

**MINUTES
NORTH LEBANON TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OCTOBER 21, 2013**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the North Lebanon Township Board of Supervisors was held at 7:00 PM at the Municipal Building located at 725 Kimmerlings Road, Lebanon, PA with the following people present:

Richard E. Miller	Chairman
Edward A. Brensinger	Vice – Chairman
Kenneth C. Artz	Treasurer
Cheri F Grumbine	Twp Manager
Harold L. Easter	Chief of Police
Tom Harlan	Henry & Beaver LLP

Absent Solicitor Frederick S. Wolf Henry & Beaver LLP

Also in attendance was Brent McFeaters of Matthew & Hockley Assoc, as well as several other individuals. The meeting was called to order and the pledge to the flag was done.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

A.) Daniel/ Kelly Long Lot Addition Plan, Planning Waiver & Non-Building Declaration

Brent McFeaters of Matthew & Hockley explained this plan shows the Long's adding a small triangle of their existing property to the neighboring land owned by Herbert/Lucille Bowman. The tract is located on the WS of Sandhill Road. No portion of the lot addition is to be used for a separate building lot. Both properties are serviced by public water and sewer. The NLT Planning Commission recommend approval of the plan and LCPD has provided a letter dated October 10 for recommendation of this plan. The Board is being asked to also approve the Planning Waiver & Non-Building Declaration for this plan.

MOTION was made and seconded to approve the Daniel/ Kelly Long Lot Addition Plan as well as the Planning Waiver & Non-Building Declaration. Motion unanimously carried.

B.) Lee Spencer; Ebenezer Fire Company – “Emergency Vehicle Entrance”

Lee introduced himself as the President for the Ebenezer Fire Company. The fire house is located just off State Route 72 which is a heavily traveled street. He said the Fire Company has discussed this issue several years and have decided it is now time to do something about it. They are requesting placement of signs that read “Emergency Vehicle Entrance” on the Fire Company property. Spencer told the Board he had visited Rose Marie Swanger’s office to get information. A letter from the municipality to District 8 Engineer’s office of PADOT explaining the request is the first step. PADOT would then dictate the placement of the signage and the Fire Company would pay the cost of the signs. The Township would then install the signs according to PADOT’s direction. Some conversation followed about the expense of an illuminated flashing sign. Lee stated that at this time this is the direction the Fire Company can afford to go.

Chm Miller asked Mgr Grumbine if she would be willing to compose a letter to PADOT on behalf of the Twp. He told Spencer the letter will be drafted and mailed to PADOT. Spencer thanked the Board for their time.

MOTION was made and seconded to approve a letter being mailed to PADOT regarding signs indicating the entrance onto Route 72 by the Ebenezer Fire Company. Motion unanimously carried.

C.) Bruce Sattazahn – Lenni Lenape Park

Mr. Sattazahn questioned the “No Trespassing” signs posted at the Lenni Lenape Park. He said he has been asked at what point in time the signs will be removed. As a public park it seems unnatural to have No Trespassing signs posted. Does the Board know when the signage might be removed? Chm Miller replied the signs were posted due to the work projects and the equipment that is located within the park at this time.

Mgr Grumbine explained there will be a DCNR inspection completed on October 31st. After that inspection we will have a better idea of what the conditions are within the park. Sattazahn asked if we could expect to remove the signage at that point in time. Suv Brensinger mentioned the Twp having regulations stating all our parks are only open from sun rise to sunset. Mgr Grumbine replied we would know more information after the results of the inspection are provided to us.

D.) John Emerich – Ashton Dr; Water Level for Lions Lake

Mr. Emerich expressed his concern about the existing water level for Lions Lake. He stated that when he was younger the diving pier was raised out of the water far enough that a person could swim under it. It has been many years since the pier’s bottom can even be seen. For some reason it was decided to raise the level of the water for the lake. Who determines the consistent water level of the Lake? A lot of conversation followed about the repairs done to the dam breast and the ownership of the Lake being handed over to the Township. Chm Miller mentioned the other agencies that the Twp has to contact before taking action to change the water level of the lake. It is an involved process.

Emerich repeated that he thinks the depth of water in the Lake is the determining factor of whether or not the homes in the area get water in their basement levels during a heavy rain event. He stated that the water in the lake effects the water table for that whole area. More discussion followed about the water table in the area and the depth of the Lake. Emerich told the Board that if the consistent level of the Lake were to be dropped 2-3 feet, when heavy rain events occur the properties in this area would not experience water issues in their homes. He continued on to tell the Board he thinks it should be drained totally and used for parking area and additional athletic fields.

