

BUFFALO TWP. SUPERVISORS – REG. MONTHLY MTG – FEB. 25, 2009

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Buffalo Township Board of Supervisors was held Wednesday, February 25, 2009, in the Buffalo Township Municipal Building and convened at 7:30 p.m.

The Meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Daniel C. Przybylek. This Meeting is being recorded.

ROLL CALL

John K. Haven	Present
Greg A. Furer	Present
Daniel C. Przybylek	Present
Albert T. Roenigk	Present
Gary L. Risch, Sr.	Present

A majority of the Board of Supervisors being present, the Chairman declared the Meeting open for the transaction of business.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSIONS; PERSONNEL; AND/OR INFO-GATHERING MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

- (a) The Board of Supervisors met with their Solicitor in the Township Municipal Bldg. this evening to discuss on-going litigation.
- (b) A Meeting was held on Feb. 16 at King's for Buffalo Community Day.
- (c) John Haven met with DEP Representatives on Feb. 17.
- (d) Dan Przybylek and Gary Risch met with Greg Malinak from Congressman Altmire's office on Feb. 19.
- (e) Dan Przybylek, Albert Roenigk, John Haven, and Lt. Alan Behanna met with a Representative from Congressman Altmire's office on Feb. 19 in the Township Municipal Bldg.
- (f) John Haven attended a DCNR class for Grant Writing on Feb. 19.
- (g) A joint meeting with Buffalo and Clinton Township Officials and Rick Grossman was held on Feb. 19 in the Clinton Township Municipal Bldg.
- (h) Albert Roenigk and Ray Smetana met with a Representative from the Butler Freeport Trail Council on Feb. 23.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES of the February 11, 2009, Regular Monthly Meeting of the Buffalo Township Board of Supervisors, as recorded, was on motion of Greg Furer, seconded by John Haven. Motion Carried. Un. Approval.

OLD BUSINESS

ARMSTRONG MEDICAL CENTER, MR. REILLY – CONCERNS

Dan Przybylek stated the School District has concerns relating to the Armstrong Medical Center. I received a letter from Reverend Barnett praising the Township for working with the School District with the Armstrong County Medical Center and Butler Hospital. Dr. Don Vigliotti, Crestwood Drive, stated I am a pediatrician and part of Children's Community Pediatrics. We are a group of ten pediatricians and we have two

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nurse practitioners. We are physicians for Freeport Junior and Senior High School. We have our office in front of Freeport High School. Right now we have an office building with six examining rooms. When we started twelve years ago, that was plenty of room. We are proposing a 750 square foot addition which includes three additional examining rooms, a kitchenette area, and a bathroom. We all ready have three physician providers in that office at times. Part of the concern is congestion that this will bring; having the addition will relieve some congestion. The building is owned by Armstrong Hospital. The land is owned and leased from the Freeport School District. The money for this addition disappears on 6/30; if we don't get this settled by then, that money will go away and we won't be able to do the addition. Albert Roenigk stated I think there is a misunderstanding of what we are asking. We are asking in case the School District would ever close their road; this needs to be a right of way to connect the properties. John Haven stated it just needs to be shown on the drawing, not built. Superintendent Chapp stated it would present a safety issue; what we have right now works. Greg Furer stated I don't think we disagree with you. What we are looking at is down the road, if you sell that land, we have no means to go back and put that road in there. We would want to have some way for those properties to connect. It is in our Comprehensive Plan; we want to ease the congestion on Rt. 356. Superintendent Chapp stated if there is additional development it would probably be behind the high school. John Haven stated the access road never has to be opened; it just needs to be on the drawing. It needs to be like ever other property on Rt. 356. Atty. Lutz asked how does having an access road on paper affect your ability to do this? A representative answered we needed three approvals; we can't get a building permit. Regan Cordier explained their approval was conditional on having a dedicated roadway on the Site Plan. We are asking them to dedicate the road on the plan. Atty. Lutz stated if the School District put it on paper, there is nothing in the Township rules and regulations that would prevent you from getting a building permit. Atty. Lutz asked why not put it on paper? Bill Reilly asked where would you put it? That is future building area for the School District. Atty. Lutz asked how can you build anything there physically if it is that close to this building? Bill Reilly answered it was designed by the Architect coming out the front of the high school. Atty. Lutz asked that close to this building? Bill Reilly answered not that close to this building. Atty. Lutz stated then you are supporting our point; if you are going to build out that far, perhaps you need access. Bill Reilly stated it is a safety issue because the road would become a public road. Atty. Lutz stated it doesn't have to be a public road; it is an access, a cross-easement. You have public access now. Albert Roenigk stated if something happened and the School needed to be secured and the gates were closed, we don't have control over that. Bill Reilly stated that road is not going to be closed; the Administration Building on the other side has access to the traffic light. Albert Roenigk stated there is a lot in the middle. Bill Reilly the lot in the middle is not going to be developed; if it would, it would need to come before the Planning Commission and the Supervisors to be approved. Atty. Lutz stated at that point we would have no ability to connect. Bill Reilly stated you are not going to let anyone build on it unless you get access. Atty. Lutz asked is it the location of the access road or the existence of the access road that bothers you? Bill Reilly answered the location. Atty. Lutz stated because you

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own all of the property can we move it to a place that is more suitable? Dan Przybylek stated why can't we get something on paper. We want to work with you. Greg Furer stated we don't have to open that up ever. We need to protect our interests. If we let you not put that in, it would null and void our Comprehensive Plan. Every other development that comes in can legally not have to put that in. Bill Reilly asked you mean a public school system has the same status as everyone else, we can't be treated differently? Greg Furer stated no; the Municipal Authority was not treated differently. We can keep that access road closed; it just needs to be shown on paper. Dr. Chapp commented on an access road. Bill Reilly stated the best place for an access road would be in the front like the Municipal Authority. Atty. Lutz stated we are trying to avoid that as much as we can. Bill Reilly stated you let the Municipal Authority. Regan Cordier explained their situation was different; they had no way to put it behind because of their lot size and because of their building. The Planning Commission asked you to dedicate it on the plan; we are not asking you to build it or open it up. It needs to be on the Plan for the future in case you ever decide to do anything. Dan Przybylek explained we got a Grant from Penn Dot to do the Corridor Study because they wanted to take as much traffic off 356 as possible. In terms of the Comprehensive Plan and the Ordinances as we look into the future, we have to look in terms of what the future is going to look like in terms of parks, recreation, etc. I look forward to working with the School District. Let's get this resolved. Greg Furer to summarize we are not willing to budge because we will put ourselves in a legal quagmire. Superintendent Chapp commented on student safety. Greg Furer stated we cannot legally allow you to not do that. When you go back to your next meeting, hopefully the Board will agree to put that in so it can be approved. Atty. Lutz stated I really don't see what the safety issues are because there is a road there that you have right now that exists where people go in and out. What about my suggestion about moving it back and giving us an easement adjacent to these properties on paper all the way across the back. Regan Cordier the other option is leave the road they have there as long as there is a written guarantee that if there was building that road would remain there. Atty. Lutz stated have the Engineers get together to write up an easement on paper and that would eliminate your safety concerns. John Haven commented on putting it on the paper where the line of sight is good. Atty. Lutz stated I don't think anyone on the Board or on the Planning Commission cares where it is. That is why I asked the question are you concerned with the location or the existence of it. If your concern is with the existence of it, then you better go back to your board and say it is not going to happen. If your concern is with the location, let's roll up our sleeves and see where it should be located. The location was discussed. Ray Smetana stated everything has been approved contingent on this right of way. Atty. Lutz asked would it be helpful to have somebody from here at your Board Meeting? Bill Reilly answered no.

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INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN WINFIELD TWP. AND BUFFALO TWP. – ADVERTISING APPROVED

Atty. Lutz stated the Intermunicipal Agreement incorporates the Service Agreement so those terms that have all of the maintenance things for the Authority are incorporated by signing it. This says in the Agreement that this will be done by Ordinance. We don't have to have a Public Hearing for this; but it does need to be advertised.

