

WARWICK TOWNSHIP
Board of Supervisors' Public Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2009

Members Present: Judith A. Algeo, Esq., Chair
John W. Cox, Vice Chairman
Edward P. Thompson, Member

Others Present: Gail Weniger, Township Manager
Dave Connell, Township Engineer
Mary Eberle, Township Solicitor
Linda Grant, Recording Secretary

■ **CALL TO ORDER:**

The Warwick Township Board of Supervisors' February 2, 2009 public meeting, held at Warwick Township Administration Office, 1733 Township Greene, Jamison, PA., was called to order at 7:00 p.m., by Chair, Judith Algeo who then led attendees in the pledge of allegiance.

■ **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

⇒ January 20, 2009 Board of Supervisors' public meeting minutes. (exhibit)

Motion by Mr. Cox to approve the January 20, 2009 public meeting minutes, as submitted.

Second to motion by Mr. Thompson.

Chair Algeo invited comment or discussion. There being none, the vote was called.

Motion passed unanimously.

■ **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Chair Algeo reported that the Board of Supervisors' did not meet in executive session this evening but instead configured the computers to begin using for meetings.

■ **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Chair Algeo announced that Township Offices will be closed Monday, February 16th for Presidents day holiday and the Board of Supervisors public meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 17th.

■ **CITIZENS COMMENTS:**

➤ John Gamble, Tripp Avenue, asked for an update regarding the left turn from School Road onto York Road. Mr. Gamble also said that when Bridge Valley development plows their streets, they push the snow onto sidewalks in his development. Mr. Gamble reports that his HOA has contacted Bridge Valley and asked them to stop pushing the snow to our sidewalks.

Ms. Weniger notes that this is not a Township matter and Mr. Gamble has done the right thing by contacting the other HOA. Mr. Gamble notes he is concerned that there may be fines for not having the snow cleared.

⇒ Residents and neighbors of 2135 Warwick Road were present for any update regarding the problems they have reported with this neighbor regarding animals and structures that are too close to the setback.

Mary Eberle, Township Solicitor, reported that we have filed a complaint on the zoning violations and we got a default date from the District Justice of February 19. If the property owner does not respond by February 19, a default judgment will be entered. If there is a response before that time, a hearing will be scheduled.

The group reports that Mr. Kalajnas has moved his chicken coop and horse shelter, but they are still non-compliant with the zoning of 100 feet. Ms. Eberle said the judge may consider that an effort to come into compliance and it is the judge's discretion to issue a fine in an amount that the judge deems appropriate.

Ms. Algeo asked if the residents have considered hiring an attorney to deal with them as a "private nuisance". The Township will be moving slowly because we must follow the timelines and there still will be issues, such as the pig, that the Township cannot address. Ms. Eberle points out that the residents may not be happy with the result and findings of the judge. Mr. Thompson notes that these things can drag out for years while there is nothing happening to improve the situation.

■ **MANAGER'S REPORT:**

⇒ Zoning Hearing Board Appointment – Jeff DiAmico (no exhibit)

Motion by Mr. Cox to appoint Jeff DiAmico to the position on the Zoning Hearing Board, left vacant by Patrick O'Connor, term to expire December 31, 2009. Second to motion by Mr. Thompson.

Chair Algeo invited comment or discussion. There being none, the vote was called.

Motion passed unanimously.

⇒ Warwick Fire Company Annual Update (no exhibit) was presented by Phil Ramos, President of Warwick Fire Company and Mark Surrusco, treasurer.

- Phil Ramos reported that repairs to the firehouse caused by the accident have been completed and repairs to the truck are being worked out through the insurance company.
- Mr. Ramos also said that, per the NFPA, there is a change in restrictions for turnout gear, noting that any gear is to be replaced every ten years and we need to start replacing our gear that will be in a range of \$30,000 to \$40,000 over a two year period.
- Mr. Ramos said there is a county program for checking smoke detectors, door-to-door. WFC will be starting that in Stover Mill and if smoke detectors are found non-functional, we will replace them for free. This starts February 24.

- Mr. Ramos spoke of replacing the Chief's vehicle, which is seven years old. WFC currently has three Expeditions and one Jeep. The fire company will go to the State Bid and replace the jeep with an expedition. He reports that the jeep is too small for the fire police and they are unsure of what they will do with it.
- WFC will be starting an incentive program for fire calls this year, and it will be capped at \$500.00. Ms. Weniger asked if the Township employees who are responders will be included. Mr. Ramos said they will be included. Ms. Weniger requested that the Township receive a copy of the policy when WFC adopts it so we are sure the employees who volunteer are aware of the program.
- The WFC Valentine's day rose sale is on this year and will be the same as previous sales.
- The project for moving the firehouse is in limbo, and since there is still a need for space we received a \$15,000 grant for a gear grid which will hold gear.
- The firehouse roof was just rehabilitated at a cost of approximately \$12,000.
- WFC is looking into replacing the 1978 tanker, which was refurbished in the 1980s and this purchase could be in the range of \$350,000.
- The WFC has started a capital campaign fund for a new firehouse.
- Brian Dawicki was again elected Chief for a two year term.

Mark Surrusco, Treasurer reported that the mail campaign fundraiser was just under \$44,000, which is lower than the previous year. We have shifted the majority of investments into cd's. We have spoken with Bee Bergvall and have been gathering information for the audit.

