

Benner Township Supervisors
May 3, 2010

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Benner Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the Chairman, John Elnitski, Jr. with members Dave Breon and Randy Moyer present. Also in attendance were Helen Alters, Mark Watson, Ed McConnell, Barry Yarnell, Terry Crawford, Chad Stafford, Bob Marsh, Jeff Rackovan, Brian Thompson, Marirosa Lamas, Michael Freiderich, Renee Swancer and Sharon Royer.

PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Village of Nittany Glen Conditional Use Application: Chad Stafford was present representing the Village of Nittany Glen. Mr. Stafford noted the reason for the need of a Conditional Use hearing was due to the over 50% reduction in the amenity area of the development. It was noted that the club house size is being reduced as well as the elimination of community swimming pool. Mr. Elnitski moved to forward this application on to the Planning Commission for their review and comments. Mr. Moyer seconded the motion.

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

Rockview Watch Towers: Jeff Rackovan noted that the Commonwealth is phasing out having personnel in the watch towers at their prisons. He noted further that by this summer all towers across the state will be closed or unmanned. It was also noted that no prisons across the state that have been constructed since 1960 have towers. The officers that worked in the towers will be reassigned to duties within the prison.

Mr. Rackovan explained that the prison is fenced by a double row of anti-climbable fencing that is subjected to electronic monitoring. If it is detected that someone is trying to cut the fence or climb it, an alarm will go off. Both fences are topped with barbed wire are 20' apart with rolls of razor ribbon wire in between them. The fencing is tested regularly. These areas are also monitored with video cameras. When an alarm goes off, the cameras will automatically zoom in to the area of the alarm. When an alarm goes off, it also alerts the parameter patrol officer who is armed to the area.

Mr. Elnitski noted that his concern is heighten due to the fact that the township doesn't have its own police force. Previously, the Rockview State Police barracks was located in the township. Now, it is located in Milesburg.

Mr. Thompson noted that the guards take their jobs very seriously. Inmate counts are performed several times a day which keep everyone in check. He noted that if there were to be an escape, it would most likely be one of the inmates that were permitted to be outside the fenced area on work detail not one scaling the barbwire and razorwire fences that are censored controlled. He

noted that for an inmate to escape from inside they would have to make it through a count, scale a barbwire fence which would sound an alarm, get over 20' of razor wire, scale an additional barbwire fence and make it by outside patrols all in about four minutes. If an escape does occur, an emergency siren goes off. It currently goes off everyday at noon. It was explained that should there be a power outage that the prison has installed a state of the art power generation system which is tested regularly.

It was asked how many false alarms go off in a day. It was noted that that number varies. It was stated that a safe number would be 5 to 6 times per day. Each time a false alarm does go off it is treated like the real thing. It was noted that it takes approximately 4 minutes to clear a false alarm.

The question was asked how many cameras were located outside the compound? It was noted that currently there are 27 outside surveillance cameras.

Ed McConnel (Crestview Development) noted that there was an escape around 1995 where an inmate did scale the wall. Prison personnel noted that both fencing and other security measures have been improved since then. Mr. McConnel also noted that the prison in Forest and Fayette counties both have towers.

Ms. Lamas noted that she would welcome the Board to tour the facility to see first hand the security measures that they have in place. Mr. Elnitski noted that he would also like to have a union representative along with the tour. She indicated that that could be arranged.

MINUTES

The minutes of April 15, 2010, were presented to the Board for their review and comments. Mr. Elnitski moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Moyer seconded the motion.

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

BILLS

The bills of May 3, 2010, were presented to the Board for their review and approval. Mr. Elnitski moved to approve the bills as presented. Mr. Moyer seconded the motion.

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

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT

Spring Creek Overlay Ordinance: The Board noted that all comments on this draft ordinance should be turned into Renee at the next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MPO: Mr. Elnitski noted that funding of the proposed projects is an issue due to very limited funds.

PSATS: Mr. Breon reported on the PSATS Convention. He noted that legislation is still pending for paying for State Police coverage. The State has less funds in all areas which will result in less projects being done. Mr. Breon reported that he also attended a class on fire consolidation. The class instructors highly recommended that funding formulas be based on population.

OLD BUSINESS

Spring Creek Canyon: Mr. Elnitski noted that the deed restrictions are still being worked out. It was noted that some of the other government agencies are having issues about the proposed wording. Mr. Elnitski noted that Clearwater is meeting with Senator Corman on May 10th to review some of the issues.

Bellefonte Borough Fire Protection Agreement: Mr. Elnitski noted that he has spoken with Dwayne Grove and Paul Silvis to see if either of these gentlemen would serve as the Township's representative on the Fire Task Force.

Pleasant Gap Fire Protection: Mr. Elnitski noted that he has met with representatives from Spring Township and the Pleasant Gap Fire Company. He noted that currently the Township is paying Pleasant Gap about \$5,000. If the Bellefonte formula is used, the cost would be around \$36,000. The Township and Fire Company noted that they would be pleased to have a contribution of \$20,000 for the next 5 years. Mr. Breon moved to agree to a contribution of \$20,000 for the years of 2011 and 2012 so this agreement would run in conjunction with the Bellefonte agreement. Mr. Moyer seconded the motion.
Vote: Mr. Moyer – yes Mr. Breon – yes Mr. Elnitski - yes

Kepler Pool: Mr. Elnitski noted that the YMCA has drafted an agreement between Bellefonte Borough, Walker Township, Spring Township, and Benner Township to contribute \$1 per person for the 2010 swimming season. Mr. Breon moved to contribute \$1 per person (\$3,205) for the 2010 season and to strongly encourage other arrangements for the pool be looked into. Mr. Elnitski seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Moyer – yes Mr. Breon – yes Mr. Elnitski - yes

Mr. Elnitski noted that the YMCA has indicated that they would take over the pool if the Borough would turn over the entire Governor's park grounds with the pool.

Amberleigh Surety: Mrs. Swancer noted that Mr. Schnoover has been in contact with the Development's attorney regarding getting the needed updated surety paperwork. The Board noted that it should be conveyed that if the revised

paperwork isn't received by the Board's May 17th meeting they will be moving to execute on the current surety agreement.

NEW BUSINESS

Surplus Equipment: The board reviewed the list of the surplus items that the Road Superintendent would like to get rid of. Mr. Elnitski moved to approve the list for advertising. Mr. Breon seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Moyer – yes Mr. Breon – yes Mr. Elnitski - yes

Neighbors Dispute: Mr. Breon noted that there are neighbors in the Crestview Development that continue to dispute among each other about dogs and trash. Mrs. Swancer noted that she spoke with the one homeowner and asked that she leash her dogs when letting them out to insure that they are toileting on their own property. The excess trash that had accumulated to the rear of the one property has been cleaned up.

Helen Alters: Mrs. Alters presented the Board with a map dated 1895 which showed the Village of Peru on it. She noted that this was several years prior to the state beginning the Rockview State Prison. Therefore, the name had nothing to do with "Prison Employee Residential Units".

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

1. Centre County Planning Office Letters
 - a. Preliminary Plan Submission of redevelopment of Wolf's Furniture
 - b. Comments letter Re: Hartle Subdivision
 - c. Time Extensions (Glen @ Paradise Hills South) (Fox Ridge Subdivision) (Grove Park Phase III)
2. PSATS News Bulletin
3. PA Fish & Boat notice of NPDES renewal
4. SBWJA Minutes of April 12, 2010
5. Principal Pension Financial Report for the 1st Qt. 2010

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned with the time being 8:55 p.m.

Sharon Royer, Sec.