

WEST MANHEIM TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES

Regular Meeting

Thursday, July 5, 2012
7:00 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the West Manheim Township Board of Supervisors was held on the above date and time at the Municipal Building at 2412 Baltimore Pike.

The Meeting was called to Order by Chairman Hartlaub followed by the Pledge to the Flag and the Invocation.

ROLL CALL: Present were Supervisors Hartlaub, Woerner, Staaf, Parr and Gobrecht. Also present were Solicitor Linus Fenicle, and Manager Kevin Null. Absent from the meeting was Mike Knouse of C. S. Davidson, Inc.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS: Visitor's Register Attached.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The Agenda was approved with the removal of Item 14 New Business (A) Introduction of Burn Ordinance for publication in a motion by Supervisor Parr and seconded by Supervisor Gobrecht. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Minutes of the Worksession Meeting of June 19, 2012 were approved, as submitted, in a motion by Supervisor Staaf, seconded by Supervisor Parr and carried.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS: The Disbursements from all Funds were approved as listed in a motion by Supervisor Parr, seconded by Supervisor Gobrecht and carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: (A). Penn Township – Letter from Penn Township Manager Jeffrey Garvick dated June 19, 2012, regarding the approval for the Penn Township Fire Police to assist at the Pleasant Hill Volunteer Firefighters Carnival July 23rd thru July 28th.

RECREATION BOARD REPORT: Christine Gienski, Chair, West Manheim Twp Park and Recreation Board reviewed the Rec. Board report as submitted to the Board. Copies of the monthly Park and Recreation Board report were distributed to Supervisors and Staff (copy in Township files). The Board verbally approved the request that volunteers Troy Miller and Jonas Miller be trained by Lonnie Gienski on the Craftsman mower to help with the park upkeep.

Supervisor Gobrecht made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Parr, to allow Daniel Mahone to complete his Eagle Scout project in the park to resurrect the 4-seasons garden. **Motion carried.**

The Board would like to review in more detail the placement of the baskets for the disk golf course and revisit at a later date due to the placement of the holes.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT Solicitor Linus Fenicle indicated that the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) has approved under the Local Government Unit Debt Act the loan being used for road construction with PennDot.

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ENGINEER'S REPORT: Kevin Null, Manager presented a written report of C. S. Davidson, Inc. dated July 5, 2012. Written copies were distributed to Supervisors and Staff (copy in Township files).

In a motion by Supervisor Parr, seconded by Supervisor Staaf and carried the Engineer's Report for July 5, 2012 was accepted, as distributed.

REPORTS: The Chief of Police Report for May, 2012 was approved, as distributed, in a motion by Supervisor Parr, seconded by Supervisor Woerner and carried.

The Treasurer's Report for May, 2012 was approved, as distributed, in a motion by Supervisor Parr, seconded by Supervisor Woerner and carried.

The Code Enforcement Officer's Report for May, 2012 was accepted, as distributed, in a motion by Supervisor Parr, seconded by Supervisor Woerner and carried.

The Public Works Report for May, 2012 was accepted, as distributed, in a motion by Supervisor Parr, seconded by Supervisor Woerner and carried.

The Pleasant Hill Fire Company and Ambulance Reports for May, 2012 were accepted, as distributed, in a motion by Supervisor Parr, seconded by Supervisor Woerner and carried.

The SEO Report for May, 2012 was approved and accepted, as distributed, in a motion by Supervisor Parr, seconded by Supervisor Woerner and carried.

The Utilities Supervisor's Report for May, 2012 was accepted, as distributed, in a motion by Supervisor Parr, seconded by Supervisor Woerner and carried.

The EMA Activity Report for May, 2012 was approved and accepted, as distributed, in a motion by Supervisor Parr and seconded by Supervisor Woerner and carried.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Kevin Null, Township Manager reviewed the Manager's report as submitted to the Board.

Kevin Null, Township Manager said he would like to request authorization from the Board to advertise surplus vehicles for sale and receive sealed bids for a 1999 Jeep Cherokee, 1996 Ford Crown Vic, and 1999 Dodge Ram 2500 Pickup.

In a motion by Supervisor Parr, seconded by Supervisor Staaf, and carried the Board approved the request for authorization to advertise the sale of surplus vehicles and receive sealed bids.

In a motion by Supervisor Parr, seconded by Supervisor Staaf, and carried the Managers Report for May, 2012 was accepted, as distributed.

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OLD BUSINESS:

A. Correspondence from The York Water Company and discussion for fluoride

Supervisor Woerner said he is befuddled about the significant turnaround of the Board about the fluoride. He said he would like to review the information previously provided regarding the fluoridation of the Townships' water system for those that missed the previous discussions. He referenced the handout previously provided by The York Water Company about the Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) findings. He said this issue was originally brought to the Board's attention because York Water would be asking for a reduction in the fluoride amount that is placed into the water and the question was asked that if the township wanted to eliminate fluoridation, now would be the time to do it since there is an extensive permitting process. He said the recommended reduction is based upon the recent Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) scientific assessments to balance the benefits of preventing tooth decay while limiting any unwanted health effects.

Supervisor Woerner stated that the USEPA and USHHS are essentially admitting that there is unwanted health effects associated with fluoridated water. He read from the York Water Company's FAQ page that stated that according to a recent Center for Disease Control report, dental fluorosis has risen to 41% in children ages 12-15 during 1999-2004, up from 23% from 1986-1987. He said related to safety that the drinking water is not made safer or cleaner to drink by adding fluoride.

Supervisor Woerner referenced the Fluoridation Statement handout previously provided by The York Water Company. He read from paragraph three of the document. He agrees with the statement regarding fluoride, "...introduction of fluoride into the water supply by the Company would not only affect all children within the Company's service area, whether the parents give their permission or not, but would also affect each and every customer, regardless of the age, regardless of the appropriateness, regardless of the current level of personal fluoride intake or personal sensitivity to fluoride and regardless of the personal choice of those customers". He said the personal choice of the residents is important. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) lists fluoride on its database of chemicals as a chemical with substantial evidence of developmental neurotoxicity. Supervisor Woerner also stated that there is no way to control who drinks the fluoride, how much they get and no way to monitor the fluoride intake and that people get fluoride from many different sources; fluoride toothpaste, dental products, food, beverages, bottled water that contains fluoride, etc. Supervisor Woerner asked how any dentist, doctor or a member of the Board can monitor a person's total daily fluoride intake.

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He asked is there any reason to add fluoride to the public water system other than the perceived benefit to prevent tooth decay? The answer is no. Are there other ways that individuals can obtain fluoride? He said obviously the answer is yes. The (Centers for Disease Control) CDC acknowledges that fluoride works primarily by topical application; "laboratory and epidemiologic research suggests that fluoride prevents dental caries predominantly after eruption of the tooth into the mouth, and its actions primarily are topical for both adults and children". CDC October 1999. He noted that this statement would seem to indicate that self-care by brushing your teeth with a fluoride toothpaste, using a fluoride rinse and fluoride treatment directly applied to your teeth by your dentist is the best preventions against tooth decay, not by ingesting it.

Supervisor Woerner also referred to the Material Safety Data Sheet provided to him by York Water on Fluorosilicic Acid 23-25%. Fluorosilicic acid is a non-natural fluoride and is a byproduct of the fertilizer industry. It is also not medical grade fluoride like what is in toothpaste. Under Hazards ID on the MSDS- Main Effect: corrosive product, very hazardous to human health and the environment; toxic by inhalation, in contact with skin and if swallowed; chronic exposure to the product at high concentrations can cause bone fluorosis. He noted that every toothpaste label that contains fluoride states in the warning, "If you accidentally swallow more than is used for brushing, get medical help or contact a Poison Control Center right away".

Supervisor Woerner also noted instances where government recommendations have been wrong in the past: asbestos, which was deemed safe by government agencies in the past and as more and more research was discovered, it is now a substance that we spend billions to safely remove from buildings. Thousands of people have died from cancer caused by the inhalation, skin contact and other types of exposure asbestos as a result. He also noted lead paint and the allowed to be marketed Fen-phen drug that was pulled from the market in 1997 due to potentially fatal heart failure and heart valve problems.

Supervisor Woerner commented that more and more people are becoming conscious about what they are putting in their bodies. He pointed out that a lot milk producers have removed hormones and antibiotics from milk and lean beef trimmings also known as "pink slime"; both of which received public outcry after information became public on what was actually in these products.

Supervisor Woerner also added his concern for the environmental effects of non-natural fluorosilicic acid. He said that many people are concerned about what is going into our ground water and that while we may use fluoridated water to wash your car, water your lawn, cook dinner, take a shower or flush your commode, all of this non-natural occurring fluoride is going right back into our ground water, streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. He said that it is illegal to dump fluorosilicic acid directly in the environment so why are we putting it in our drinking water?

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Supervisor Woerner then directly asked the Board some questions:

- Is West Manheim Township the only municipality to be considering the removal of fluorosilicic acid from the public water supply? Supervisor Woerner said the answer is no. Among others:
 - Myerstown, PA- 2012
 - Pottstown, PA- 2011
 - Schuylkill Haven, PA- 2011
 - Albuquerque, NM- 32nd largest city- 500k+ pop. 2012
 - Pinellas County, FL- 700k consumers- 2011
 - College Station, TX- 2011
 - Phoenix, AZ- 1.4 million- is currently considering stopping fluoridation
 - New York City has legislation pending to eliminate fluoridation

- Is there any known human condition of being fluoride deficient? Supervisor Woerner said the answer is no.
- If even 10% of the researched and published studies by major universities and organizations regarding the health hazards to fluorosilicic acid being added to our water supply turn out to be accurate, is it worth the risk to the community at large? Supervisor Woerner contends the answer is no and says that by then any damage will have already been done to children and individuals and in some cases irreparably.
- How can a person tell how much fluorosilicic acid (fluoride) they are taking into their bodies on a daily basis through food and water? The Board did not answer.
- Will any member of this Board be able to tell anyone that they have exceeded their "safe" fluoride daily intake? The Board did not answer.
- With the exception of fluoridated toothpaste, dental rinse or the like; Is fluoride or fluorosilicic acid available at Wal-Mart, Rite-Aid or any store off-the-shelf? Supervisor Woerner said the answer is no.
- Do you need a prescription from a medical doctor or dentist to get fluoride? Supervisor Woerner said the answer is yes.
- Does that make fluoride a medication? Supervisor Woerner said common sense would say yes.
- If fluoride is a sort of medication, isn't this Board force medicating over 2,000 residents on the public water system without their consent? Supervisor Woerner said common sense would say yes.

Supervisor Woerner then stated that this board is in fact making the health decisions for all of the residents on public water and are removing and eliminating the individual's right to decide what medication and chemicals they are putting into their bodies. He said that residents on public water are left with absolutely no choice whether or not they drink fluoridated water. He also stated that the decision of whether an individual wants additional fluoride should be a decision between the individual and the medical professional of their choice, not imposed upon them by their local government, i.e. this Board in a one size fits all approach.

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Supervisor Woerner then followed up with this statement:

The discussion whether fluorosilicic acid, intentionally placed in our drinking water could be beneficial or hazardous to human health can go on indefinitely with the so-called "experts" on either side shooting holes in each other's theories and research. I happen to believe that ingesting fluorosilicic acid systemically through our public water supply, day after day, month after month, year after year can be hazardous because there is no way to regulate how much people are ingesting, if, when and over what period of time it is taking place.

With the vast amount of fluoride exposure now prevalent in our society through fruit juices, process foods and beverages, there is also no way to tell if we are exceeding our "safe" daily intake of fluoride until it may be too late. The fact remains that there is absolutely no way that any member of this Board, dentist or government entity can control how much fluoride an individual takes in on a daily basis from various food sources, dental products, and beverages. There are no controls in place to determine if, when, where and how much fluoride a person intakes throughout any given day. An individual can exceed their "safe" fluoride intake indefinitely.

Each person is responsible for their own health. Each parent is responsible for the health of their children and it should remain so.

The most important issue in this entire discussion is whether government, i.e. this Board of Supervisors is going to eliminate the right of the individual resident to make their own health decisions. I want to know where this Board will derive the power to do so.

Will this Board remove the power and right of the individual to decide what medications they put in their body and force them to drink fluorosilicic acid whether they want to or not? He also pointed out that even in school districts that give fluoride treatment to students, parents are allowed to opt-out and decide if they want their child to receive the fluoride treatment. This Board is not even giving it's own residents the individual right to decide whether or not they want to participate in fluoridation.

Supervisor Woerner said the residents on public water should be able to decide individually if they want additional fluoride and it should be an individual decision between them and the medical professional of their choice; not imposed upon them by their local government. He said that because the board changed their decision he decided to go door to door with a petition to find out what the residents wanted. He presented a petition to the board that contained 72 signatures of residents that agreed with the decision on the removal of fluoride.

Supervisor Hartlaub asked if any of the supervisors wanted to change their vote about removing the fluoride and they answered no.

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Supervisor Woerner then stated that he wanted it on the record that those members of the Board that were not going to reconsider removing the fluoride were taking away the individual's right to choose what medications or chemicals they put in their bodies.

