without doing a second. Annette asked for a roll call vote. Barry asked Annette if she would like to accept Jeremy's resignation, Annette stated she is going to abstain from this vote because she feels it is a conflict of interest that Jim Fuller is on the recreation board. Johanna advised Annette she can only abstain if she has a monetary interest in the decision. Annette stated start with Jim. Jim Fuller stated he accepts Jeremy Potter's resignation, Barry Schrope stated he accepts Jeremy Potter's resignation, Annette Mullen stated she accepts Jeremy's Potter's resignation. Barry stated he has already sent a letter to Jeremy accepting his resignation.

Barry Schrope stated the supervisors have received the New Bloomfield EMS financial report. Jim Fuller stated yes to release the \$2300 donation to the New Bloomfield EMS as budgeted, Annette Mullen stated yes and Barry Schrope stated yes.

Barry Schrope stated the supervisors have received a letter from the Perry County Planning Commission regarding giving a contribution to update the multi municipal comprehensive plan. Barry Schrope stated the township just updated our own comprehensive plan. Barry stated he would like for the township planning commission to look at it and get back to the supervisors. Vicki advised a response is due by November 15, 2013. Barry Schrope stated he thinks the township should opt out and voted no to make a contribution, Jim Fuller voted no, Annette Mullen voted no.

The township pesticide business license is up for renewal. Jim Fuller currently has the license to spray along township roads but with him retiring the supervisors discussed Jeff Smith obtaining his license. Barry Schrope stated he has spoken with Jeff and he is willing to take the test to obtain his

license. Barry Schrope voted yes to renew the business license and for Jeff Smith to obtain his spray license, Annette Mullen voted yes, Jim Fuller voted yes.

Barry Schrope indicated the township has received a letter of request for a \$100 donation to the Perry County Animal Response Team. Jim Fuller voted yes to release \$100 as a donation, Annette Mullen voted no, Barry Schrope voted yes.

The proposed 2014 budget was reviewed and outstanding items (tax collector commission rate ½ percent increase, fire workers compensation 14% increase and fire company donation 3% increase) were discussed. The proposed budget will be posted at the township office and advertised for adoption at December's meeting.

Barry Schrope advised that the township has received the fire relief monies from the State and checks will be mailed out next week.

Barry Schrope asked if the recreation board has contacted an engineer for the foot bridge at Wagner Park. Jim Fuller stated he is waiting for a call back from the construction company that worked on the bridge by Wagner Park.

Annette Mullen asked if the supervisors were going to change the wording in the employee handbook from calendar date to employee hire date regarding vacation time. Annette stated she would like to have this done by January 1st. Barry Schrope stated the issue he has with changing from calendar date to hire date would be because of the budget, it would make it harder to budget. Barry stated he is not in favor of changing it, he thinks it should stay calendar date. Annette stated it would be easier to go by hire date. Johanna Rehkamp stated it would be a supervisor's preference. Issue tabled until next month.

Annette Mullen stated she asked at last month's meeting about creating an ordinance forbidding full time employees from being an elected official. Annette asked what the others thought about putting it on the ballot and letting the voters decide. Barry Schrope stated he thinks they already do when they vote. Annette stated do you think they know they are voting on their own health insurance and pension. Jim Fuller stated they do not vote on their pension. Annette asked about a 5 person board then. Barry stated he is not in favor. Marty Smith stated he sort of agrees with Annette, with an employee being on the board, but he does not think that decision should be made by the board, that is a voter's decision. Marty stated if that is made into an ordinance that a full time employee cannot run, then it should also be that if you are going to be a supervisor you should personally be in the township 5 days a week. Bob Rhoades stated he agrees with him to a certain point, but anything like this the employee shouldn't be making decisions on their own wages, just put it on the ballot. Barry stated if there was a problem and a tie vote he would go to the auditors. Annette stated the gentleman who spoke up is Jeff Smith's father. Marty stated he is a registered voter and yes he is Jeff's father.

Vicki Jenkins asked the supervisors if they reviewed the letter Johanna drafted regarding the issue with the four wheeler at Wagner Park. Annette Mullen voted yes to send the letter, Jim Fuller voted yes, Barry Schrope voted yes.

Vicki Jenkins asked the supervisors if they have reviewed the letter from Darrel Jones regarding the dog barking problem. Barry Schrope stated the township does not have an ordinance regulating dog barking. The supervisors asked Johanna to look over the letter and give the supervisors a recommendation.

Barry Schrope voted yes to approve the checks from the General Fund for the month of October. They were as follows:

1928 – 1966, 0009-2013, 003-2013, 09-2013, 100813A and 100813B

Annette Mullen voted yes, Jim Fuller voted yes.

There being no further business Barry Schrope made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Jim Fuller second the motion, with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki L. Jenkins
Twp. Secretary