

WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING  
TOWNSHIP ASSEMBLY HALL, 1039 WILMINGTON PIKE  
March 1, 2004 7:30PM

In attendance were Supervisors Chairman Robert A. Genzano, Vice-Chairman Carol R. DeWolf, and Police Commissioner L. Charles Scipione; Township Manager Robert Layman; Township Building Inspector Gerald R. DiNunzio; Township Roadmaster Mark S. Gross; and Planning Commission member Elaine L. Adler; There were fifteen guests in attendance.

**1. Call to Order.**

There being a quorum present, Chairman Robert A. Genzano called the meeting to order and led the Board of Supervisors, staff and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**11. Approval of Minutes (February 17, 2004 Regular Meeting).**

On the motion of Ms. DeWolf, seconded by Mr. Scipione, the Board of Supervisors approved the regular meeting minutes of February 17, 2004. Mr. Genzano abstained as he was not in attendance at the February 17<sup>th</sup>, meeting.

**111. Public Hearing Route 202 Improvements.**

Mr. Layman stated that PennDOT has prepared a document that covers the three options being considered for improvement of Section 100 of Route 202 between Matlack Street and the Delaware State line. He stated that PennDOT is also considering a fourth option which is not to do any improvements. Representatives from the communities involved in Section 100 met last week to draft a joint statement to PennDOT on the Route 202 improvements. The statement does not specifically endorse any of the three options but does oppose the no build option four. All communities feel that improvements need to be made to Route 202. Mr. Layman said the purpose of the hearing this evening is to receive input from the residents on the improvements.

Ms. DeWolf said she wanted to hear comments from the residents before she endorsed a statement to PennDOT from the Supervisors to be presented at a public hearing at Garnet Valley High School on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2004. PennDOT will receive comments from the Townships and residents until April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Mr. Genzano said the PennDOT document is available at the Township office for review. Mr. Layman said the report is also on PennDOT's website, [www.route202.com](http://www.route202.com), but some users have problems with the site.

Mr. Michael Manieri, 1126 Kolbe Lane, said he feels the underpass proposed for the intersection of Route 202 and Route 926 will have a negative impact on the Township as most of the surrounding area is residential.

Mr. Walter Pavelchek, 1050 S. New Street, said he understands that the proposal for Route 926 and Route 202 is similar to the configuration at Boot Road and Route 202. He also stated that it appears that all three options show access on or off of Cheyney Drive and W. Pleasant Grove Road. Ms. DeWolf and Mr. Layman said that was not their understanding when reviewing the plans.

Mr. Thomas Foster, 734 Westbourne Road, stated he has had trouble accessing information on PennDOT's web site. He asked what is the time frame of the project. Ms. DeWolf said PennDOT is predicting a build out time of twenty-six years. Mr. Layman stated that it appears that it will be seven to ten years before the designing of the project is completed.

**1V. Departmental Reports.**

**A. Township Building Inspector – Gerald R. DiNunzio.**

Mr. DiNunzio was unable to attend the meeting due to a family commitment. Mr. Layman reviewed the February Building report. He stated that the building permit has been issued for the Bayard Rustin High School. Mr. Genzano asked if the District has paid the sewer tapping fee. Mr. Layman responded that it had. He also stated that the Township will be addressing raising the fines for fire alarms due to an increase in false alarms. Mr. Layman also advised the Board of Supervisors that the Township will have to decide in the next few months if the new state wide building code should be adopted. Adopting the code will mean more state regulations on building and Building Inspectors will have to be licensed by the state.

**B. Township Road Master – Mark S. Gross.**

Mr. Gross reviewed the February Road report. He stated that the Township Engineer is preparing a cost estimate for construction of an inlet on Robin Drive to correct the problem with water runoff. Easements will need to be obtained from residents if access to the creek is needed for the project. The Road Department has installed 35 mph speed limit signs on S. Concord Road between E. Pleasant Grove Road and Oakbourne Road to bring that portion of S. Concord Road in compliance with the 35 mph limit on the other portion of S. Concord Road and on Westbourne Road. Mr. Gross stated that the snow/ice contractors were only needed for two storms in February and that the Department has enough salt for the remainder of the season. The Department has been painting the interior of the Smith Mansion. The Adam room and the dining room are completed and work is in progress on the Dunning Room.

Mr. Gross stated that shingles have been replaced on the Police Station and minor repairs done to the gutters. Mr. Scipione asked if Mr. Gross had received his memo pertaining to the infiltration of water which is causing the majority of the problems at the Police Station. Mr. Gross said his direction from the previous manager was to do only minimal repairs to the building as a new Police Station was being considered. Mr. Scipione said the Township cannot let the building deteriorate and it must be protected from the elements. Mr. Gross advised Mr. Scipione that he has contacted the stone mansion to do the repairs at the entrance of the building.

Mr. Genzano asked who installed the illegal stop sign on Skiles Boulevard. Mr. Gross stated the Road Department has removed the signs. The school district has been contacted concerning the sign but has denied involvement.

**C. Planning Commission – Elaine L. Adler.**

Mrs. Adler reported that as there were no agenda items for the February 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, the meeting was canceled. The agenda for the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting will include a review of the Route 202 realignment plans, and review of the revised plan for the O'Brien two lot subdivision. Mrs. Adler said the Commission will review Tag Builders plan for the Orvis Tract at the March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting and continue review of minor changes to the Zoning Ordinance revisions.

**V. Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)**

Mr. Pavelchek said he feels that if there is to be access to W. Pleasant Grove when Route 202 is realigned it makes the parallel road redundant. Mr. Layman said the final design is a least five years away and it may not be any of the current proposed alignments. Mr. Genzano said if the Township constructs the parallel road PennDOT would have to design accordingly. Mr. Layman said the parallel road should not be eliminated on these premises.

**V1. Old Business.**

There was no old business before the Board of Supervisors at this time.

**V11. New Business.**

**A. Authorization to Advertise Bids for Oakbourne Park Phase I Improvements..**

Mr. Layman stated that the bid for the Phase I improvements includes a new park entrance and extension of the trail system in the park. The Township has a matching grant from the County of \$106,000 and any cost over \$212,000 would be the Township's responsibility.

Mr. Scipione, made a motion, seconded by Ms. DeWolf, to advertise the bid for Oakbourne Park Phase I improvements. Mr. Genzano asked for public comment. There was no public comment at this time. The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved advertisement of the bid.

**B. Acceptance of Preliminary Plan – Tract 2003-10 Tag Builders Orvis Tract.**

Thomas Galbally developer for Tag Builders was in attendance.

Mr. Genzano asked if the Board had any comments before acceptance of the Plan. Ms. DeWolf said she noticed on the plan that grinder pumps were to be used for the sewer system. She advised Mr. Galbally that the Township is revising the Township sewer plan for use of a gravity system throughout the Township. Ms. DeWolf said she feels the plan cannot be accepted showing a grinder pump system. Mr. Layman said that a re-evaluation of the grinder pump system can be part of the motion for plan acceptance.

Ms. DeWolf made a motion, seconded by Mr. Scipione, to accept Tract 2003-10 Orvis Tract as a preliminary plan conditioned on the Planning Commission re-evaluating the use of grinder pumps as the Board of Supervisors has determined that a gravity system will be the first choice for any area to have public sewer. Mr. Genzano asked for public comment.

Mr. William Steele, 1055 East Niels Lane, asked if drainage control is included in the plan as his property will be affected by the development. He questioned why the Township engineer was not in attendance as the tract involves prohibited slopes and precautionary slopes. Under the Township Ordinance the Township Engineer is responsible for decisions on these types of slopes. Mr. Genzano said the plan is being accepted as preliminary and will be reviewed by the Planning Commission before final plan submission. He advised Mr. Steele that a copy of the plan was available at the Township Office for review.

Mrs. Adler stated that the preliminary plan has been submitted to URS, Chester County Health Department, Chester County Conservation District, and the Chester County Planning Commission for their review. The Planning Commission will review the plan on March 17<sup>th</sup> and acting engineer for the Township Chris Della Penna will be attending the meeting.

The Board of Supervisors unanimously accepted Tract 2003-10 Orvis as preliminary plan and passed the plan to the Planning Commission for its review.

**C. Approval of and Authorization to Advertise Stop Sign Installation at Walnut Hill Road and Cider Knoll Way.**

Mr. Layman stated that East Goshen advised Westtown that it wanted to install stop signs at the intersection of Walnut Hill Road and Cider Knoll Way. The intersection meets the PennDOT warrant for a stop sign but has not been approved by PennDOT. Mr. Genzano said when East Goshen approached Westtown about installing signs the Board felt that putting signs at the crest of a hill would create a hazardous situation and conveyed this concern to East Goshen. East Goshen, acting separately from Westtown, put a stop sign on the south bound side of Walnut Hill Road. This has created a problem. Mr. Genzano said he is not comfortable with just a stop sign ahead sign and feels flashing warning lights should be installed if Westtown installs a sign north bound on Walnut Hill Road. He feels this needs to be discussed with East Goshen and any installation should be a shared cost. Ms. DeWolf said she travels Walnut Hill Road daily and feels that a hazardous situation is being creating by having only one stop sign. She stated she feels

Westtown should install the north bound stop sign. Mr. Genzano said he feels this should be addressed jointly with East Goshen as to the cost. Ms. DeWolf said she was not on the Board when Westtown turned down installing the stop sign but as East Goshen installed one on their side we would be accepting half of the cost for installation on Westtown's side.

Benjamin Vilbert, 1402 Cider Knoll Way, said the stop sign is needed north bound not south bound. He stated when exiting Cider Knoll Way you have good site visibility for south bound traffic. Mr. Genzano said that is correct as East Goshen's traffic study shows that 258 feet is required for site south bound and there is 420 feet of site distance. Mr. Scipione said he would like Mr. Layman to address this issue with Rick Smith, East Goshen's Manager. Mr. Layman said he would contact Mr. Smith but East Goshen installed their sign by ordinance and the ordinance would have to be revised to remove the stop sign.

Mrs. Ronald DeNadai (East Goshen), 214 Walnut Hill Road, said the south bound stop sign is installed at the end of her driveway and she does not want it there. She stated her neighbors in East Goshen wrote to their Supervisors and aggressively campaigned to have the stop sign removed. She also stated that her father was told by the East Goshen Board that if Westtown did not put up a stop sign they would take theirs down immediately. Ms. DeWolf asked her to clarify that if Westtown did not put up a stop sign East Goshen would take theirs down. Mrs. DeNadai responded that is correct. She said having three bridges closed at the same time was poor planning and greatly increases the traffic on Walnut Hill Road. Mr. Layman said the Route 926 Bridge is scheduled to be opened by August 26<sup>th</sup>. He asked her to clarify again that if Westtown does not put up a stop sign East Goshen will take theirs down. Mrs. DeNadia responded that is correct.

Muriel Vilbert, 1402 Cider Knoll Way, said in the thirty-five years she has lived on Cider Knoll Way there have been at least six accidents at the intersection with Walnut Hill Road. She stated she strongly endorses installing a stop sign north bound in Westtown. Leonard Flanagan 1404 Cider Knoll Way, feels the onus is on Westtown Township. He stated a stop sign is not needed south bound in East Goshen. He also stated that school buses stop at the intersection and Westtown does not even have a sign to indicate that an intersection is ahead. Mr. Flanagan said he strongly recommends that the Board address this issue as it is an embarrassment to our Township. Karen Hockenberry, 1408 Cider Knoll Way, agrees with her neighbors that a sign is not needed in East Goshen but cannot understand why there is not one north bound in Westtown. She said she does not understand how this can happen between Townships.

Mr. Genzano said he feels installation of a stop sign is hazardous unless a warning signal with flashing lights is installed. Mr. Scipione said if we install a stop sign north bound it should negate the need for a stop sign south bound.

Elaine Adler, 1408 Ponds Edge Road, said the stop sign is the worst positioned sign she has encountered in Chester County as Walnut Hill Road is the first road to ice up in a storm. Stopping and starting on the hill at this stop sign is hazardous.

Mr. Flanagan said please do not make this political and asked that an "intersection ahead" sign is installed.

Mr. Genzano said he feels the best solution is to put up the north bound stop sign with a warning signal and then lobby East Goshen to remove the south bound stop sign. Mr. Scipione said this is not political and not the way Townships work. He agreed with Mr. Genzano's suggestion.

Mr. Scipione made a motion, seconded by Ms. DeWolf, to approve advertisement of the Ordinance for a stop sign, with a warning sign, at Walnut Hill Road and Cider Knoll Way. The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the advertisement.

Mr. Flanagan asked if the stop sign could be installed immediately. Mr. Layman said under State Law the installation of a stop sign must be advertised. The sign will be

installed in two weeks. Mr. Gross stated that installing a warning sign does not need to be advertised and could be installed by the end of the week. Mr. Gross was directed to install a warning sign to indicate a "T intersection ahead ".

**V111. Public Comment (All Topics).**

There was no public comment at this time.

Mr. Genzano said for the past six months he has been working in Annapolis, Maryland and has not been able to put the time into the Township that he demands of himself. As a result, he has made the hard decision to resign his position as Supervisor. A formal announcement will be made at the next meeting as to his official date of resignation which will be the first or second Board meeting in April. Mr. Genzano said he has thoroughly enjoyed the process but can not give the time that is required and does not wish to do a disservice to the Township.

If anyone is interested in filling the supervisor position they should contact Mr. Layman at the Township Office. Ms. DeWolf said that she and Mr. Scipione would be responsible for appointing a candidate to fill Mr. Genzano's term.

**1X. Payment of Bills.**

Mr. Scipione made a motion, seconded by Ms. DeWolf, to approve payment of the bills as presented. The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved payment of the bills.

**X. Adjournment:**

On the motion of Mr. Scipione, seconded by Ms. DeWolf the Board of Supervisors unanimously adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Robert Layman  
Township Manager