**September 5, 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; Alan Love, SDS, LLC; Richard Pannebecker, Ken McCrea, Daryl & Dianne Hornberger, Kalie Johnson, Noelle Fortna, Richard Diekhaus, Rober Kreisher, Jr., JT Appleton, Nancy G. Hamill, J. Maier, Roger Weii, Sandy Roth, Dwayne Shank, Steven Savage, Jonathan Zaun, Chris Progin, Ryan Brown, Rich and Vivian Moyer, Paul Moyer, Kenneth Lockhart, Brian Dilliplaine, Danette Ludwig, Laurie and Jeff Sauder, Brenda and Mike Gensemer, Donald Klein, Chris Laudenslager, Ray Burns, Jim Moyer, Kurt Eckenroad, Bruce Sensenig, Elaine Bowman, Bryan Westhafer, Steve Laudenslager, Sue Knauer, Regina Ambrosine, Chrissy Walsh, Val Lacis, Reading Eagle; and Pat Burns, Lancaster Newspapers.

James Stoner motioned to approve the Board of Supervisors minutes from August 19, 2013, as presented. Jacque Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Terry Scheetz motioned to approve the attached list of checks totaling $30,891.12. James Stoner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Craig Lehman spoke on the upgrade to the Public Safety Radio System, the new morgue located on Route 30 and Farmland Preservation. The Public radio system should be fully functional by the end of 2014. The County has a 5 yr. lease with LGH for the new morgue facility located on Route 30. In 2013 contributions for farm land preservation declined. Through increased State funding, the county was able to preserve more land with a total of 100,000 acres being preserved.

The Board of Supervisors took the following action on the Jill A. Sensenig Preliminary/Final Subdivision Plan:

 1. Terry Scheetz motioned to approve the following Modifications:
 a. Section 403.1.A – Plan Scale

 b. Section 602.5.B – Additional Right-Of-Way

 Jacque Smith seconded the motion. Motion carries. James Stoner abstained.

 2. Jacque Smith motioned to approve the plan with the following conditions:

 a. Items 1 through 8 under Zoning - Subdivision and Land Development need to be
 completed.

b. Items 1 through 10 under Storm Water Management need to be completed.

 Terry Scheetz seconded the motion. Motion carried. James Stoner abstained.

Jacque Smith said at no time did the West Cocalico Board of Supervisors take any action to be part of a Police Advisory Board, the reason for sending Carolyn, Terry Scheetz and Gene Weaver was to listen and see if East Cocalico Township responded to our questions and concerns raised at our August 1st regular Supervisors meeting.

Jacque asked Terry Scheetz to update him and James Stoner on what took place at the meeting in Stevens with East Cocalico Twp. Terry shared that himself, Gene Weaver, and Carolyn Friesema attended for WCT. There were representatives from all four municipalities. The meeting was an open discussion as to the concerns of each municipality. There were emphatic statements made as far as money problems. The attention of the group was centered on the deadlines that had to be met. Every municipality shared that there is not enough time to make a decision on this issue and East Cocalico did not have enough time to finish their police budget. At that meeting; it was decided to hold an additional meeting on Sept. 16th at 7:00 pm, at which time East Cocalico Township has agreed to have budget figures to compare with figures provided by NLCRP. It was indicated at the meeting in Stevens that it would be very difficult to meet some of the expectations the municipalities were asking for. It was indicated that the police force would be reduced by two retirements in 2013, two in 2014 and maybe more in 2015. However, it would appear that a reduction in staff would result in a reduction of services as well.

Terry Scheetz also shared that on Friday following the meeting at the Stevens Fire Hall; he, Carolyn and Mike Hession met with Carl Sagetti, a police consultant. The Manager from Warwick Twp. had suggested to Terry that he might want to meet with this consultant. The meeting provided good information and he offered his services in the future. Mr. Sagetti was impartial and did not recommend one police force over the other.

