

Washington Township Municipal Building  
185 Manors Road  
Elizabethville, PA 17023  
February 18, 2020

The regular meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors was held at the above place and date.

Chairman, Benjamin Brown called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

**Board Members Present:**

Gerald Lettich                      Benjamin Brown  
Cynthia Stout                      Glenn Stoneroad

**Administrators and Others Present:**

Donna Sitlinger – Secretary  
Joseph Kerwin – Board Solicitor  
Seth Mosebey – Martson Law Office  
Philip Bomberger – Republic Development Corporation  
Lee Lepka – Facility Manager, Pennsylvania State Police  
Captain Jeremy Richard – Pennsylvania State Police  
Corporal Darren Mortorf, Pennsylvania State Police  
Sergeant Daryl Vankirk-Pennsylvania State Police  
Citizens – 31

**BOARD VACANCY APPLICATIONS:**

One application was submitted to fill the Supervisor vacancy created by the resignation of Ron Strohecker. A motion was made by Supr. Brown to appoint Kevin Stadheim to fill the vacancy, second by Supr. Stout. Roll Call Vote: Stoneroad (yes) Lettich (yes) Brown (yes) Stout (yes) Motion carried. The term expires January 2022.

Secretary Sitlinger administered the Oath of Office to Kevin Stadheim.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Chairman Benjamin Brown called for public comments with no response.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of the Board of Supervisors February 4, 2020 Conditional Use Hearing and regular meeting were approved as presented by motion of Supr. Lettich, second by Supr. Stout. Motion carried.

**PAYMENT OF INVOICES:**

General Fund:                      \$6,346.82  
Liquid Fuels Fund:                      320.00  
Street Light Fund:                      911.22

A motion was made by Supr. Stoneroad to approve the payment of the invoices, second by Supr. Lettich. Roll Call Vote: Stoneroad (yes) Stadheim (yes) Lettich (yes) Brown (yes) Stout (yes) Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:****Decision Conditional Use Hearing (Republic Development Corporation):**

As a result of the testimony presented during the February 4, 2020 Conditional Use Hearing, Chairman Brown recognized the following individuals who wish to provide comments:

Cindy Brown a resident of Washington Township, expressed her concerns of the nearness of the PSP facility to the various businesses, banks and restaurants across the street. Cindy Brown asked the Supervisors to consider if this would be the safest and wisest place to build a shooting range.

Sue Helm, representative of the 104<sup>th</sup> Legislative District commented she had an experience with Susquehanna Township of who she represents and would be happy to answer any questions on how Susquehanna Township worked.

Jerry Stoneroad, a resident of Washington Township, expressed his concerns for the area businesses in the shopping district and nearby residential development that do not routinely hear the sound of repetitious gunfire or the possibility of an ambush with stray gunfire infiltrating the area. Jerry Stoneroad also expressed concerns in regards to an additional driveway that will be constructed in a high traffic area along SR209 to access the PSP Barracks.

Marlo Shertzer, a resident of Washington Township, commented she resides in the development behind the shopping plaza, and is not for an outdoor shooting range. She has enough noise as it is, and currently hears the shooting from Short Mountain Gun Club.

Laverne Brown, Chairman, WT Planning Commission, commented he thinks we are getting short changed and they are getting everything they want.

Mike Swanger, a resident of Washington Township expressed his concerns of bullets ricocheting.

Jim Stout, a resident of Washington Township commented, after having concerns about the outdoor shooting range, he conducted extensive research of all aspects of range development. Throughout the Planning Commission and Supervisors meetings he attended, it his belief Republic Development Corporation and the PSP have reasonably addressed these concerns. After touring the facility at Chambersburg, it is his opinion, with a conditional variance, this will have a minimal negative impact on the Township. The positive impact on the Township should be recognized.

Anthony Matter, a resident of Washington Township, expressed his concerns of what may happen to the value of properties in this area. He is in favor of retrofitting the current barracks. Mr. Matter questioned what is the frequency of the shooting, cost of the new barracks, and how are we paying for it.

Seth Mosebey, attorney for the Developer of Republic Development Corporation commented the Developer and the PSP are going above and beyond, to agreeing to extra conditions that are not set forth in the zoning ordinance. PSP really want to be good neighbors and willing to accommodate the additional conditions the Supervisors are proposing.

A tour of the PSP Barracks in the Chambersburg area was recently organized for the Supervisors. The facility located in Greene Township, also has an outdoor shooting range located along the edge of interstate 81. The Supervisors reported the visit was very informative. The PSP arranged for shooting to take place while they were at the site. The Supervisors reported the gun shots fired were not loud. The closest house or business to the range is a quarter a mile away. There are many safety precautions incorporated into the building. A Supervisor and the Zoning/Codes Enforcement Officer from Greene Township were present during their visit and reported they received zero noise complaints from their community. The representatives from Greene Township also provided valuable information for them to consider.

