

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

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Duncannon and Perdix Fire Companies

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The Penn Township Board of Supervisors (PTS) met on Thursday, November 19, 2009 in the Municipal Building. Chairman Henry Holman, Jr., and Vice-Chairman CeCe were in attendance. A list of visitors is on file in the Township office.

Chairman Holman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced that the meeting was scheduled to continue discussion of 2010 fiscal year funding for the fire companies.

Chairman Holman stated that he had nothing additional to offer at this time. He turned the meeting over to comments by the other supervisor and the fire companies. Supervisor Novinger had no comment.

Perdix Fire Company (PFC) representative Monte Supko reminded the PTS that PFC had asked for consideration of additional funding at the 2010 budget meeting held on November 11th. He stated that PFC would provide any additional information needed by the PTS.

Duncannon Fire Company (DFC) representative Kevin Bissonnette stated that DFC keeps repeating its plea for additional funding at each meeting and would also provide any more information needed by the PTS.

Chairman Holman responded that everyone has seen the proposed 2010 budget and the amount proposed for fire company donations. He stated that he has nothing else to offer. Sup. Novinger responded that the 2010 budget figures are "what they are".

Vince Bernhard noted that the fire companies have asked for \$140,000 and the PTS has offered \$60,000 – an \$80,000 difference. He stated that the proposed provided funding is less than 50% of what the fire companies say they need. He asked what plan the PTS had to provide fire protection if one or both of the fire companies run out of money the second half of 2010. Chairman Holman responded by asking what was the Township's plan if it runs out of money. He added that he feels there would need to be a lot of work done as far as accountability goes if the fire companies do run out of money. Mr. Bernhard responded that accountability after the funds are gone only points the finger of blame. He continued that the PTS should know that, when it only funds 40-45% of what is being asked for (assuming the request is valid), the fire companies will become non-functional. He said he just wanted to know if the PTS had thought through this process, to protect its citizens and if it had a plan.

Sup. Novinger noted that Mr. Bernhard would become a supervisor in January 2010 and asked what his plan would be. Mr. Bernhard responded that he would sit down with the fire companies, review their operating and capital expenses, and validate the expenses. Sup. Novinger stated that was the point of having these meetings. Mr. Bernhard asked if the PTS agreed with the fire companies on their budget proposals and stated that he has not heard that position offered. Sup. Novinger stated that she felt that a request of \$70,000 per fire company was a big increase over the present donation. Mr. Bernhard stated that the question should be – what is the requirement and is it valid? Sup. Novinger stated that the PTS is given monthly financial statements and can only work with what it has.

Chairman Holman stated that the fire companies were asking for a lot of money, and to provide it will mean a raise in taxes. Mr. Bernhard replied that he is not in favor of raising taxes but, if that is what has to be done, you do it.

Ms. Rissinger then listed the fund raisers held by PFC and the money received from them. Mr. Supko explained that bingo revenue is down due to the economy, BBQ revenue is down because of

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the number of BBQs held in the area, and Sunday dinners are hard to hold because of the number of volunteers needed for help.

Mr. Bissonnette noted that DFC has provided copies of revenue and expenses throughout the year. He stated that he expected expenses to be approximately \$165,000 of the \$171,000 received. He noted that DFC has held 41 fundraisers in the past 12 months.

Ms. Rissinger noted that the proposed 2010 PTS budget includes \$142,700 for police protection. She also noted that the PTS is not required to provide police protection, while fire protection is required.

Chairman Holman stated that he appreciated all the input on the proposed budget. He informed the visitors that he would continue his efforts to resolve the outstanding issues. He stated that the issues will have to be solved rationally, with cooler heads prevailing and that he will continue to entertain everybody's ideas.

The next meeting will be scheduled at the PTS meeting on November 24th.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a Holman/Novinger motion, the PTS voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:50 p.m.

Susan E. Long
Recording Secretary