Rick Elyar stated he resides on the higher portion of Ashton Drive. He described the water issues he and his neighbors have experienced in the last few years during heavy rain events. He is in agreement that the lake level does indeed affect the properties within this area. He mentioned the period of time when the lake had been drained totally to repair the dam breast. Another concern he offered was the fact that a lot of his neighbors, himself included, heat their homes with heating oil. During rain events and basement water issues the possibility of oil tanks tipping over and polluting the soils becomes very real. However he feels strongly the Park is no longer a recreational area for humans. He told the Board the geese have taken over the whole area. The geese are nasty and don’t want humans to trespass on their territory. The lake, itself, is polluted and will never be able to host swimming activities. He suggested the lake be totally drained, landscaped and made into true recreational space for human use. If the lake cannot be drained at least lower the water level by at least 2 to 4 feet.

Water Level for Lions Lake (con't)

Chm Miller stated the Supervisors will have to research some of the comments and suggestions expressed this evening. He asked his fellow Supervisors if they have any questions or comments to add. Suv Artz and Brensinger agreed this situation will have to be researched.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION was made and seconded to approve the Board of Supervisors meeting minutes from September 16, 2013 and the minutes from the October 2, 2013 Budget Workshop. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL PAYROLL and PAYMENT OF INVOICES

MOTION was made and seconded to approve payroll, invoices for payment subject to audit. Motion was unanimously carried.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT – Brian Vragovich, Glenn-Lebanon Fire Company**A.) Monthly Summary for NLT Fire Companies**

Chf Vragovich provided a summary report for all 4 volunteer fire companies. A total of 42 responses for service were logged for the month of September. A total of 560 ft of various sized hoses were pulled, 12 training sessions and 3 mutual aid calls were answered during this past month. A total of 549.22 volunteer man hours were logged.

B.) Training Sessions

Brian shared with the Supervisors that 9 members of the NLT fire fighters were involved in the training session held this past Sunday at the “burn building” operated by the County. He mentioned the write up in the Newspaper. This was a good opportunity for some of the individuals who have not yet experienced a structure fire. Brian also reported that Phase 1 of the Vehicle Rescue Training has now been completed. Phase 2 is scheduled for November 2 & 3.

C.) Trick or Treat Night

The fire trucks will be traveling through the Township on October 31st which has been declared Trick or Treat night for the County. The NLT companies will be distributing glo-sticks and promoting general safety for the residents of North Lebanon Twp.

D.) False Alarms/ Sirens

Martin Barondick had some questions about false alarms and what the procedure is to handle the alarms. Brian explained there is an Ordinance that lists a chart of fees listed. The property owner is given 3 false alarms in a year as a freebie. After the third alarm there is a \$50 fee and a scale for each alarm after the third one. This is effective for the calendar year. Once the new year begins the time table starts over again. Brian explained that most property owners, after receiving the first \$50 fine, are ready to have the alarm repaired in order to not receive any more fines. Brian stated the office staff tracks the number of alarms in order to begin the invoicing if it becomes necessary. Once payment of the invoice is made the Fire Companies receive the funds.

Barondick next asked about the fire sirens that are activated to announce fire calls. He asked if the siren is really necessary in this age of electronic devices. He questioned if it is really necessary to have the deafening loud siren activated in the early hours of the day or night. Lee Spencer shared his opinion that it would have to be researched before any answer could be provided.

False Alarms/ Sirens (con't)

Brian Vragovich, Chief for Glenn-Lebanon Fire Co, said he would not appreciate the sirens for his company being deactivated. Due to the location of the Fire Company the sirens announce to the bus company, which is located in front of the station that the firetrucks are going to roll. He feels this is a safety factor for Glenn-Lebanon as well as DB Fisher Bus Company and their customers.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT – Chf Harold Easter**A.) Calls for Service Report – Month of September 2013**

Chf Easter reported on the activities for the month of September 2013 and mentioned some of the individual categories for these calls of service. He reported there were a total of 628 Police-citizen contacts for the month of September with a total of 8,279 miles logged on the cruiser cars.

B.) Donation of Bicycles (Per Resolution #8-2000) – Marines Toys for Tots Program

Chf Easter reported to the Board that the department has accumulated 12 bicycles which they would like to donate to the Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program. According to NLT Resolution #8-2000 Chf Easter is required to get approval from the Board before making the donation.

MOTION was made and seconded to approve the donation of 12 bicycles to the Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program according to Res #8-2000. Motion unanimously carried.

C.) Retiring Officer and Newly Hired Officer

Chf Easter reported that Lt Wengert has officially retired as of October 15th. A new Officer has been hired to take over duties of Code Enforcement and his name is Artimus Tsuil. Officer Tsuil has begun his training and once he has completed the training will begin his Code Enforcement responsibilities.

TOWNSHIP MANAGERS REPORT – Cheri F. Grumbine**A.) 1137 E Old Cumberland Street – Request for Handicapped Parking Sign**

A request has been received from the resident residing at 1137 E Old Cumberland St regarding the placement of a Handicapped Sign in front of her residence. The Supervisors had approved a similar request in 2010 for a resident on E Canal St. The resident was responsible for the cost of the sign and the Township responsible for the installation of the sign.