Noelle Fortna said the East Cocalico Twp. Board has approved a resolution extending the date of termination for police services from 9/30 to 10/31/13. They also motioned to form a regional police force with equal representation for the four municipalities. The budget for 2014 is down 10% from the 2013 budget, for a decrease of $317,000. The next advertised meeting of the regional board will be on Sept. 16th at 7:00 pm at East Cocalico Twp.

Terry Scheetz shared that another item that was discussed at the meeting in Stevens was that the East Cocalico Twp. Police force is currently in arbitration, the Officers have said they will waive their raise for 2014 to try and help with the situation. The other thing not discussed was the unfunded liability problem.

Jacque said the discussion was never about the police and how good they are; it is strictly a business decision. He felt bad for Chief Beever when he had to defend his department at the Regional meeting in Denver. This Board is dealing with an issue that involves money. Jacque said he heard someone say that they can afford a $30 tax increase to keep East Cocalico Township Police services. He said that he knows two families that cannot afford to pay $30 extra. There is a whole contingency of people we have to serve. If we waiver from the police service we have now, we want the same service. Jacque said he is willing to go along to see how we can stay within the Cocalico Region, at the same time, as a result of all this; another player has come into the mix. At no time had West Cocalico looked elsewhere for police services. He said that he resents looking like the bad boys because he knows where the township came from and what they have tried to do. He also said that he has a prejudice with the Police Chief. He got to know the Police Chief in 1997 and thinks he is a fantastic human being and a fantastic chief. He said that it is personal and he hates that the township has gotten into the position of looking elsewhere. The Township is now in a difficult position because of a business transaction. Jacque asked the Board if they will continue to talk or move elsewhere. Terry said he will attend the Sept. 16th meeting along with Carolyn and Gene Weaver to see if a plan can be put together. Jacque questioned whether the township should attend the meeting as an official member of a Police Board since they are still negotiating with NLCRP as well.

Larry Maier said there is a question whether the Regional Police Board is a legal entity. He advised the Board to attend the meeting on an informal basis to gather information and proceed from there. Legally it is better to attend the meeting as a discussion group.

Jacque shared that the township is not looking at a good budget for the next couple of years.

There are a number of bridge issues that have to be addressed.

James Stoner motioned to advertise Ordinance 122 to enter into a Charter Agreement with Northern Lancaster County Regional Police. Terry Scheetz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Terry Scheetz motioned that West Cocalico Township will make a determination whether the Township desires to join the Northern Lancaster County Regional Police Department at a special meeting on or before October 15th, 2013, provided that NLCRP extend their deadline until October 15th. James Stoner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Larry Maier said the Board can either adopt or not adopt the Ordinance at the date listed for adoption when the ordinance is advertised. All the advertisement does is set a date that the Ordinance would be considered for adoption. Larry shared that if the Township does decide to switch, the sooner the decision is made the better it will be for the citizens and NLCRP to come up to speed. He said it is important to move expeditiously. Advertising the ordinance is a non-legal issue. Larry said the Township is constantly reacting to East, and responding to deadlines not set by the township. The Supervisors are trying to walk the narrow path responding to what East has given them, which is constantly changing.

Steve Laudenslager asked if the clock starts for the Township’s startup costs with NLCRP when we advertise this Ordinance. Larry Maier said the Township is not committed to anything. Steve questioned what is in the Ordinance. Larry said the Ordinance they are working on is a Charter Agreement and Contract to start January 1, 2014; and includes startup costs which includes giving some of the money back to original three entities. The Ordinance is fairly simple, it is not completely finished.

Nancy Hamill said that it sounds like the Township is in favor of a Charter Agreement. She also said that there are probably costs that will come into play that we are not aware of. There are a lot of services East Cocalico Police provide to the school district. She feels that these services will not occur with NLCRP, it is her understanding that if the school district requests services there will be additional costs and these costs will affect the taxpayers through higher school taxes.

Ken Lockhart said he does not think NLCRP can offer the same service. He asked if the Township looked at other police forces offering contract services. He does not think NLCRP is an established police force since they have only been in existence for 18 months and questioned whether we would have to pay more if one of the other entities drops out. As a business decision he asked the Board to consider the costs of the penalty fee to get out.

