

**PENN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**100 Municipal Building Road**  
**Duncannon, PA 17020-1100**

Henry A. Holman, Jr., Chairman

Lucinda (CeCe) Novinger, Vice-Chairman

Randy Plummer, Supervisor

**MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2009**  
**Joint Meeting with the Penn Township Planning Commission**

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The Penn Township Board of Supervisors (PTS) met in joint session with the Penn Township Planning Commission (PTPC) on Tuesday, September 22, 2009 in the Municipal Building. Chairman Henry Holman, Jr., Vice-Chairman CeCe Novinger, and Supervisor Randy Plummer were in attendance. Other personnel present were Helen Klinepeter (Secretary), and Susan Long (Recording Secretary).

Also in attendance were Wheatfield Township Supervisors (WTS) and representatives of the Wheatfield Township Planning Commission (WTPC).

PTPC Chairman, Ed Chism, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being recorded to aid in the preparation of the minutes. A list of visitors is on file in the Township office.

**DISCUSSION ON THE FEASIBILITY OF A JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

Chairman Chism reported that the PTPC had previously met with the WTPC to discuss the possibility of exploring grant funding for the preparation of a joint comprehensive plan, explaining that two municipalities submitting a joint application had a better chance of receiving funding than individual municipalities. Township supervisors from both municipalities were invited to this evening's meeting for their input, and for the reason that any expenditure of monies to prepare the application requires their approval.

Chairman Chism updated those present on the status of Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) funding. He stated that, while DCED is accepting applications, it is not authorized to process or act on them at this time. DCED will not know when the next window for funding will take place until the Commonwealth of PA passes its budget. Additionally, PTPC has learned that the money originally allocated for the 2010 budget has been reduced by fifty percent and applicants are urged to apply as soon as possible, as the competition for the available funds will be tough.

Chairman Chism informed the parties that a joint comprehensive plan means that there would be one plan that covers two townships, not two separate plans, one for each township. He asked the parties to consider if they thought one comprehensive plan would be a good idea, and if so, should they apply for DCED funding. He noted that results of the application might not be known until next spring. He then opened the meeting to comments.

On a question concerning the amount of reimbursement that could be received towards the cost of the plan, it was answered that the funding would cover up to fifty percent, with the exact amount known after the grant is awarded. On a question concerning why would there only be one plan if the two municipalities worked together, it was answered that it was a requirement for receiving funding for a joint comprehensive plan. Chairman Chism offered his opinion that, even if the municipalities opted for separate comprehensive plans, it would be beneficial to maintain a line of communication with each other. He suggested that representatives of both planning commissions attend each other's meetings. All parties were in favor of this suggestion.

WTPC noted that Wheatfield's comprehensive plan was put in place in 1974 and would require a complete overhaul, which might hold back the PTPC. Additionally, there could be difficulty calculating the percentage of funding received that would be applied to the cost of updating Wheatfield's plan. PTPC noted that its comprehensive plan has been out-paced by the Township's zoning requirements and needs to be updated so they are both compatible.

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WTPC noted that the parties were going to use the updated Perry County comprehensive plan as a starting basis since County has done the "leg work". Chairman Chism noted that the County plan could be adapted for the townships' use until the next census data is available, after which it would be more difficult. PTS urged the parties to update their plans quickly, before the next census data is available,

and noted that that Penn Township's comprehensive plan is not that far apart from County's. PTS also asked if one plan would be suitable for both townships' needs. It was noted that, even if both townships developed separate comprehensive plans, there was a lot of useful information to be found in the County plan.

WTPC commented on the different natures of the townships. Wheatfield Township does not expect much residential development and will continue its focus on agriculture, while Penn Township has the SR 11/15 corridor with more opportunities for residential and commercial development.

Problems associated with a joint plan were discussed, including how an engineering firm would be selected.

After discussion, Wheatfield Township representatives went to an adjoining room to discuss whether it wanted to further explore a joint comprehensive plan. When they came back to the meeting, they announced that they were not interested in a joint comprehensive plan, explaining that they felt the time necessary to get their plan current would hold Penn Township back. They stated that they would be interested in continuing dialogue with Penn Township, to discuss land use.

Chairman Chism thanked Wheatfield Township representatives for attending the meeting, for their comments, and for their candidness.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to be conducted, and upon a Dalla Piazza/Maguire motion, the meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan E. Long  
Recording Secretary