

West Earl Township Board of Supervisors, 157 West Metzler Road, Brownstown, PA 17508

**In Attendance:**

Vice Chairman:	John Ford	Member:	Richard Stover
Member:	Dale Wissler	Manager/Secretary:	Patrick Barret
Member:	Russell Ressler, Jr.		

Chairman Keppley was absent.

Public Hearing

**Herr's Mobile Home Park**

An Ordinance to amend Chapter 155 of the Code of Ordinances of West Earl Township to revise regulations governing setbacks in mobile home parks. Herr's Mobile Home Park has requested to change the mobile home setback regulations from 20 feet to 15 feet.

The Board reviewed correspondence from Rick Herr of Herr's Mobile Home Park, comments from the Lancaster County Planning Commission and the minutes from the June 14, 2010 meeting of the West Earl Planning Commission.

Vice Chairman Ford noted that the Lancaster County Planning Commission is in favor of the change. He also noted that the West Earl Planning Commission has recommended approval of the proposed amendment to the Ordinance and recommended that special attention be paid to what may be built in the proposed new 15 foot setback such as decks, umbrellas, awnings, etc.

Public Comment

Rick Herr, the son of the owner of Herr's Mobile Home Park, addressed the Board and presented the reasoning for the requested change. Mr. Herr explained that new mobile homes are wider than the older homes, and most entrances to the newer homes are located at the end rather than along the side of the home. The Board expressed concern about emergency vehicles having a place to pull in next to the mobile homes if there is a reduced setback. Mr. Herr said that there would be room for emergency vehicles.

Mr. Barrett said that the Ordinance has been advertised. Moved by Member Ressler, second by Member Wissler to ratify and approved Ordinance No. 213, amending the Code of Ordinances of the Township governing setbacks in mobile home parks. Motion approved unanimously.

The public hearing for Herr's Mobile Home Park concluded at 7:13 p.m.

Call to Order

Vice Chairman Ford called the July 26, 2010 regular meeting to order at 7:14 p.m.

Public Comment/Guests

Peter Smith from the Country Circle Homeowners Association was not present at the meeting so the matter was tabled until the next meeting in August.

Approval of Minutes

Member Stover noted a clarification in the minutes relating to his comment about the dump site. Member Stover would like to note that he was speaking about the dump site at the Conestoga Creek, not the Township's compost site. Moved by Member Stover, second by Member Ressler to approve the July 12, 2010 meeting minutes as corrected. Motion approved unanimously.

Old Business

**Ordinance No. 211** – granting a franchise cable agreement to Blue Ridge Cable Technologies, Inc. Mr. Barrett noted that this agreement is the same as the Comcast Cable agreement from last year. Moved by Member Wissler, second by Member Stover to adopt Ordinance No. 211. Motion approved unanimously.

**Ordinance No. 214** – amending the code of ordinances of West Earl Township, Chapter 170, Vehicles and Traffic, to establish a parking regulation and speed limit on Locust Street. Moved by Member Ressler, second by Vice Chairman Ford to adopt Ordinance No. 214.

Public Works Director's Report

**East & West Main Street Paving** – Penn Dot will be paving East and West Main Street beginning on August 9, 2010. Mr. Houser and the Board members expressed concern about this paving project and the fact that it won't fix the storm water problem on Main Street. Mr. Houser said that this would be a waste of money for Penn Dot to pave before the storm water problem is fixed and suggested possibly called Representative Boyd and Senator Brubaker and see if they could do something about it. Vice Chairman Ford asked if the Township could do a Resolution requesting that Penn Dot postpone the paving project until the Township get's a storm water plan in place. Member Wissler suggested talking to the Newspaper about it. Moved by Vice Chairman Ford, second by Member Wissler to prepare a Resolution which will urge Penn Dot to postpone the paving project for East and West Main Street until the Township has a storm water management plan in place for the street. Motion approved unanimously.

**Parking at the Lions Park** – Mr. Houser would like to extend the lower, center parking lot toward the creek and eliminate several of the parking spots in order to make parking safer at the park and near the new bathrooms. The Board agreed to allow Mr. Houser to change the parking situation at the park.