Supervisor Woerner then asked the Board again where they think they get the power to make medical decisions for residents and decide for the residents what chemical they have to drink. No one from the Board could answer.

Supervisor Hartlaub asked if there were any public comments.

Rick Stewart, 1983 Oak Hills Drive said he signed the petition and would like the Supervisors to reconsider. He feels the residents should have the right to choose.

Franklin Williams, 88 Sunset Drive said the Supervisors should reduce the fluoride and do what the State suggests.

Holly Zumbrum, 138 Pumping Station Road said she is confused. She is one of the residents that would not sign Supervisor Woerner's petition. She does not know if she is for or against the fluoride. She is not convinced one way or another. She would ask that the Supervisors do their research and not make a knee jerk decision.

Dr. Walter Maust, Jr., Retired Dentist, 109 Hemler Drive.

Renee Woerner, 420 Shorbs Hill Road said she wants a choice and would like the fluoride removed from the water system.

Mike Hawkins 151 Pumping Station Road asked Solicitor Fenicle if there were any legal liability issues against the township.

Solicitor Fenicle said no.

Eileen Mitchell-Schwartz, 1762 Oakwood Drive said the residents should have a choice.

Richard Schwartz, Oakwood Drive said he appreciates Supervisor Woerner's concern. He asks that the Supervisors research the issue further and that the residents should have a choice.

Dave Barber, Kenlee Circle said he commends the Board that they found a compromise.

Laura Dean, 2 Lisawood Court said she would like the Supervisors to do more research. She would personally like to be able to have a choice.

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SUBDIVISION PLANS

A. EXTENSIONS

Orchard Estates-Gobrecht, 58-lot Preliminary, Homestead Acres, J.A. Myers, 134-lot Preliminary, Benrus Stambaugh et al, Land Development Plan, Homestead Acres, 366-lot Preliminary.

In a motion by Supervisor Parr, seconded by Supervisor Woerner, the Board granted the 90 day extension requests for the following plans: Orchard Estates-Gobrecht, 58-lot Preliminary, Homestead Acres, J.A. Myers, 134-lot Preliminary, Benrus Stambaugh et al, Land Development Plan, Homestead Acres, 366-lot Preliminary.

B. ALL TO BE TABLED:

Joshua Hill Farm, 124-lot Preliminary, The Warner Farm, 15-lot Preliminary, Orchard Estates-Gobrecht, 58-lot Preliminary, Preserve at Codorus Creek IV (Marlee Hill), 79-lot Preliminary, Wyndsong Pointe-Phase II, 15-lot Final, Fuhrman Mill Heights, 1-lot, 34-units-Final Plan, Fox Run Village, 25-lot Final, Steeple Chase, 12-lot Final, Community Banks, Land Development Plan, 1-lot, Homestead Acres, J.A. Myers, 134-lot Preliminary, Benrus Stambaugh et al, Land Development Plan, Homestead Acres, 366-lot Preliminary, Reservoir Heights – Phase 2 – Section 2 – 28-Lot Final Subdivision Plan

In a motion by Supervisor Parr and seconded by Supervisor Gobrecht, the Board tabled all the following plans: Joshua Hill Farm, 124-lot Preliminary, The Warner Farm, 15-lot Preliminary, Orchard Estates-Gobrecht, 58-lot Preliminary, Preserve at Codorus Creek IV (Marlee Hill), 79-lot Preliminary, Wyndsong Pointe-Phase II, 15-lot Final, Fuhrman Mill Heights, 1-lot, 34-units-Final Plan, Fox Run Village, 25-lot Final, Steeple Chase, 12-lot Final, Community Banks, Land Development Plan, 1-lot, Homestead Acres, J.A. Myers, 134-lot Preliminary, Benrus Stambaugh et al, Land Development Plan, Homestead Acres, 366-lot Preliminary, Reservoir Heights Phase 2 – Section 2 – 28-Lot Final Subdivision Plan. ***Motion carried.***

SUPERVISORS AND/OR PUBLIC COMMENTS:

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETINGS: Supervisors Work Session – Tuesday, July 17, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. with Supervisors Caucus at 6:00 p.m. Supervisors Regular Meeting - Thursday, August 2, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. with Supervisors Caucus at 6:00 p.m.

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ADJOURNMENT: The Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. in a motion by Supervisor Gobrecht, seconded by Supervisor Parr and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Gately
Secretary