

**TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HUNTINGDON, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**SPECIAL MEETING, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2016, 7:00 P.M.**  
**11279 Center Highway, North Huntingdon, PA 15642**  
**Presiding Officer – Tony Martino, President, Board of Commissioners**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Martino called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioner Herold	Present	Also Present:
Commissioner Haigis	Present	John Shepherd
Commissioner Bertani	Present	Michael Turley
Commissioner Gray	Present	Solicitor Bruce Dice
Commissioner Faccenda	Present	Andrew Blenko
Commissioner Kucera	Present	
Commissioner Martino	Present	

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CITIZENS' INPUT**

**Jason Trayers** ó 790 Brownstown Road ó states he is here regarding commercial trucks being parked at residential properties. He states he received a letter about his truck and says his truck is his livelihood. He contacted a realtor and started a mortgage process in looking at properties. He states he has noticed other things in the Township that should be higher priorities such as the heroin properties, abandoned properties, empty land and closed bridges. He states he does not want his service truck parked somewhere else when he has thousands of dollars of his own money invested in it. The truck is parked in his driveway behind hedges where it is not visible. He would like the Ordinance revised to permit these vehicles to be parked in residential areas.

**William Essay** ó 560 Oakhurst Drive ó states he is representing Lincoln Pointe where they are trying to be proactive. This plan was developed approximately eighteen years ago and the Board and Planning Commission granted a variance for a road that is steeper than twelve percent. He states the road is fifteen percent and is very steep with curves. The Road Department does an amazing job considering how steep the road is. St. Nikolai Acres is being developed in both the upper and lower portions. The upper portion cannot be accessed to the lower portion. The proposed developer is proposing access onto Oakhurst. They are not opposed to the development however to add an intersection in the middle of a fifteen percent grade is treacherous. There are no sidewalks and the kids walk up and down the road. He feels it would be very dangerous to have the children walking along the road when the guardrail has multiple dents from residents sliding off the road and hitting the guardrail. The plans originally showed 18 duplexes, but the developer has said they are not planning that now. He states he is concerned about sight distance but primarily the safety of the kids.

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**Zach Davies** – 14500 Michael Drive ó asks what the Township&s policy on drug testing for all Township owned and insured vehicles.

**RESPONSE TO CITIZENS' INPUT**

**Jason Travers** – Commissioner Faccenda asks what the tonnage on the vehicle is.

Mr. Trayers states the door tag is thirty three thousand gross weight.

Commissioner Faccenda asks when he received the letter.

Mr. Trayers states the letter was received on September 21, 2016.

Commissioner Herold asks if it is a single axle.

Mr. Trayers states it is a single axle freightliner with a tool body.

Commissioner Herold asks if that is the only vehicle parked in his driveway.

Commissioner Faccenda asks Mr. Blenko if there is any way to do a permit by home system or someway to allow one truck per address.

Mr. Blenko states they can do whatever the Board wants the ordinance to say. The current ordinance states no commercial vehicles larger than one ton shall be parked in a residential area. Heavy trucks such as but not limited to tractors, tractor trailers, highlifts and similar vehicles shall not be parked in residential districts except where they are being used as part of a construction project on a temporary basis. Mr. Blenko recalls a resident at the July meeting who had a flatbed tow truck in his driveway and lived on Clay Pike. That came to light because his neighbor had four tow trucks and was running a towing business out of his home. Mr. Blenko states the Zoning Department is working down the list. This is not a new enforcement issue, but something that is enforced when they learn of them or get complaints. Mr. Blenko states that what a permit system does is place a lot of administrative load on department while allowing people to have trucks in the driveways.

Manager Shepherd states Mr. Blenko is correct in saying it is not a permit issue but a policy issue. You either regulate something or you don't. This was a policy decision even before it was adopted in 1991. The restrictions can be changed or modified. It comes down to policy and what you think what is right for the overall health of the community.

Commissioner Kucera asks how long the truck has been parked there.

Mr. Trayers states two years.

Commissioner Gray asks how big the lot is.

Mr. Trayers states it is under an acre.

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Commissioner Gray states he is familiar where the truck is parked and is pretty well hidden.

Commissioner Kucera asks if he plugs it in so the truck does not idle all night.

Mr. Trayers states the truck runs for approximately two minutes after he gets home then is turned off.

Manager Shepherd states the process in revising the zoning ordinance is almost finished to bring to the Board, but now may be the time to make a revision.

Commissioner Herold states he feels if there is a single axle truck and that is their livelihood then the Board should revisit the policy.

Mr. Blenko states it is a policy decision on whether you want to look at commercial vehicles parked in your neighbors driveway.

Manager Shepherd states almost everything done in the zoning ordinance is a policy decision or policy issue. Regulations come from experience.

Brian Greggs ó 14053 Ridge Road ó states he owns his own business but does not run it out of his house. He states his shop is in Braddock and the reason he brings his truck home is because of convenience and money issues. It would be an hour out of his time in travel. If the ordinance could be changed to single axle would be helpful.

Commissioner Bertani states he agrees in that the Board needs to revisit this and possibly look at allowing one single axle truck in a residential area if it's for someone's livelihood.

Manager Shepherd states the final Ordinance is near complete and he recommends that piece would need to go in front of the Planning Commission for recommendation.

**William Essay** - Mr. Blenko states he measured Oakhurst Drive and it is approximately fifteen and a half percent slope. There are two ways to get to the property between St. George Acres and Church Drive. One way would be from Church Drive that has a pretty severe cross slope. The other would be from Oakhurst Drive, however an intersection on a fifteen percent slope is concerning. He states he understands their concerns.

Manager Shepherd states right now there is nothing in front of the Board and Mr. Essay just wanted to make the Board aware of these concerns.

**Zach Davies** - Manager Shepherd states there is not a policy related to vehicles, but a policy related to people. Anybody with a CDL drivers license is tested along with entire police department. It's possible that the individual fire departments have their own drug testing policies.

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**Work Sessions Discussion Topics**

- 1) **Waste Management Contract** – Mr. Turley provided a memo to the Board regarding an outstanding issue concerning commercial dumpsters and overage costs that is not covered under the existing contract.

Mr. Turley states Waste Management states the overfull dumpsters slow the routes down when the drivers have to get out and clean up the garbage and also enables businesses to pay less than what their garbage intells. He states their system is to give a warning, then there is a ninety five dollar overage charge.

Commissioner Haigis and Commissioner Martino state they are ok with moving forward.

Commissioner Kucera asks what are the charges per incident.

Mr. Turley states it is ninety five dollars.

Manager Shepherd states they will move forward with an amendment after consulting with the solicitor then bring it back to the Board.

**F. Planning/Engineering Topics:**

- 1) **S-13-2016 – Norwin Town Square Encroachments, Bethel Rd/Route 30, R-2/C-1 Zoning**

*\*Subdivision plan intended to correct number of encroachments onto Norwin Town Square from residential properties.*

Mr. Blenko states a number of residents over the years added pools, fences, sheds at the back of the properties onto the hillside that is owned by the shopping center. The new owners, Norwin Colony Holdings, decided they really don't need the hillside, so they are trying redraw the property line to allow the intrusions to become part of the residential lots. The Planning Commission recommends approval.

- 2) **S-14-2016: LPP Plan, Hahntown-Wendel Road, R-2 Zoning**

*\*Boundary line revision involving three adjacent lots on Hahntown-Wendel Road.*

Mr. Blenko states the family would like to make the property lines a little more user friendly on how they use their yards. They may be selling the house in the future and would like to move the property lines. The Planning Commission recommends approval.

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**3) S-15-2016: Koelsch Consolidation, Scotch Hill Road No. 1, R-4 Zoning**

*\*Lot consolidation involving two lots on Scotch Hill No. 1.*

Mr. Blenko states this is a consolidation of an empty lot. The Planning Commission recommends approval.

**4) S-16-2016: Spezziale Plan V, Brownstown Road, R-2 Zoning**

*\*Boundary line revision involving two lots on Brownstown Road.*

Mr. Blenko states this is a lot consolidation that does not affect any easements or utilities. The Planning Commission recommends approval.

**5) S-17-2016: Nagy Plan II, Wagner Drive, R-3 Zoning**

*\*Minor subdivision involving two lots on Wagner Drive.*

Mr. Blenko states Mr. Nagy owns eleven acres on Wagner Drive and several years ago divided off two parcels in the front with frontage on Wagner Drive. He would now like to do the same thing with a parcel on the opposite corner. Mr. Nagy agreed to provide a utility easement. Mr. Blenko states that because this is the third lot Mr. Nagy subdivided off, the fee in lieu provision kicks in so the fee in lieu money will go to Indian Lake Park.

**6) S-18-2016: Guest Plan, Barnes Lake Road, R-3 Zoning**

*\*Boundary line revision involving two lots on Barnes Lake Road at HahntownWendel Rd.*

Mr. Blenko states Mr. & Mrs. Guest own both lots, however the driveway is not entirely on their lot and feel one day when they sale one of the lots, the property line will need to be redrawn to accommodate a traffic signal mast for Tuscan Hills plan.

**7) S-21-2016: Bittner Plan I, Farview Drive, R-2 Zoning**

*\*Minor subdivision involving two lots on Farview Drive.*

Mr. Blenko states this is a large parcel on Farview Drive that sits behind the house that they would like to create a lot for an additional home.

**8) S-22-2016: St. George Acres Detention Pong, St. Nikolai Drive, R-2 Zoning**

*\*Boundary line revision involving detention pond parcel for St. George Acres.*

Mr. Blenko states this is a plan to take the old detention pond lot and move the boundary line so the pond is located entirely on its own lot.

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**G. FURTHER BOARD COMMENTS**

Commissioner Faccenda states there are some vacancies on several Boards that need to be filled. NHTMA, Parks & Recreation and Zoning Hearing Board have vacancies.

**H. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: Commissioner Herold

Motion to adjourn.

Second: Commissioner Faccenda

Motion carried 7 0 0 0 (7:48 P.M.)

- Special Meeting minutes of October 13, 2016 were approved by the Board of Commissioners on \_\_\_\_\_.

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Tony Martino, President

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John M. Shepherd, Township Secretary  
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