

Benner Township Supervisors
February 16, 2004

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Benner Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the Chairman, Dave Breon with members John Elnitski, Jr., and Jim Swartzell present. Also in attendance were Doug Weikel, Connie Demaire, Larry Demaire, Mike Shamalla, Katie Hetherington, Justin Cunfer, Nicole Boyle, Kathryn Peters, Paul Hostetter, Andy Herr, James Eby, and Renee Swancer.

PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Connie Demaire/Larry Demaire: Mr. & Mrs. Demaire were present to see if the Board would be able to help them and other residents living along I -99 to persuade Penn Dot to place some kind of sound barriers along the highway. Mrs. Demaire noted that their home is located approximately 600 feet from the highway and that they must now use a sleeping machine to get to sleep due to the excessive noise coming from the roadway. She noted that they have a petition with 28 signatures sharing their concerns with the noise. Mrs. Demaire noted that they have gone to Benninghoff, Hanna and Corman, all of which have been helpful with communicating with PennDot, but that nothing has resulted of it. It was noted that PennDot did pre acoustical sound tests but not from the properties themselves. The post acoustical sound test from their property was reading 61 db and that PennDot won't consider mediation unless the readings are 65 dba. The Board noted that they would write a letter on their behalf and that Mr. Elnitski would see if anything could be done at the CRMPO level. The Board noted that several major roadway projects are short on funding in the area and that this problem would probably take a very low precedence over all the other pending projects and that it could be years, if ever, that anything would be done. Mr. Demaire noted that he would make the township a copy of all the correspondence that they have. Mr. Demaire stated that their basement walls also now have cracks in them that weren't there before. They have contacted the blasting company and received a response letter back basically saying "sue us".

Mike Shamalla: Mr. Shamalla was present to go over with the Board the results of the Park and Recreation survey. He noted that several people have indicated their willingness to serve on a park and recreation board. Mr. Shamalla stated that he would like to follow up with these individuals to create a focus group and from that create a Park & Recreation Board that

would establish missions and goals. The Board indicated that they would support him in creating such a Board. Mr. Shamalla noted that he would place the survey results on the web site soon.

MINUTES

The minutes of February 2, 2004, were presented to the board for their review and comments. Mr. Elnitski moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Breon seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Swartzell - yes Mr. Elnitski - yes Mr. Breon - yes

BILLS

The bills of February 16, 2003, were presented to the Board for their review and approval. Mr. Elnitski moved to approve the bills as presented. Mr. Swartzell seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Swartzell - yes Mr. Elnitski - yes Mr. Breon - yes

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Weikel was present and went over the items that he is currently reviewing on behalf of the Township. Mr. Weikel also noted that he has been appointed to serve on the Spring Township Water Authority as a board member. He noted that when and if anything comes up in front of his Board concerning Benner Township that he would exclude himself.

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT

Mrs. Swancer went over her written report with the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

Spring Township Agreement/Boundary Change: This item continues to be tabled.

Patton Township/Benner Township Boundary: This item continues to be tabled.

Beezer Hill Road Closure: This item continues to be tabled.

Zoning Amendment Request from Barbush Family Partnership: This item has been sent on to the Township Solicitor for advertisement.

Building Repairs/Maintenance: The Board was asked if they would consider placing a small kitchenette against the wall in the meeting room. The estimate for the cabinets, counter top, sink and facets is \$575. This item was tabled until a further date.

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Training Facility Conditional Use: Mr. Breon moved to forward the conditional use application on to the Planning Commission for their review and recommendations. Mr. Swartzell seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Swartzell – yes Mr. Elnitski – yes Mr. Breon – yes

Request from Soccer Groups: The Board noted that they wish to maintain their policy as in the past. The baseball groups will have precedence for the field usage in the spring with soccer in the fall.

Riff Raff: Mr. Breon moved to schedule riff raff for the week of May 1st through May 8th. Mr. Elnitski seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Swartzell – yes Mr. Elnitski – yes Mr. Breon – yes

Road Projects: The Board noted that they would like to see Fox Hill Road and the section of Rock Road that was discussed during budgeting to be placed out for bid. The Board asked that Mr. Lahr be contacted to see if there was another area that was discussed prior to the bidding being written up.

CORRESPONDENCE

The board acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

1. U.S. Filter Water Level survey results for State College Borough Water Authority
2. Letter from PSU announcing that Bryan Rodgers has taken the place of the retired Bob Dannaker as the Director of the University Park Airport
3. PSATS Alert – Rendell 2004-05 budget
4. SBWJA Minutes of Jan. 26, 2004

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned the time being 10:00 p.m.

Sharon Royer, Sec.