Mr. Ramos noted that the County is starting to look into a new radio system after doing the switch to the current radios about five years ago. The WFC still has a loan balance on the current radios and notes that the police would also have to purchase all new radios. He reports that the Fire Chiefs are meeting to discuss this issue.

⇒ Electronic meetings update, and request for authorization to purchase hardware (exhibit)

Ms. Weniger reported the information has been reviewed to see what would be involved to implement electronic meeting information packets and electronic scanning of mail. Ms. Weniger pointed out that this enables the Board members to be able to see information as it comes in, rather than waiting for everything at one time. It is hoped that all committees/commissions will be able to utilize this process. There is cost involved with preparation, paper and delivery of all the meeting packets. Ms. Weniger believes that if we move toward electronic meetings and the purchase seven computers, it would be preferable to have all computers purchased at the same time. She reports that this can be done for about \$5,000.

Ms. Weniger reports that we are trialing a portal site that allows for a couple of years of storage, and the uploading and downloading of large documents. After the trial month, we will pay \$60 per month for this site to manage the meetings and other documents. Ms. Weniger also prepared a draft electronic meeting policy as a starting point for the Board.

Mr. Cox commented that this electronic communication is working better than anticipated and likes that information is received earlier.

Mr. Thompson likes the site and the fact that information is received earlier, but would still like paper since the paper is more portable for him and the paper can be used for notes.

The Board discussed only purchasing three computers to see how it works. Mr. Thompson noted that Warwick's committees/commissions are made up of volunteers who may not want to deal with the electronic meeting packets via computer. Mr. Thompson also noted that he would prefer all documents to be pdf files. Ms. Weniger reminded the Board that the savings only works if a group all does one method of meeting.

Motion by Mr. Cox to authorize the purchase of three computers to be used for public meetings.

Second to motion by Mr. Thompson.

Chair Algeo invited comment or discussion. There being none, the vote was called.

Motion passed unanimously.

⇒ Ivyland Industrial Park Sewage Facilities, revised – Resolution No. 2009-10

Ms. Weniger presented the Ivyland Industrial Park Sewage Facilities, revised – Resolution No. 2009-10 for the Board's approval. Ms. Weniger explained that this was approved in early 2008 but when it went to the DEP, they need more details from the applicant, which did not change the substantial details of the application. Ms. Weniger notes that the Warwick Township Water and Sewer Authority have reviewed the revised application.

Motion by Mr. Cox to approve Resolution 2009-10, Ivyland Industrial Park Sewage Facilities, as presented by the Township Manager.

Second to motion by Mr. Thompson.

Chair Algeo invited comment or discussion. There being none, the vote was called.

Motion passed unanimously.

⇒ Bill Payments February 2, 2009 (exhibit)

General Fund		
Check N ^o : 16199 – 116256	\$	159,817.29
Park & Recreation		
Check N ^o : 4898 through 4922	\$	6,525.93
(Checks N ^o : 4900 – 4909 void due to altered Check number on hard copy check)		
Capital Projects Fund		
Check N ^o : 1116	\$	500.00
Firehouse & Equipment Fund		
Check N ^o : 225	\$	<u>375.00</u>
Total -	\$	<u>167,218.22</u>

**Motion by Mr. Cox to approve the February 2, 2009 Bill Payments, subject to audit.
Second to motion by Mr. Thompson.**

Chair Algeo invited comment or discussion. There being none, the vote was called.

Motion passed unanimously.

■ **SOLICITOR REPORT:**

⇒ LD #08-04 Carroll Minor Subdivision (2929 Bridge Street) Development Agreement

Mary Eberle, Township Solicitor, presented Carroll Minor Subdivision Development Agreement. Ms. Eberle explained that this is slightly shorter than the normal development agreement because applicant deposited the money directly with the Township.

**Motion by Mr. Cox to approve the Development Agreement for Carroll Minor Subdivision, LD #08-04, 2929 Bridge Street, as presented by the Township Solicitor.
Second to motion by Mr. Thompson**

Chair Algeo invited comment or discussion. There being none, the vote was called.

Motion passed unanimously.

■ **ENGINEER REPORT:** There was no Engineer's Report this evening.

■ **OLD BUSINESS:** There was no old business to discuss.

■ **NEW BUSINESS:**

➤ Mr. Thompson voiced concerns regarding the hills on Almshouse Road, going toward Warrington, and the fact that PennDOT does not seem to salt until there is an accident. Ms. Weniger said that PennDOT is called in storm events to salt and does respond, although the response time may not be immediate.

Mary Eberle, Township Solicitor, explained that once you exercise any dominion over any State Highway, you are then liable for the condition. Discussion took place with Mr. Cox and Ms. Algeo expressing their concern that maintenance will put the Township at a liability. There was no consensus to maintain the State Highways. The manager was asked to look into what we can do to get a better response time from PADOT.

■ **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

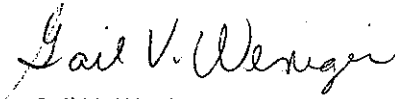
➤ John Gamble recalled that the inspection of the bridge at Mill road noted repairs were needed. Mr. Gamble thought that this could be used as argument against re-districting.

■ **ADJOURNMENT:**

The February 2, 2009, Warwick Township Board of Supervisors' public meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,



Gail V. Weniger,
Township Manager/Secretary

These minutes were approved at the
Board of Supervisors' meeting held: **February 17, 2009**