

Ligonier Township Supervisors  
Regular Meeting  
August 11, 2015

The Ligonier Township Supervisors met in regular session at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance opening the meeting. Secretary Bruce Robinson took roll call. Present were D. Scott Matson, Paul Knupp, Bruce Robinson, and Gary Thistlethwaite and Chairman Wade Thomas

**Public Comment**

1. **Morgan Eslary** – She is speaking on her behalf and the behalf of her sister Lauren and brother Colin. Our father is the late Lieutenant Eric Eslary of the Ligonier Township Police Department. It was nice to be able to be here for Blek's retirement and the retirement of our dad's badge number. First, we would like to thank everyone who has been involved in organizing the many events that have taken place and are still to come as well as everyone that has participated in these events to help us. This has been an extremely difficult time for us. We never thought that we would ever lose a parent like this and we really miss our dad. As many of you are probably aware, there has been some tension between people that we care about. Because of this, we have had to miss some very important events. We want to stress how difficult it has been for us to be put in the position where we have had to choose between honoring our father and wanting our mother close to us in these emotional situations. We want everyone to understand that we do know that our father loved his stepchildren, Kaylee, Lukas and Dylan DeWitt. It would mean the world to us for our stepmom and stepsiblings to recognize that while we share in their grief, he was our real dad. While stepdads can be amazing and love you as their own, they can never replace your real dad. To put things into perspective, while we were at the cemetery on Father's Day, our stepbrothers and stepsister were spending time with their Dad. Having to go to the cemetery was very depressing...a realization that our father is never coming back. Seeing a recent picture of Lukas with his dad was hard...although we were happy for him, we envied him for still having time with his real dad. We appreciate that so many people have told us that our father was very proud of us for all the work we do on our farm and with our animals. It was weird not seeing him in the bleachers at the District Dairy Show on August 1st. Looking up in the bleachers, seeing an empty spot where he normally would have been with Marybeth, Lukas and Dylan, not having anyone there to support us on his behalf was really hard. We are reaching out to those who love us and to the community to help us find a way to come together in peace so that we may honor our father without having to make a choice. So many people loved him...nobody on this earth has the right to decide who is allowed to grieve for him. We truly hope that everyone will put aside their differences, so that anyone with a connection to our father will be able to participate in all events for the sake of our emotional well-being and healing, as well as that of our stepfamily and our dad's family. It would mean the world to us to be able to follow in our fathers' footsteps and walk Blek in the Fort Ligonier Day parade this year. We proudly watched our dad march with Ando for many years and then with Blek the past 6 or 7 years. This is the one chance for us to honor our dad with Blek. I feel confident that our stepmom would continue to honor her late husband and show her love for his children by giving them this opportunity. I thank you for your time and support.

2. **Robert Graham** – Thank you for this opportunity to speak Eric’s legacy to allow his kids to honor him in the parade by walking Blek.
  3. **Mr. Pat Caffrey** – Private water line in Laughlintown that serves 11 households and is approximately 65 years old. Asking the Supervisors to help with a community block grant.
- A motion was made by Scott Matson and seconded by Bruce Robinson to approve the minutes of the July 14 2015 meeting. Motion carried

## **Staff Reports**

**Police Report** – Chief Matronics read resolution 2015-R-07, Transferring Ownership of K-9 Officer Blek to Mary Beth Eslary. Mary Beth Eslary, the Widow of Lt. Eric Eslary, has indicated that she is willing to assume responsibility and ownership of Blek, including potential liability issues, and the Ligonier Township Board of Supervisors in exchange for the above consideration, is willing to compensate Mary Beth Eslary for necessary and reasonable medical expenses related to the care of Blek. On August 11, 2015 K-9 Officer, Blek shall be formally retired from the Ligonier Township Police force. The Ligonier Township Board of Supervisors hereby transfers ownership of Blek, with all attendant rights and responsibilities thereto, to Mary Beth Eslary. Chief Matronics stated “Thank you Blek for all your service, you have been an asset to my department”.

