

Benner Township Supervisors
July 6, 1999

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Benner Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 8:17 p.m. by the Vice Chairman, Richard Lahr with member Helen Alters present. Mr. Kelleher was absent. Also in attendance were Walt Wise, Jim Steff, Mike Klein, Jamie Cheers, Larry Bilotto, Brian Goss, Doug Weikel, Rob Fugate, Dave Breon, Henry Burman, Gloria Horner, Betsey Howell, Larry Ermol, Russell Burman, Roy Breon, Dan Cochran, Steve Triebold, Tim Schreffler, Jack Shultz, Shawn Kauffman, Glenn Dry, Marlin Neff, Larry Cramer, Jim Houser, Bob Donaldson, and Renee McGowan.

PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Tour De' Toona: Tour De'Toona representatives were present to ask the Board for permission to run a section of their race on Township roads. The Board expressed their disappointment with the organization for the lateness of approaching the Board. Comments were heard from several township residents on past experiences that they have had when a race was held in the township. Mr. Fugate noted that he was detained during one race for approximately 30 minutes. The Board noted that they would consider allowing the race this year if the following is done:

- *The race route is posted 5 days in advance to warn motorist.
- *Notices are placed on Channel 4 and in the CDT of the route and what motorist may expect.
- *A map of the race route and supplemental important race details is mailed to all township residents.

The representatives from Tour De' Toona noted that they didn't feel that any of these requirements would be a problem and would get back in touch with the Board for final approval at their next meeting.

Centre Region COG Re: Fire Training Facility:

Mr. Wise and Mr. Steff were present to present to the Board the concept of building a fire training facility on an 11 acre parcel of ground that is owned by UAJA.

It was noted that this site is being considered because UAJA is offering to lease it to the Centre Region at little or no cost, the utilities are in close to the property, and the site is centrally located for the departments who will be using it.

Mr. Schreffler noted that a state certified fire fighter would be present during all training exercises. It was further stated that the only materials that would be used during these training exercises would be wood, straw, natural gas and water. No chemical foam will be used on the site.

Representatives indicated that the site will be construction by the Centre Region Council of Governments and that they will be in charge of the facility. Approximately 20 fire departments would use this facility for their training exercises.

Several residents who live in close proximity to the proposed facility expressed the following various concerns:

*Will exercises distract motorist traveling on I-99 causing hazardous situations?

*How can a facility of this type be constructed in the Stream Valley District?

*Concerns of contamination to Spring Creek were mentioned.

*Mr. Cramer voiced concerns of noise coming from the property as well as increased traffic.

Mr. Wise noted that the site will be constructed to be in compliance with DEP and that they would also seek review and recommendations from the ClearWater Conservancy. He stated further that the site is almost twice as large as really needed and that most of the site will remain wooded.

Several fire company representatives spoke on what is involved in training out of town and how this site would make it more accessible for the volunteers to attend training sessions.

Mrs. McGowan explained to those present what the procedure would be to allow a training facility to be built at this location.

RECESS

A five minute recess was taken from 9:55 to 10:03 p.m.

MINUTES

The minutes of June 21, 1999, were presented to the Board for their review and comments. Mr. Lahr moved to approve the minutes with the following addition: Page 2 – Discussion was held concerning the proposed driveway on Purdue Mt. The **Board** stressed . . . Mrs. Alters seconded the motion with the noted addition.

Vote: Mrs. Alters – yes Mr. Lahr – yes Mr. Kelleher – absent

BILLS

The bills of July 6, 1999, were presented to the Board for review and approval. Mrs. Alters moved to approve the bills as presented. Mr. Lahr seconded the motion.

Vote: Mrs. Alters – yes Mr. Lahr – yes Mr. Kelleher – absent

ENGINEER’S REPORT

Mr. Weikel gave the Board his written report on the various projects he has been reviewing on the Board’s behalf.

Mr. Kelleher is now present, the time being 10:10 p.m.

ZONING OFFICER’S REPORT

Mrs. McGowan gave the Board a copy of the proposed zoning amendments for their review.

Mrs. McGowan noted that she has received a copy of a letter that the Fish Commission sent to Rileys regarding the removal of horses from Fish Commission property.

Mrs. McGowan noted that UAJA is requesting a waiver of an engineering review to build a 78’ X 38’ storage building that will be used as their pilot testing facility. After the plant upgrade is complete, it will be turned into a maintenance garage. The Board may grant an engineering review waiver as outlined in the Benner Township Zoning Ordinance in Article IV, Section 2.2.15. Mr. Weikel noted that this waiver is the same procedure that was followed with State College Borough Water Authority.

Mr. Kelleher moved to grant this waiver as long as it is consistent with previously granted waivers. Mrs. Alters seconded the motion.

Vote: Mrs. Alters – yes Mr. Lahr – abstained Mr. Kelleher – yes

OLD BUSINESS

Spring Township Agreement/Boundary Change: Tabled.

Patton Township/Benner Township Boundary: Tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

Pig Roast: The board decided to hold a pig roast on August 22nd beginning at 1:00 p.m. for Township Employees, Committee Board members and their families.

Estimates for Building Repairs/Renovations:

The Board was in receipt of estimates from C. S. Berenty & Assoc. for the following:

- 1. Installation of awning style window in windowless office. Cost \$666.14
- 2. Install surge suppressors on electrical equipment. Cost \$140.74
- 3. Replace outside light fixture outside of office. Cost \$209.29
- 4. Install awning style window in meeting room bathroom. Cost \$575.53

Mr. Kelleher moved to authorize contracts for proposals 1, 2, and 3. Mrs. Alters seconded the motion.

Vote: Mrs. Alters – yes Mr. Lahr – yes Mr. Kelleher – yes

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

1. Centre County Planning Commission Comments
 - a. Ray A. & Carol L. Walker Land Development
 - b. Anna & Kathy Houser Subdivision
 - c. Lot Addition & Replot of Lots 7 & 8R (Skypark Heights)
2. Centre County Planning Commission Time Extension
 - a. Fillmore Farms
3. DEP letter to Major Tatro Re: Final report on clean up at Air National Guard
4. Letter from Mike Hanna Re: support of continuing 339 monies
5. Letter from Jake Corman Re: money for Phase III of Penn Eagle Industrial Park
6. 911 Re-addressing Project - update
7. PSATS Alert

NOTES

It was noted that the Board held an executive session with the Township Attorney on June 28, 1999 from 12:00 to 12:30 p.m. to discuss pending legal matters.

A memo was given to the Board from Dale Moore regarding resurfacing the baseball field at Continental Courts. The Board asked that Mr. Moore be contacted and asked to attend one of their meetings to discuss this matter further.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned the time being 11:27 p.m.

Sharon Royer, Sec.