

**East Brunswick Township
BOS August 2013 Meeting
August 20, 2013
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The Board of Supervisors of East Brunswick Township held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 20, 2013 at the Municipal Building. The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Jeffrey Faust at 6:38 PM.

There was a PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE to our flag.

In attendance for the meeting were Jeffrey Faust, Chairman; Thomas Strause, Vice-Chairman; Thomas Noecker, Supervisor; Jim Crossen, Esq.; Greg Stewart, Engineer; and Marybeth Matz, Secretary/Treasurer.

Residents in attendance for the meeting were Don Rubinkam, Clyde Spehrley, Jean Strause, Ken Nester, Carol Bylone, Ned Killian, Pat Benek, and Keith Coller.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

Ken Nester addressed the supervisors on the status of Country Hill Road as he had first discussed his interest in vacating the roadway at the February 2013 township meeting. The Township Engineer, Greg Stewart and Solicitor Jim Crossen both confirmed they had not moved forward with it at this time and no actions items were done. Jeff Faust stated the property had been sold quite a while ago. It was determined the individual who owns that property with the bi-level home at 606 Country Hill Road as of 2011 is Jonathan Phillips. Mr. Nester owns both sides of the road past Mr. Phillips property. Jeff stated the township could vacate through the woods to the other side if Mr. Nester would dedicate some right of way of his property to the township for enough room to install a cul-de-sac or preferably vacate the road in its entirety. However, a notification letter will need to be sent to Mr. Phillips to determine if he is in agreement of vacating it. Jim Crossen was instructed to draft a notice.

Carol Bylone brought the supervisor's attention to the rather large and numerous potholes and general disrepair of Orchard and White Tail Lane. The postman had made a request if something could be done with the sizable potholes located in front of her mailbox. She shared her disappointment that it was necessary for her to attend yet another meeting as she was here last year in 2012 for the same issue but it has not been addressed. In fact, she said she does not recollect it has been taken care of in quite some years now. Jeff said he would like to address those roads in the future. Tom Noecker said they can fill the holes but they have been very busy with ongoing projects in the township. Greg noted the road crew targets roads but; unfortunately, they are not able to reconstruct others. Jeff told Mrs. Bylone he will have the road crew patch those areas in the township that are currently at issue.

Ned Killian voiced his concerns regarding the sewage issue that has been ongoing with his neighbor who has his system located on his property. The Township Sewage Enforcement Officer, Wayne Bowen has been monitoring it. Jeff noted the DEP guidelines stipulate an SEO has the authority to issue citations and fines and can take them to the magistrate but legally the Board of Supervisors cannot handle SEO issues. The township is appraised of situations if a violation needs to be addressed. Jeff explained the process in further detail with Mr. Killian in regard to the timeframe, etc. Greg said it needs to be a certain threshold to be a violation and only recently there was an opportunity to collect samples. Tests have been conducted and the results were reportedly positive per Mr. Killian. Greg confirmed he just received notice from Wayne Bowen that the counts were high and; therefore, the neighbor does have to install the system. The SEO will send a letter to Mr. Killian stating such and he will check on the schedule for implementing the new system and contact Mr. Killian with his findings.

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Mr. Killian also has an issue with this same neighbor housing a large number of dogs at his residence which is currently at seven. Jeff questioned if they are kenneled outside but they are not. Jeff conferred with the Township Solicitor, Jim Crossen on how many animals a homeowner may have and per the Township Zoning Ordinance it lists animal provisions as a maximum of five (5) dogs. However, it was noted, if Mr. Christmas had the animals before the ordinance had been implemented in January 2012, he is well within his rights to have the seven animals at his residence. Under zoning you can't adopt an ordinance and try to go back to retroactively change it. Jeff said Mr. Killian can contact the Board of Health with his concerns.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER

Jeff Faust said the grant application is going through the process yet.

WILD TURKEY BRIDGE

Greg Stewart had the permit documentation on hand for the supervisor's signatures. He also had the design map sheets with a profile. Greg reviewed the details of the construction and schematics for the bridge work. He said we will have someone come in and set the arches. The road crew will do the backfilling. It will have a 20 feet wide roadway that tapers in at the shoulders. Greg said a temporary construction easement will be needed with Benesch drafting it up and Jim Crossen to review and send it out.

BIRCH ROAD ABANDONMENT

Jim Crossen reported that a letter was sent from his office on August 19, 2013 to all five (5) property owners who will be affected with the abandonment of Birch Road. He discussed the procedures to be followed in vacating the roadway. A brief public hearing will be conducted 15 minutes before the commencement of the Board of Supervisor's regular September meeting and if all property owners are in agreement, they will duly sign the agreement and waive any claims against the township. Jim has a September 3rd deadline set if they should have any objections. If none is received, the public hearing will be conducted on September 17th and the Ordinance shall than be passed at the October meeting. Special note that Jim will send an amended letter to Mr. Wetzel's attention confirming the township will adjust the road profile where it meets Red Dale Road as per his request.

AMEND SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM ORDINANCE - 1986-1

No discussion took place and it was tabled until next month's meeting.

ELECTRONIC & UNIVERSAL WASTE RECYCLING FOR TWP RESIDENTS

The event is scheduled for Saturday, October 26th from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM to be hosted by the township at their municipal building in cooperation with Advanced Green Solutions. Jeff read the items that will be accepted and noted the small fees charged for certain items. Mr. Strause is chairing the event for our township residents. Jeff said Marybeth will have copies of the flyer available and distribute them to designated areas within the township. Tom Strause supplied a list of churches and businesses for circulation.

NEW BUSINESS:

EVERGREEN II ROAD IMPROVEMENT AGREEMENT

Miller Real Estate submitted a letter to the township requesting a three year extension for the Improvements Agreement for the roads for Evergreen II. Greg reportedly checked the area and he discussed the needs with Bridget Miller, specifically the scour had to be addressed. He noted they have in general now taken care of the scour but he still had some comments for them of items to be done yet. Greg shared he personally does not agree with the three year term submitted by Miller. Each of the supervisors said they would be fine with an extension and the option to revisit it in one year.

Motion by Jeff Faust *to extend the Miller Real Estate Road Improvement Agreement for Evergreen II to October 30, 2014*, second by Tom Strause. Voted All in Favor.

Jeff instructed Marybeth to notify Miller Real Estate notifying them of the township's extension timeframe.

LANDVIEW ESTATES MAINTENANCE BOND

The 15% Maintenance Bond that the township is holding for the roads for Landview Estates was addressed. Greg explained the township had taken over the roads a year or more ago but held a maintenance bond. Greg did an inspection with John Thomas and noted there are insignificant sections with cracks and one spot in the cul-de-sac is peeled off. John Thomas is to seal it up and Greg told Phil Joswick it needs to be done and he should notify Greg when he can conduct a site inspection. Greg said the supervisors can make a recommendation to release the escrow funds once it is completed. Greg pointed out there are no new homes there but once new construction begins in the development and there are construction vehicles present, the township crew needs to make sure when making inspections on new driveways that they are transitioned in properly so there isn't a drop off and they break the edge of it.

Motion by Jeff Faust *to release the 15% Maintenance Bond for Landview Estates pending final approval and inspection by the Township Engineer*, second by Tom Strause. Voted All in Favor.

SERVICE ELECTRIC CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

Jeff Faust tabled this discussion to the next month's meeting until our Township Solicitor Jim Crossen has the opportunity to review the franchise agreement contract submitted by Service Electric and report his findings before taking any action.

WORKMEN COMPENSATION 2012 AUDIT COMPLETED BY EMC

Marybeth reported the audit for 2012 has been conducted recently for the township's workmen compensation with no findings.

TOTAL VISIBILITY

Marybeth reported on information the township received on the Photo ID System which is a secure on line Resource Management Database funded through the Department of Homeland Security and available through the Schuylkill County Emergency Management Agency to all municipalities, emergency services and support agencies. It is a county and region wide Accountability System.

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There is no cost but the municipality is responsible to enter the information into the system to receive photo ID's for each personnel. If there is an emergency incident in the township, municipal employees and public officials will have proper identification to possibly gain access when warranted to any of their facilities. The township supervisors instructed Marybeth to follow through and register the required information in the Total Visibility system. She will notify them once the photo ID's are ready to be taken at the 911 Center.

HIGHMARK BLUE SHIELD

A notification was received from our broker, KFP Insurance on the increase of 2.9% for health services for the township. Groups taking advantage of the early renewal will keep their current benefit period of plan or calendar year. The Highmark Blue Shield plan benefits will reset starting December 1, 2013 and have a full 12 months to meet their new deductible. The Board of Supervisors accepted the new plan application.

CORRESPONDENCE

GENERAL

APPRECIATION LETTER FROM RESIDENT JOHN THEISEN

Jeff read the appreciation letter sent from Mr. Theisen, who resides on Scenic Mountain Drive. He thanked the road crew for doing a good job in fixing the potholes on Breezy Acres Road and Scenic Mountain Drive and the overlay on the little hill on Breezy Acres Road.

SUPPORT LETTERS FOR DCED GTRP GRANT

Jeff announced the township received copies of letters which were submitted to DCED by Senator David G. Argall 29th Senatorial District and State Representative 124th District Jerry Knowles in support of the township's proposed grant application for a Community Recreation Center.

NEW RINGGOLD BOROUGH COUNCIL

A letter was received from the New Ringgold Borough Council requesting the donation of shale for their proposed basketball court complex. Further discussion took place on how the township could meet their needs without infringing upon the busy work schedule of the road crew.

Motion by Tom Strause for the township to offer the requested shale to New Ringgold Borough but due to time constraints of township personnel, the borough may retrieve the shale at the site area under township's supervision, seconded by Tom Noecker. All Voted in Favor.

BLUE MOUNTAIN RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

The Recreation meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 28th at 7 PM.

SOUTHERN SCHUYLKILL COG MEETING

The COG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 19th at 7:00 PM. Tom Strause will be in attendance.

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SCHUYLKILL TCC MEETING

The next TCC meeting is Tuesday, September 24th at 6:00 PM. Jean Strause reported to the supervisors that Berkheimer Associates had not been in contact with the township office yet pertaining to the EIT reported earnings for the second quarter of this year.

SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING

Second meeting scheduled to discuss Township Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual on Thursday, October 3rd at 6:30 PM at the township building.

PERMITS

Greg said there are two new single family dwellings being constructed by Dave Miller & Sons, Inc.- The Malloys at Evergreen II and Brezewicks at Scenic Mountain Drive. Marybeth reviewed the escrow account files for the past few year in detail with Greg and he; in turn, has been in contact with various residents to determine the current status of their projects. Greg also discussed the Paul Goettner timbering project which will need a Timber Inventory Plan yet.

SEMINARS

Jeff suggested if anyone is interested in the seminars available they should contact Marybeth for the details.

ROAD MASTER REPORT

Tom Noecker reviewed his monthly report. He also inquired if single line painting should be done this year. The last time it was completed was 2011. The Supervisor's agreed Tom should follow through with it and acquire a quote.

Tom noted back tires are needed for the small dump truck and he was instructed to get them.

Jeff Faust mentioned the minutes reflect the donation from East Brunswick to the Community Fire Company of New Ringgold in the amount of \$5,000; however, the donation made by our township was not matched by the New Ringgold Borough Council to the fire services.

MINUTES OF JULY 16, 2013 MEETING

Motion by Tom Noecker, second by Tom Strause to approve the minutes as presented. Voted all in Favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT


Motion by Tom Strause, seconded by Jeff Faust to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Voted all in Favor.

REVIEW AND AUTHORIZATION OF BILLS

Motion by Tom Strause, seconded by Jeff Faust to approve the Payment of Bills as presented. Voted all in Favor.

On a motion by Tom Strause, seconded by Tom Noecker, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM. Voted all in Favor.

Respectfully submitted,


Marybeth C. Matz, Secretary/Treasurer