



**I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT: 3:00 PM BY: Vaughn PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**II. ROLL CALL:** PAUL ALTIMUS-Present JAMES BROWN-Present SOLICITOR-Present(Jeff Miller)  
VAUGHN TANTLINGER-Present SECRETARY-Present(Carrie Moore)

CITIZENS-10(Emma Brendlinger, Jim West, Mary Hamill, Bertha Martin, Harry Hamill, Joe Berginc, Rob Colt, Carl Fulcomer, Sam Saxton, Bruce Ulhery)

**III. PREVIOUS MONTHS MEETING JULY 11, 2019:** APPR BY Vaughn 2<sup>ND</sup> BY Paul

UN-Yes (3 YES/0 NO) (V. TANTLINGER-YES / P. ALTIMUS-YES / J. BROWN-YES)

**IV. TRUE BILLS PAID AND TO BE PAID ON FINANCIAL STATEMENT DATED JULY 2019.**

APPR BY Jim 2<sup>ND</sup> BY Vaughn UN-Yes (3 YES/0 NO)(V. TANTLINGER-YES / P. ALTIMUS-YES / J. BROWN-YES)

**V. CORRESPONDENCE: 1. Brownlee Lumber** – Requesting Road Bond Release of Umheys Road

Motion to release Umheys Road Bond by Vaughn 2<sup>nd</sup> By Paul

UN-Yes (3 YES/0 NO) (V. TANTLINGER-YES / P. ALTIMUS-YES / J. BROWN-YES)

**2. Hanson Aggregates** – Public Notice Annual Blast Publication-Hanson always has to notify us and let us know the blasting schedule.

**3. Bertha Martin Letter** – The letter is requesting and has been requesting the last couple of years that when a logging company logged a few years back they took lumber out Bridges and is upset with what happened to the road and wants the repairs done so she can mow correctly. Bertha stated it was not just one load but a lot of loads. The road is disaster all the stone came up that they gas well company put on she said last year you put a load of stone on it but it was not enough and needs more. She stated since the township did not bond the road it is now the township responsibly to fix it. Paul said from his memory the lumber was hauled out under the weight restriction. Bertha said she was not sure but there was four piles of lumber on a trailer. She asked what a load of logs would weight. Paul said it was all slab wood. Carl said they took out some Walnut Stubs and hauled out the logs whole on the trailer probably 16 feet long. They hauled everything out with the Pickup and Trailer trying to keep under the weight restriction but they overloaded the trailer in doing that. Paul stated the weight limit on Bridges Road is 10 Ton. Bertha stated she did not know the weight limit but it damaged that portion of Bridges Road. It is not the same condition as before they started. Carl stated you can guarantee it was over 10 Ton but how you going to prove it.

**VI. PERSONS PLACED ON AGENDA:** None

**VII. OLD BUSINESS: 1: Westmoreland Conservation District Partnership Agreement** – Vaughn stated we did have informal meeting with Westmoreland Conservation District(WCD). Paul stated the purpose of this agreement is not what everybody thinks that WCD is going to come out and rule your property and tell you what to do, the WCD Agreement is to conserve soil and protect the watershed whether it is through Agricultural Practice, Timbering Harvests, or Home Development they all require storm water management. WCD is willing to work with Township and protecting those resources. Vaughn stated the Federal Government is forcing some storm water regulations down upon on and the township is not going to have a say in it. The citizens might know some of the people that come out from the county Tony Quantro is one, he comes out when timbering operations are happening he is there whether you know it or not. If you have logging done he will give you suggestions. Vaughn stated like Paul said WCD is here to protect our watershed, protect our roads and things like that. Bertha asked so when you are speaking of water shed. I live on a dirt road and when we get rain we have a lot of water shed so, that means when we get rain the homeowner is responsible for all that water. So that makes the landowner liable for all that water. How could the homeowner be responsible when it came from the sky. This will start a blame game among property owners and this is what this agreement is

going to turn into, it might not be today but it will happen maybe several years down the road. Vaughn stated it will not turn into that. The county has tried for the past several years trying to help the township. WCD grants started back in the 90's and I did a rough calculation and WCD has give us around \$500,000. WCD has helped the township roads with controlling the water shed. Vaughn stated we do not have to advertise it. Emma stated that is not what she meant, she meant with the effect this is going to have on the township more people should be aware of it. Emma was reading who is going to pay the fees? So, the fees will come out of the taxpayer money and the Agi Secure Areas are going to be affective. Flood Plains they never done anything for me. As far as the road grants we apply for them and it is not guarantee so, WCD is doing their job and getting the grants to the municipalities that need it .They already of given of us the money and I know because I use to work here they wanted the township before to sign this agreement, WCD should not hold this agreement over our head saying if you don't sign this you are not getting a grant. That money comes from somewhere not from them. The township does not have a code inspector officer. Emma feels something of this magnitude should be put on the agenda or have public meeting with Rob to come to explain the agreement because it effects a lot of people. Carl asked if they said anything about cutting of the funds if we don't sign. Paul stated no but funding is based on points and participant in this agreement raises your point value. Carl asked who pays the fees that are stated in the agreement? Jeff stated it would be the taxpayer that pays the fees. Carl said they can come inspect your property if they see you using a shovel on your property and charge you \$150 for this inspection. Joe said it states on the second that they will inspect earth moving activities and issue general permits. So, we are going to start getting permits? Paul stated Joe read the second line on C. Joe read for activities. Carl said about a garden. Paul stated it has to be over 5,000 square feet. Paul asked him to write down three people that have over a 5,000 square feet garden. Carl stated Cecil Brinker is one. Paul stated Cecil's garden is under 5,000 square feet. Carl said let's get back to farming no one is going to be able to plow fields. Bertha stated its all going to come down to have a permit for everything. Emma asked Vaughn didn't they ask your brother to go into an agreement like this before where they control what you do with your land. Vaughn stated it was something different and his brother did not sign up for it. Carl stated DEP controls water runoff anyhow so WCD is just an added force that is going to pickier and want money for their services. Can you think of any benefit that the majority of the taxpayers will have by signing the agreement? Jeff stated money that it is gotten by grants. Paul if we don't get it could lead to tax increase. Vaughn stated he doesn't have a problem bringing in WCD for information session for the public to be more informed of what this agreement does for the taxpayers. Rob thinks it should be on the ballot for the people of Fairfield Township to vote upon. Let the people vote. Joe said the citizens don't want slippery slope effect as you move out of Fairfield Township things get tighter and the government takes more control we don't want this in Fairfield Township we want to stay flat and not slanting. Emma if I am not mistaken Rob is the one that wanted Fairfield to have certain people do the work on the roads and not put it out to bid. Rob didn't realize townships have to be bid out, Rob has his preferences. Emma wanted to know how long the other townships have been an agreement with WCD. The trouble will not start till down the road. Paul stated has been in it for at least 10 years. Rob stated this is close to zoning without using the zone word. Joe bought his property because of the lack of zoning. Vaughn stated a lot of stuff happens that we see that we don't address unless your neighbor reports you then it is our responsibility. Emma wants to know how can WCD say you to sign this for points it would be like redevelopment organization in Greensburg saying you have to do this way or you don't get points. There is no guarantee if the township signs this agreement that we will get the grants the only thing the agreement does WCD will be in the township more often and have more control. WCD did nothing for me when I got flooded. Rob wanted to know if he could make a motion to put it on the ballot. Jeff stated he could not because he is a supervisor. He could request it. Rob then request that the township put it on the ballot. Vaughn and Paul stated you cannot not a motion. Bertha asked why not? Paul state he is not an elected official to make a motion. Paul then stated look at the last page it says you can cancel and be out of it in 60 days. Rob asked why would you get out of it if you are going to sign it now? Paul stated well if it goes foul like everything things the township can opt out. Rob stated it is already foul when they can charge you a user fee for digging a ditch. Jeff stated it has to be earth moving activates like stated in the agreement. Jeff stated and I go out and dig a hole in my backward I have not violated any law. If it is earth moving activities that is regulated under NPDES or Erosion & Sediment Control Plan now you have to follow the law if they look at it or they don't. Jeff stated what we are talking about is whether it goes through or not this is stuff that we are already regulated to do. Fairfield is not acting new laws what we are determining is whether we want some entity to oversee the things that we are already obligated to do. So, what you as taxpayers are saying is that we don't want to follow the

laws, we want to do whatever we want and we don't want anyone to look at it. No one here should be under the impression WCD is enacting new regulations these regulations are already in place. Joe said no one here is stupid enough to damage their property we just don't want people being police over our property. Joe compared it to Harry about digging out his barn and we know Paul is going to look at it and think he is improving his property but someone from the government is going to look at it and say he has not paid for a permit. Bertha stated you do lose control over time of your property. Paul asked Jeff can the board put this on the ballot in the fall? Jeff stated he doesn't know he looked into a while ago but he will look into. Not everything can go on ballot only certain topics and he cannot tell them off of the top of his head if this qualifies. Emma asked if Agri Secured was on the ballot? Paul stated he was not here then and it was before the supervisors time. Vaughn appreciates everybody's opinion. Vaughn made a motion to table WCD agreement. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Paul.  
UN-Yes (3 YES/0 NO) (V. TANTLINGER-YES / P. ALTIMUS-YES / J. BROWN-YES)

#### **VIII. NEW BUSINESS:** None

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Bertha Martin-Nothing else to say. Mary Hamill-Asks how can some people take a swamp area and bury it and others are told they cannot? Vaughn stated call DEP. Up at townships it is all mess down there. Why did they buy a farm and why are they putting up a fence around the property? It's not supposed to be a farm and they don't pay taxes. Paul stated they do pay taxes. Mary stated they keep on building buildings their taxes should go up instead of ours. Mary asked whenever it rains hard, our fields, Brinkers field, Paynes field, and Hartmans field all come down and meet in one spot and is washing out the telephone poles. Vaughn stated that is with PennDot and West Penn and it is their responsibility. Paul stated actually that it was considered a project at one time under WCD. Ernie Henderson-Just like the rest of the people he doesn't want the township to get in bed with the dirt gestapo. Joe Berginc-He loves our freedom in this township. Paul asked why when there is problem who does he go to? Harry Hamill-He can't hear that good. Jim West-Said two years ago he tried to get his farm in the conservatory and was told he could not and now it looks like it is going to be if this agreement goes through. Paul stated he is confused there are two different entities. (Westmoreland County Conservation District and Western PA Conservancy). Jim asked are they not basically the same thing. Paul stated Conservancy is more private money. Conservation gets money from the gas and stuff like that. They all have their own board. Carl Fulcomer-How long does it take to get the minutes on the computer? Supervisors stated they get put on right after they are approved and we will get the website updated. Rob Colt-Asked do we know how much the fees are? They are listed on the website under the website listed on the packet that you received. Sam Saxton-Nothing Bruce Uhlrey-Nothing Emma Brendlinger-Is there a time frame for the bridge in Bolivar. Vaughn stated he went to a meeting and it is supposed to be done the middle of October. Also, Did anyone every call about the holes on the road by Dan Sowers. Vaughn stated the township has called multiple times and it is our cone in the hole. Emma was at the auditors meeting when you have someone resign do you have to accept at a public meeting? How can you accept the letter and appoint someone in the same meeting? How did that one person find out and I know Amy didn't pick up the phone and call him to tell him about the position. How come the word was spread only to one township resident? Vaughn stated there is two openings on the ballot for auditor. About insurance did you shop around on prices. Paul stated you know that we do. Matson insurance has our workers comp, auto, and building recognizes in our April or May meeting. Health insurance was listed in January. These vacancies are they listed on the website. They are in the minutes on the website. Dan is in till the end of December. Joe asked when Meyers School Road will be open? The supervisors do not know.

#### **X. ADJOURNMENT:** MOTION BY Paul 2<sup>ND</sup> BY Jim TIME (3:47 PM)

UN Yes (3 YES/0 NO) (V. TANTLINGER-YES / P. ALTIMUS-YES / J. BROWN-YES)

**Fairfield Twp.-- 159 Midget Camp Rd. -- Bolivar, PA 15923 – 724-235-2140 – FAX 724-235-2752**

**Fairfield Website:** [www.fairfieldtpw.com](http://www.fairfieldtpw.com)

**Email** [fairfield1773@verizon.net](mailto:fairfield1773@verizon.net)

*Carrie Moore, Secretary*