

Benner Township Supervisors**February 2, 2004**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Benner Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the Chairman, David Breon with members John Elnitski, Jr. and James Swartzell present. Also in attendance were Dave Engle, John Thomas, Miriam Thomas, Larry Jodon, Dave Swisher, Warren Miller and Renee Swancer.

PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

John Thomas: Mr. Thomas was present to discuss a possible zoning amendment that would allow him to operate a pet crematorium at his residence in Walnut Grove Estates. Mr. Thomas noted that there is currently a need for this service in the Centre County. Currently, if pet owners want their pets cremated and want their ashes back, they must send them to Williamsport, Lewistown or Clearfield. Mr. Thomas noted that the unit he is looking at is manufactured in Williamsport and has a DEP exemption for operation. The unit burns propane, and omits no smell or smoke. The Board noted that they have concerns that by changing the zoning to allow such a use would permit anyone to operate such a facility and not just licensed vets. Discussion was held. It was noted that Mr. Thomas may operate a crematorium at his proposed location if he was to open a vet clinic. The Board noted that they would discuss with their solicitor about the possibility of amending the zoning ordinance for this use as a "conditional use" with the stipulation that the owner/operator must be a vet. Mr. Engle noted that he would come up with some language and forward it to the township for their review.

Larry Jodon: Mr. Jodon was present to ask the Board what the status is of closing Valentine Hill Road. The Board noted that since the Victorian Village development has been put on hold that the road closure has been as well. It was noted that one of the major issues with the closure at this time is that it doesn't allow the trailer park the ability to move homes in and out. Mr. Jodon noted that he feels that there is still a safety issue with the roadway and the entrance to his home and business. The Board noted that after Burnham Farms Estates starts to get built out that the road closure may become more of an issue to have something done.

Warren Miller/Dave Swisher: Mr. Miller and Mr. Swisher were present to go over the letter that was received from DEP and their tentative responses back to the department. Mr. Breon moved to approve the response letter as written. Mr. Elnitski seconded the motion.

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

MINUTES

The minutes of January 19, 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 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

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT

Mrs. Swancer presented the board her written report.

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: Mr. Breon moved to pass this proposed ordinance on to the Township Solicitor for advertisement. Mr. Elnitski seconded the motion.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Rockview Memo of Understanding: The memorandum of understanding was presented from Rockview. It was noted that the attorney representing

Rockview made revisions to the standard memorandum of understanding. Mrs. Swancer reported that the attorney reworded the memorandum to state that Rockview will only reimburse the county and township up to \$10,000 for engineering reviews. Other smaller changes were also made to the memorandum. Mrs. Swancer noted that she spoke with the county and that they were fine with the changes. Discussion was held. The Board noted that they didn't want to start changing the memorandum and felt that by doing so that it would set a precedent. The Board noted that they do not wish to sign or approve the revised memorandum. Mr. Elnitski stated that if the attorney has any questions that she may call him.

Snow Blower for Skid Steer: Quotes were given to the Board for the state contract purchase of a snow blower that would attach to the township's skid steer. Discussion was held. Mr. Elnitski asked when the roadcrew planned on using the snow blower; shortly after it stops snowing or several days later. Mr. Elnitski stated that he is asking this question because they have one at the airport and is concerned that the blower may not do what they intend it to do. He stated that the unit that they have doesn't do very well if the snow sits for a few days. Mr. Elnitski asked that Mr. Bernhard contact him to discuss this matter further.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

1. HRG Comment letter Re: University Park Airport Improvements Project Phase 7
2. Spring-Benner-Walker Joint Authority Minutes
 - a. December 8, 2003
 - b. January 12, 2004
3. County Time Extensions
 - a. Ray & Carol Walker Land Development
 - b. Central Counties Youth Center
 - c. Penn State University Test Track
 - d. Restek Corporation Distribution Warehouse Land Development
4. Letter from Jake Corman Re: Uniform Construction Code

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned the time being 9:27 p.m.



Sharon Royer, Sec.