**October 3, 2013      
Township Meeting Room**

**WEST COCALICO TOWNSHIP**

The Chairman, Jacque Smith called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m.

The following were in attendance:

Supervisors: Jacque Smith, Terry Scheetz and James Stoner.

Others Present: Carolyn Friesema, Manager; Shelbie Shupp, Administrative Assistant; Betty Knepp, Cheryl Schanno, Marta Hummer, Brian Hummer, Donna Haulman, Christine Reich, Kurt Reich, Kurt Eckenroad, Kent Reich, Dennis Schmeck, Scott Moyer, Kyle Sellers, Mike Wetherhold and Kyle Sellers, Adamstown Library; Daniel Stoner, Ken McCrea, Daryl Hornberger, Ken Walsh, Norma Enck, Luke Showalter, Val Lacis, Reading Eagle; and Pat Burns, Lancaster Newspapers.

James Stoner motioned to approve the Board of Supervisors minutes from September 16, 2013, as corrected. Terry Scheetz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Terry Scheetz motioned to approve the attached list of checks totaling $158,391.94. James Stoner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Jacque Smith said each of the Supervisors want to speak regarding the Police contract and then will open up the meeting for West Cocalico Township residents’ comments.

* Terry Scheetz said that the situation the township is in was not the Supervisors doing. He said it is an attention getter because the police are people’s neighbors, relatives and friends. It is a dollar and cents decision, whether the Township is willing to pay additional money to maintain the current police force or go with Northern Lancaster County Regional Police. His responsibility is to the majority of residents. He said he made a mistake in voting to purchase 1975 N. Reading Rd. because of the popularity to do so. He has listened to and talked with many people. He was angry at the meeting held in Reamstown when East Cocalico Twp. presented a new budget with substantially lower figures. He said that when the pressure is on East Cocalico they are reducing the staff by retirement and reducing the cost. He had been previously asking them to reduce the cost over and over again. He feels like he has been taken for a fool for quite a few years. With East Cocalico reducing the number of police through retirement, their staffing amount would be similar to NLCRP. He said he doesn’t see the cost factor improving over time; the labor cost is 75% to 80% of police budget. If they would consider going regional with current police force and municipalities, it could take years before the regional police force is established. He feels he needs to vote to save cost and wants to bring the issue to a close.

Terry said NLCRP has a credible and solid management. He has attended NLCRP meetings and said they certainly know what they are doing and he would be comfortable in moving to them. The Warwick, Clay and Penn Township Managers have no concerns with NLCRP. He stated that the Warwick Twp. Manager is a highly respected leader.

* James Stoner stated that he is an elected official, Supervisor, Treasurer and a business man. As elected officials, it is the Board’s responsibility to 7,200 residents. It is a numbers game. As a business owner I would never leave money sitting on the table. West Cocalico Twp. would realize short term cost savings and the elimination of unfunded liabilities if they were to sign with NLCRP. A pending East Cocalico Police contract that is currently in arbitration is another liability if WCT were to stay with East. He stated a five year projection shows a savings of hundreds of thousands of dollars if they were to contract with NLCRP. The Board of Supervisors were forced to look for alternative police services because of a contract received from East Cocalico that the solicitors of Adamstown and Denver Borough and West Cocalico Twp. were told they could not sign and East was not willing to negotiate. He stated that in business competition is healthy and they were forced to look at a competitive alternative.

James Stoner stated that he has spent a lot of time listening to people and validating what they have said. He has talked with the accountant and has done a lot of research. He said that this has taken so much time and it is frustrating to keep going, it is time to move on. The Supervisors will vote on October 10th. For him, the biggest issue is how his vote will affect taxes.

⚫ Jacque Smith said that all three Supervisors have spent a lot of time since the beginning   
of summer, listening, and holding open meetings regarding the police contract. They have given a lot of thought, time and energy to the issue. He recently spoke with John Lorah, Treasurer of the school district and he said he hopes that we can keep the police together for the student population. Jacque said that when Rich Sensenig passed away, he was asked to be the police liaison. He respects Chief Beever and is proud of him, the Chief has never maligned the other entity. Jacque said he has talked with people he knows personally in Clay Township and they did not have anything negative to say regarding NLCRP. He said the Supervisors were put in a difficult position and were forced to look elsewhere. He stated that since Adamstown has voted to pull out, the financial figures will only get worse. He needs to look seriously at going with NLCRP. People cannot handle a tax increase. His considerations are: the response time, involvement with school district, willingness to put sub-station in WCT building and willingness to do PR within communities.

