

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

In Attendance:

Chairman:	David Thornton	Member:	Keith Kauffman
Vice Chairman:	John Ford	Manager/Secretary:	Jenna Seesholtz
Member:	Harold Keppley, Jr.	Chief of Police:	Eric Higgins

Member Dale Wissler was absent.

Others present: Dale Peachey-136 Cornerstone Way, Brigid Hillen-111 Knight Lane (Lancaster), Allyson Gyse-233 Wolgemuth Drive (Lancaster), Cindy Byrnes-216 Wolgemuth Drive (Lancaster), Brenden Curry-LNP, Susan Davidson-Akron Borough, Jay Horst-448 Ridge Avenue, John Stauffer-151 Pleasant Valley Road.

Call to Order

Chairman Thornton called the December 5, 2022 regular meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

1. **November 14, 2022 regular meeting** – Moved by Vice Chairman Ford, second by Member Keppley to approve the November 14, 2022 regular meeting minutes as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

Public Comment

None

Special Business

Jordan Byrnes promotion to Sergeant – Officer Byrnes was sworn in by Chairman Thornton as Sergeant Byrnes to the West Earl and Akron Borough Police Departments.

Subdivision/Land Development Review

1. **Resolution 2022-32** – Acceptance of Burkholder Drive and approval to advertise. Moved by Member Kauffman, second by Member Keppley to adopt Resolution 2022-32. Motion approved unanimously. Moved by Vice Chairman Ford, second by Member Kauffman to approve the advertisement of the ordinance. Motion approved unanimously.
2. **John Beiler Financial Security Reduction** – Moved by Member Kauffman, second by Member Keppley to reduce the financial security for the John Beiler project to \$4,429. Motion approved unanimously.
3. **Oregon Pike Motors Financial Security Reduction** – Moved by Vice Chairman Ford, second by Member Keppley to reduce the Oregon Pike Motors financial security by \$2,468. Motion approved unanimously.

Correspondence/Communications

None

Old Business

None

New Business

1. **Zoning Enforcement civil action request** – The Zoning Officer requested that the Board authorize the filing of two civil complaints for non-compliance with zoning enforcement notices. Moved by Member Keppley, second by Member Kauffman to authorize the Zoning Officer to file two civil complaints for non-compliance with zoning enforcement notices. Motion approved unanimously.
2. **Water Department Discussion** – Discuss later in the meeting when the Township Manager is present.
3. **Brake Retarder Restriction Discussion** - Discuss later in the meeting when the Township Manager is present.

Financials

1. **Payment of Bills** – Moved by Member Keppley, second by Chairman Thornton to pay the bills as presented. Motion approved unanimously.
2. **Budget vs Actual** – Provided for the Board's review.

3. **Treasurer's Report** – Moved by Vice Chairman Ford, second by Chairman Thornton to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion approved unanimously.

New Business – continued

1. **Water Department Discussion** – The Manager Seesholtz said that ARRO has been doing a very good job running the water system. She asked the Board if they would like to continue using ARRO or if they would like to hire new water operators. She said that the cost for ARRO to run the system costs less than hiring one full-time water operator plus benefits. Vice Chairman Ford asked the Manager to get a 1-year and 3-year proposal from ARRO and bring it to the next meeting.
Moved by Vice Chairman Ford, second by Member Kauffman to accept the resignations from the water department employees. Motion approved unanimously.
2. **Brake Retarder Restriction Discussion** – Manager Seesholtz asked the Board if they would proceed with establishing brake retarder restrictions. Member Keppley said a traffic study was done years ago and believes it may have been for the whole Township. He said he would like to see that study. Manager Seesholtz will provide that information.

Reports

1. **Zoning Officer's Report** – In addition to her written report the Zoning Officer asked if the Board has any thoughts on zoning hearing case #2022-11. The case, which includes 4 variance requests to install a digital billboard, will be heard by the Zoning Hearing Board on Wednesday, December 7, 2022. The Board voiced concerns over installing a digital billboard close to residential properties, light pollution in the area and the lack of hardship outlined in the application. The Board directed the Zoning Officer to draft a letter to the Zoning Hearing Board members outlining their concerns. Moved by Vice Chairman Ford, second by Member Kauffman to object to the erection of the proposed digital display on the property at 4448 Oregon Pike for the following reasons:
 - To protect the rights of the surrounding residential property owners.
 - The contribution to light pollution in the area.Further, the Board of Supervisors request that the Zoning Hearing Board not approve the variance requests for case number 2022-11 unless there is compelling testimony given at the hearing. Motion approved unanimously.
2. **Manager's Report** – Nothing further to report.
3. **Code Enforcement Officer's Report** – Written report provided for the Board's review.
4. **Police Chief's Report** – Chief Higgins thanked the Board for promoting Jordyn Burns to Sergeant. He also reported that there will be a meet & greet at the Farmersville Fire Company on December 13, 2022.
5. **Roadmaster's Report** – None

Public Comment

Dale Peachey, 136 Cornerstone Way – Mr. Peachey requested that the November 7, 2022 regular meeting minutes be changed to reflect more accurately what he said. He would like “store” to be removed and replaced with “drill with”. Moved by Member Keppley, second by Member Kauffman to strike the word “store” and replace it with “drill with”. Motion approved unanimously.

Supervisors' Comments

John Ford – Vice Chairman Ford has a PSATS 100th Anniversary book if anyone would like to look through it.

Harold Keppley, Jr. – Requested an executive session to discuss personnel “Employee terms & conditions”.

Action Items

- Get a 1-year and a 3-year proposal from ARRO for the operation of the water system for the Board to review at their next regular meeting.

The Board took a short recess at 7:57 p.m. and entered executive session at 8:02 p.m. The Board returned to their regular session at 8:20 p.m.

Adjournment

Moved by Vice Chairman Ford, second by Member Kauffman to adjourn the December 5, 2022 regular meeting at 8:20 p.m. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Sara Service
Zoning Officer