

Ligonier Township Supervisors
Regular Meeting
October 13, 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. **Write-in, Elizabeth Andros Gaston** – Burn Ordinance, the distance from the property line should be increased to at least 50 feet. Do not understand the need to specify days for burning as you could just say “any non-windy, non-extremely dry day between 9am and 6pm this would prevent the possibility of the fire departments being stretched thin if something goes awry. Residential bonfires should be permitted only on over an acre of land and positioned in the middle of the property. More emphasis should be placed on there being a fire tender on the burning site at all times.
2. **Rick Penrod** – Burning Ordinance, surely you don’t believe in it. What is the start time for the Road Crew as he would like to know and what they do in the dark?
3. **Cliff Riffle** – In 1943 he received a letter to serve and comparing then to now we lost a lot of freedom. Please don’t vote for the burning ordinance.
4. **Paul Laposky** – Burning Ordinance – Outdoor wood burner, showed pictures out his kitchen window and provided reports on arsenic from outdoor wood burners. Asking for equal protection.
5. **W. C. McCoy** – Burning Ordinance and his request that you revisit the ordinance and what you have done to this township. He is 80 years old and had been here 75 years and you have one-step too far with this ordinance.

Chairman, Wade Thomas read the following statement on Ligonier Township Municipal Authority being for sale and re-evaluation:

"Mr. Carcella and Attorney Falatovich met in executive session with members of the Ligonier Township Municipal Authority last week. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss access to Authority property to conduct an evaluation. The evaluation is designed to give the Township Supervisor's some idea of the values of the Authority's assets, its liabilities and income. This evaluation is part of the Township's due diligence in determining whether the Authority can be marketed for sale. No conclusions have been reached, no decisions have been made and the Authority Board is cooperating with the process. We will report more on this process after the valuation is completed."

- A motion was made by Scott Matson and seconded by Gary Thistlethwaite to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2015. Motion carried
- A motion was made by Bruce Robinson and seconded by Scott Matson to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2015 meeting. Motion carried.

Staff Reports

Manager's Report - Terry reported that the Route 381 Bridge project has been completed showing pictures in the power point. The Route 711 Bridge projected to open the first week of November, the Route 259 Bridge to open mid-November, and the Wilpen Bridge opening set for mid-November as well. Terry has presented a draft budget to the board. Terry requested approval for a Spreader for truck 5 as out of the two we had we had to make one operational out of the two.

- A motion was made by Paul Knupp and seconded by Bruce Robinson to approve the low bid of \$2,990.00 for the spreader for truck 5. Motion carried.

Police Report – Chief Matronics reported that street signs in the area of Nature Run Rd and Kissell Spring Rd are being plowed over with a vehicle costing the tax payers, please call the Police immediately if you know or see anything suspicious. Again, the IRS will not call you demanding money/payments and to arrest you if not received – this is a scam please pass this onto others to try and help get the word around. Fort Days was very busy with many incidents, but over-all it was a good event with 60,000 to 70,000 attending; just want to thank all of you.

Solicitor's Report- Michael Kornis stated the burning ordinance went to the Planning Commission and this is the first that the board is seeing the ordinance since it came back from the Planning Commission and it is still in the draft stage. Workshop – updated early out retirement, this year there is no one participating. Policy working on is ROW Drain pipes have draft and need to do a few tweaks yet.

Zoning Officer's Report- Rich reported

Total Income from (19) Lien Letter Requests - \$200.00

Building Permits Issued

Income

9

\$6,226.55

Sign Permits Issued

13 (10 Non-Profits)

\$ 75.00

Sewage Permits Issued

7

\$1,425.00

Peddler Permits Issued

Total Income Generated
Nuisance/Code Complaints

\$8,001.55

My office received five (5) nuisance/code complaints during this reporting period.

A complaint was regarding a possible sewage issue on a property in Laughlinton. This issue has been turned over to the sewage enforcement officer for investigation.

A complaint was received regarding an unsafe structure in the Darlington area. (Fern Lane) The owners of this burned down residence have been sent a registered letter which they received and signed for. They have thirty (30) days to bring the property into compliance.

A complaint was registered regarding a business on Route 30 not having the proper permits. This was investigated and the business has applied for and received the proper permits and is now in compliance.

A complaint was received regarding a property in the Darlington area having several non-registered vehicles on the property. This is being investigated by this office.

This office witnessed a sewage leak at the Sheetz located at the juncture of Route 711 and Route 271. The management at the Sheetz was immediately notified and the proper notifications were made to drain the holding tank. A meeting with Sheetz has been made to discuss this issue and to ensure that proper training and notifications are made to ensure that it does not occur again.

OLD BUSINESS

Planning Commission Minutes

The Burning Ordinance (2015-OR-08) was reviewed by the Planning Commission at their September meeting. The Commission made some changes to the proposed ordinance and has submitted to the Board of Supervisors for their review. The ordinance has been posted on the internet for several weeks to give the public an opportunity to review.

The Planning Commission also reviewed several changes to the existing zoning ordinance. Several of these changes were approved by the Commission and a couple was tabled for further review. Once all the changes have been reviewed by the Planning Commission, they will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for their review.

The Commission also tabled a proposed Outdoor Furnace burning ordinance for further review.

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business to Report

Correspondence

LIGONIER VALLEY LIBRARY REQUEST FOR FUNDING OF \$1,500.00

- A motion was made by Bruce Robinson and seconded by Scott Matson to approve the funding of \$1,500.00 to Ligonier Valley Library. Motion carried

DEISS/HALMI REPORT ON ACT 537 REVISION (MEETING WITH DEP) – Terry stated for Supervisors to read the letter. Michael Korn explained what ACT537 is that it gives access to grants and has to be in place to do the comprehensive plan. How sewage is being treated. No action taken.

THANK YOU LETTER FROM MAXINE WITHROW – For Public Works for a job well done on the culvert at her home. No action taken.

CONSTANCE BURICK THANK YOU-For Bruce Robinson and Wesley Binkey. No action taken.

Treasurer's Report-Terry Carcella stated that the General Fund account balance is \$477,951.34, the Act13 account balance is \$132,881.23, the K-9 account balance is \$76,992.77, the Liquid Fuels account balance is \$138,507.78, the Developer's account balance is \$12,550.00, and the Liquid Fuels Investment Account is \$9,848.19 for a total of \$848,731.31. No action required.

- A motion was made by Paul Knupp and seconded by Bruce Robinson to pay bills of September 21st and October13th, 2015 bill pay list. Motion carried with a 4-1 vote, Scott Matson voting No.

Old Business

Mr. Tim Fyock stated that a truck study was completed and they were 4 feet short of the State Site Distance and they agreed to cut back to meet the requirement, but not until spring to assure the stabilization of the back as if they do now it may not stay stable with the winter weather.

- A motion was made Gary Thistlethwaite and seconded by Paul Knupp to approve Bethlen Home Phase 2-A with Resolution R-11-2015 granting conditional approval of required site distance. Motion carried.

Mr. Tim Fyock stated that the construction of the truck shed for Ligonier Trucking is for cold storage with bays 80 feet deep and that all items have been addressed.

- A motion was made Bruce Robinson and seconded by Scott Matson to approve the Truck Shed for Ligonier Trucking. Motion carried.

New Business

No committee reports

Animal Control Report as of 9/30/2015:

Found Dog/ Dog at Large 12
Lost Dog 3
Dog Bite **1**
Dog Fight 1
Barking Dog 2
Aggressive Dog 1
Vehicle vs. Dog 1
Cruelty/Neglect 3 (+2 x-over)
Dogs brought to Office 3
Call Outs 4
Intakes (Dog) 3
Cat Incidents 3
Intakes (Cat) 15
Personal Call (Direct) Approx. 10

Total Calls 46

Cat Rescue in Laughlintown of 27 cats \$2500 from rescue group

Ordinance # 08-2015 Outdoor burning regulations – per Michael Korn's draft stage and not ready to approve or approve to advertise.

- A motion was made by Bruce Robinson and seconded by Paul Knupp to reject the burning ordinance and send back to the Planning Commission along with the outdoor wood burner ordinance. Motion did not carry as a roll call vote of 1-4, Bruce Robinson voted yes.

After further discussion by the board on the two burning ordinances the following motion was made.

- A motion was made by Gary Thistlethwaite and seconded by Bruce Robinson to table the burning ordinance along with the outdoor wood burner ordinance. Motion carried
- A motion was made by Paul Knupp and seconded by Gary Thistlethwaite to approve the Township Trick or Treat to be Saturday, October 31, 2015 to align with the Borough. Motion carried

- A motion was made by Scott Matson and seconded by Bruce Robinson to approve the Robert Iscrupe Subdivision. Motion carried

No action was taken on the part-time plow driver for Public Works as a few applications came in that interviews need to be scheduled and conducted, so Chairman, Wade Thomas tabled it until next meeting.

Supervisors Comments

Supervisor Scott Matson – No Comment.

Supervisor Paul Knupp – Thanked Penn Dot and stated that he thinks another thank you letter should be drafted and mailed out.

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 Gary Thistlethwaite to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Shadron
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer