

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 3, 2009

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

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

Mr. Czapracki then requested a moment of silence in respect and memory of Mr. Joseph Hillan Sr., a former Township Commissioner and community leader who recently passed away.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

- Mr. Steve Phillips, 110-1/2 Railroad St., Wanamie, requested that the Commissioners change their meeting agenda so that citizen comments can be made after the meeting not before.
- Ms. Palmira Miller, 82 Ridge St., Glen Lyon, addressed the Commissioners on the following:
 1. Requested information on a code enforcement complaint that was e-mailed to Mr. Roke. She was advised that due to the absence of both Mr. Roke and Mr. Zika no such information was available at the time of the meeting.
 2. Stated that the public information folder for the meeting did not contain much information
 3. Stated there was no street sweeping done on Ridge St., Glen Lyon.
 4. Requested information on how many cases were filed with the magistrate on excessive grass and weed growth. She was advised that due to the absence of both Mr. Roke and Mr. Zika no such information was available at the time of the meeting.
- Mr. Tom Kashatus, 55 Newport St., Glen Lyon, addressed the Commissioners on the following:
 1. More information should be provided in the public information folder for the Commissioners meeting. Mr. Wilkes advised Mr. Kashatus that the reduction of information in the folder was probably the result of Mr. Zika following the Right to Know legislation. Mr. Czapracki stated that the content of the public information folder will be reviewed with Mr. Zika.
 2. Discussion of agenda items should be held at the end of the Commissioners meetings not before.
 3. The rec park bathroom needs to be open more. He was advised that procedures currently exist to keep the bathrooms clean.
 4. Asked why pedestrian crossing signs for Glen Lyon have not been put up. He was advised that the school district did not have the type needed available. Mr. Zyla stated that a letter will be sent to the school board requesting appropriate pedestrian crossing signs.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Wilkes moved that the minutes of the **July 6** meeting be approved. Seconded by Mr. Zyla. Voting: YES - Mr. Wilkes, Mr. Vishnefski, Mr. Zyla and Mr. Czapracki. Voting: NO - NONE. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF STATEMENT OF TOWNSHIP FUNDS

Mr. Czapracki reported that as of July 31, 2009, there is a total of \$317,123.44 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. Vishnefski. Voting: YES - Mr. Wilkes, Mr. Vishnefski, Mr. Zyla and Mr. Czapracki. Voting: NO - None. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS PAID PRIOR TO COMMISSIONERS MEETING:

Mr. Czapracki stated that a total of \$34,680.15 in bills was paid prior to the Commissioners meeting.

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

APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR PAYMENT, WHEN FUNDS BECOME AVAILABLE.

Mr. Czapracki stated that there were no unpaid bills as of July 31, 2009.

STREET DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Mr. Czapracki stated that no report from the Department of Public Works for the month of July, 2009, was available at this time.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Mr. Zyla read the Police Report for the month of July, 2009, and it is made a part of these minutes.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

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

PARKS, BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT:

Mr. Vishnefski stated that the playground equipment has been ordered for the Coal St. playground in Glen Lyon. Also equipment is on site to remove the old school foundation on site.

SOLICITORS REPORT:

Solicitor Rich Shiptoski reported the following:

1. All necessary paperwork has been completed for the demolition of the Hitzner and Daniels' estate properties.
2. The Township's insurance company will not handle the Dennis case on behalf of the Township. The firm of Rosen Jenkins is currently doing the legal work.
3. Solicitor Shiptoski and Township Manager Richard Zika attended an appeal hearing at the Luzerne County Courthouse on a ruling from District Justice Donald Whittaker. The hearing resulted in a guilty plea on one count with the Township dropping the charges on the second count.

TOWNSHIP MANAGERS REPORT:

Mr. Czapracki read the Township Manager's report as follows:

1. Simon Street project underway and awaiting final paving which could begin today or tomorrow. Also getting estimates to possibly do Frederick Street.
2. Playground equipment for Glen Lyon park is ordered and site work is scheduled to begin this week or early next according to Mike Amato of Pasonick Engineering.
3. Meeting was held with Mike Lombardo and various items were discussed including the Federal Street Project bidding dates.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

- Mr. Zyla mentioned to those in attendance that He, Mr. Czapracki and Mr. Wilkes attended a meeting at the PAW Company office in Wilkes-Barre to discuss water supply problems at Whitney Pointe. The problem was resolved with PAW indicating that a booster pump would be utilized for increased water pressure for twenty seven (27) lots in the new development.
- Mr. Czapracki credited Mr. Farrell of the Newport Township Sewer Authority for cooperation regarding manhole adjustments prior to paving streets.
- Mr. Wilkes stated that a meeting was held with representatives of HUD Inc. regarding fire protection for new residences at Whitney Pointe. Agreement was reached regarding necessary facilities to be installed to provide adequate fire protection.
- Fire Chief Dan Kowalski discussed the possibility of soda and snack machines being installed at the rec park. Mr. Zyla stated that such machines had previously been at the rec park but had been removed due to serious vandalism.

The meeting ended with Mr. Zyla giving a tribute to Mr. Joseph Hillan Sr. for his outstanding contributions over the years to the Township.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Czapracki adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:15 P.M.


Richard V. Zika, Secretary

JW 8.11.09