

ROSS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS  
MEETING  
JULY 7, 2008

*At 7:00 p.m. the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Ross Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Beers with members Vice Chairman Kresge and Supervisor Drake present. Solicitor Dunn was also present. Chairman Beers led those present in pledging allegiance to the Flag.*

*A review of the minutes of the June 2, 2008 meeting resulted with Supervisor Drake noting a correction to be made on page two, the last sentence, should state that Supervisor Drake objected to the motion that was made by Chairman Beers and seconded by Vice Chairman Kresge (regarding the time extension for Mountainview Estates/Pear Tree Builders). The Secretary noted the correction and the minutes were then approved.*

*Chairman Beers read Resolution #155 that was drafted in memory of Simer Lowe recognizing his many accomplishments during his tenure as a Supervisor and for his work on the Township's roads. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Kresge to adopt this Resolution. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Drake and carried.*

*A motion was made by Supervisor Drake to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Kresge and carried. The Treasurer's report indicated that a Letter of Credit on behalf of AJ Properties is set to expire on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Some discussion took place and it was decided that if we do not have an updated Letter of Credit by July 21<sup>st</sup>, we will present it to the First National Bank of Palmerton. A motion to that effect was made by Chairman Beers, seconded by Supervisor Drake and carried.*

*OPEN TO THE PUBLIC-Jessica Keller from Helping Hands of Pa. was next on the agenda but she was not present at this time.*

*PLANS-Mountain View Estates/Pear Tree Builders was next on the agenda and a representative from Van Cleef Engineering reviewed the plan from its location, to the number of lots and their sizes. Included in the presentation was stormwater plans, and proposed on-lot recharge facilities. Much detailed discussion took place concerning many issues about the plan in which the applicant is seeking preliminary approval from the Supervisors as recommended by the Planning Commission. Chairman Beers mentioned that a letter was sent to the applicant after the last meeting advising the Supervisors agreed to the extension request but that prior to their next meeting (July 7<sup>th</sup>) submission of a notarized statement from the property owner of her intent to move forward with the subdivision application and also to move forward with the sale to Mountain View Estates/Pear Tree Builders. Additionally, included in the letter was that if the plan necessitates roadway installation over the gas pipeline a status report consenting to a roadway traveling the line be provided. Chairman Beers indicated that none of this was provided as requested. Vice Chairman Kresge reviewed the Stormwater control with the representative from VanCleaf Engineering and did not agree with the method described by him which led to more discussion noting that there is a water problem there now without adding more roadways,*

*etc.. The consensus of the discussion was that the Board never approved a preliminary plan with as many outstanding comments offered by their Engineer/s. (Referring to letters of review from both Hanover Engineering and Russ Kresge, Engineering dated June 16 & 17).*

*The applicant's attorney, Mr. Preston acknowledged they could not get the owner's statement and would not be able to access the property to satisfy testing and any related work that needed to be done on the property. However, he indicated that this preliminary plan should be approved as presented since no plan can be recorded until all items are in compliance including the owners signature. More discussion ensued and Solicitor Dunn asked if the applicant would be looking for an extension of time within which you can be in compliance. There was no response and Attorney Preston said they are looking for approval of this preliminary plan and further the requirement of the property owners signature is irrelevant. Attorney Preston said it seems that the Board is unanimously against this plan from what he is hearing Chairman Beers called for a motion to approve this plan with conditions as requested. No motion was made. Chairman Beers moved to reject this plan since the appropriate signature is not on it and he cited the conditions in Engineer Russ Kresge's letter of June 16<sup>th</sup> and Hanover Engineer's letter of June 17<sup>th</sup>. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Drake and carried. Solicitor Dunn read the items from Russ Kresge's letter to be included in the motion which were: items #1-6, item #9; B, C, D, & E. and from Hanover Engineer's which were #8, #1, #3, #4, #6, two others under general comments, and completion of required traffic input study and deficiencies noted in June 6 letter relative to hydrogeologic studies. Supervisor Drake moved to include the aforementioned items in the motion and it was seconded by Vice Chairman Kresge and carried. Attorney Preston made a formal request for a copy of the tape of the meeting. Solicitor Dunn ended by advising those present that he will writing the decision which will be forwarded to the applicant and anyone else who might request a copy and further that the decision made can be appealed to the court of common pleas Monroe County.*

*Chairman Beers called for an executive session and it was approximately 7:40 p.m. to discuss litigation. The meeting continued at 7:50 p.m. with Chairman Beers noting no decisions were made during the executive session and the discussion was on litigation matters.*

*Jesscia Keller and Susan LaBarr were now present on behalf of Helping Hands of Pa a non-profit organization that collects clothing, shoes, hats, belts & purses in donation bins located throughout the County. She explained materials collected are sold under a contract agreement the proceeds of which (less operating expenses) are disbursed to local residents. They were present to explain the program and are looking for areas to locate bins such as recycle stations, firehouses, parks, township buildings, etc.. Chairman Beers thanked the ladies for their commitment and noted the Board will review the information.*

*OLD BUSINESS-The Intergovernmental Agreement decision was discussed and Chairman Beers noted that he attended a meeting concerning this and there are some procedures necessary in order to have the document adopted and the Attorneys are getting together.*

*Item #2 is the status of lot averaging Chairman Beers referred to a letter from Russ Kresge and a memo from the Planning Commission by indicating more input is needed from the Commission on the approach as described.*

*Chairman Beers asked if anyone looked at the fence at the Polk Township building that is made of the recycled product that was presented at a previous meeting.*

*Mrs. Bauer a park committee member discussed her fence ideas. Chairman Beers discussed the status of the park pavilion and noted all involved should meet at the site to discuss its location. It was determined to meet Thursday evening at 7:30.*

*Chairman Beers asked about an update on the Community Day event the Park and Recreation Committee is planning and the members said they have contacted some non-profit organizations and noted that the fire company will be selling simple foods.*

*The Secretary noted a request has been received from some residents to place a bench/s along the walking trail. Approval to purchase concrete bench ends for two benches was given and to have the part time employee construct them with the wood seat and back.*

*.The Inspection Co. issue was tabled until next meeting to provide time to review the materials provided by Solicitor Dunn.*

*Supervisor Drake discussed the Stormwater Management Model Ordinance she submitted (a copy of Chestnuthill Township's) and it was decided that each Supervisor would review their copy for discussion at the next meeting.*

*NEW BUSINESS-The prevailing wage issue was next and it was determined that information was submitted to Solicitor Dunn for review. (Solicitor Dunn left the meeting at approximately 8:00 p.m) Therefore, this will be discussed at the next meeting.*

*The Zoning Ordinance use and family question information forwarded by Solicitor Dunn was reviewed and the Supervisors requested that the Secretary contact Solicitor Dunn and have him submit a new definition of "family" to be inserted in the Zoning Ordinance.*

*The Secretary noted receipt of a memo from the NEPA regarding an online computer class and it was decided to enroll in it.*

*ROAD FOREMAN REPORT-Chairman Beers asked if the new part time employee is scheduled to do trimming around guard rails and the Road Foreman said he is but his schedule is two days a week. The Secretary indicated that he is willing to work more days if he is scheduled ahead and can plan accordingly.*

*Some discussion took place concerning the hiring of a new employee for the Road Department and it was decided to plan on interviewing in September for possible hiring in October.*

*CORRESPONDENCE-A letter was received from Monroe County Township Officials Association advising of their annual meeting and dinner meeting. The Supervisors indicated they would review the date and time and respond.*

*The Aquasihicola/Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy sent a letter dated June 30<sup>th</sup> asking for Resolution in support of their petition to DEP to have the Aquashicola Stream value level changed to the Highest level (exceptional value). It was decided to draft a Resolution for adoption at the next meeting.*

*There was some discussion about changing the next monthly meeting from the 4<sup>th</sup> of August to Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup> since Chairman Beers cannot make the regular monthly meeting. It was determined to change the meeting since there are so many issues at hand that need input from the Board as a whole.*

*RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES- After a review of the bills to be paid a motion was made by Vice Chairman Kresge, seconded by Supervisor Drake to pay the bills as presented.*

*There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m..*

*Respectfully submitted,  
Doris Price, Secretary*