- A Motion was made by Gary Thistlethwaite and seconded by Bruce Robinson to approve Resolution 2015-R-07, Transferring Ownership of K-9 Officer, Blek to Mary Beth Eslary. Motion carried

Chief Matronics read resolution 2015-R-08, Retiring Badge Number 4 of the Ligonier Township Police Department, in Memory of Lt Eric Eslary. Lt. Eric Eslary, a member of the Ligonier Township Police force was tragically killed in the line of duty and the Ligonier Township Board of Supervisors wishes to honor Lt. Eric Eslary for his exemplary services to the citizens of Ligonier Township and that on August 11, 2015, the Ligonier Township Board of Supervisors declares that Lt. Eric Eslary’s Badge number four (4) shall be permanently retired from the Ligonier Township Police Force in honor of his sacrifice to the Township. Chief Matronics then presented Mary Beth Eslary with Lt. Eric Eslary’s Badge 4 and Blek’s Badge, stating to Mary Beth that “You are always in my thoughts forever and ever”.

- A Motion was made and Paul Knupp seconded by Gary Thistlethwaite to approve Resolution 2015-R-08, Retiring Badge 4 of the Ligonier Township Police Department, in Memory of Lt. Eric Eslary. Motion carried

**Manager's Report** - Terry reported the public works department has been busy preparing our roads for seal coating later this month. We recently assisted Ligonier Borough in a joint project seal coating their streets and completed the work with them in one day. We will then exchange service costs with the Boro by invoicing for each other's in kind services later this month. You will notice a few technical changes to how meeting notices, agendas and documents submitted by residents and land developers will be handled in the future. We will move closer to scanning and electronic storage of materials because of space and cost controls for Ligonier Township. The days of having developers submit paper copies of storm water plans, maps and other documentation will change. We recently resubmitted over 35 ordinances over the last 12 years to the County Law Library has required by law. In order for us to be in compliance to enforce the ordinances on our books they must be recorded with the County. We had a documentation failing that was corrected today. We will continue to evaluate how government is administered in Ligonier Township in all departments. I have been here about one year now and look forward to working with the Supervisor's in providing the best possible service to the residents of Ligonier Township.

**Solicitor's Report**- Michael Korn's stated that an Executive Session was held prior to the meeting and was in attendance and items discussed were in compliance with the Pennsylvania Sunshine Law.

**Zoning Officer's Report**- Rich reported

<b>Total Income from (10) Lein Letter Requests</b>	-	\$100.00
<b><u>Building Permits Issued</u></b>		<b><u>Income</u></b>
4		\$171.80
<b><u>Sign Permits Issued</u></b>		
2		\$15.00
<b><u>Sewage permits Issued</u></b>		
4		\$1,575.00
<b><u>Demolition Permits Issued</u></b>		
1		\$25.00
<b><u>Occupancy Permits Issued</u></b>		
1		\$20.00
<b><u>Total Income Generated</u></b>		<b>\$1,906.80</b>

My office received five (5) nuisance complaints during this reporting period. One complaint involved a no-impact home business and an attempt at resolution is being sought. Two complaints involved a stormwater/drainage issue regarding Everview Estates. This issue is being investigated.

This office also received two complaints regarding a residence on Goldenrod Lane. This issue has been resolved.

### **Planning Commission meeting minutes from July 23, 2015**

- Copies of the meeting minutes are available for any resident desiring them.
- Petition from Patty Ostrowsky regarding R1 to R2 changes in Darlington area were discussed. Matter tabled, under review by commission.
- New Burning Ordinance reviewed. Matter tabled, under review by commission.
- New Zoning setback distances were reviewed. Matter tabled, under review by commission.
- New Recycling Ordinance reviewed. Planning Commission recommended approval of recycling ordinance to Board of Supervisors.

### **Correspondence**

WESTMORELAND CONSERVATION DISTRICT Summer BBQ Invitation for September 9<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 PM. No Action Taken.

PAT CAFFREY letter on Laughlintown-Swank Water Problem. Terry will work with them and make recommendations.No Action Taken.

