

Ligonier Township Supervisors

Minutes

8 February 2011

The Supervisors of Ligonier Township met in regular session with all three Supervisors present: Chairman William C Penrod Jr, Keith A Whipkey, and Timothy R Komar.

From the audience, Jan and Jack Milburn spoke in support of the Township updating its Zoning Ordinance relative to gas wells, specifically to protect against noise and escape of toxic chemicals in the air we breathe. They recommended a Pennsylvania lawyer thoroughly versed in the current laws and attempts by municipalities to regulate where these wells can go. Supervisors expressed agreement that this dialog is encouraged, but they also cautioned that prohibiting drilling in certain areas may result in lawsuits filed against the Township for “taking” of their properties or resources – especially if a drilling company researches a property and makes a determination of the value of the resource. The Township does not seek to pass legislation that very well may be tested in court. Fred Shultz stated that there is technology available to lessen the noise and air pollution, but they do not use it, unless forced, for cost reasons. Rosalyn Robitaille provided a dvd documentary of the danger that natural gas drilling provides.

A motion was made by Komar and seconded by Whipkey to approve the minutes of the 11 January regular meeting. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Komar and seconded by Whipkey to approve the minutes of the 21 January special meeting. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Komar and seconded by Whipkey to approve the minutes of the 1 February special meeting held at 6:30 pm. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Komar and seconded by Whipkey to approve the minutes of the 1 February special meeting held at 7 pm. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Komar and seconded by Penrod to approve the Treasurer’s report for January. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Whipkey and seconded by Komar to approve payment of the current bills. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Whipkey and seconded by Komar to accept the Police Incident report for January. Motion carried.

(2)

Zoning Office – Cynthia J Turley

1. A motion was made by Komar and seconded by Whipkey to table consideration of the Robert Davis subdivision and grant a 6 month extension of the application pending acceptance of the applicant a signed time waiver within 10 days. Motion carried.
2. A motion was made by Whipkey and seconded by Komar to approve the Nican subdivision on Route 259 at the border of Fairfield Township provided that (1) the entire subdivision comply with all County conditions, (2) sewerage planning be completed, and (3) that the Ligonier Township portion of the property not be sold separately.

Old business:

1. A motion was made by Whipkey and seconded by Komar to appoint Matt Thomas and Chris Delamarter to the Recreation Board for a term of five years. Motion carried.

New business:

1. Announced that the Westmoreland County Planning Department has approved a Community Block Development Grant in the amount of \$400,000 for the Boucher Lane water line project.
2. Announced that the Westmoreland County Planning Department has approved a Community Block Development Grant in the amount of \$300,000 for tap in fees for the Darlington sewerage project.
3. Following a request for public comment, a motion was made by Komar and seconded by Whipkey to approve Ordinance 2011-OR-02, removing Killed-in-Service coverage benefits from the Township benefit package. This action was taken because the Commonwealth of PA has taken over payment of this benefit. Motion carried.
4. Supervisors agreed to support opposition to pending Commonwealth of PA legislation to do away with the elected Tax Collector position. Supervisors see this as another step in the efforts of some legislators to eventually dissolve local government s in PA in favor of Countywide municipalities. Supervisors believe that local government is the constant access citizens have with their government. In addition, municipalities, by far, provide the most cost effective way of producing the most benefit from tax dollars available. Supervisors directed the Secretary to produce a letter of support for the elected Tax Collectors on behalf of the Board.

A motion was made by Komar and seconded by Whipkey to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith A Whipkey

Secretary