**New sign for the Lions Park** – Mr. Houser passed out a drawing of the new, proposed sign for the park. The Board reviewed the drawing. Member Wissler suggested that the use of skateboards should be included on the sign and that the "Hurricane Agnes" sign should be re-done as well. The Board agreed that Mr. Houser should have the new sign made up. Mel Ressler has offered to donate his time to make the sign.

Police Chief's Report

Police Chief Brandt did not have anything to report. Vice Chairman Ford asked the Chief how enforcement of the "no left turn" sign at Sonic was going. Chief Brandt said that the Police Department are writing citations for violators. Chief Brandt has still not heard from Sonic yet.

Manager's Report

**Humane League** – Mr. Barrett reported that the Humane League will be raising their rates next year by 4%. The Township currently pays \$3,875 per year, plus \$25 per dog that is picked up at the Township Office. Mr. Barrett asked what would happen if the Township didn't have animal control. Chief Brandt will look into this situation and report back to the Board at the next meeting. Vice Chairman Ford said that it would be great if the Township could find an alternative to the Humane League.

**Park and Recreation Board recommendations** – The Park & Recreation Board recommended that the pond at the Stone Quarry Park be drained and filled in. Moved by Member Stover, second by Vice Chairman Ford to drain to the pond at the Stone Quarry Park and fill it in. Motion approved unanimously. The Park & Recreation Board also made a recommendation relating to reservations for the baseball field located at the Township building. They recommend that the Township honor current reservations until August 8, 2010 and then don't accept anymore reservations after that. The Board discussed possibly charging a fee for reservations, maybe \$15 or \$20 per day to reserve the baseball field. The Board would like the Park and Recreation Board to take another look at the situation and report back to the Board.

**Official map** – Mr. Barrett asked the County why the Township would have to enter into an agreement before getting a cost estimate for the official map. A representative from the Lancaster County Planning Commission said that she has no control over the agreement. Mr. Barrett expressed concern about not knowing what the costs would be and not having any money budgeted for it.

The Board agreed that although it sounds like a good idea the costs for the map would outweigh the benefits

and the Township cannot afford it.

**Pre-bid meeting** – There will be a pre-bid meeting for the compost site card system on July 27, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Barrett requested an executive session at the end of the regular meeting to discuss a personnel matter.

Payment of Bills

Moved by Member Ressler, second by Member Wissler to pay the bills as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

Supervisors' Comments

**Dale Wissler** – Member Wissler asked Vice Chairman Ford for some input on Act 46. Vice Chairman Ford said that he believes that the law was passed without much consideration being put into it. The Township will have to go back and review building permits to see which ones expired by December 31, 2008 and reinstate the permits until 2013. The Township has until July 30, 2010 to do this. Act 46 gives the Township ability to charge \$100 for the verification of residential permit approval and \$500 for verification of commercial permit approval. Moved by Vice Chairman Ford to charge a \$100 fee for verification of residential permit approval and a \$500 fee for verification of commercial permit approval under Act 46 of 2010. Motion approved unanimously.

**Richard Stover** – Member Stover asked Mr. Barrett if the Vo-Tech kids and Mel and John Ressler have been officially thanked yet for their work on the new restrooms at the park. Mr. Barrett will send a thank you letter. Member Stover asked if the comp. plan meeting was still scheduled for July 27. Mr. Barrett said that the meeting has been re-scheduled and may be held on August 25. Mr. Barrett is waiting to hear from the Manager at East Lampeter Township to confirm the meeting date. Member Stover asked if anyone read the article in the paper about municipalities passing Resolutions opposing forced consolidation. He asked if West Earl should do the same. Mr. Barrett will have something written up for the next meeting.

**Russell Ressler** – Member Ressler asked if there were any changing tables installed in the new bathrooms at the park. Mr. Houser said that he is checking into pricing for them.

The Board entered executive session at 8:40 p.m.

The Board returned to their regular session at 9:05 p.m.

Adjournment

Moved by Member Wissler, second by Member Ressler to adjourn the July 26, 2010 regular meeting at 9:06 p.m.