

Benner Township Supervisors
January 16, 2012

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Benner Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by the Chairman, David Wise with members Randy Moyer and John Elnitski present. Also in attendance were Dick Lahr, Helen Alters, Denny Krout, Carol Shuey, Randy Greene, Dave Breon, David Cassatt, Doyd Corl, Dan Hoffman, Kathy Evey, Jared Evey, Ray Walker, Jr., Brian Walker, Lyle Beal, Dennis O'Leary, Timothy Schoonover and Sharon Royer.

PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Dennis Krout & Carol Shuey: Mr. Krout noted that he and his sister are attending tonight's meeting to get a status update on the Krout Road bridge.

Mr. Wise noted that PennDot has changed the status of the undermining and guiderail issues to a "Priority 0". The letters received from the state's engineering firm indicate that the Township must begin to remedy these issues within seven days of the receipt of the letters.

Mr. O'Leary noted that PennDot wants the township to apply for an emergency permit to get the abutments underpinned. The emergency permit will allow for work to begin almost immediately. He noted further that the emergency permit for the under pinning is not as fully entailed as the GP11 permit that will be required for any additional work that will need to be done.

It was explained that the township has gotten several different stories about what will be allowed to be done to remedy the bridge issues. An example of this is what type of replacement bridge, if the replacement bridge option is chosen, can be installed. Pictures were shown to Mr. Krout and Mrs. Shuey of one option that the Township is looking at. It was noted that this particular bridge is rated for around 44 tons.

Mr. Wise noted that even if a new bridge is installed, it won't meet the Township's street standards because of the lack of room on the other side of the bridge for a cul-de-sac. Mr. Krout questioned if they could give the township additional property to create a turn a round. The Board indicated that with the wetlands being there, that it would probably require obtaining property almost back to the barn in order to achieve the necessary area. Mr. Elnitski noted that if the bridge repairs were made and the bridge and road was turned back over to the property owners, the cul-de-sac wouldn't need to be required.

Mr. Wise explained that the township needs for the Krout/Shuey family to tell the township under what conditions would they accept the road and bridge.

Mr. Elnitski noted that the Board is still investigating options with PennDot. The Board told Mr. Krout that we would continue to keep them informed of what is going on.

Clair Stem: It was noted that Mr. Stem is ill and could not attend this evenings' meeting.

David Cassatt: Mr. Cassatt noted that he was attending tonight representing the Bellefonte Youth Football League. He explained that the league currently doesn't have a

field to play on and is seeking property to build one. Mr. Cassatt stated that he has met with Max Gill, Executive Director, of the State College Borough Water Authority, who has indicated a willingness of allowing a field to be constructed on the Authority's property in Airport Park. He stated that the long term goals of the league is to build a football/baseball fields, a small park with restrooms, bleachers, lights, etc. He noted that he has spoken with Jake Corman, the County Commissioners and others who all feel that this is a good idea and are pledging their support. Mr. Cassatt noted that currently there is approximately 300 kids in this youth program. The group has commitments from Graymont for materials, Hawbaker for equipment to construct the fields and materials. Discussion has also taken place regarding having county prisoners help with constructing the fields.

Mr. Elnitski questioned if they were looking for the Township to maintain this area or would the group be maintaining it. Mr. Elnitski noted further that the Township is already busy in the summer maintaining the fields that the Township currently has. Mr. Cassatt noted that the group could maintain it or at least speak to the fact that as long as he was personally involved (probably the next 8 years) with the group it could be maintained.

Mr. Lahr questioned if the Board even knows if sports fields are a permitted use in this area.

The Board asked Mr. Cassatt to keep them updated on his progress and indicated that they would try to have one of them attend a meeting regarding the fields when he has one scheduled.

