

MINUTES
GREGG TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
GREGG TOWNSHIP OFFICE
April 14, 2005

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 P.M. The following individuals were in attendance:

Members: Jay Sletson, Douglas Bierly, and Walter Strouse.

Residents/Visitors: Robert Rayman, Township Solicitor; Gil Morrison, Gregg Township Sewer Authority; Pat Leary, Zoning Hearing Board; Don Grenoble, Gregg Township Fire Company/EMA; and Eric Lundy, Nittany Surveying and Engineering.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None of the citizens present wished to make any comments.

SUBDIVISION / LAND DEVELOPMENT:

Penns Valley EMS

Mr. Lundy presented the Component 2 Sewage Planning Module for the Penns Valley Emergency Medical Services building. Mr. Bierly made a motion to adopt Resolution 04-05-08, amending the Gregg Township Act 537 plan to include the module. Mr. Strouse seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

The Board had no comments on the NPDES report.

OLD BUSINESS

Conditional Use Decision for Penns Valley EMS

The Board was in receipt of the formal findings of fact. Mr. Bierly made a motion to sign the findings, thereby formally approving the Conditional Use. Mr. Strouse seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Spring Mills Footbridge

Mr. Sletson reported that he received comments on the unsightliness of the orange fencing being used to close the footbridge. Mr. Strouse reported that residents have been using the bridge in spite of the closing. Mr. Rayman advised the Board that the decision the Board made to no longer maintain the bridge because it did not belong to the Township was the most prudent, and he recommended the Board stick to its decision and not keep revisiting the issue. The Board determined that better communication of the decision of the Board and why it was made may be needed, and the secretary will draft an article for the upcoming newsletter.

Junk Properties in Spring Mills

Mr. Sletson reported that he had received a request to have the Township's code enforcement officer make regular patrols to spot code violations. However, the bylaws of the Penns Valley Code Enforcement Agency do not allow such patrols, and action can only be taken if a signed complaint is made. Mr. Rayman advised that this is common practice and is necessary to make certain the Township does not pursue a claim that no one will testify to if it comes before the magistrate.

Road Materials Bid Award

The Board reviewed the additional information compiled by the secretary to better judge which bid for cold patch and hot mix was in the best interests of the Township. Mr. Strouse made a motion to award the bid to HRI. Mr. Bierly seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Route 45 Bridge Project

A representative from the Centre County Municipal Planning Commission was again unable to attend to discuss things the Township may want to do in preparation for the project. The Centre County Planning Commission is in process of attempting to set up a meeting outside the regular Board meeting. The secretary reported that a PennDOT survey crew has been working on the bridge for about a month, indicating that preliminary engineering work is on schedule.

Other Old Business

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 04-05-09 to Open CDs

The treasurer reported that the bank did not, after all, require a resolution to open the CDs, but merely needed the signatures of the Board.

Tax Exoneration

The Board received a list of per capita tax exoneration requests by the Tax Collector. Mr. Strouse made a motion to exonerate those on the list. Mr. Bierly seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Guide Rail & Seal Coat Bids

The bids for the 2 projects were opened and read aloud on Wednesday, April 13, 2005, at noon.

One bid was received for the Guide Rail project for \$37,643.00. Mr. Strouse made a motion to rebid the project for labor only and purchase used guiderail as available. Mr. Bierly seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

The following bids were received for tar and chipping:

36917 SY Seal Coat (X2)				
Company	Eastern Industries	Pine Creek Twp*	Pine Creek Twp 2**	New Enterprise
Unit Price	1.18	0.78	0.59	1.20
Total	43,562.06	28,908.00	21,961.00	44,300.40

* Using CRS-2PM Latex Modified oil as called for in bid specs.

** Using CRS-2 oil without the modifier.

Mr. Bierly made a motion to award the bid to Pine Creek Township. Mr. Strouse seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Mobile Home Park Permit 2005-1

The 2005 permit for Long's Trailer Court was signed by the Board.

Vonada Gap Upgrade

The roadmaster recommended that a plan be created for making improvements to Vonada Gap Road over a period of years, doing what the Township can afford to do each year until the entire length is improved. Improvements will include building a base and widening the cartway. Mr. Bierly commented that the work done by our road crew in upgrading Bitner Hollow in a similar fashion a few years ago was very well done. Mr. Sletson suggested the Township get the PennDOT municipal representative Matt Kenepf to help project some plans to make repairs. Mr. Strouse said an engineer may be needed and a surveyor would most likely be needed as well. Mr. Sletson requested the secretary contact Jessica Sheetz at EADS Group as being the person most able to find sources of funding for projects as well as help with the interface with state agencies.

Road Crew Addition

The roadmaster reported he had been approached by someone he felt was very well qualified to supplement the crew with an additional CDL license, and the secretary reported she'd had one phone message and one application from people looking for a position on the road crew. Mr. Sletson and Mr. Strouse both requested blank applications to give to people who had approached them.

Slurry Pit Ordinance

The secretary reported that she had attended a symposium in Clinton County regarding Agriculture. At that time, she was able to question symposium speakers about the legality of the Township passing an ordinance to regulate the installation and maintenance of slurry pits. All such pits are required by state law to be designed and constructed to certain specifications and regularly inspected, but only those associated with the larger agricultural operations are monitored by DEP. This leaves the majority of pits in the Township not being monitored for correct installation and continued safety, which could lead to their malfunction and subsequent pollution of waterways. In answer to a question from Mr. Sletson, Mr. Rayman said that it would not be in violation of State law if we passed an ordinance that enforced the state regulations as long as it did not exceed them. The secretary will contact the State Agricultural Ombudsman to get a sample ordinance, Mr. Bierly will ask around at the PSATS Conference to see if anyone has such an ordinance on the books, and the Planning Commission will work with the Township's agriculture community to see whether a need exists for such an ordinance by late fall early winter.

Other New Business:

- Agenda Items for Next Meeting
 - Goals List progress
 - Vonada Gap plan
 - Road crew addition
 - Route 45 bridge replacement project
 - Footbridge article review
 - Guide rail project re-bid
 - Billboard language change for Zoning Ordinance

STAFF/LIAISON REPORTS TO THE BOARD:

1. Gregg Township Fire Company #1

Mr. Grenoble reported that the last of the permits needed for installing the dry hydrants was expected to arrive soon. At Mr. Grenoble's request, Mr. Bierly made a motion to approve the Gregg Township Fire Police to work at the Fish Derby in Spring Mills and at the carnivals for Gregg Township, Rebersburg, Millheim, and Centre Hall. Mr. Strouse seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0. Mr. Sletson reported that the recruitment committee was working towards finding staffing for daylight hours. Mr. Grenoble said we had the mutual aid agreements in place with surrounding fire companies Penns Valley-wide and that Gregg Township had covered for these companies in prior years.

2. Emergency Management Coordinator

Mr. Grenoble reported that the Fire Company's request for FEMA reimbursement of costs expended for emergency services during the flood event in September 2004 was denied due to not meeting the \$1,000 threshold.

3. Gregg Township Sewer Authority

Mr. Morrison reported that the audit was completed and that the auditor found the Authority to be in good financial shape in spite of the outstanding debt owed by Gettig Industries. The authority is also in preliminary talks with the Gregg Township Water Company and other area water and sewer providers to possibly form a regional alliance for eastern Centre County (Centre Hall, Madisonburg, Rebersburg, Smulton, Woodward, Aaronsburg, Millheim, & Spring Mills).

4. Roadmaster

Roads/Bridges:

- Cold patching of potholes on various roads was done.
- What is hopefully the last of the snow plowing was completed.
- Potholes on Decker Valley, Lingle Valley, Vonada Gap, and Blue Ball Gap Roads were filled with 2 RC stone.
- Brush was cut on west Green Grove Road.
- The roadmaster met with Tom Wilt of Pine Creek Township regarding the upcoming tar & chip project.
- Intersections are being hand-swept since the weather is too dry to use the mechanical broom. Once we get some rain, the roads will be mechanically swept.
- Bridges have been swept by hand and will be flushed in June.

Vehicles:

- A tire for the John Deere loader was changed & repaired.
- The 1999 Ford F-550 hydraulic system was worked on.

Signs & Signals:

- Snow mobile signs were removed for the season.
- A new Gregg Township sign was installed on Gingrich Gap Road to replace the one stolen.
- The bridge weight limit sign was repaired on Reeder Road where the original one had been damaged.

Other:

- The Township donated the labor and vehicle to haul approximately 67 tons of 2B stones for the softball field.
- The snow fencing was removed for the season, and some of the most heavily used is available free to anyone who wants it.

5. Planning Commission: 4/4/05

- The Penns Valley EMS component 2 sewage planning module was reviewed and signed.
- The Commission decided to meet at 6:30 for the next few meetings to allow time for review of the regional comprehensive plan chapters.
- Mr. Lathbury continued his presentation of model ordinance language for conservation subdivision.

6. Zoning Hearing Board

No meeting was necessary.

7. Penns Valley Code Enforcement Agency

Glenn Ripka submitted a written report, which included an update on the enforcement of the Spring Mills Property Maintenance Ordinance and the sign ordinance. The Board requested he include in future reports a list of building permits issued and in progress.

8. Zoning Officer

Jeff Wingert submitted a written report, which included a balance sheet for his activities and how that would change if his suggested fee schedule was implemented. Also included was his work on the complaint received for the Christ Beiler Jr. property and his proposed language for the zoning ordinance to clarify the definition of Billboard. The secretary will advertise the proposed language for a public hearing at the June Board of Supervisors meeting.

9. Penns Valley Regional Planning Commission

- The Board agreed to put forth the Y alignments from the SCCCTS study as the preferred placement of any upgrade for Route 322 to be included in the regional comprehensive plan. They further agreed to continue to limit Route 45 access points to maintain the safety of one of the major commuting corridors in Penns Valley and to support turning lanes without advocating added capacity. Another idea discussed was to promote an industrial park along the corridor to help limit the number of residents who have to travel to their place of employment.
- No opinion was expressed on the Centre Hall bypass.
- The Board would like the plan to include language that will explore the feasibility of a bike path along the old railroad bed as part of a multi-municipal linear park, but until that is possible, moving the bike route off Route 192 and onto some of the back roads that parallel Routes 45 & 192 will be advocated.

10. Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization

Mr. Sletson lamented the second-class status that the areas outside the Centre Region are treated with in deciding where money is spent in the County. With the each of the Centre Region municipalities getting a vote, plus an extra vote for the Centre Region Planning Commission, while the outside regions have one vote for their entire region, all the projects for Centre Region are approved and all the money stays in the Centre Region. It's an undemocratic and frustrating experience.

SECRETARY / TREASURER REPORT:

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Bierly made a motion to accept the minutes from the March 10, 2005 meeting as submitted. Mr. Strouse seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Review of Township Correspondence

The secretary presented a list of incoming and outgoing correspondence for the Board's information. The following action items came from the report:

1. The secretary will reserve two spots on the tour of conservation subdivisions in Berks County on Friday June 10, 2005, for Mr. Sletson and Mr. Bierly.
2. Mr. Strouse will review the PennDOT sign audit and direct the secretary how to respond.

Financial Reports and Account Balances

The balances of the accounts effective 3-31-05 are as follows:

General Fund	\$ 191,611.53		
Equipment Fund	\$ 4,355.46		
Liquid Fuels Fund	\$ 99,678.55		
Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 538,377.94		
Street Light Fund	\$ 2,295.24		
Sinking Fund (Loan Balance)	\$ 354,160.00	(Total Interest Paid)	\$ 15,422.48

Mr. Bierly made a motion to approve the financial reports as submitted. Mr. Strouse seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Review and Approve Payment of Operational Bills:

The Treasurer presented a list of bills to be paid for the month of April, which the Supervisors approved by signature.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Strouse made the motion to adjourn at 10:40 PM. Mr. Bierly seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

Minutes Submitted by:

Gregg Township Secretary