

**West Vincent Township  
Board of Supervisors Meeting**

**August 19, 2019 7:00 PM**

Attendance: Chairman Michael Schneider, Vice Chairman, Bernie Couris; Member George Dulchinos; Rob Sebia, Township Solicitor, Erica Batdorf, Township Manager; Kathryn Shillenn, Township Secretary

Chairman Schneider called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**MOTION** by Mr. Couris to approve the minutes of June 17, 2019; second by Mr. Dulchinos.

There being no comments or questions on the minutes, *Motion carries unanimously.*

**REPORTS:**

**Police Report:** Chief Swinger read the report; report acknowledged as received. Mr. Couris asked where the bulk of accidents are in the township.

**Brian Curry, 512 Blackhorse Road** asked about the game cameras with telephone reporting back in the winter and didn't get an answer; one thing he found out was that the service was using Verizon and right now at Bryn Coed barely exists. Did you ever look at the monthly price and fees compared to the others that you looked at?

**Manager's Report:** Ms. Batdorf reviewed the report. Report was acknowledge as received. Highlights of the report are - Two public hearings will be coming up; one is the adoption of the Phoenixville Regional Comprehensive Plan, as well as, the approval of the Agricultural Security Area Application of Christine & Christopher McGowan, 2127 Flowing Springs Road. The rescheduled Picnic in the Park Concert will be this Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m., with the Fred Miller Band. The Park & Recreation Commission is still seeking volunteers to help clear and prepare trails at the Bryn Coed Township Park. The next upcoming work day is Saturday, August 24 from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The Safety Committee completed their annual safety training and completed the annual certification through the state which gives the township a 5% insurance premium discount. The Citadel Country Spirit USA Concert will take place this week; August 23<sup>rd</sup> through Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>.

The Building and Zoning Department processed 30 permit application in the month of July. In the Finance Department, the YTD vs Actual June 2019 Budget Report & Treasurer's Report are complete and posted on the township's website. Staff is working on the development of the 2020 budget. Public Works has conducted regular vehicle, facility and road maintenance. The crew also completed the installation of underdrain at Bartlett Lane and Art School Road as well as installed inlets and pipe on French Creek Road in preparation for road paving. Double chip seal to Bartlett Lane and several other roads will begin the week of August 19<sup>th</sup>. Berg Construction will begin the Township's paving program on Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Bills List:**

**MOTION** by Mr. Couris to approve the Bills List, dated August 19, 2019, in the amount of \$274,772.17; second by Mr. Dulchinos.

**Art Ewell, 972 Fellowship Road** questioned the bill for W.L. Construction Supply. The bill was for \$219.99 for a blade for grinding and cutting metal.

**Brian Curry, 512 Blackhorse Road** asked about the Buttonwood Bridge Replacement that is up to \$17,000; does this mean we are getting really close on this replacement? Regarding the excavator rental; what made the excavator different than it being done with our backhoes? Is there an expected budget for French Creek Road?

Mr. Dulchinos asked about the subscription to the Mercury newspaper; do we need to have this?

**Brian Curry, 512 Blackhorse Road** asked what employment position is being advertised in the Mercury?

There being no further comments or questions, *Motion carries unanimously*

**Treasurer's Report:** Ms. Batdorf reviewed the Treasurer's Report, which is six months of information regarding the budget performance. Still looking at the Earned Income Tax, in terms of looking at revenues received. Transfer taxes and Real Estate Taxes are doing fine. The building permits are ticking up. For expenditures, for the month of June, everything is to budget. Everything is trending fine for the year. The budget to actual summary to fund, right now the township is doing fine in expenditures. The Bryn Coed demolition will be out to bid shortly and Liquid Fuels will have a draw down in the next couple of months.

**John Eldridge, 1634 Hilltop Road** questioned the interest income in the capital fund. It seems like income is missing. It was \$13,000 a month for eight months, then to \$5,900, then to \$4,900. In Engineering Services, should we hire an engineer? Seems like it is a really high expense. In the Capital Fund it shows a loss of \$30,000 and the Reserve is down \$35,000. This is off by \$5,000.

**Brian Curry, 512 Blackhorse Road** at the last meeting or meeting before questioned the Weatherstone impact on Real Estate Taxes. Are you still modeling this?