Kathy Evey: Mrs. Evey questioned if anyone has been down to check the stormwater issues that she has called the Township about concerning the Bellefonte Airport project. Mrs. Royer noted that she has Mrs. Evey's concern on a list when a new engineer is hired to have them look into her concerns. Mr. Elnitski noted that he knows that HRG was out when the area was experiencing the hurricane strength storms and that the Conservation District has made at least two inspections. Mrs. Evey noted that they experienced a lot of water just recently and has concerns about her well being contaminated. Mr. Elnitski noted that the project is ongoing and won't be done until Spring. Mrs. Evey questioned if the one culvert has been installed correctly as she believes that the water is being channeled more toward the road. The Board asked that copies of the Conservation District reports be forwarded to the Evey's.

MINUTES

The minutes of January 3, 2012, were presented to the Board for their review and comments. The Board decided to table action on the minutes until the next meeting so that the Board would have more time to review them.

BILLS

The bills of January 16, 2012, were presented to the Board for their review and approval. Mr. Moyer moved to approve the bills as presented. Mr. Wise seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Elnitski – yes

Mr. Moyer – yes

Mr. Wise – yes

ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. O'Leary noted that the most pressing issue that he has been dealing with is the Krout Lane Bridge. He explained that until the bridge issue is dealt with, it puts other proposed work in limbo not knowing what funds we will have to work with.

The new bucket truck has been received and is working well.

Beezer Hill Road: Mr. Wise questioned what it was going to take to get the Beezer Hill Road closed. Mr. O'Leary noted that several permits have expired concerning this closing. It was explained that the closing was to happen after the developer top coated the roads in Amberleigh and turned the streets over to the Township. The work to be done was to be done by the developer, Michael Glass. Mr. O'Leary noted that there was some discussion about paving late last year, but that the developer waited too long. Questions were raised to Mr. Schoonover as to how long the Township should be expected to wait until this work is completed. Additional questions were raised to Mr. Schoonover if the Township could just act on the surety and have the work completed. Mr. Schoonover indicated that he would draft a letter to Mr. Glass regarding this issue.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Kepler Pool: Mr. Wise indicated that he attended a meeting at the Bellefonte YMCA concerning the Kepler Pool. Possible suggested updates to the pool were discussed. An additional meeting will be held on January 31 at 6 p.m. at the Central Pennsylvania Institute to discuss the possibility of creating a Recreation Authority to jointly work on the updates to the pool.

ISO: Mr. Elnitski noted that ISO representatives will hold a meeting for the Fire Task Force and Elected Officials on Wednesday January 25 at 6:30 in the court house annex building to explain the different components used in achieving ISO ratings.

OLD BUSINESS

Spring Creek Canyon: Mr. Elnitski noted that the access agreements to the various lots are still being worked out.

ROW Regulatory Ordinance: This ordinance continues to be tabled.

Krout Road Bridge: Mr. Krout asked if in addition to the new bridge being installed if the Board would be granting compensation to them. The Board noted that the Krout's need to place their thoughts down and present them to the Board.

Walker's Zoning Change Request: Mrs. Royer noted that Mrs. Swancer had sent letters to the Township's involved in the Nittany Valley Comprehensive Plan to see if any of the municipalities had any comments on the proposed change. The deadline for those municipalities to comment has passed. The Board asked Mr. Schoonover to work on completing the necessary documents and advertisements necessary to make this zoning change. It was indicated that the change to be made was basically a zoning line change. No wording changes in the zoning districts were proposed at this time. Mr. Schoonover questioned if there were any other changes to the Zoning Ordinance that the Board was aware of as it would be appropriate to do them all at the same time since this is a multiple step process.

Board Appointments:

Water Authority: Mrs. Royer noted that Mark Capriani has only served one term on the Water Authority. Therefore, he may be reappointed for a second term. Mr. Moyer moved to appoint Mark Capriani to a second, five year term on the Benner Township Water Authority. Mr. Wise seconded the motion.

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

Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority: After discussing the various candidates interested in the open position, Mr. Moyer made a motion to appoint Dan Hoffman to a five year term on the Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority. Mr. Wise seconded the motion.

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

Township Vacancies

Zoning Services: Mr. Wise noted that interim Zoning Services are being provided to the Township by Spring Township's Zoning Officer, Vaughn Zimmerman. The Board discussed writing a draft of the advertisement to be placed in the paper in order to fill the position. Dave Breon questioned if the Board was looking to fill the job with a part-time person or a full-time person and that question should be answered before an ad is placed. Mr. Moyer noted that there is also the option of hiring a third party. Mr. Elnitski noted that a salary should also be discussed prior to advertising.

