



MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
UPPER BURRELL SUPERVISORS
MONDAY, JULY 6, 2015, 7:00 PM
MEETING ROOM, 3735 - 7TH STREET ROAD

Board of Supervisor's Chairman, Ross Walker, called the regular meeting of the Upper Burrell Township Supervisors to order at 7:00 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: The following members of Council responded to roll call:

Present: **Ross G. Walker, III, Chairman**
 Peter F. Dombroski, Vice Chairman
 Allen E. Uhler, Supervisor

Also present: David Kerchner, Engineer
 Melissa A. Cortileso, Secretary
 Stephen Yakopec, Solicitor

COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS – NONE

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion made by Walker, second by Uhler, to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2015, regular meeting of the Township Supervisors.

Motion passed 3-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Walker asked Mrs. Cortileso, to review the correspondence from the month. Mrs. Cortileso reviewed the items that were listed on the agenda.

ROAD REPORT

Supervisor Dombroski reviewed the activities of the Road Department for the month of June.

POLICE REPORT

There were 128 calls for the month and 38 of those calls were traffic offenses and 11 assists. The Police Chief please reminds everyone to keep their vehicle doors locked due to a lot of vehicle break ins.

EMC REPORT – NONE



ENGINEERS REPORT

Mr. Kerchner reported he had a meeting with PSNK who wants to change the main entrance to the campus by putting up a retaining wall along Myers Drive. Mr. Kerchner stated that this is a reasonable proposal. He asked the board if it was ok to get designs.

Mr. Kerchner also reported that he has been working with the Solicitor on the boundary dispute with Washington Township and a site survey was prepared for this dispute.

Mr. Kerchner also stated that he did observe Hunter Hill Road and would be more than glad to discuss this with Mr. Banyas.

PLANNING COMMISSION – NONE

SOLICITORS REPORT – Mr. Yakopec stated that he did go to trial in Greensburg in regards to the dispute with Washington Township over the 50% of the Privilege Tax for the employees located at 400 Hunt Valley Road. Mr. Yakopec stated he did ask Dave Kerchner to prepare drawings. Mr. Yakopec stated that he is waiting for a copy of the transcript and he will then prepare a draft and then wait for the Judge's ruling.

The Solicitor reported on the request made by Alcoa Technology Center, requesting tax exemption for property taxes as provided under LERTA Act of Dec. 1, 1977, for the proposed new construction and/or reconstruction of an Additive Manufacturing facility to be located on property currently owned by Alcoa on our Technical Center campus in Upper Burrell. This construction will consist of demolition of Building F and Building H. These two (2) building have not been in use since the 1970's and are no longer habitable. Alcoa plans to rebuild in the same area with very thick walls and the building will be blast proof, this will be similar to the work that was done in Barking which did experience a few blasts, however this building will be located on the NE section of the campus off of White Cloud Road and there are no homes nearby and no impact study is required under the LERTA, and Alcoa will only move forward if the exemption is granted.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Walker second by Uhler to approve the new Police contract for the years 2016 – 2020.

Motion passed 3 - 0

A motion was made by Walker second by Dombroski to assign the new address to Joseph Makara, Lot number 202 of the Swank Plan, new address will be 243 Easy Street as recommended by the Westmoreland County Public Safety Addressing Agency.

Motion passed 3 – 0

A motion was made by Walker second by Dombroski to send a letter of support to Governor, Tom Wolf, showing support for the Business Plan for the former ALCOA Research Redevelopment Project.

Motion passed 3 – 0



A motion was made by Walker second by Uhler to accept with regret the resignation of Daniel Olszewski, part time policeman.

Motion passed 3 – 0

A motion was made by Walker second by Dombroski to approve the request of Joyce A. Ewing, Tax Collector to be exonerated in the collection of 2014-2015 Per Capita Item, 224 total uncollected.

Motion passed 3 – 0

A motion was made by Walker second by Dombroski to hire Jacob Skunda as a part time policeman.

Motion passed 3 - 0

A motion was made by Uhler second by Walker to pay all bills and accept the Financial Report.

Motion passed 3 – 0

OPEN TO THE FLOOR

Lori Peck, 1477 Kiebler Beach Drive, addressed the Supervisors about the status of the property located at 1461 Kiebler Beach Drive. Supervisor Uhler replied that this case has been appealed by the property owner and we are waiting a court date in the Commonwealth Court in Greensburg. Ms. Peck also stated she is concerned about the high grass at 1497 Kiebler Beach Drive. Supervisor Uhler asked is there any way to make this move faster? Supervisor Walker asked the Solicitor to file a motion against the owner of the property located at 1461 Kiebler Beach Drive.

Arnell Kurtik, 2535 Turkey Ridge Road, stated that they are the last house along this road in Upper Burrell Township and she would like to tap into Washington Township's sewage and asked how to go about doing this. Mrs. Kurtik stated that she was told by Washington Township that Upper Burrell would not permit them to do so when this work was going on. Mr. Kerchner stated that he worked on this project and was not the case it would only make sense to tap in. The Solicitor asked Mrs. Kurtik to provide the names and addresses of the residents along Turkey Ridge Road whom wish to tap in and provide this to the Township Secretary, and he will get a letter out to the Washington Township Sewage Authority Attorney. Mr. Kerchner also advised Mrs. Kurtik of the upfront costs that may be involved.

Mr. Kurtik asked whatever happened to the trunk line on Whitten Hollow Road and what is the chance of getting tapped into that. Supervisor Dombroski stated that this only carried what was treated water and is now abandoned due to the Industrial Park getting sewage. He stated a line would be needed up Greensburg Road to get sewage to the Township. Mr. Kerchner stated that to bring sewage to the Township would be very costly due to there being so many thousand of feet of empty ground and just not feasible. A resident questioned as to how did other communities do it. Mr. Kerchner stated that this would be a very costly venture and what comes first infrastructure or development. Supervisor Walker stated that if told by the state to comply the Township will do so. The Board did authorize the Solicitor to send a letter to Washington Township Sewage Authority.



Dan Myers, 200 Barnview Drive, asked the Supervisors if they would vote to have a referendum put on the ballot allowing the residents of Upper Burrell to vote on whether they would like to have the Board of Supervisors increased from 3 members to 5. Supervisor Walker stated that they do not feel that this is necessary. Mr. Myers stated here is the deal, you are making the decision for the Township, give the residents the opportunity. Supervisor Walker asked Mr. Myers if he would be willing to circulate a petition in regards to getting this referendum put on the ballot.

Ron Slabe, 516 Angelcrest Drive, state he did not think a 5 member board is necessary we only have a population of just over 2,000 unlike Lower Burrell, etc. he stated Mr. Myers is really blowing this out of proportion cut the Supervisors some slack he feels you get better contact with 3 members and maybe once in a while someone gets sick but you still have a quorum.

Mr. Myers stated that the Supervisors need to make sure that things in the Township are getting enforced and why not just let the people vote on the referendum. Supervisor Walker stated that this has never been broached to them before. Mr. Myers stated that they are not in harmony. After some discussion Supervisor Dombroski stated that others have gone from 3 to 5 and then have gone back down to 3 again and this cost money. Supervisor Uhler stated that's why we have inspectors. Supervisor Walker asked the crowd if they would to vote on this, about 50% of the crowd raised their hands. Supervisor Walker stated he would like to do more research on this to see how many other Townships have this 5 member board. Solicitor Yakopec stated this is not an abuse of power it's of the opinion of the elected officials and they do not want it. Mr. Slabe stated this is why we have a republic so that we allow our officials to make our decisions for us and they are doing the best they can to say they are abusing their power is insulting. Supervisor Walker stated they will think about this for another month they have until the 13th Tuesday before the next election.

Supervisor Walker made a motion to place the referendum on the ballot to increase the Township Supervisors from a 3 member board to a 5 member board. Motion failed to get a second.

Mr. Myers commended Walker on making the motion and also stated that the Township is just as excited to give Alcoa a break as they were for the Industrial Park. Walker stated that Alcoa has been a good neighbor and would rather have it here.

Bill Bolt, 629 Pleasant Valley Road, asked Pete if someone could please look at the intersection of Upper Drennen Road and Pleasant Valley Road on the left hand corner it seems to be giving away. Dombroski stated he will have this checked out and it possibly could be a Penn Dot issue.

Dan Myers, 200 Barnview Drive, questioned about the pay rate the road department gets when doing particular work during the work week. He stated that a person who changes oil should be getting paid what a person who is working on the roads is getting paid. Mr. Myers also stated that hot patch needs to be used to fix our roads and a professional should be doing this work and that Pete is doing a terrific job. Walker stated we can make them super highways and that this Township has never had to take out a TAN Loan, it is run frugally and is fiscally responsible and doing the best they can.



Ron Slabe, 516 Angelcrest, questioned about the member contribution that the Township make to WEDIG, he thinks this amount should be based on population rather than a sum of money, especially when Upper Burrell is the smallest community in the organization. Walker stated he will look into this. Dombroski and Uhler agree with Slabe.

Leon Yurkin, 3603 Baxter Drive, asked if there is any tax advantage to anyone who belongs in the Agriculture Security area. Walker replied no.

Dan Myers, 200 Barnview Drive, asked if there is any kind of movement on Marcellus shale drilling. Walker stated there is nothing current nor have we been told of any drilling, there are possibly 4 perspective site, moving only along home owners at this point, and a lot will depend on the outcome of the appeal hearing in Allegheny Township.

Ron Slabe, 516 Angelcrest Drive, stated that Huntley & Huntley are telling people that your neighbors have signed so you better sign. He stated this often a practice that is used. Mr. Slabe stated that this happened in a community in Lawrence County where the Nuns did not sign but the neighbors were told they did. Mr. Slabe went on to say that there is no fracking or drilling in the state of New York due health concerns. He stated that the PA Department of Health is turning a deaf ear on this issue and doing little follow up, the state of New York followed this and that why it is not allowed and they want nothing to do with it a lot of people are suffering from this. Mr. Slabe stated that Range Resources offered residents around the Deer Park Lake area \$500.00 not to sue.

AJDOURNMENT

Motion made by Walker, second by Dombroski to adjourn, meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by:
Melissa A. Cortilesio

Note***

Next monthly meeting , will be held on Wednesday, September 16th , 2015, beginning at 7:00 pm