On motion of Greg Furer, seconded by John Haven, to advertise the Ordinance for the Intermunicipal Agreement between Winfield Township and Buffalo Township. Motion Carried. Un. Approval.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION #2009-7, BUTLER COUNTY PARKS AND RENOVATION PROGRAM COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM – ADOPTED

Dan Przybylek stated I processed a Grant Application with John and Ouch's help. We are asking Butler County Parks for \$6,000.00; they require a matching \$2,000.00 from us. It would buy pipe and other materials for the Trail for stormwater management, etc. On motion of Greg Furer, seconded by John Haven, to adopt Resolution #2009-7, Butler County Parks and Renovation Community Grant Program. Motion Carried. Un. Approval.

ANNOUNCEMENT: BUFFALO TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY DAY WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, MAY 31

PUBLIC SAFETY - DISCUSSION

Dan Przybylek stated I talked to Ollie Hawk's nephew; he thought we should implement some kind of program similar to Highland's where they train Jr. Firefighters. Jim Negley stated Highlands has a college incentive attached to that program. You can get free room and board in college if you belong to a fire company and come back on weekends and help out. Bill George stated we have three volunteers that go to Pitt/Johnstown and come back on weekends. Superintendent Chapp stated about two years ago we instituted fire safety courses; but we didn't have any students step forward at that time. It is still an option. Dan Przybylek commented on special programs such as first responder. There is all kind of spin off career and educational opportunities. Ray Smetana asked would it help to have someone from the Fire Departments? Superintendent Chapp stated we worked on the program with the Fire Departments. Jim Negley stated two of our junior members go to Freeport. Ollie Hawk, Buffalo Township Emergency Management Coordinator, stated in 2004 a study on fire services in the township was done and recommendations were made. Copies of a list of the recommendations and an article from the Pennsylvania Township News were made and given to each of the Supervisors and are in the back for the public. Attending the meeting are Bill George, Sarver VFD Chief; Warren Capenos, Buffalo VFD Fire Police Captain;

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Gary Risch, Jr., Buffalo VFD Chief; Jim Negley, Freeport Fire Police and Assistant Director EMS; Jim Schmidt, Buffalo VFD; and Vicki and Joe Hoffman, Buffalo VFD. Oliver Hawk stated a couple of weeks ago the Supervisors sent out a letter to the Fire Companies and Ambulance Services asking us to come to this meeting; the main objective was to discuss emergency services that are offered in the township. The Emergency Management Coordinator coordinates things when there is a disaster. Over the years we had the Buckeye Pipeline, the blizzard, floods, and power outages. Emergency Management involves the police department, fire departments, and ambulances. The State passed a law that requires us to get together once a year to discuss things that affects regulations and equipment needed, etc. It also shows people what is involved in the cost, manpower, etc. Dan Przybylek asked what roll do you play with Butler County? Ollie Hawk asked each municipality has to appoint a coordinator. If something happens down here, we have a resource list. If there is something that we need and can't get, we go to the County. If Butler County doesn't have something that is needed, they go to the State. Then it goes to the Federal Government. It starts local and goes the whole way up. It usually involves your Fire, EMS, and Police.

Ollie Hawk stated in your letter you asked for the strengths, weaknesses, communications, new equipment, how the township can help, and Community Day Fundraising. I made a breakdown of over the last ten years. The Buffalo Twp. Vol. Fire Company has been here since 1953. The last two years we have spent a lot of money on fire fighting equipment—pumper, brush truck, and pumper tanker. Right now we are in the process of adding on to our truck room so we can fit the equipment in it. We have a good working relationship with Sarver and all of the other Mutual Aid Companies. In the Fire Service today mutual aid is probably one of the biggest assets; we all depend on each other. A weakness, probably we are no different than any other Fire Company, is manpower. We have some young people involved; the average firefighter in Pennsylvania lasts five years then they drop out. About four or five years ago Butler County switched to another radio frequency. That has done away with a lot of our problems. The only problem I see with communications is we don't have direct communications with the Road Crew. We do have cell phones in our trucks. The Police, Fire, and EMS have direct communications. The township can help with an increase in funding. Dan Przybylek stated the requirement that the State requires us to audit is another step forward. We are starting to understand that you are running a business. Ollie Hawk stated this year we are having three major fundraisers: fund drive, 50/50 raffle at Lernerville, and golf outing. We are not going to be selling food at Community Day this year; we will have our equipment there. I also went back ten years and listed how many calls were responded to, showed income, and expenses; I did it for every other year. I also listed the Grants we received. John Haven asked do you set a fundraising goal? Ollie Hawk answered now our goal would be at least \$40,000.00 a year because of our payments. Only 34% of the people donate. Gary Risch, Jr. stated if you have an incident in the area the donations go up. We talked about training in different areas of the community instead of doing it at the school all of the time. Dan Przybylek asked is there

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a possibility of doing joint training exercises in certain areas of the township to make the citizens more aware of what you go through? Bill George stated the same percentage of people donate no matter where they live. We send fund drive letters to businesses. The local businesses that have been here support us; the corporate businesses don't even though we have been there numerous times. Dan Przybylek asked do we charge them for calls? Ollie Hawk answered we never see any of the money. Gary Risch, Jr. spoke about the equipment purchases, the building addition, and publicly thanked the companies who donated. The people have really come together and we have one of the best working relationships that we have ever had. The guys want to be there; it is fun again. Our relationship with Sarver is second to none, not only on calls, but in social life and in training. We have a lot of cross training and a lot of cross members. Gary Risch, Sr. stated I have been over there and I was impressed at how many were there helping the Contractor do the work.

Bill George stated a perfect example was the other night when the high winds came through. Both companies worked together all night. We started out with one incident and as the night went on we were getting different calls. Cooperation between the two departments is the best that it has ever been. Dan Przybylek complimented Bill George on the good job he has done since becoming the Chief at Sarver because you didn't have very many volunteers. How many volunteers do you have now? Bill George answered right now, as Ollie said, the average is about five years for a volunteer. We are starting to lose some of the people. The equipment both companies have to protect the township is just as much as any Fire Department around. We have also spent money on fire equipment—engine, rescue truck, brush truck. Dan Przybylek asked you go out for every EMS call? Bill George answered yes. Dan Przybylek stated there are a tremendous number of calls. Bill George stated one of the things we don't do as well as Buffalo is fundraising. Our Fund Drive itself does fairly well. We have tried to institute different raffles over the years. This year we are looking at different possibilities for fundraising. Our total budget is a little less because we don't have a good fundraising thing. Ollie Hawk stated fundraising takes away so much time that could be used for training or other things. John Haven asked do you have people who just want to do fundraising and not fight fires? Ollie Hawk answered we do have a couple of people who do that. Janice Zubrin asked are Auxiliaries pretty much obsolete? Ollie Hawk answered pretty much. Dan Przybylek asked you came to me at one time suggesting that maybe we look into Americorp, funded positions for young people working with the volunteer fire companies? Bill George stated there are volunteer firefighters but there are also all types of other work. Firefighting and fundraising are two priorities; but then you still have building and grounds maintenance and record keeping. Dan Przybylek stated that is something you might want to explore because there is a possibility with the new stimulus package. He asked how many acres do you have at Sarver? Bill George answered approx. 27. Dan Przybylek stated you suggested that we have a park. Is there anyway you could bring the Pennsylvania Fire School to Buffalo Township? Bill George answered we do a lot of the training at the station and sometimes classes are at BC3. Dan Przybylek asked what about some special events for Buffalo Community Day? Bill George answered we will have no problem setting something up.