In response to questions presented this evening, it was noted an outdoor shooting range costs approximately \$125,000 to construct compared to an indoor shooting range where the costs are estimated at 1.25 million dollars, plus \$100,000 a year for maintenance. Why can't our State Police shoot at another location? The answer was convenience and logistics.

Solicitor Kerwin read the conditions to be applied to the shooting range:

1. Only Pennsylvania State Police staff may use the range.
2. Firing range operation shall be limited to the following times: Monday through Friday from 7AM until 9:30 PM. Saturday from 9 AM until 4 PM. No shooting on Sunday. The Pennsylvania State Police may also use the firing range at other times in the event of an emergency.
3. Shrubs will be placed on the top of the berm to absorb noise and to screen the firing range from road visibility from Route 209. The screening shall be placed in such a manner so as to prevent any line to sight issues and be angled in such a way so as to prevent the shrubs from being used as concealment for individuals approaching the building.
4. A roof over the firing line, the greatest distance from the target line, for safety and to reduce noise.
5. Signage around the perimeter of the property that state "no trespassing, active shooting range".
6. In the future, upon termination of the Pennsylvania State Police use of this site, the firing range shall be permanently closed and decommissioned.
7. Township and Barracks staff will meet immediately after the completion of the firing range and two months after the initiation of the firing range to re-evaluate and discuss any previously unforeseen issues that may be identified during the operation of firing range. After re-evaluation, the Township may require additional screening and noise reduction measures that do not exceed the cost of \$5,000.

In response to questions asked, the PSP advised how often the shooting range will be utilized for qualifications, emergency situations and dim light/ night shooting throughout the year. Was there a plan to look at community partnerships to build a shooting range in a more centralized location, that could be used for more than one barracks and be more cost effective. Representatives from the PSP clarified how they use a circumference to find the best place, response time and service to determine the final location in an area to construct a new barracks. The PSP also explained the reason why they incorporate shooting ranges at all newly constructed barracks. In regards to the concerns presented this evening for noise and ricocheting, it was noted the materials that are used in the design of the berm assist with the absorption of sound and cut down on ricochets. In discussing the berm, there was misconception in regards to the specific height of the berm. During the Conditional Use Hearing, the Supervisors were under the impression the height of the berm would be increased a few feet more than the originally proposed height of 16-18' for the purpose of additional mitigation of noise.

At 8:41 PM, a motion was made by Supr. Lettich to retire to executive session to discuss a legal matter, second by Supr. Stoneroad. Motion carried. At 8:52 PM, a motion was made by Supr. Stoneroad, second by Supr. Lettich to return to open session. Motion carried. Solicitor Kerwin advised the issue of the berm was discussed during the executive session. The berm that was presented was 16'in height from the inside. After additional negotiations with all parties involved, it was agreed to increase the height of the berm to 20'. In addition, trees will be planted at the top of the berm and be a minimum height of 6'. The modification concerning the increased height of the berm is to be added into the other conditions agreed to previously and incorporated into the formal plans.

With discussion and public comments concluded, a motion was made by Supr. Stout to approve and apply the conditions that were read and discussed earlier in the meeting, second by Supr. Lettich. Roll Call Vote: Stoneroad (no) Stadheim (yes) Lettich (yes) Brown (yes) Stout (yes) Motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

In response to the Elizabethville Area Authority request, the only proposed land development project the

Township is aware that will require new connections or taps to the EAA's existing wastewater collection system or new sewer line extension within the next five years is the Pennsylvania State Police Barracks.

The U. S. Census Bureau is currently conducting the 2020 Initial Boundary Validation Program which provides the opportunity for the Township to review that the Census Bureau's legal boundary data information the Census Bureau has on file for the Township.

Lettich and Zipay has been provided with all the financial documents needed to begin the 2019 audit.

The Supervisors were provided with the Transportation Impact Study Scoping Meeting Application regarding a new access driveway onto State Route 209. The application site is for the land development of the State Police Barracks. The application is currently being reviewed by the engineer.

**SUPERVISORS REPORTS:**

**CYNTHIA STOUT:** No report.

**JERRY LETTICH:** No report.

**BENJAMIN BROWN:**

Supervisor Stadheim was assigned as the Supervisor liaison for the road crew.

**GLENN STONEROAD:** No report.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Chairman Benjamin Brown called for public comments.

Jim Stout questioned what was decided on for the berm of the shooting range.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Recreation Board: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 (8PM)

Planning Commission: Monday, March 2, 2020

Supervisors: Tuesday, March 3, 2020

Authority: Tuesday, March 10, 2020

All meetings, unless otherwise indicated, are held at the municipal building and begin at 7 PM.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, Supr. Stoneroad made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Supr. Stadheim. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna M. Sitlinger  
Secretary