

ROSS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS
MEETING
AUGUST 5, 2008

The Ross Township Board of Supervisors gathered at 7:00 p.m. for their monthly meeting at which time Chairman Beers opened the meeting with members Vice Chairman Kresge and Supervisor Drake present. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Solicitor Dunn arrived at approximately 7:05 p.m..

After a review of the minutes and Treasurer's report a motion was made by Vice Chairman Kresge to approve these submissions. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Drake and carried.

Mr. Christopher MacMillan was recognized who was present to discuss a building permit. He showed the Supervisors his building permit which was issued in 2000 and was looking to get an extension to complete the garage. Chairman Beers asked Mr. MacMillan if there is a roof on the building at this time and he responded saying yes and he also asked for a one year extension, Chairman Beers indicated that the Supervisors make a practice of giving a six month extension. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Kresge, seconded by Supervisor Drake to grant a six month extension. The motion carried.

*OPEN TO THE PUBLIC-Mr. Hirshman from Weir Lake Rd. was present and complained about the property on the corner of Weir Lake Rd. and Kunkletown Rd.. He cited dust, fumes, odors, etc and indicated that the Township isn't do anything. Chairman Beers tried to explain what the Township has done regarding this matter but Mr. Hirshman reiterated and gave suggestions of his own which were not within the parameters that the Township can follow. After Mr. Hirshman kept making the same comments, SolicitorDunn entered into the discussion and explained that the Township has been to the Magistrate and has done what it can do to this point they (the land owner) has the right to appeal the decision that the Magistrate made in favor of the Township. Mr. Hirshman still expressed displeasure and Solicitor Dunn suggested that he obtain his own legal counsel if he feels dissatisfied. Chairman Beers ended by telling Mr. Hirshman that the Township is doing whatever it **can** do.*

Ron Mayberry a resident of Mountain Rd. spoke about noise particularly from ATV'S and wondered if the Township was considering an Ordinance regulating them. He said he has been in contact with the Zoning Officer who has been most helpful in trying to curtail the time they have been running them. He expressed appreciation to him for his assistance.

Gary Embich was present concerning a letter his wife submitted discussing outdoor wood burning stoves in his neighborhood. There was much discussion with this matter such as the height requirements, the proximity of the unit to homes, what type of wood, etc is being burned. Mr. Embich said he is experiencing so much smoke that he cannot have his windows open and felt a setback would be of some assistance and also what is being burned. Chairman Beers noted that a model ordinance is being drafted by the Monroe County Planning Commission which is not quite finished yet and will be reviewed by all the municipalities interested. He added that he recalled that a minimum acreage requirement was mentioned in the model, however, if a resident can burn anything they want in a burning barrel behind any given house it wouldn't seem right to regulate just these stoves.

PLANS-A motion was made by Supervisor Drake to have Engineer Kresge review the Transco expansion project plan as requested by them. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Kresge and carried. (the motion included Transco would be paying the review costs.)

OLD BUSINESS-Regarding the Intergovernmental Agreement, a motion was made to have Solicitor Dunn place the necessary advertisement for adoption at the next meeting after any coordinating that needs to be done prior to the ad.

The next item on the agenda concerned the use of another Inspection Co. (for UCC compliance) Chairman Beers noted that he disagrees with Lehigh Valley additional fee schedule (submitted to the Township for fees when/if another inspection co. is used) since he works in other Township is only required to obtain a zone permit and then is responsible for his own inspection company's fees. Solicitor Dunn said the Township appointed Lehigh Valley Inspection Services to do your inspections some time ago. Reference was made to a court case involving this matter which Solicitor Dunn explained is stayed awaiting a Supreme Court decision which could take as much as two years. After some discussion it was decided to continue working the way we are presently.

Supervisor Drake submitted a revised Stormwater Ordinance and suggested a meeting be scheduled with the County Planners to review the ordinance and revise it to include the Aquashicola. It was noted that the Secretary should place the necessary advertisement for a meeting on August 11th at 7:00 p.m..

The Prevailing Wage issue was discussed since PSATS has advised that it appears most of what used to be classified regular road maintenance is no longer minor repair and is now subject to the prevailing wage (any contract for \$25,000 or more not classified by the prevailing wage committee as minor repair). Solicitor Dunn noted that the Township should continue to work with PSATS in their lobbying efforts to get a definition suitable to the Townships but in the mean time be cautious and oblige the regulation.

Concerning the Zoning Ordinance and the definition of use & family it was decided to contact Charles Schmehl of URDC for some guidance.

An update on the park pavilion was discussed and Chairman Beers noted the steel is in and the company is waiting on the installer who should be available around Sept. 7th.

Vice Chairman Kresge discussed Mr. Haney's letter giving some history and a review about the channel to the pond on the Park property. Mr. Kresge gave some ideas on how that could be completed. Supervisor Drake noted that you may need permits depending on what you are doing and Chairman Beers suggested that Vice Chairman Kresge discuss this with the Township Engineer.

NEW BUSINESS-Resolution #160 was reviewed which was drafted in support of the Aquashicola/Pohopoko Watershed's endeavor to upgrade the Aquashicola Stream A motion was made by Supervisor Drake, seconded by Vice Chairman Kresge and carried.

Resolution #158 in honor of Eagle Scout Thomas Decker was adopted on motion by Vice Chairman Kresge, seconded by Supervisor Drake and carried.

Resolution #159 in honor of Eagle Scout Jarrod Chaszar was adopted on motion by Supervisor Drake, seconded by Vice Chairman Kresge and carried.

Fall clean-up days were tentatively scheduled for Sept. 19th and 20 with the same hours as last year. A motion to this effect was made by Supervisor Drake seconded by Vice Chairman Kresge and carried.

Trick or Treat night is set for Friday, October 31st. from 5p.m.-7p.m..

Christmas Tree lighting ceremony was scheduled to be held December 6, 2008 (Sat.) at 4:00 p.m. with an inclement weather day for Sunday December 7th.

ROAD FOREMAN REPORT-The Road Foreman was not present, however, Vice Chairman Kresge noted that he would like to see the road pipes that are going to be put in installed before the school buses start running. Chairman Beers suggested he speak to the Road Foreman in this regard.

CORRESPONDENCE-Supervisor Drake noted that she would speak to the Pocono Heritage Land Trust in hopes they can help with a land purchase utilizing some Open Space Funds.

A letter was received from Nancy Embich the content of which was discussed earlier in the meeting by Gary Embich.

A packet of information was received from Chestnuthill Township regarding their purchase of some land with Open Space Funds that remain in the County Fund from Townships who did not utilize their entire share. Supervisor Drake explained that they will be asking Ross Township for permission to use the funds left, some of which were designated to Ross. Both Chairman Beers and Vice Chairman Kresge were not in favor of that.

A letter was received from Monroe County Vector Control asking for someone to go on the annual tour with them in looking for evidence of Gypsy Moth. The Zoning Officer agreed to go along with the Vector Control representative.

A memo was received from the Secretary noting an increase in the mileage rate by the IRS to 58.5 cents per mile. A motion was made by Supervisor Drake to raise the rate to 58.5 cents. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Kresge and carried.

The Secretary noted receipt of some information regarding the Officer Phil program which is a safety program for children whereby booklets are circulated through the schools with various safety pictures, puzzles, etc.. A motion was made by Supervisor Drake to support this publication at a cost of \$199.00 which includes an ad in the booklet. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Kresge. A roll call vote was taken and Chairman Beers voted against with Vice Chairman Kresge and Supervisor Drake voting in favor. The motion carried.

Some discussion took place concerning the Lot Averaging and it was determined that the Planning Commission was content with the Conservation Subdivision plan that Russ Kresge discussed in his letter. It was decided to pass the letter on to John Dunn for review.

RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES- A motion was made by Supervisor Drake to pay the bills as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Kresge and carried.

At 8:00 p.m. the Board went into an executive session to discuss real estate. At 8:10 p.m. the Board resumed the meeting advising that there were no decisions made just a discussion on the purchase of property.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:12pm..

*Respectfully submitted,
Doris Price, Secretary*