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Albert Roenigk stated you suggested going to Woodbury and setting up training, if you did do that and gave those people a notice you were coming, do something with the children in the community and show them the trucks. Dan Przybylek stated I think that is an excellent idea if you decide to do something like that. Gary Risch, Sr. stated if you decided to do something like that you could get one of the ambulances and police to come to make the children more comfortable with ambulances and police. Greg Furer asked if you do this in Woodbury or Buffalo Trails where do you park all of the apparatus? Gary Risch, Jr. answered in the cul de sac.

Bill George stated one thing I noticed is we have an Ordinance in the Township requiring street and house number signs; that is real important when someone is having a medical emergency. When a house is on fire, it is easier to find. This is especially a problem in the housing developments. When they put their house numbers on a landscaping rock, at three in the morning that doesn't do us any good. Township wide approximately fifty percent of the people have signs. Ray Smetana suggested charging the people an extra \$20 on their building permit fee; when they have the closing, you could present them a sign for the front of their house. Bill George stated I heard that some of the Homeowners' Associations might not want the signs. One of the things we do for fundraising is make the signs. A lot of new residents when they come into the Township Building pick the form up and order a sign. Janice Zubrin suggested putting it in with the building permit application packet. Dan Przybylek stated that is a good idea. Bill George stated we lost a few volunteers; Ollie stated earlier that the average time for volunteers is five years. When I joined Sarver, the total calls per year were approx. 40 and basic fire training was 45 hours. The last two years we have had over 400 calls, some joint and some individual, about fifty percent are medical related, about fifty percent fire. Basic fire fighting training is 166 hours. One of the services both fire companies provide is vehicle rescue. He commented on the required number of hours for vehicle rescue training, hazmat training, training to drive the apparatus, first responder or EMT training, etc. When you go on a call, the reports only show the time of the alarm and the time you call back in service. You have time involved traveling from home and going back home. The call volume and training requirements are so high it doesn't leave a lot of time for a major effort doing different fundraisers. He gave examples of calls since the first of the month. John Haven asked what is the percentage of fire calls as opposed to auto accidents? Bill George answered we go to more vehicle accidents than structure fires. One of the reasons people don't want to belong anymore is they don't feel they are getting any recognition from the community. You are easily going to put in 1,000 hours a year. Dan Przybylek stated make some recommendations to us.

Gary Negley, Freeport Ambulance, stated we had 1500 calls last year. We have the same problem the other companies are having. We are specing out a new ambulance, the minimum is \$135,000.00. Only 33 percent of the people are donating during the fund drive. We also have a problem with no house numbers and with people not getting off the road for an emergency vehicle. Gary Risch, Sr. suggested that they promote the house numbering at Community Days and make them there. Bill George stated we have done that. Gary Negley stated we have a contract with Freeport High School to supply

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EMS. Dan Przybylek asked where do you train? Gary Negley answered Butler County Community College and CCAC both have classes. John Haven asked suggested putting street address signs in businesses.

Warren Capenos, Fire Police, stated the definition of Fire Police is traffic and/or crowd control in an emergency situation. We always need help; there are only two of us. Two of the others retired. John Haven asked do you go to most auto accidents when the fire companies are called? Warren Capenos answered yes. Dan Przybylek asked do the people obey the Fire Police? Warren Capenos answered yes for the most part. John Haven asked you are in charge of the accident scene? Warren Capenos answered yes, traffic control. Both Saxonburg and Freeport have been wonderful as far as mutual aid.

Bill George stated this study was started before 2004; it took a long time to get an answer back. The Technical Report should be updated.

John Haven asked do you have any Recognition Banquets or anything like that? Bill George answered we have a banquet once a year and give out different plaques. John Haven asked is it combined between both Fire Departments? Bill George answered no. Gary Risch, Jr. stated we have company picnics together. John Haven suggested having Recognition Banquets. Dan Przybylek stated we want to work with you and we appreciate you.

ADJOURNMENT was on motion of Greg Furer, seconded by John Haven, at 9:40 p.m. Motion Carried. Un. Approval.

APPROVED:

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY