

**BENNER TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS**

**MINUTES**

**October 18, 2004**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Benner Township Supervisors was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the Chairman, Dave Breon with members John Elnitski, Jr. and James Swartzell present. Also in attendance was Renee Swancer, Ms. Connie Putuck, Julie Elnitski, Mary Caldana, Carol Beth Book, Mike Shamalla, and Tom Eby.

**PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

Tom Kulakowski: Mr. Kulakowski originally had requested a waiver from the Street Standard's Ordinance for curbing in the Opequon Hill Subdivision, but is now withdrawing the request. The lots within the development will be more than 1 acre in size. Additionally, Mr. Kulakowski discussed an interconnection of water service from Opequon Hills Subdivision with Hampton Hills Subdivision. An 8 inch water line will be needed to connect the two developments. Option one includes coming through the original portion of Crestview, and the Option two includes crossing Buffalo Run Road to access Opequon Hills. Mr. Kulakowski is going to study the options more closely and report back to the Board on the best option.

Benner Elementary School Playground Committee Presentation: Julie Elnitski, Carol-Beth Book and Mary Caldana were present to discuss the Playground/Outdoor Enhancement Projects at the Benner Elementary School. The Committee is trying to obtain a DCNR grant in the amount of \$45,000. Two areas are proposed for playground equipment. Area one is an Intermediate Playground (Grades 3-5) including an obstacle course, rock wall & a triple racer slide. Projected cost is \$30,000 and is expected to be installed in the Spring 2005.

Area two is a Primary Playground (Grades K-2) including a power scape plus, hexadome system, 2 bays of swings and a four-set buck-a bout. Projected cost is \$45,000 and is expected to be installed in the Fall of 2005. Currently, the committee has raised funds in the amount of \$42,412 (\$12,412 in fundraisers; \$10,000 in McDonald's grants; \$5,000 from DCED Hanna's office; and \$15,000 from Benner Township). It is hoped that another \$4,000 will be raised in fundraisers this Fall, and hopes that the DCNR Grant of \$45,000 will be awarded.

The Supervisors thanked all those involved in the project, and were happy to be able to contribute to such a worthwhile project.

Water Authority: Tom Eby was present to discuss with the Board the situation with the Water Authority audit. The Supervisors have concerns that the audit completion being satisfactory with the State. There is a disagreement among authority members on who will do the audit and the costs associated. The 2001-2002 audit cost \$1,200 and some members believed this cost was way too much. Mr. Elnitski noted that the cost of an audit is just a price of doing business. Mr. Eby noted there is a problem with attendance. Mr. Ed Ranio has expressed his intention of resigning. The Supervisors noted if he is having a problem with attendance, have those not interested in serving resign and the Supervisors will find other residents to serve on the authority. There was also concerns that the minute book may not be current. Mr. Eby hopes to get the problems resolved.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of October 4, 2004 were presented to the Board for their review and comments. Mr. Swartzell moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Elnitski seconded the motion.

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

**BILLS**

The bills of October 16, 2004 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. Doug Weikel presented his report to the Board. Robinson Lane culvert replacement is estimated at \$7,500 to replace. The developer and HRG met to discuss comment letters for the Opequon Hills Subdivision.

## ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT

Ms. Swancer presented her report to the Board, and discussed the following:

Apartment violation: Neil and Ruth Carlson had an illegal apartment in their basement.

Complaint about businesses running from homes: Complaint was received regarding B&H Tree Service and Ishler Plumbing.

Hampton Hills – surety will need to be renewed before Nov. 18. Supervisors noted any reductions in surety should be considered carefully because of problems still existing with the development.

Airport Park Preliminary Plan – resubmitted because 5 year time limitation expired.

PSU Manure – received letter from Attorney Neely asking for time extension from Zoning Hearing Board hearing date. No submissions to date.

## PARK & RECREATION DIRECTOR

Mike Shamalla discussed the Halloween Trail scheduled for October 30<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Buffalo Run Community Park. A bonfire is planned along with children's games for the younger kids and for the adults the haunted trail. Activities also include pumpkin carving and a candy hunt. Cost to go through the trail will be \$2.00. Mr. Shamalla hopes that the Bellefonte Area High School students will help with the trail. Secondly, Rails-to-Trails Grant was submitted to State.

## 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 Closing. This item continues to be tabled.

Parking lot paving. This item continues to be tabled.

Adelphia Franchise Fee Agreement Renewal. This item continues to be tabled.

## NEW BUSINESS

I-99 Noise effecting Big Hollow Area: Mr. Elnitski talked about a possible resolution to some of the noise emitted from I-99 in the Big Hollow area. Larry and Constance Demaire were in to the Board to talk about the noise problems. Mr. Elnitski thought if we created a zone for “no exhaust or jake braking” that some of the noise could be eliminated. Mr. Weikel noted he could provide an example ordinance to address this situation.

Airport Park Memorandum of Understanding. Mr. Elnitski moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding. Mr. Breon seconded the motion.

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

Phylliss Thomas Subdivision Planning Module: Ms. Thomas is proposing a 2-lot subdivision on Purdue Mountain. Mr. Elnitski moved to approve the planning module. Mr. Swartzell seconded the motion.

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

Rishel Hill Road Signal- controller replacement: It was noted that the County could own the traffic signal, previously thought the Township had to maintain ownership. Mr. Breon is going to contact the County through a formal letter requesting the County to take ownership of the traffic signal. Mr. Weikel noted he reviewed the request for the change in the controller and concurs it will be acceptable. Mr. Elnitski moved to accept the

substitution recommended by the developer and the contractor, Tel-Power, Inc., and Trans Associates recommendation for acceptance. Mr. Breon seconded the motion.

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

Amberleigh Subdivision surety: Mr. Swartzell moved to approve the revised surety agreement. Mr. Elnitski seconded the motion.

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

Interconnect from I-99 to Minuteman Lane: Mr. Elnitski noted he will be meeting with Dan Ring to discuss the possibilities through the MPO.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Airport Park Preliminary Subdivision Plan
2. Letter and information from SSRT – Landfill Outreach Committee
3. HRG Comment Letters
  - a. Preliminary Plan Opequon Hills
4. Conservation District Letters
  - a. E & S Plan for Opequon Hills
5. NA Water Systems – Water Level report
6. SBWJA Minutes of September 27, 2004
7. PA Fish Commission Land Development Exemption Request Approval letter

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned. The time being 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Renee Swancer, Zoning Officer