Jacque said because the residents of the Township favored keeping the Township rural, the recently adopted Zoning ordinance is for a rural demographic tax base and does not favor business growth. He said it makes it impossible to justify the higher costs involved in forming a Cocalico regional police force. He stated that the tax base is your families, farmers and home owners.

* The Supervisors each stated that they believe the majority of residents have been silent and are not for increasing taxes in order to keep the current police force. They also said that they need to move on and owe NLCRP and answer so they will be voting October 10th, 2013.

Elaine Bowman spoke on behalf of C4CP (Citizens For Cocalico Police). She said a petition in support of a Cocalico regional police force has over 1,600 signatures and is continuing to grow. The residents’ comments were centered on forming a Cocalico regional police force using the current East Cocalico Police. They requested that the Board delay their decision for a year. It was also suggested that a referendum be added to the spring voting ballot regarding the police coverage, thereby taking the decision off of the Supervisors shoulders and placing it onto the people. It was stated that the Board has not kept residents informed of the police issue and what the Boards intentions are, that is why there are a lot of silent residents.

Jacque Smith closed the police discussion to move onto other Township business.

Mike Wetherhold introduced Kyle Sellers who gave a presentation on new resources for businesses which included:

* Business Data Base
* Reference USA
* Marketing Tools
* Consumer list
* Program to create a business plan
* Simply Maps
* Business Startup Book Bag

The library received a grant from PNC for two new iPads. They also received a generous donation from the Stoudt’s to replace all the public computers as well as the network. The library is planning on purchasing 5 laptops for the purpose of lending out to families who are in financial need.

Chief Beever gave the Police Report for October 3, 2013:

* The hood of a car offered for sale in the 200 block of N. King St. was damaged sometime between September 13 and 14. The damage is valued at $1,000
* One person was injured in a one car crash in 300 block of S. Cocalico Rd. at 11:45 a.m. on September 16. The driver failed to negotiate a curve and struck a utility pole and an electric fence. She was taken to ECH for treatment. Power was out in the area as a result of the crash.
* One person was injured in a two car crash in the 100 block of N. Peartown Rd. at 5:10 p.m. on September. A farm tractor turned into the path of a motorcycle. The cyclist was taken to Reading Hospital for treatment.
* Sound equipment valued at $1,300 was reported stolen from the Independent Christian Church, 2040 W. Rt. 897 sometime between September 19 and September 22.
* A wallet and its contents valued at $40 were reported stolen from a vehicle in the 1000 block of Swamp Bridge Road on September 25.
* A laptop computer and a pair of boots valued at $850 were reported stolen from a vehicle in the first block of Village Spring Lane on September 25.

Carolyn Friesema gave the Manager’s Report as follows:

1. Investigated the following complaints/concerns:

a. Several unregistered/uninspected car complaints

b. Trash complaint

2. Attended the Park Board – Wednesday, September 25, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.

3. Met with Don Zoladkiewicz on September 24, 2013, at 10:00 a.m.; to discuss the upcoming Sunoco pipeline project.

4. Brian Murphy of Concort Communications, LLC met with Shelbie to provide information on how to maintain the new website.

5. Met with Joe Becker from Texter Mountain Nursery to discuss the best plan for planting the 50 trees in the Chapel Gate Park. The trees are being provided by Greening the Lower Susquehanna.

6. Tom Showalter and I have been working on the 2014 budget.

James Stoner motioned to award paving of the Chapel Gate parking lot and trail stub to the lowest bidder to be determined upon receipt of the 3rd quote. Terry Scheetz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There was discussion regarding a residents request to have Watch Children signs installed in the Chapel Gate development. James Stoner motioned to approve the installation of Watch Children signs at the three entrances to the development. Terry Scheetz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

James Stoner motioned to reduce Nathan Zimmerman’s Financial Improvement Guarantee by $28,305.67 per the Rettew Assocs. letter dated September 19th. Terry Scheetz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

James Stoner motioned to appoint Weinhold, Nickel & Company LLP as auditors for 2014. Terry Scheetz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

On a motion by Terry Scheetz and seconded by Jacque Smith, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

James Stoner

Secretary