**Treasurer's Report**-Terry Carcella stated that the General Fund account balance is \$325,948.30, the Act13 account balance is \$143,205.59, the K-9 account balance is \$75,367.77, the Liquid Fuels account balance is \$382,065.03, the Developer's account balance is \$12,550.00, and the Liquid Fuels Investment Account is 9,831.69 for a total of \$948,968.38. No action required.

- A motion was made by Bruce Robinson and seconded by Paul Knupp to pay bills of July 28, 2015 bill pay list and bills of August 10, 2015 bill pay list. Motion carried 4-1 with Scott Matson voting No.

### **Old Business**

- A motion was made by Paul Knupp and seconded by Scott Matson to deny Conditional Use to Verizon PCL at Ligonier Valley Cemetery. Motion carried
- A motion was made by Paul Knupp and seconded by Scott Matson for Michael Korn to do a written letter on their behalf for the denial of the Conditional Use for the Verizon PCL at Ligonier Valley Cemetery within 15 days. Motion carried

- A motion was made Paul Knupp and seconded by Bruce Robinson to approve advertisement of the proposed 2015-OR-06 Recycling Ordinance. Motion carried. Gary Thistlethwaite mentioned about using the website for a survey to find out the interest in recycling.
- A motion was made Bruce Robinson and seconded by Scott Matson to approve advertisement of the proposed 2015-OR-05 Grease Trap Ordinance. Motion carried.

## **New Business**

No committee reports

- A motion was made by Scott Matson and seconded by Gary Thistlethwaite to approve request for Manager and Chief to attend PennPrime Risk Management Conference in State College September 17-18. Motion carried
- Mike Korn and Terry Carcella to get together on the Right-Of-Way Policy for next meeting on September 8, 2015.
- A motion was made by Bruce Robinson and seconded by Paul Knupp to approve the proposed Rowe & Rumford Subdivision for Baywood Lane in an A-1 Zoning District. Motion carried
- A motion was made by Bruce Robinson and seconded by Gary Thistlethwaite to approve advertisement of the proposed 2015-OR-07 Water Tap-In Ordinance. Motion carried with a Roll Call Vote of 4-1, Paul Knupp voted No. Paul asked if old system customers would be grandfathered. Motion carried 4-1, Paul Knupp voting No
- A motion was made by Bruce Robinson and seconded by Scott Matson to approve Terry Carcella writing a letter to LTMA regarding the \$175,000.00 Fairfield Twp Program and the extending of the line LTMA no monies, why can't we get sewage line. Motion carried
- A motion was made by Scott Matson and seconded by Gary Thistlethwaite to accept the recommendation to consolidate Wilpen Playground Committee with the Township Recreation Committee consolidating the committee's funds. Motion carried
- A motion was made by Bruce Robinson and seconded by Scott Matson to add Tina Smitley and Debra Wissinger to the newly combined recreation committee. Motion carried
- A motion was made by Paul Knupp and seconded by Bruce Robinson to approve Low bidder, U.S. Municipal for the retrofit on the freightliner to tandum. Motion carried with a Roll Call vote of 4-1, Scott Matson voting No
- The approval to purchase the new dump truck plow through Co-Stars U. S. Municipal was tabled until next meeting on September 8, 2015.
- A motion was made by Paul Knupp and seconded by Scott Matson to reject the Municibid high bid of \$14,300.00 on the grader. Motion carried.

- A motion was made by Paul Knupp and seconded by Scott Matson to reject the Municibid high bid of \$525.00 on the Huber roller. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Bruce Robinson and seconded by Scott Matson promote Full-time Officer, Roger Wilson to Lt. Motion carried.

### **Supervisors Comments**

**Supervisor Scott Matson** – No Comment.

**Supervisor Paul Knupp** – Mentioned about Blood Drive here at the Municipal building this Friday, August 14, 2015 and the sign is on the door to check the times

**Supervisor Bruce Robinson** – No Comment.

**Supervisor Gary Thistlethwaite** – No Comment.

**Supervisor Wade Thomas** – No Comment.

A motion was made by Scott Matson and seconded by Bruce Robinson to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Shadron  
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer