

Brecknock Township Board of Supervisors  
Minutes of Meeting – September 6, 2011

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The regular monthly meeting of the Brecknock Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7 PM by Chairman Jeff Fiant at the Township Building with all members present followed by the salute to the flag.

The public comment period on agenda items was conducted with no comments heard from those in attendance.

The minutes of the August 2, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved as written on motion by Richard Burkhart seconded by Mark Weber.

The treasurer's report and payment of all bills and payrolls were unanimously approved on motion by Richard Burkhart seconded by Mark Weber.

The County radio update was further discussed. The cost for police radios will amount to \$62,637.64, Southern Berks Ambulance \$4,377.24 and Brecknock Township Fire Company approximately \$72,000. The County is expected to have the agreement ready in November, 2011 and will be applying for a grant for the purchase of fire and EMS radios for those agencies that are willing to participate.

The new FEMA flood maps will not become effective until February, 2012 so the updated floodplain ordinance was tabled until that time. The SALDO amendment was also tabled until February, 2012.

The permit application for the replacement of the pipe on Pennypacker Road must be resubmitted with some additional information required by DEP.

Zoning Officer Gene Troxelle updated the Board on several property issues. The owner of the property at 98 Kremp Road has been issued a citation for not keeping the grass mowed; the Witmer Road property with more animals than allowed changes frequently and currently has one horse and a flock of ducks. He will continue checking on the property.

Gene reported that the property at 773 Alleghenyville Road had three campers present over the weekend, and he visited the property and spoke to the owner. It has been reported that additional pads and electrical hookups have been installed. The owner informed Gene that he has obtained the PennDOT driveway permit, but we do not have a copy of the permit at this time. He has gotten an application for the special exception that is required to operate a campground but it has not been returned. Karl Peterson reported that five campers were set up on Friday night and there were also several at the property on Thursday night. Our solicitor stated that since the thirty-day time frame he was granted by letter dated August 4, 2011 has passed, a civil complaint can be filed for

operation of the campground. She was authorized by the Board to proceed with filing the complaint.

Some time back, PennDOT placed signs restricting truck traffic on both ends of SR 568 and Alleghenyville Road at SR 10 causing difficulty for trucks coming into the Township to make local deliveries. Our request last year to add "Except Local Deliveries" signs to the "Prohibited" signs was refused by PennDOT. Sgt. Geist has submitted pictures of signs in Hatfield Borough which include the "Except Local Deliveries" signs. We have talked to County Commissioner Christian Leinbach who has agreed to contact someone in PennDOT for us about this issue.

Solicitor Liz Magovern explained that the Township's workers' compensation insurance does not provide coverage for fire police from other municipalities when they are here to assist with special events, and their own municipality's insurance would cover them. Any request for fire police coverage should be approved by official action of the Board of Supervisors and include official notice that Brecknock Township will not provide worker's compensation coverage.

The revised Police Policy Manual is still being reviewed. Our solicitor has several minor changes to go over with Sgt. Geist.

Numerous problems have occurred with the paving of Alleghenyville Road. The asphalt is uneven and is separating in some areas. The proper quantity of tack coat was not placed on the road, and it was not done with a distributor truck. Our solicitor will follow up with whatever steps are necessary relating to the bonding requirements. Engineer John Weber stated that core samples may need to be taken. Karl Peterson commented that there are six-inch drop-offs at some edges and was advised that these will be filled in when the issue is resolved.

George Mang, Celwyn Evans and two other individuals from the Southern Berks Ambulance Association were present concerning 2012 budget needs. He distributed and explained information pertaining to the Ambulance's activities and needs including two new ambulance units one of which may be a used ambulance. He noted that business and expenses have doubled over the last five years. He asked the Township to again consider making all residents of the Township members of the Ambulance Association which amounts to about \$30.00 per household. In response to a question as to whether other Ambulance Associations that respond to Brecknock Township would honor that, he stated that Western Berks and Exeter will but was unsure about Fivepointville Ambulance which does respond here at times. He noted that Cumru Township, Shillington Borough and Kenhorst Borough have imposed a tax to cover the Ambulance membership for their residents.

Motion was made by Richard Burkhart seconded by Mark Weber and unanimously approved to approve the 2012 Minimum Municipal Obligations for the police pension plan in the amount of \$82,207 and the non-uniformed pension plan in the amount of \$15,490.

Motion was made by Richard Burkhart seconded by Mark Weber and unanimously approved to approve an allowance of up to \$150.00 per year for eyeglasses and contacts for those employees covered by the Township's health insurance coverage, with submission of a receipt from the employee.

Motion was made by Richard Burkhart seconded by Mark Weber and unanimously approved to approve use of the building for the Cub Scouts Klondike Derby on January 28, 2012.

An amendment is needed to our Zoning Ordinance to correct the agriculture regulations to state "two animal units per acre" instead of two animals per acre. The current two animals per acre is not enforceable under the State's ACRE law. The definition for "animal units" is contained in the Pennsylvania Nutrient management Act and is referenced in our zoning ordinance for intensive agriculture uses. This error was discovered after a phone call from a potential buyer of a property in the Township questioning the number of alpacas that would be allowed on the property. It was agreed to table this amendment until February, 2012 to be done when the floodplain and SALDO ordinance amendments are done. In the meantime, this issue will be submitted to the Township Planning Commission for the members' opinion.

Motion was made by Mark Weber seconded by Richard Burkhart and unanimously approved to approve the Berks County Cooperative Purchasing Council's rock salt contract with American Rock Salt Company at \$59.32 per ton delivered.

A resident of Spruce Lane has started to fill in the swale and detention pond on his property which is in violation of the approved plan for Spruce Hill. Zoning Officer Gene Troxelle visited the property and informed the owner that he cannot fill in those areas. It was agreed to send the property owner a letter advising him that he cannot put anything in the swale or pond and must remove anything that he has already placed in those areas.

David Schlouch reported that his farm tractor was almost hit by a motorist at Camp and Alleghenyville Roads when he was pulling out from Camp Road. It was agreed to install a sign, "Farm Vehicle Crossing", which will be gotten from E.J. Breneman and should be the official PennDOT sign.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM on a unanimously approved motion by Richard Burkhart seconded by Mark Weber.

Dorothy L. Martin  
Secretary