



OFFICE HOURS: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
(570) 587-1520
FAX (570) 587-1674

NEWTON TOWNSHIP

AN AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY

1528 Newton-Ransom Blvd.
Clarks Summit, PA 18411

NEWTON TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING *January 27, 2010*

Members Present-- Scott Haan, Karen Lilik, John Stemphoski, Al Parsells, Greg Raino and James Norton

Absent: Tom Sartori

In Attendance-- Francine Miller, Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance to Flag.

Reorganization of the Newton Township Planning Commission

Stemphoski motioned to keep all officers as 2009, Scott Haan as chairman, Al Parsells as vice chairman and Miller as secretary, 2nd by Raino. Motion voted, all in favor.

Haan established the Planning Commission Meetings in the year 2010 be held on the last Wednesday of each month, except November's meeting will be held on November 17, 2010 and no meeting in December, with a work session at 7:00PM and the regular meeting at 7:30PM. Motion made by Lilik and 2nd by Parsells, all in favor.

Raino motioned to adjourn the reorganization meeting to the general meeting, 2nd by Norton. Motion voted, all in favor.

General Meeting

Minutes: Parsells motioned to accept the minutes of the November 18, 2009 Meeting, 2nd by Lilik. Motion voted, all in favor.

Unfinished Business:

Road Bonding Ordinance: Parsells asked if anything more has been done with the road bonding ordinance that was previously presented to the Planning Commission – answer was no. After some discussion, the Planning Commission is recommending to the Board that an addendum be done to our vehicle code in our codifications to address any problem roads.



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New Business:

Telecommunications Ordinance Amendment: Haan stated that we already have an ordinance in place. AT&T appealed those portions of the ordinance that they could not comply with and believes that that is the way it should be done. This new ordinance is less protective of the residents of Newton Township. Raino stated that a company can through the proper channels to have a variance and there is no reason to change our present ordinance. It was pointed out that AT&T had no difficulties with our ordinance and what they did have a problem with was able to go through the proper channels and have variances. **Motion by Lilik to keep the original ordinance unless there are issues brought up by the zoning board that we would need to address. Motion was not seconded.** After some more discussion, **Raino motioned to recommend that the Supervisors keep the current ordinance and if someone has an issue we will address it at that time, 2nd by Lilik. Motion voted, all in favor.**

Wind Tower Ordinance Amendments: There are three separate amendments proposed for the wind tower ordinance, the first is for setbacks, the second is for height and the third for noise and shadow flicker. Haan does not believe that a taller wind tower is needed for a tower to produce power and showed an example from another area. If there is a problem with our current ordinance then whoever has the problem can come to the Township and show that the residents of Newton Township will not be adversely affected and go for a variance. They can also show us and justify why they need a change. Other wind tower ordinances are more restrictive than our ordinance. The consultant that was hired by the Township to review and make recommendations for our Township did the same at another township and was more restrictive with their ordinance than he was with our ordinance. Raino stated that as was previously stated to the Supervisors, our current ordinance is lenient and fair and we have plenty of proof with other ordinances that were reviewed. If this particular wind tower company cannot work with our ordinance then I'm sure there is another company. Parsells stated that we cannot make ordinances that are company specific. He also believes that these changes are not more or better protective of the residents than our current ordinance. **Motion by Parsells to recommend to the Supervisors not to enact any changes as presented in Ordinances 2010-2/3/4 because it will not improve the current ordinance or benefit the residents and township, 2nd by Norton. Motion voted, all in favor. Haan abstained from voting.**



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Public Input: None

Being no public input or further business, **Stemphoski motioned to adjourn, 2nd by Parsells. Motion voted, all in favor.** Meeting adjourned, 8:26PM.

Respectfully submitted by Francine Miller.