

Ligonier Township Supervisors
Regular Meeting
January 27, 2015

The Ligonier Township Supervisors met in regular session at 4:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance opening the meeting. Secretary, Bruce Robinson took roll call. Present were Chairman, Wade Thomas; Vice Chairman, Paul Knupp; Secretary/Treasurer, Bruce Robinson; Timothy Komar, and D. Scott Matson.

Wade Thomas and Terry Carcella explained that Public Comment will last for 45 minutes and will start with the sign-up list from the meeting of Tuesday, January 13, 2015 if nothing to speak about on the agenda and then continue with the sign-up meeting for this evening.

Public Comment

- 1) **Ron Nordstrom, Weaver Road** - commented on factual data on Marcellus Shale and what you see/hear and don't see/hear. Mention of the various Acts that they are exempted from.
- 2) **Madeline Ritter, Ligonier** – Senior in high school commented on the well-being of the area and the protection of the national endowment for future generations.
- 3) **Julie Ritter, Ligonier**- Amount of the green on the new draft map and what it means and the plan. Constitutional Right.
- 4) **Anita Stahl, Ligonier** – Why the urgency and why the massive ordinance change. Problem: too much R-2 zoning. Answer-open up to fracking.
- 5) **Patty Ostrosky, Ligonier Township** – Zoning issues, Chestnut Ridge-flooding due to removal of trees etc.
- 6) **April Jackman, Ligonier**- Beauty of Ligonier brought her here, fracking not a compatible use. Fracking concerns. Water is main resource not gas.
- 7) **Nat Johanson, Ligonier**- Opposed to fracking
- 8) **David Kromel, Ligonier**-Accountability. Costs-he is not interested in paying held accountable the supervisor should be held accountable. Costs of legal. Tax it.
- 9) **James Darr, Ligonier**- Change of terminology of Conservation to Agriculture does not make sense to him. Laurel Mountain Ski Slope. Protection of streams.
- 10) **Rebecca Booher, Ligonier Township**-subject to Public Trust doctrine.
- 11) **Jan Milburn, Ligonier**-Fracking and issues are you considering them. Constitutional Duty. Just needed to do gas ordinance.
- 12) **Jack Milburn, Ligonier Township**-unconventional gas drilling. Adhoc Committee

Approval of Minutes

Wade Thomas noted a correction on line item #5 that Alan Smith did not speak against Marcellus Shale drilling.

A motion was made by Bruce Robinson and seconded by Tim Komar to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2015 meeting with the noted correction. Motion carried.

Manager's Report

Terry Carcella reported crews are plowing and salting with few complaints and we are carrying on doing the best we can keeping the roads clear and open. We are in the middle of the Public Works study with the consultant coming back in as weather permits and that needs to be scheduled with the supervisors down the road. We just signed the agreement with the DCED for the Regional Police study with the Borough of Ligonier and the study will being shortly. Terry addressed about the Planning Commission meeting that they made recommendations to changes of the ordinance and map and hopefully they will be done to have available by next meeting. They will be available on our website and at the office. Recommendations that were made will strength the ordinance. Under the old ordinance there are no restrictions and the drilling is allowed everywhere. The Planning Commission recommended on Conditional Use. Changes to the zoning map are for the concerns of the watershed and steams. A Public Meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2015 at Ligonier Valley High School. It was voted that the time of the Public meeting and hearing will both be 6 PM. The Public Hearing is scheduled for March 26, 2015 at the Ligonier Valley High School as well.

Correspondence

Terry Carcella reported that an email was received from David Kelly stating he is pro to the drilling giving 5 reasons. Latrobe Municipal Authority resolution asking to restrict and preserve the area of the reservoir and watershed. A letter from Susan Huba with the Loyalhanna Watershed was received listing the cold water streams asking to protect then with a buffer and the changes will be on the next draft of the map. A letter from Joseph A. Lamenza with the UAW, Local 204 stating that mediator Melanie Archangelo has been assigned to the negotiations. Negotiations will not be set until March.

Staff Reports

Police Report-No Report

Treasurer's Report-Terry Carcella stated that the General Fund account balance is \$180,135.77, the Act13 account balance is \$151,868.25, the K-9 account balance is \$27,857.22, the Liquid Fuels account balance is \$2,084.81, and the Developer's account balance is \$14,000.00 for a total of \$375,946.05. No action required.

A motion was made by Bruce Robinson and seconded by Scott Matson to pay bills as presented. Motion carried.

Solicitor's Report-Michael Kornis stated that changes on the zoning ordinance are being worked on the non-Marcellus part. He is taking writing comment. Supervisor right to vote –they can. Ethics, conflict of interest.

Engineer's Report-Cellular wireless tower- nothing to report. Bethlen Communities- new plan phase 2. Sheetz- up and running. DEP Permit-Mill Road expires June 30, 2016 will need to get work scheduled for this year.

Old Business

A motion was made by Bruce Robinson and seconded by Timothy Komar to accept quote from John Baker Inc. Electrical Contractors for Township pole lights. Motion carried.

New Business

No committee reports.

- A motion was made by Timothy Komar and seconded by Scott Matson to accept Robert Rosts' resignation letter from the Ligonier Township Zoning Hearing Board. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Paul Knupp and seconded by Scott Matson to approve hiring Kevin Smith and Chase Mollomo as part-time Ligonier Township Police Officer. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Timothy Komar and seconded by Paul Knupp to approve the Township Manager's attendance to all expensed paid PennPrime's PELRAS Training Conference. Motion carried.

Supervisors Comments

Supervisor Timothy Komar commented that the gas wells are a hot deal and that he did appoint Mrs. Milburn to the Adhoc Committee a few years ago. Mr. Komar explained that he is concerned about the water and air quality also, but this is a work in progress and under Pennsylvania law you have to allow for this and it will go through the Conditional Use. We need to move forward.

Supervisor Scott Matson made a motion to place Russell Berkey second in command when the supervisor is not available the motion was seconded by Bruce Robinson. Motion carried.

Scott stated he wonders how for years with his family in farming that it was conservation and not agriculture.

Supervisor Paul Knupp thanked the road crew for a job well done, keeping the roads clear and safe for all of us.

Supervisor Bruce Robinson stated that we are working with Susan Huba with the Watershed in the plans as with the 650 ft. buffer and streams.

Supervisor Wade Thomas – None

A motion was made by Scott Matson and seconded by Bruce Robinson to adjourn the meeting at 5:23 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxanne Shadron
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer