

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 6, 2009

President Czapracki called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 P. M.

The following were in attendance: Mr. Wilkes, Mr. Vishnefski, Mr. Roke, Mr. Zyla and Mr. Czapracki. Also in attendance were Solicitor Richard Shiptoski and Richard V. Zika

AUTHORIZE THE HIRING OF JAMES EVANS, AS A FULL TIME POLICE OFFICER, AT THE STARTING SALARY OF \$24,960, PLUS BENEFITS, BEGINNING JULY 1, 2009. AFTER A NINETY (90) DAY PROBATION PERIOD, THE SALARY WILL INCREASE TO \$25,480. A FORMAL CONTRACT WILL BE REQUIRED.

Mr. Zyla moved to authorize the hiring of James Evans as outlined above. Seconded by Mr. Wilkes. Voting: YES - Mr. Wilkes, Mr. Vishnefski, Mr. Roke, Mr. Zyla and Mr. Czapracki. Voting: NO – NONE. Motion carried.

AUTHORIZE THE HIRING OF KEVIN LEWIS, 26 ROSE AVE., PLAINS, PA. AS A PART-TIME POLICE OFFICER, EFFECTIVE JULY 6, 2009 AT A STARTING RATE OF \$10.00 PER HOUR. AFTER SIXTY (60) DAYS OF SUCCESSFUL PROBATION, THE HOURLY RATE WILL INCREASE TO \$11.00

Mr. Zyla moved to authorize the hiring of Kevin Lewis as a part-time police officer as outlined above. Seconded by Mr. Vishnefski. Voting: YES - Mr. Wilkes, Mr. Vishnefski, Mr. Roke, Mr. Zyla and Mr. Czapracki. Voting: NO – NONE. Motion carried.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

- Mr. Murph Fletcher, 144 Brown Row, Wanamie asked the Commissioners where the signs were for the Commercial Vehicle Ordinance that was passed last year. He was advised that they are posted on every road that enters the Township.
- Mr. Steve Phillips, 110-1/2 Railroad St., Wanamie spoke on behalf of the Community Organization. He stressed the need for the Township to develop a Comprehensive Plan. The Commissioners were hoping to do this in conjunction with Conyngham Township but they have declined. As such, the Commissioners are looking at doing this on their own with a grant from the State.
- Mr. Bob Novak, 210 Simon St., Sheatown inquired about the status of the paving project for Simon Street. He was advised a pre-construction meeting is scheduled for tomorrow morning at 10:00 a.m. and construction is anticipated to begin next week.
- Mr. Frank Chest, Third St., Glen Lyon, asked the Commissioners about the KOZ that they approved and that in fact, the property will be tax free for the next ten (10) years. He was advised the tax free status is correct, however, it is only for a seven (7) year period. Mr. Chest then asked when Third Street would be paved and was advised by Mr. Czapracki that it is not on the list for the near future, however, should funds become available it would be a possibility. Mr. Chest stated that he has paid \$60,000 to the Township in taxes and wants something done. He went on to state that there is no progress and nothing is being done in the Township. Mr. Roke and Mr. Wilkes disagreed with him and advised that there is a lot that has been done with the funding available.
- Ms. Palmira Miller, 82 Ridge St., Glen Lyon, wanted to know how many properties are going to the District Judge for high weeds and grass. She was advised that number was not currently available. She then inquired about the property at 147 – 149 W. Main Street stating that there are doors that are wide open and the building is accessible. Also, on Ridge Street, the drainage problem is getting worse and the street needs to be paved.
- Mr. Chris Todd, 7 E. Main St., Glen Lyon, complained about the ATV's driving on the alley behind the Variety Stop. He also complained about the alley and that it needs patching as there are three (3) large holes and someone is going to get hurt. Finally he voiced his opposition to

fireworks in the Township. He stated that they were still going off at 3 – 4 a.m. He had people calling him as to what they could do. He feels the Township should adopt an Ordinance prohibiting fireworks in the Township. There was some discussion on this. Mr. Roke advised that trying to enforce fireworks is very difficult and a police officer cannot determine what is legal and what is not, therefore it is an enforcement nightmare. Mr. Czapracki stated that the alley is on the list for patching.

- Mr. Tom Kashatus, 55 Newport St., Glen Lyon spoke on behalf of the Community Organization. He stated that some of the Commissioners have questioned where the Community Organization gets their money and what they spend it on. He gave an outline of how they raise funds and what they spend it on. He then asked about the Weinick Park at the top of Alden Mountain Road. There is always garbage being placed there and wanted to know if we could put the hidden camera at this location. Chief Impaglia stated the camera is too sensitive and difficult to use, therefore it is not reliable. Mr. Kashatus then advised that maybe with the modern day technology, a more up to date camera might be available and that funding may be available through D.E.P. His last comment concerned the property at the corner of Spring and Coal Streets in Glen Lyon. A couple of months ago, he offered a reward of \$25.00 to anyone that could supply him the name of the Judge handling the Estate. He has not received any information and, as such, is increasing the reward to \$35.00 to anyone that can supply the Judge's name.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Wilkes moved that the minutes of the June 1 meeting be approved. Seconded by Mr. Roke. Voting: YES - Mr. Wilkes, Mr. Vishnefski, Mr. Roke, Mr. Zyla and Mr. Czapracki. Voting: NO – NONE. Motion carried.

Mr. Zyla moved that the minutes of a special meeting held on June 15 be approved. Seconded by Mr. Wilkes. Voting: YES - Mr. Wilkes, Mr. Roke, Mr. Zyla and Mr. Czapracki. Mr. Vishnefski abstained because he did not attend the meeting. Voting: NO – NONE. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF STATEMENT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS

It was reported to the Commissioners that as of June 30, 2009, there is a total of \$395,839.13 available to the Township and the financial statements are included for each account.

Mr. Wilkes moved that the Statement of Funds and financial statements be approved as presented. Seconded by Mr. Roke. Voting: YES - Mr. Wilkes, Mr. Vishnefski, Mr. Roke, Mr. Zyla and Mr. Czapracki. Voting: NO – None. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS PAID PRIOR TO COMMISSIONERS MEETING:

The Commissioners were advised that a total of \$27,246.09 in bills were paid prior to the Commissioners meeting.

Mr. Vishnefski moved that the paid bills be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Roke. Voting: YES – Mr. Wilkes, Mr. Vishnefski, Mr. Roke, Mr. Zyla and Mr. Czapracki. Voting: NO – NONE. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR PAYMENT, WHEN FUNDS BECOME AVAILABLE.

The Commissioners were advised that there were no unpaid bills as of June 30, 2009.

STREET DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Mr. Czapracki read the report from the Department of Public Works for the month of June, 2009, as prepared by Mr. Hillan and a copy is made part of these minutes.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Mr. Zyla read the Police Report for the month of June, 2009, and it is made a part of these minutes. He also advised that the Newport Township Civil Service Commission has completed its selection process for a full time police officer and that they recommended the hiring of Mr. Evans.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

Mr. Roke read the Code Enforcement Office Report for the month of June, 2009, and a copy is made part of these minutes.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Mr. Wilkes read the Fire Department Report for the month of June, 2009, and it is included with these minutes.

PARKS, BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT:

Mr. Vishnefski stated that the Commissioners are in a position to order the equipment for the Glen Lyon Park as soon as the Recreation Board confirms the items they want.

AT THIS POINT IN THE MEETING, MR. ZYLA SWORE IN MR. EVANS AND MR. LEWIS BY ADMINISTERING THE OATH OF OFFICE TO EACH. THEY WERE THEN INTRODUCED TO ALL OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND TO THOSE IN ATTENDANCE.

SOLICITORS REPORT:

Solicitor Rich Shiptoski reported the following:

1. The title search on the Hitzner property is complete for the demolition project. However, the 2008 real estate taxes have not been paid so this will have to be resolved.
2. For 56 Spruce St., Alden, he has received the release and right of entry forms from the Daniels attorney with some small changes.
3. There is a hearing scheduled for Wednesday, July 8th at the County Courthouse on an appeal by Jonathan May relative to occupancy permit and not obtaining a building permit.

TOWNSHIP MANAGERS REPORT:

Mr. Zika reported as follows:

1. Still waiting for dates for hearings on unpaid refuse.
2. Preconstruction meeting for Simon Street will be tomorrow at 10:00 a.m.. Construction is scheduled to start on July 14, 2009.
3. Still waiting on a bid date for the Federal Street Project. Mike Amato has advised that the State has requested some additional information.
4. We have received the Certificate of Insurance from the South Valley Chamber of Commerce for the Pow-Wow at the Wanamie Park to be held in August.
5. Congressman Kanjorski has included the South Valley Parkway as a high priority item in the Surface Transportation bill, yet to be approved. He is requesting \$4,800,000 for final design and engineering.

NEW BUSINESS:

ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF BRIAN PAUSKA FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, EFFECTIVE JUNE 17, 2009

Mr. Zyla moved to accept the resignation of Brian Pauska from the Department of Public Works, effective June 17, 2009. Seconded by Mr. Vishnefski. Voting: YES - Mr. Wilkes, Mr. Vishnefski, Mr. Roke, Mr. Zyla and Mr. Czapracki. Voting: NO - NONE. Motion carried.

AUTHORIZE THE HIRING OF PAUL BOJANOWSKI, 4 WEST ENTERPRISE ST., GLEN LYON, AS A PART-TIME EMPLOYEE FOR THE DPW AT AN HOURLY RATE OF \$9.25, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Mr. Vishnefski moved to authorize the hiring of Paul Bojanowski, 4 West Enterprise St., Glen Lyon, as a part-time employee for the DPW at an hourly rate of \$9.25, effective immediately. Seconded by Mr. Roke. Voting: YES - Mr. Wilkes, Mr. Vishnefski, Mr. Roke, Mr. Zyla and Mr. Czapracki. Voting: NO – NONE. Motion carried.

AUTHORIZE THE HIRING OF ROSENN JENKINS AND GREENWALD, AT AN HOURLY RATE OF \$175.00 FOR ATTORNEY TIME AND \$75.00 AN HOUR FOR PARALEGAL TIME FOR REPRESENTATION IN THE CHARLES DENNIS VS. NEWPORT TOWNSHIP CASE

Mr. Wilkes moved to authorize the hiring of Rosenn Jenkins and Greenwald as outlined above. Seconded by Mr. Vishnefski. Voting: YES - Mr. Wilkes, Mr. Vishnefski, Mr. Roke, Mr. Zyla and Mr. Czapracki. Voting: NO – NONE. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

- Mr. Wilkes stated that all of the paper work is completed for the demolition of 19 – 21 Arch Street in Glen Lyon. This information will be submitted to the Luzerne County OCD office for their approval and the project will be ready for bid.
- Mr. Roke said that he took a tour of the streets in the Polander Hill section of Alden and the streets are deplorable. He also ask Mr. Zika to begin research for a new insurance carrier and to send a letter to the Crossing Agency voicing our objection to our carrier not covering us in the Charles Dennis matter.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Czapracki adjourned the meeting at 7:04 P.M.


Richard V. Zika, Secretary

rvz 7.7.09