Mr. Elnitski asked if Spring Township was providing the Township these zoning services for free or at what rate is the Township being billed for this work.

Mr. Wise noted that the Township will be paying Spring Township an hourly rate based on the amount of hours that Mr. Zimmerman has worked. David Breon commented that the Board should have made a decision who was going to be paid and at what amount was going to be paid prior to any work being done.

Mr. Schoonover indicated that at the Board's meeting on January 9th the Board did move to appoint Vaughn Zimmerman as the interim Zoning Officer but as he understood it all of the details at that time were still being worked out as far as hours, pay, etc. Mr. Schoonover indicated as soon as the rate of pay is known that the Board needs to vote on that matter.

Mr. Wise stated that the Spring Township office had hoped to have the rate of compensation to the Board by this evening, but that information was not yet received. Mr. Moyer noted that Spring Township was going to charge the exact cost of Mr. Zimmerman's wages and benefits.

Mr. Wise made a motion to compensate Spring Township no more than \$25.00 per hour for Mr. Zimmerman's work.

Mr. Elnitski noted that he has not been party to anything that has been going on and will not vote on anything until more information is received.

It was decided that this will be discussed at the Board's February meeting.

Back Up Zoning Officer: Mr. Wise moved to compensate Timothy Schoonover at the rate of \$155.00 per hour should the Board require his services as back up Zoning Officer. Mr. Moyer seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Elnitski – no Mr. Moyer – yes Mr. Wise – yes

Township Engineering Services: Mr. Wise noted that he has received a proposal from Don Franson to perform the Township's Engineering Services. It was noted that Mr. Franson is an independent engineer who works for only municipalities and the county. Mr. Franson doesn't accept work for commercial engineering for private clients. He indicated that he has the time to take on the Township's work and that his rate would be at \$65.00 per hour.

Mr. Wise noted that he feels to be fair, that Township should also request RFPs from other engineering firms to see what other firms have to offer.

Mr. Wise made the motion to accept Don Franson's proposal and appoint him as the Township's interim Engineer with the compensation rate of \$65.00 per hour as established in his letter of January 14, 2012 while an RFP process is taking place. Mr. Moyer seconded the motion.

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

NEW BUSINESS

2012 Summer Park & Rec.: Mrs. Royer stated that the Director of last year's Summer Park and Rec program called and questioned if the program will continue in the same manner for this summer. Mrs. Miller received a phone call from the Bald Eagle State Park indicating that their programs are filling up fast and if she wanted to plan for trips there that they should be booked now. Mr. Elnitski moved to hire Debbi Miller as the Director of the Township's Summer Recreation Program and give her permission to start developing this year's program within the budget established for the program. Mr. Wise seconded the motion.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

1. Spring Benner Walker Joint Authority Minutes of December 12, 2011
2. Centre County Planning Office
 - a. Final Plan of Tax Parcel 37-5-48 (Dr. G. Clair)
 - b. Time Extension Wolf Furniture Building
 - c. Time Extension Commonwealth Disposition Plan of Rockview Property
 - d. Time Extension of G. M. McCrossin Plan
 - e. Time Extension of Final Plan for Village of Nittany Glen
3. Alexander Well Field data Sheets for 3 & 4th quarters of 2011
4. Keller Engineering Letters Re: Krout Road Bridge Inspection findings
5. Letter from Pennoni Re: Interest in providing Engineering Services
6. Letter from Dave Breon Re: meetings

NOTES

Mrs. Royer noted that the Township did receive the surety renewal for the CBICC today. This surety package is good through 12/31/12.

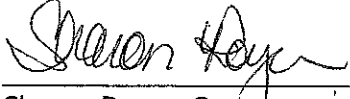
ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Wise moved to adjourn the meeting the time being 8:57 p.m. Mr. Moyer seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Elnitski – yes

Mr. Moyer – yes

Mr. Wise – yes



Sharon Royer, Sec.