

Ligonier Township Supervisors
Minutes
1 November 2011

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

From the audience, Attorney Hooker from Bethlen Communities distributed an application for a modification to the Board. Township Solicitor Judith Cizek stated that, because the application had not been received during normal business hours, the application was not filed on time to be considered by the Planning Commission in November.

Several members of a citizens group, including several members of the Township-appointed ad hoc committee, appeared to question the Supervisors regarding progress in strengthening the Township Zoning Ordinance against natural gas drilling. Whipkey reminded them that the Supervisors are waiting for a report of the committee and its recommendations. The Planning Commission will review these recommendations and advise the Supervisors accordingly. Committee members present complained that the ad hoc committee is not meeting regularly and progress is not being made.

A motion was made by Penrod and seconded by Whipkey to approve the minutes of the 11 October meeting. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Penrod and seconded by Whipkey to approve the Treasurer's report for October. Motion carried.

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

A motion was made by Whipkey and seconded by Penrod to table acceptance of the Police Incident report for October as it has not been submitted yet. Motion carried.

Zoning Office – Cynthia J Turley

1. A motion was made by Penrod and seconded by Whipkey to close testimony for the Bethlen Communities application for change to the Heritage Center use following introduction of a letter by Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor Mark Sorice and a letter from Bethlen concerning its 501 (c) 3 status. Motion carried. As Attorney Hooker had requested a copy of the ZHB letter through the formal Right-to-Know process, Solicitor Cizek asked Atty Hooker if physically handing a copy of the document over would satisfy the RTK letter. Atty Hooker agreed that the information has been provided to satisfy the request.
2. A motion was made by Whipkey and seconded by Penrod to approve Resolution 2011-R-11, a Conditional Use permitting Bethlen Communities to add a Graceful Living/Wellness Center to the Heritage Center. Motion carried.
3. A motion was made by Whipkey and seconded by Penrod to approve a Site Plan for Ligonier Camp and Conference Center at the site of the Ice Pond along US Route 30, subject to receipt of a Highway Occupancy Permit from PennDOT and conclusion of groundwater studies and implementation, if necessary. Motion carried. Significant changes involve tearing down the primary structures and providing water-related activities to campers. Approximately 40 individuals would use the facilities at any given time and an appropriate number of port-a-johns will be installed for use of employed personnel and campers.

(2)

Old business:

1. A motion was made by Penrod and seconded by Whipkey to approve Ordinance 2011-OR-05, an Inter-Municipal Agreement with Ligonier Borough to participate with each other in such activities as benefit both municipalities by mutual agreement. Motion carried.

New business:

1. A motion was made by Penrod and seconded by Whipkey to release a road bond for Appalachian Timber on Jacob Miller Road. Motion carried.
2. Whipkey reported that he spoke with representatives of Berkheimer and Associates, the new Wage Tax Collectors for all of Westmoreland County beginning in 2012. So far, the Township is in compliance with all that is required to this point – though a new Ordinance will need to be passed to make the formal appointment.
3. Supervisors announced that a special meeting will be held at 8 am on Tuesday, 15 November to approve the preliminary 2012 budget and to appoint an engineer to conduct bi-annual bridge inspections for the Township.
4. Penrod reminded the public that snow plows will soon be on the Township roads. He asked that motorists maintain a safe following distance behind the trucks.
5. A motion was made by Penrod and seconded by Whipkey to appoint Morris Knowles and Associates to inspect the Hiking Trail bridge to be installed behind the football field across Mill Creek. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Penrod and seconded by Whipkey to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith A Whipkey
Secretary