Chm Miller asked Chf Easter if he had visited the location concerning this request. Chf Easter replied this is the first he knew about this particular request. He agreed that he should go to the address to view the location before the Supervisors make a determination and Ed moves forward with any installation plans. This issue will be tabled until Chf Easter is able to visit the location and review the best solution for placement of the sign. Chf Easter agreed to report back to the Board with his suggestions.

B.) Pertinent Issues**1.) Building Code Appeals Board Meeting – Godshall's Quality Meats**

Notification has been received from LCPD that a hearing will be scheduled on a petition of variance from Godshall Quality Meats. The hearing is before the Lebanon County Building Code Appeals Board on Tuesday, November 5 @ 3:30PM in Room 207 of the County/City Building located at 400 South 8th Street.

Building Code Appeals Board Meeting (con't)

The request is to omit an automatic sprinkler system from certain areas within the 2B non-combustible portion of their construction. This is informational and does not require anyone from the Twp to attend. Chm Miller questioned the sprinkler systems being deactivated. Mgr Grumbine replied there are only certain areas within the plant that is being requested for deactivation.

2.) Notice from Lebanon County Redevelopment Authority

Mgr Grumbine informed the Board a notification has been received from the Redevelopment Authority regarding a possible program to work together with neighboring municipalities to help cleanup vacated blighted buildings. If the Board would like to join this type of program, the Board is being asked to respond to this letter of interest. Suv Brensinger questioned what type of help this program would afford the Twp. He then asked if there has ever been a situation where our Code Enforcement has not been able to resolve the situation. Some discussion followed about possible scenarios when help would be needed from the County. The Supervisors agreed to table any type of decision on a response to this letter of interest.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Attorney Tom Harlan (Report prepared by Sol Fred Wolf)**A.) Knox Box Violation Update; Nov 5 - Hearing Date**

There is a property owner who is in violation of the Knox Box Ordinance at this time. Sol Wolf had filed a complaint with the court to bring this property into compliance. A court hearing has been scheduled for November 5. The property owner has contacted Sol Wolf's office to discuss what needs to be completed to avoid the court hearing. He was told he would need to comply with the Knox Box Ordinance and pay all costs for the complaint action, as well as any court costs incurred. Although contact has been made the hearing date will remain scheduled until the property is in compliance.

B.) Ordinance Updates

Attorney Harlan reported that Sol Wolf and Mgr Grumbine have been working on the Ordinance updates and a draft has now been provided to the Supervisors for their review. Sol Wolf is still working on the Ag District updates to be included with this Ordinance update.

C.) Violation Letter; Keisch Property – Greenwood Dr

This issue has to do with an addition that had been built on a home located on Greenwood Drive. At the time of the permit application the owner had been told an additional kitchen could not be constructed. When conducting an annual inspection of the addition it appeared one of the rooms was being used as a kitchen. Communication has been passed back and forth between the property owner and LCPD. Attorney Harlan reported Henry & Beaver received a notice stating the Keischs are contesting the enforcement action of LCPD. He asked Mgr Grumbine to add whatever she knew about the Keisch violation. Mgr Grumbine said she had been told that Lebanon County Planning would be preparing a letter to the Keischs today outlining their options regarding removal of the additional kitchen area. Attorney Harlan stated that dependent upon the Keisch response, Sol Wolf may file with the courts to mandate compliance with the Ordinance.

D.) Personnel Manual

Attorney Harlan stated the revisions have been completed for the Personnel Manual and will continue to be reviewed by the Supervisors.

E.) Joint Meeting with Municipal Authority – December 12th

An item on Sol Wolf's report was the Joint Meeting with the Municipal Authority scheduled for December 12 @ 5:30. It will be held before the regularly scheduled Authority meeting.

F.) Meagher Property – N 7th Street

A letter had been received from Randy Maurer, Associated Building Inspection, regarding the Meagher property located off N 7th Street. This property has been in violation of Twp Ordinances for several months. An accumulation of yard sale items which has been displayed for sale non-stop is the major violation along with several other violations. Randy Maurer, ABI has been trying to work with the property owner to clean up the area. The letter mailed gave a deadline of October 24th for completion of the cleanup. The next step would be a fine and filing with the District Magistrate or file with the court to bring the property into compliance with the Ordinances.

G.) Rockwood Project

Attorney Harlan stated he has nothing new to report on the Rockwood Project. The connections and inspections have been ongoing. Suv Artz questioned Brian Vragovich if his family had gotten their situation straightened out with Redevelopment. Brian indicated that the connection for his mother's property has been scheduled. He repeated the agency they were trying to work did not offer much cooperation.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Chm Miller announced that a short recess of 15 minutes will be taken and then the advertised Budget Workshop will begin.

With no further business to discuss the regularly scheduled Board of Supervisors meeting ended and the scheduled Budget Workshop began.

Respectfully Submitted

Theresa L. George
Recording Secretary