**Announcements:** None.

**Correspondence:**

**Chester County Watersheds Plan Update** - Ms. Batdorf discussed this update. Chester County, through Landscapes III has a supplement; Watersheds Plan through that plan there is an update - Update Act 167 which asks for two representatives from the Township. One will be Vic Laubach and the other rep will be Ms. Batdorf.

**State Representative Friel-Otten Town Hall at the Henrietta Hankin Library** - Ms. Batdorf stated that this town hall will be held on Thursday, September 19, 2019 at 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. at the Henrietta Hankin Library.

**Presentation:** None.

**Subdivision/Land Development:**

**1414 Birchrun Road, Roy & Rosalind Neff Subdivision Application** - Board acknowledged as received.

**352 Blackhorse Road, Randolph F. Smith Subdivision & Land Development** - Board acknowledged as received.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:**

**Authorize Bids for Snow & Ice Removal** - MOTION by Mr. Couris to Authorize the Township Manager to Advertise the Bid for Snow & Ice Removal; second by Mr. Dulchinos.

**Brian Curry, 512 Blackhorse Road** stated the Veterans Contracting Company did work for the township; Mr. Curry was looking on their website and they do snowplowing. Ms. Batdorf stated that for the last three years the township has sent out direct mailings to companies. The company the township has been using, Oz Property Management, has had an issue with bond requirements. The township can put together enforcement provisions and remove the bond requirement to cast a wider net. Mr. Sebia said that an alternate can be added that if the company does not show up, the township will have to hire another company and the township will have to be reimbursed by the original company.

**Kit Troler, 16 Hunt Hill Road** stated that the bond is a sticking point. The state gives something to snow plow operators for getting ready to plow; she thinks it's fair to add overage amount. If you can offer an incentive, she feels that the township will get more bids.

**Brian Curry, 512 Blackhorse Road** stated that if bids aren't received the first time, you could always reject the bid and put out bid to sweeten the deal.

There being no further comments or questions, *Motions carries unanimously.*

**PennDOT Bridge Replacement Project Update, Birchrun Bridge at Hollows & Birchrun Roads**

- Ms. Batdorf discussed. PennDOT is looking to replace the Birchrun Bridge at Hollow and Birchrun Roads. This bridge has been determined to be structurally deficient. This bridge was built in 1923. PennDOT is looking for public comment on the proposed width of 28 feet. PennDOT is also aware that the bridge is in a Historic Overlay District. There is an original plaque that identifies the bridge that will be kept. PennDOT asked if the township is interested in looking at the intersection of Hollow Road & Birchrun Road and creating a T; there is an island there that has some historical significance and it's also partially owned by a property owner. Ms. Batdorf feels that improving the bridge and structural integrity is fine, but limiting disturbance is the best way to go; there is really no reported numbers of incidents and accidents at that intersection. The issue with the bridge is that the mortar is cracking and getting worse. The anticipated construction is 2023 and the timing of the replacement is six month to one year.

**John Eldridge, 1634 Hilltop Road** asked to see pictures of the proposed bridge; will PennDOT be raising it up?

**Sara Shick, 1201 Davis Lane** asked if a Historic Impact Study is involved. Ms. Batdorf said yes. PennDOT also is required to do a cultural resource study and an environmental review. Ms. Shick asked about the widening of the roadway that was mentioned what is that about? Ms. Batdorf stated that it's not the roadway being widened, just the bridge.

**Brian Curry, 512 Blackhorse Road** remembers when the bridge on Chester Springs Road was replaced; when they did that they changed it to a concrete bridge. If they went to steel guardrail sides, it would look a lot different.

**Maria Jacobs** commented about a bridge that was replaced by her property in front of the nursery; something similar was done and they actually lowered the bridge. They now have to do water rescues on top of the bridge. The flooding that occurs is now very bad. She suggests that the township pay a lot of attention when the bridge is being replaced.

**Art Ewell** commented about the bridges that are being put up. The township needs to ask them why PennDOT has to use brine and other substances on these bridges. They use steel and the brine and salt eats right through the steel.

**ASA Application for 1682 Hilltop Road - Acknowledge Receipt** - Ms. Batdorf stated that this is for 1682 Hilltop Road, Julie Foster, who submitted the application. The BOS acknowledged receipt.

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:**

**Kit Troler, 16 Hunt Hill Road** asked if the police have a new contract. If they don't, why not? What is the sticking point? She thinks the police deserve to have their contract and is asking the Board of Supervisors to please finish this up and secondly there is a supervisor that is calling for transparency that people are talking about? What is not transparent; what don't we know? This is what she is hearing. If a supervisor is calling for transparency, there must be a problem. So what don't we know? Mr. Schneider asked who is calling for transparency.

**Maria Holderness, 958 Jaine Lane** stated that years ago she would ask for financial information and it was incomplete. Erica tells the whole thing. If people are talking about it they might mean not to go backwards.

**Brian Curry, 512 Blackhorse Road** stated that he feels the word transparency is not a good word. This board is much more responsive and the staff is much more responsive than in years past. When someone is accused of not being something, I don't see how you can get an answer for someone who is being accused by someone else. It makes no logical sense. You need to ask the person who is asking.

**Barry DiLibero** stated that this is termed a strong arm argument; it's an answer that you cannot give. I makes you look foolish. It's used in campaigns all the time. Secondly let's be fully transparent and why don't you explain the offer to the police? Mr. Schneider explained the additional raise that was offered to cover the 3%.

**John Jacobs, LCHSA** stated that he found out this week that they will have to pay a \$50.00 permit fee for the tents for the horse show. Since he's been involved with the horse show, they have never had to pay permit fees. Mr. Jacobs is asking for the Board of Supervisors to find a way to waive the permit fees.

**MOTION** by Mr. Couris to waive the permit fees for the LCHSA predicated upon Mr. Sebia making sure the Board is not overstepping; second by Mr. Dulchinos. *Motion carries 2-1 with Mr. Schneider voting no.*

**Brian Curry, 512 Blackhorse Road** stated that sometime ago we had document scanning; did that ever finish up? Ms. Batdorf stated that phase one has been completed now we have to decide what we can get rid of. We have to draft a Resolution of Destruction after sorting through the documents. There is a second and third phase to do all the files. The figures for the second phase are a little higher so the budget will have to be looked at. Also, have each of the Supervisors read the Phoenixville Regional Comp Plan? Mr. Curry suggests the supervisors read it to see whether the recommendations makes sense and where the source of the statements are. Regarding the Bleeding Kits, there are three kits that are wall mounted and three kits; all the kits have the same supplies in them. Three kits but two locations, there should be a third location for a kit.

**Jim Hanna, 1152 Hollow Road** stated that he lives on a property that has a very steep slope uphill. He is having a problem with flooding from the property above on Weidner Way, which is listed for sale. A half a dozen times since moving there he has catastrophic flooding. He noticed a large swatch cut out in the woods above his property that is an extension of Weidner Way which is stone; the stone was washed away and directly onto his property. He has found out that there is a 10 acre, six lot subdivision directly above his property; he filed a Right to Know and has come into the township and read through all the files. Mr. Hanna discussed the history of the property which is owned by Michele Thomas. He also attended a staff meeting and discussed the issue with the Township Engineer and Township Solicitor.

**George Martin, 1047 Jaine Lane** stated that he has been on the Planning Commission for more than a decade and Michele Thomas came before the planning commission on multiple zoning, environmental reasons which the planning commission recommended not approving the subdivision; he also recalls that the Board of Supervisors had denied the six lot subdivision stating it was not an approved subdivision. It has never been approved by anyone. The road should never have been macadamized. Mr. Sebia, Township Solicitor stated that the six lots were created in 1958. There was never a general merger condition for this property.

Mr. Schneider stated that this board is not in a position to rule on this. Mr. Sebia asked that Mr. Hanna should put his request in writing.

**Michelle Thomas, Weidner Way** stated that there is a lot of history for this property. In the nutshell the road has existed since 1961 in various states of repair. It is a pre-existing road and has been a macadam road.

**Sara Shick, 1201 Davis Lane** commented on one brief point. One of the things the planning commission was asked to do was to discuss a lot line change between the two lots that she owns at the end of Weidner Way which went through a conditional use, no other lots were discussed.

**Michele Thomas, Weidner Way** just wanted to point out that the conditional use that Sara spoke about was null and void and has been for about 10 years.

There being no further discussion, the **MOTION** to adjourn was brought forward by Mr. Dulchinos; second by Mr. Couris. *Motion carries unanimously.*

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathryn Shillenn  
Township Secretary