

# GLENBURN TWP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING

## MINUTES July 19, 2010

**Board Members in Attendance:** Mike Savitsky, Bill Wicks and David Jennings Jr.

**Board Guests in Attendance:** Sewage Enforcement Officer Walter Redel, Code Enforcement Officer Tom Wicks, Police Sgt Eric Judge, and Secretary/Treasurer Joanne Benson.

**Public in Attendance:** Attachment

-Supervisor Savitsky called the meeting to order at 7:35pm with the pledge to the flag.

### **Minutes:**

**Supervisor Wicks motioned to waive the reading aloud of and accept the minutes of the June 21, 2010 Township Meeting, Dave Jennings 2<sup>nd</sup>, All in Favor.**

### **Financial Report/Presentation of Bills**

-Joanne reviewed the financial reports and account balances and presented the bills for payment. **Mo. by Wicks 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jennings to pay the bills and accept the financial reports as presented. All in Favor.**

**Hickory Ridge Sewer:** Attorney Dave Gromelski, special council for the Township sewer issues, and Jack Scheuer, Township Engineer, attended the meeting to discuss the sewer issues. Dave stated that he attended the South Abington Board of supervisors meeting. He has developed very preliminary agreements for Glenburn's involvement in the Hickory Ridge sewer proposal. He has been having a difficult time getting in touch with South Abington solicitor Bill Jones. He stated that he needs to sit down with South Abington Township and their solicitor in order to move things forward. Some of the issues Dave cited were the ownership of the new pump station, the fees associated with the pass through of sewage from Glenburn to Clarks Summit to South Abington, and the fees associated with the ownership and maintenance of the system. Dave suggested that some type of fund needs to be set up for large repairs or capital improvement. Mark Young stated that they have a treatment and pass through agreement with Clarks Summit and South Abington Township. There was discussion on the ownership of the new system. Jack Scheuer stated that his understanding was that the existing pump station would be abandoned and the existing South Abington line would feed into the new pump station. Jack stated that South Abington would need to operate the lines. It was decided that Dave would need to meet with Mark Dougherty and Bill Jones of South Abington. Mark will copy Glenburn on all future correspondence.

### **Committee Reports**

**Police:** In response to a question, SGT Judge told a resident that he and Chief Mooney had been recertified for the use of respiratory equipment.

Eric suggested that the Township might want to consider developing an ordinance not allowing exotic game animals. Tom Wicks suggested that this ordinance include snakes and some type of registration procedure for homes that met criteria for ownership of certain animals. This needs to be discussed with solicitor MacGregor.

Eric also stated that Abington Township is in the process of hiring another part time officer. Dave Jennings thanked Eric for meeting with him and Bill added that Glenburn is grateful for the outstanding service provided by the Abington Police Dept.

Mike Savitsky asked Eric if Abington Township had a noise ordinance. Eric said that in the 9 years he has been on the force there really hasn't been any issues with noise. Joanne will follow up with Bill White to see if Abington Twp. has a noise ordinance. Tom Wicks said that the only noise provisions Glenburn has were in the zoning ordinance as it relates to industrial/commercial noise and suggested checking with PSATS. Bill Wicks suggested that every problem of every resident can't be handled by ordinance. Eric stated that it is generally best to discuss these issues as neighbors. Mr. Jeager asked if there was anything in the Township ordinances about start up times for landscapers and related an incident he had with his neighbor's landscaper starting equipment at 6:30 in the morning. Eric knows the landscaper causing Mr. Jeager's problems and will speak to him. Bill Wicks stated that everyone needs to be treated equally when an ordinance is put in place. He went on to say that even if

there is an ordinance in place and the remedy calls for a summons to the District Magistrate and payment of fines that does not guarantee that the offending party will cease the offensive activity. Margaret McKay stated that she thought the noise ordinance would help police in their dealings with noise issues. She said that sometimes the neighbors are not approachable. Mike Savitsky stated that the noise issue would be discussed next month in executive session.

**Roads:** Joanne read the road report left by Road Master Mennig. New catch basins have been installed on White Birch Road prior to paving. The new pave on Waterford Road has had the shoulders back filled and tamped. More weed whacking and ditch spraying has been done throughout the Township. Calcium chloride has been re-applied to dirt roads where necessary. Dave Jennings asked about the Little League dust issue and Joanne said that they had applied calcium chloride. Tom Wicks has not noticed any problems with dust lately.

**Sewage Enforcement:** Walter stated that Mr. Krieger has hired a new attorney to appeal Judge Minora's decision and that he still doesn't have an engineer. He also reported that work is still in progress on the Baldwin property. He referred Mark Colombo to Tom Wicks because he wants to put an apartment in an existing structure.

**Code Enforcement:** Tom Wicks nothing new to report.

**Planning:** Tom Wicks reported that there was a Planning Commission meeting this past month to discuss the Platt request to change a parcel adjacent to Glenburn Pond from SP to R-1A. The PC recommended approval of the request. Joanne reported that the Lackawanna County Regional Planning Commission must also recommend approval and that they will not meet until September 9<sup>th</sup>. Mary Liz Donato has given a preliminary approval but it must go before the full LCRPC.

A Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB) was convened to request a variance on the road frontage required to create a new lot for Mrs. Hewlett. The ZHB unanimously recommended approval.

**Recreation:** Bill Wicks reported that the Recreation Board meets the third Thursday at the Clarks Summit Borough Building at 7pm. He stated that the AAJRB website, [www.aajrb.com](http://www.aajrb.com) has all the news about various happenings and projects.

### **Old Business:**

**Precision National Plating (PNP) Update:** David Jennings spoke with Ann Breslin and was told that the readings on the new wells were high. Dave suggested that another letter was needed to request an exact amount of time for residents to expect to see results from the testing.

Gretchen Jennings of 22 Green Acres Drive addressed the BOS and asked that Precision be made to bring a waterline to her property because of the contamination to the water table. She stated that Precision is now owned by Stinus Corporation of Tarrytown NY. There was discussion about the enforcement of the Administrative Order in effect. Mike Savitsky stated that the Township has been trying to use that as a hammer over EPA to force some action. David Jennings stated that he hoped EPA would listen to citizen's concerns.

**Glenburn Pond:** Nothing new to report.

**Fords Pond Road Issues:** Joanne stated that Malcolm has sent information on 1218 Fords Pond Road to the County but that more information is still needed. All parties on the title must sign off on anything that is done.

**ACT 32 Tax Collection:** Randy Campbell reported that the Bi-laws have been accepted and that a solicitor was appointed. There will be a meeting at the end of July. They are looking at what other TCC's did for the RFPs for tax collector. There was also discussion about liability insurance and developing a website.

**Fig Avenue Complaints:** The supervisors reported that Attorney MacGregor is getting letters together to send to the offending property owners. He has been verifying address information before sending them out. Jerry Phillips stated that he wanted the Dept. of Health contacted because a rat was found near one of the neighbor's yards. He stated that the blighted properties are attracting rodents. One of the neighbors stated that her son was wheel chair bound and she would not know what to do if a rat were to approach her home. Joanne stated that she tried a number of years ago to contact the Dept. of Health for similar complaints on Fords Pond Road. She was given the run around to 5 or 6 agencies

and in the end no one could help. Dave Jennings said that he would follow up and see if he could find out who to contact. Maryann Carroll gave her phone number to Dave.

Gene Carroll stated that the value of his property is going down because of these blighted properties. Mike Savitsky stated that the property owners needed to be notified to clean up the properties and if they don't comply an inspector would need to be brought in to see if they could be considered dangerous structures and conditions under the Township's ordinance. Bill Wicks stated that the process was involved and not particularly quick but that it had to be followed or the Township could be held liable for any actions taken. There was a prolonged discussion on the process. Joanne will provide a copy of the ordinance to any resident who wants it. Tom Wicks stated that he sent a letter to Mr. Genovese, who owns the trailer, 4 or 5 years ago citing the Township Zoning Ordinance. Bill Wicks stated all the Township could do previously was fine the individuals. He also stated that people had to be given some time to clean the properties up. Jerry Phillips said that he told Mr. Mirabelli about the people willing to buy scrap metal but Mr. Mirabelli was not interested. The property has multiple vehicles and equipment including a school bus, a trailer, a pickup truck frame, tractors, snowmobiles, several vans, a tractor trailer, and a camper. None of the vehicles is drivable according to Mr. Phillips. David Jennings suggested that perhaps solicitor MacGregor could send a letter to Mr. Mirabelli about having the metal items removed from the property.

**Paper Road Discussion:** Mr. Phillips asked about a road that his mother-in-law built between Fig and Seaman's Street South. It is deteriorating and in need of maintenance. Tom Wicks and the supervisors gave him a history of the paper roads and said that the Township does not own them and does not have any responsibility for maintaining them. Jerry asked if he could dump a load of gravel there. Bill Wicks said he will look into the situation.

**Waverly Road RR Bridge:** Mike Savitsky reported that correspondence was received from the railroad saying that PennDOT owned the bridge. PennDOT contends that Canadian Pacific Railroad owns the bridge. Canadian Pacific wants proof from PennDOT that shows ownership of the bridge. Malcolm will send a letter to PennDOT to try to get resolution to the issue.

**New Business:**

Joanne reviewed investment options with the Supervisors for money from a CD that recently came due and also for funds in a savings account at People's National Bank in Glenburn. Joanne recommended that the \$100,000 from the CD be moved to a 60 month CD at North Penn Bank paying 3%. The early withdrawal penalty is 6 months interest on the amount withdrawn. There are unlimited withdrawals allowed. The Township has not had to touch this money for years and even if it was needed after 1 year the interest would still be 1.5% which is better than any 1 year CD that could be purchased. Joanne also recommended moving the money from the savings account at People's to a 60 month CD at Peoples paying 2.78%. That savings account was currently yielding 1.4%. That CD also has a 6 month interest penalty on funds withdrawn early and only 1 partial withdrawal was allowed. The supervisors agreed with Joanne's recommendations and she will put them in place this week.

**Announcements:**

Joanne announced that Glenburn has once again received a \$500 grant to host the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Glenburn Township Art Show.

**Public Input:** None

**Correspondence:**

Correspondence was reviewed prior to the meeting. **Bill Wicks motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 pm and Dave Jennings 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in Favor.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne Benson  
Secretary / Treasurer