

TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HUNTINGDON, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2009, 7:00 P.M.
11279 Center Highway, North Huntingdon, PA 15642
Presiding Officer – David E. Herold, President, Board of Commissioners

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Herold called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Furlin	Present
Commissioner Patter	Present
Commissioner Gray	Present
Commissioner Martino	Present
Commissioner Moffatt	Present
Commissioner Austin	Present
Commissioner Herold	Present

Also Present:
Michael M. Turley
Craig Alexander
Chief Daugherty
Richard G. Albert
Andy Blenko

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CITIZENS' INPUT

Ronald Lucas, 861 Main Street: He is there about the fire whistle at Fairmont Hahntown Fire Department. During the last storm, it went off every half hour and the decibel level is terrible. They needed this siren years ago but now all the firemen have pagers and phones. He can't sit outside with his granddaughter now when the siren goes off. He feels the fire whistle should only go off for three occasions such as when a train wrecks with a chemical spill, an airplane crash or when there are severe wind or tornado warnings. He feels the main road in Hahntown is a death trap. When he was backing out and he looked both ways, he still almost got hit. Cars never go the speed limit. The police need to sit in his driveway and watch the traffic.

Lt. Gary Shuler, Greensburg State Police, 100 N. Westmoreland Avenue: He is there because they try to go to one municipal government meeting a month in the county to introduce themselves and say what they do in the area. They are there to assist the Township in any way they can and count on assistance from the Township. Last year they handled 89 incidents in the Township which is small for this station.

Chief Daugherty said they have an excellent working relationship with the Pennsylvania State Police, specifically the Greensburg barracks. It is a great cooperative effort between them both and they are an excellent force.

John Bales, 12987 Wilderness Drive: He is there to address the Board about the work of the Regional Recreation Committee. The first meeting of the committee was held in January 2007 and there were 11 citizens from the Norwin area. The committee was approved by resolutions from the four governing bodies and appointments made by the same. This committee came

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about when a local A.A.R.P Chapter expressed a need for facilities to serve the age group that represented about 25% of the Norwin population. The committee held 17 meetings and was aware to receive any funding for a facility from a government source; a feasibility study had to be done. The committee requested funds through the offices of Casorio and Regola of \$15,000 through each office. A committee was held several times through D.C.N.R. personnel to discuss funding and how to conduct a feasibility study. Environmental Planning & Design consultants were approved by D.C.N.R. in 2008. They are now in the process of putting together a survey questionnaire to be mailed to Norwin homes requesting their input. A peer-to-peer study committee was put together composed of an elected and a citizen from each community and the School Board to recommend how a facility if built will be managed. A consultant to the committee has been recommended and grant money for the study was tentatively approved by D.C.N.R. A grant for funds to pay for the study was filed February 13, 2008. Funds are more readily available when a number of communities are working together.

Mr. Moffatt said the survey will go out in the mail in April or May.

Denny Rittenhouse, 14144 Valley View Drive: He is there about the Sonic Drive-In at the bottom of the hill. He feels they are creating a dangerous situation and there is no room for a stacking lane. He feels someone will be hit there without any traffic lights being put in. He feels there are many places along Route 30 that would be better. He wants to go on record of his disapproval of putting Sonic in at that location.

RESPONSE TO CITIZENS' INPUT

Ron Lucas

Mr. Furlin asked Mr. Lucas how many years he has lived in the Township.

Mr. Lucas said he moved here 5 years ago from Allegheny County to this Township where there is hardly any crime and there is good police protection. He didn't know about the fire whistle when he bought the house. The police, paramedics and firemen all have beepers.

Mr. Furlin said they don't sleep with their beepers. At night they hear the whistle first. The night they had the severe storm, there were a lot of trees down and other incidents and that is why the Fire Department was busy and the whistle kept blowing. He lives next door to the Fire Department and he doesn't have a problem.

Mr. Lucas said Mr. Furlin just mentioned that he ignores the whistle, so if there is a train wreck with a gas spill, then everyone will ignore the fire whistle. He is from another Township and they did away with their fire whistles.

Mr. Furlin said the siren is there for a purpose as some men are at work and aren't allowed to have their monitors. They don't sleep with their minitors at night, so the siren helps out.

Mr. Lucas said he comes from Allegheny County and he lived two blocks from the fire whistle and they did away with the siren and everyone still responded. When the Fairmont siren was down for a year, they never missed a fire call. The decibel levels are too shrill.

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Mr. Furlin said he is not hard of hearing and he has been a fireman for 50 years and this is the first complaint he has had.

Mr. Lucas said he has talked to his neighbors and they all say they are used to the siren. If there is a natural disaster and people ignore the siren, how will you get the community out? He feels it is annoying and he can't sit outside with his granddaughter or have people over. He moved to this Township to get away from gun play.

Mr. Herold asked how long the whistle would blow for a call.

Mr. Furlin said it goes off for three minutes and if they don't respond, it will go off for another three minutes.

Mr. Herold asked if the decibel level had been tested.

Mr. Furlin said this is the first time he has had a complaint and it hasn't been tested.

Mr. Lucas said he would appreciate it if they check it out and he is concerned if there is a major issue in the Township and people will ignore it.

Mr. Furlin said when the siren goes off, they don't know what it is until they get there.

Chief Daugherty said he would put a patrol request in and they are very proactive for speeding and will put this road on the list. Many of the roads attract speeding vehicles and they try to monitor it.

Mr. Moffatt asked if they could put the speed trailer there.

Chief Daugherty said they can't put it down there in the winter, but will put it there the end of March and rotate it around the Township when they get complaints.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Mr. Furlin So move. (Public Hearing – 12/17/08)
Second: Mr. Moffatt

Motion Carried 7 – 0 – 0

Motion: Mr. Furlin So move. (Special Meeting – 1/15/09)
Second: Mr. Moffatt

Motion Carried 7 – 0 – 0

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion: Mr. Martino I'll make that motion. (January 2009)
Second: Mr. Gray

Motion Carried 7 – 0 – 0

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion: Mr. Moffatt I'll make a motion we pay Voucher No. 57269 through Voucher
Second: Mr. Furlin No. 57360.

Motion Carried 7 – 0 – 0

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Mr. Furlin thanked Mr. Albert and the Public Works Department for the work done through the bad storms that came through the Township.

Mr. Gray asked about the brine system.

Mr. Albert said it is working well, but it is not in full operation yet. They ordered when other municipalities ordered and there was a back log of orders, but they do have it operating on more than half of the trucks and they have noticed a difference. They are using less material but giving the same service.

Mr. Herold asked about the salt.

Mr. Albert said the salt is holding up and even though there was a concern about the cost of salt and availability at the start of the season, they have been able to get it and the stock piles are full. As far as the Dave Weiger Memorial at Oak Hollow Park, the committee came up with a design which was to be sent to the Board. The committee would like to start getting funds for the memorial and are awaiting final approval of the Board. They would like to complete it in the spring and the memorial costs over \$4,000.

Mr. Furlin said they should move on with it and try to solicit the funds.

Motion: Mr. Furlin I'd like to make that in the form of a motion to move forward
Second: Mr. Martino on it.

Remarks

Mr. Martino said the Board had to approve putting the sign up but he didn't know they had to approve the design.

Mr. Gray said once the Board gave approval, it was left up to the committee.

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Mr. Albert said he understood they had to come to the Board with final approval before they constructed anything.

Motion Carried 7 – 0 – 0

PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT

Mr. Turley said there are many activities coming up. There is the bus trip to Wheeling Island and the Easter Egg Hunt at Oak Hollow Park. The Parks Department is continuing winter maintenance of equipment and there has been a lot of tree removal. They are refurbishing picnic tables and preparing additional signage.

POLICE REPORT

Mr. Furlin asked if the speed trap could be set up on Main Street as soon as the equipment is running and if they still had the units that hook on the pole.

Chief Daugherty said they are out of service for the winter months and they will set the warning devices up as soon as it warms up. These warning devices give a calibration on the actual speed people are traveling on the roads. They can't use these to issue citations but it does show people their speed and allow us to monitor the speed to see where there is a problem.

Mr. Moffatt asked if they found any areas where the cars were speeding.

Chief Daugherty said there are a couple roads where there is a problem and they try to hit them.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

There were no Board comments.

FIRE OFFICIAL'S REPORT

There were no Board comments.

SUBDIVISION & LAND DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION REPORT

- 1) Action to adopt Resolution No. 109 of 2009, which approves SP-5-2008, Sonic Drive-In Site Plan, Route 30 at Billot Avenue, C-1 Zoning.

Mr. Blenko said there was a list of six conditions at last week's meeting and he drafted a seventh condition that states: Left turns onto Billot Avenue from the site shall be permitted provided however, that the situation shall be re-evaluated by the North Huntingdon Township Police Department six months after the restaurant opens. If deemed to be a dangerous condition by the Police Chief, the applicant agrees to post his driveway, "Right Turn Only" onto Billot Avenue. The Planning Commission recommends that Billot Avenue should be right turn only approaching Route 30 that needs to be adopted by Ordinance.

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Chief Daugherty said this is a necessity to alleviate the problem in that area.

Mr. Blenko said Resolution No. 109 of 2009 reads: Now it is resolved by the Board of Commissioners of the Township of North Huntingdon, County of Westmoreland, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as follows: That Site Plan 05 of 2008, the Sonic Drive-In Restaurant proposed by NCH Hospitality, LLC, located at 10580 Route 30 (Route 30 at Billot Avenue) is approved with the attached conditions that are agreed to by the applicant.

Mr. Alexander asked if condition #7 was communicated to the developer.

Mr. Blenko said they consented to it and will sign a copy to be attached to the Resolution.

Motion: Mr. Moffatt I'll make a motion to approve Resolution No. 109 of 2009.
Second: Mr. Martino

Remarks

Mr. Martino asked Mr. Blenko if he could keep the Board updated on how the conditions were going for the Sonic Drive-In Restaurant and also on Walgreen's.

Motion Carried 7 – 0 - 0

- 2) Action to adopt Resolution No. 110 of 2009, which approves SP-6-2008, Walnut Capital/Walgreen Site Plan and Subdivision, Route 30, C-1 Zoning.

Mr. Blenko read the Resolution to be approved with the attached conditions.

Mr. Moffatt asked about the right-of-way that they didn't need and were they taking it back.

Mr. Blenko said it is still a paper street, but the right-of-way from the bottom is not needed as the detention pond has been eliminated from the plan. The conditions are as follows: 1) No building permit shall be issued in connection with this final land development approval unless the Township Engineer has reviewed and approved the design of and specifications for the proposed retaining wall. This has been met. 2) A copy of the Highway Occupancy Permit application shall be forwarded to the Township Engineer upon its submission to the PennDOT. This has been met. 3) No building permit shall be issued in connection with this final land development approval unless and until a final Highway Occupancy Permit has been issued by PennDOT and a copy of the final Highway Occupancy Permit has been received by the Township Engineer. This condition is pending. 4) No building permit shall be issued in connection with this final land development approval unless and until the final location of the new fire hydrant has been coordinated with Township fire officials, through the Township Engineer, to assure that the fire hydrant meets the needs of the Township Fire Departments. This condition is pending. 5) No building permit shall be issued in connection with this final land development approval unless and until a reciprocal easement agreement, that has been reviewed and approved by the Township Solicitor, has been recorded to assure permanent mutual rights of access across the parcels. This is approved but not recorded. 6) No more

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than one pylon sign may be erected on the premises for the businesses on Lots 1 & 2. 7) No signage has been approved in connection with this application. Approval to erect any signage on the premises shall be sought through the filing of a separate application. 8) No building permit shall be issued in connection with this final land development approval unless and until a Storm Water Management Plan has been approved by both the Township Engineer and the Westmoreland County Conservation District which Storm Water Management Plan shall provide a 60% reduction in runoff rate for all design storms, no quality degradation for the two year storm and pre-development conditions based on an assumption that 20% of any existing condition shall be considered to be a meadow in good condition. This meets the Township Ordinance and is before the Conservation District. 9) No building permit shall be issued in connection with this final land development approval until a Storm Water Maintenance Plan that provides for joint mutual obligations to maintain the Storm Water Management system has been reviewed and approved by the Township Solicitor. This has been met. 10) Final architectural renderings shall be brought before the Planning Commission for review and comment. The Planning Commission reviewed those drawings. 11) Walnut Capital Partners agrees to provide a location for a North Huntingdon Community Bulletin Board electronic sign on the site near the intersection of Route 30 and Lincoln Way, and to provide electricity and landscaping around the sign. 12) Walnut Capital Partners agrees to provide and maintain dumpster enclosures to the satisfaction of the North Huntingdon Township Planning and Zoning Office, which shall be of masonry construction with a brick veneer and weather-resistant gates. 13) Due to limited turning radii, no tractor-trailers shall be permitted in the site with trailers longer than 33 feet. This shall be made a condition of the leases with tenants. 14) A graveled area on Lot No. 2 of the subdivision plan shall be provided upon the Township's request if deemed necessary to afford sufficient area for ten (10) parking spaces for the use of Walgreen's customers until the site development of Lot No. 2. 15) Any conveyance of Lot No. 3 (currently owned by Walnut Capital Partners – North Huntingdon, L.P.) will contain a reservation or the right of the Applicant to complete all work as shown on the approved site plan.

Mr. Gray said more trees were requested on the hillside and where are they covered.

Mr. Blenko said there are many trees proposed for the back slope and is consistent with the site plan.

Mr. Moffatt said as long as the trees are there and it can be enforced.

Mr. Blenko said there are locust and red maple trees on the site plan and since the Planning Commission meeting, they received new drawings with more landscaping.

Mr. Moffatt asked if that was a condition of occupancy.

Mr. Alexander asked the applicant if they would accept as a condition of approval to have the landscaping completed by occupancy.

The applicant agreed to that condition.

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Mr. Patter said for the signage, there is to be one sign for Lot 1 and 2 and a separate sign for Lot 3 and would that be a separate sign for the Township or part of Lots 1 and 2.

Mr. Blenko said it is separate and located near the entrance. Their sign will be a pylon sign and the Township is a low to the ground monument sign.

Motion: Mr. Gray So move as amended.
Second: Mr. Furlin

Motion Carried 7 – 0 – 0

- 3) Action to adopt Resolution No. 111 of 2009, which approves S-1-2009, Removcik-Skinner Boundary Line Revision, Wainwright Drive, R-2 Zoning.

Motion: Mr. Gray Motion to approve.
Second: Mr. Moffatt

Motion Carried 7 – 0 – 0

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

There are no items for Board action.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT

Motion: Mr. Martino I'd like to make a motion that we accept Jim Morrison's
Second: Mr. Austin resignation as of February 20, 2009.

CITIZENS' INPUT

There was no Citizens' Input.

Motion Carried 7 – 0 – 0

Motion: Mr. Martino I make a motion to appoint Mike Turley as Interim Township
Second: Mr. Furlin Manager for the Township effective Friday, February 20.

CITIZENS' INPUT

Denny Rittenhouse: He asked if this was a pro-rated salary.

Mr. Turley said the Township has a working out of classification policy and it is moved to the low range of the classification you are working in. The Township Manager range is \$80,056.40 up to \$108,000. He would be at the \$80,056.40.

Motion Carried 7 – 0 – 0

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- 1) Consider a motion to approve the January check register.

Motion: Mr. Furlin So move.
Second: Mr. Moffatt

Motion Carried 7 – 0 – 0

- 2) Budget Report – January 2009 Report.

There were no Board comments.

- 3) Consider a motion to approve Norwin School District Occupation Resident and Per Capita Report for the month of January 2009.

Motion: Mr. Furlin So move.
Second: Mr. Martino

Motion Carried 7 – 0 – 0

- 4) Consider a motion to approve the hiring of special legal counsel and real estate expert for the Redstone Highland Senior Care tax appeal case. The Township will be responsible for a pro rata share of the fees.

Motion: Mr. Moffatt So move.
Second: Mr. Furlin

Motion Carried 7 – 0 – 0

- 5) Consider a motion to authorize staff to participate in the Municibid on-line bidding program for the sale of municipal surplus property.

Motion: Mr. Gray So move.
Second: Mr. Furlin

Motion Carried 7 – 0 – 0

- 6) Consider the award of the bid for demolition of property at 1060 Fifth Street, Westmoreland City.

Motion: Mr. Furlin So move. I'll make it part of my motion to award the lowest
Second: Mr. Moffatt bid to Scherbick Excavating at \$7,300.00.

Motion Carried 7 – 0 – 0

- 7) Consider a motion for the distribution of prior year Fire Fund tax money.

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Mr. Martino said in reference to the water problem at Cedar Glenn, they may have to do some work at Circleville Fire Department which will have a cost. Mr. Morrison said it would be \$50,000. The total Tax Fund to be split is \$191,130, so if they take the \$50,000 out to hold back, would it be sufficient to cover the cost to work on Circleville property.

Mr. Blenko feels it could exceed that amount. They won't know until they have an actual tank size, but the intent is to get the run-off from the parking lot and building rooftop into an underground storage tank at the low end of the parking lot.

Mr. Martino said it will cost more than the \$50,000 to deal with the Circleville runoff.

Mr. Blenko said they won't know until they come up with a design and bid it.

Mr. Moffatt said they hired Glenn Engineering to look at this problem and was it reported.

Mr. Blenko said they got the slopes on the interiors of the six existing tanks and they will look at the numbers on how useable the tanks will be and then see what has to happen on the upper end at the Fire Department.

Motion: Mr. Furlin Motion to table until they get more information.

Second: Mr. Moffatt

Motion Carried 6 – 1 – 0 (Mr. Martino)

FURTHER BOARD COMMENTS

There were no Board comments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Ski Tickets are available for sale at the Township Administration Office for Seven Springs, Blue Know and Hidden Valley. Please call the office at 724-863-3806 for details on times or rates or go to the web site: www.nhtpa.us.
- 2) The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program will be available to give tax counseling for the elderly age 60 and over, every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. at the Town House starting February 3 through April 14, 2009.
- 3) Sign-ups for the Township Park pavilion rentals will begin on Monday, February 23, 2009 at 8:00 A.M. Registration on Monday, February 23 and Tuesday, February 24 will be reserved for **Township Resident Applications Only. Proof of residency will be required.** Registration will be open for the general public on Wednesday, February 25 during normal business hours.

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- 4) North Huntingdon Township will be sponsoring a bus trip to Wheeling Island, West Virginia on Saturday, March 7, 2009. The cost is \$20.00 per person payable by check only to NHT General Fund. The bus will depart the Town House at 8:00 A.M. and return at 7:15 P.M.

- 5) North Huntingdon Township will host an Easter Egg Hunt at Oak Hollow Park on Saturday, April 4th beginning at 10:30 A.M. sharp! Please note that there will be no rain date, but instead a weather delayed start time of 1:30 P.M. Pre-registration begins on Monday, March 16. You may register at the Town House or mail in your registration with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to receive your event passes. The event is free and open to North Huntingdon residents only 2 – 10 years old.

- 6) Westmoreland Cleanways is sponsoring a Tires/Batteries/Appliances/Electronics Collection on Saturday, April 4, 2009 from 8:30 A.M. to Noon. Please go to their web site: www.westmorelandcleanways.org for the costs of different items.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mr. Furlin So move.
Second: Mr. Patter

Motion Carried 7 – 0 – 0

- Regular Meeting Minutes of February 18, 2009 were approved by the Board of Commissioners on _____.

David E. Herold, President

Michael M. Turley, Assistant Township Secretary

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