Jacque said he raised the same questions himself at the beginning. He repeated that the Board of Supervisors was put in a very difficult position right from the get go. Jacque said unfortunately if you look at the Township you see two lines, Berks and Lebanon. There are difficulties going to other counties.

In response to a questioned raised as to why we went to NLCRP, Jacque and James Stoner responded that we approached NLCRP to see if they would be willing to provide service to West Cocalico Twp. James Stoner said that the Board of Supervisors was told to go to NLCRP by DCED, the right arm of the Pennsylvania government. James Stoner said we asked DCED where we should go. West Cocalico Township approached NLCRP, they did not come to us. James Stoner said that everyone has suggestions but we were under a time line. He said we went to the Pennsylvania government to ask for their recommendation, that is where we should go for assistance. Chris Laudenslager asked why there wasn’t an option B explored since the residents have not been happy with the proposed services. Jacque Smith replied that we have residents contacting the office, as well as the Supervisors suggesting that we not go back with East Cocalico. These individuals are glad the township is looking and are in favor of going with NLCRP.

Elaine Bowman said there seems to be a lot of miscommunication with East Cocalico. She really thinks we should be bringing East Cocalico Twp. to the table. Jacque said that is what the Board of Supervisors has been trying to do. She said that maybe the residents have been to complacent with how East Cocalico Twp. has handled things in the past. She said she would like to see peace in working things out.

Bruce Sensenig as a resident representing the Cocalico School District shared merits of the Police Dept. unbelievable service and protection. He feels that students have been safer because of the East Cocalico Police presence. He said they value their partnership. He said having officers present at the school, as well as at football games, have enhanced safety and security. He realizes this is a complex decision because of deadlines, budget issues, a history of operation between East and the other municipalities. He applauds all the municipalities with working together with what has been accomplished in the past. He understands that the cooperative spirit is being tested with this issue and the deadlines imposed. He asked the Board to continue talking about the police, explore ideas and express must haves we need to go forward. He feels that sometimes there are more important things then money, such as security and peace of mind.

James Stoner addressed Dr. Sensenig saying he takes for he said and Noelle Fortna very seriously and has talked to Officer Keppley. He said there is no one more then the Supervisors who want to work with East Cocalico. Unfortunately, they have put us in this position and the bar has risen, let’s just face the facts. We did go out and get pricing because we had to. James Stoner asked Dr. Sensenig why the School District cannot pickup one officers cost, that’s a great service for you and to help East Cocalico out to lower their costs. In your big budget compared to our little budget, one officer. We’re all trying to get the numbers closer. Dr. Sensenig said it is a consideration. He said it is not out of the question.

Leon Eby asked if there is any evidence they would not be able to provide the services we need. There were two elderly women from Clay Township that were tortured and abused and within one day the case was solved. He asked that Northern Regional not be dismissed just like that. They may be able to provide the service we need. Maybe they are not the same as East Cocalico Twp. but let’s not dismiss them without consideration.

Steve Laudenslager questioned why NLCRP do not use the Lancaster based records management that is used countywide as indicated by a newspaper article. They are using a York County program.

James Stoner responded to Norma Enck’s statement about 5 officers being left go at NLCRP. He said they were let go because they did not meet NLCRP standards, just as any business fires people who do not meet their qualifications. Carolyn Friesema responded to her question about running out of PPU’s. She said that would not happen. NLCRP look at that as everyone will have a single incident once in a while, like the Roseboro or Clay Township incident. They will not penalize the township or stop sending officers out. If it becomes a regular occurrence yearly, they will ask you to increase your coverage.

Jacque Smith shared that some of the questions being raised tonight and previously will be looked at when we sit down to look at a contract and they would do that after discussions with East have been exhausted.

Norma Enck shared that the NLCRP would not necessarily have a police officer in the Township. Larry Maier said that we would have an officer in the township 20 hrs., 7 days a week. What we got from East was 3 pages and most of that was unacceptable. He is working on a Charter that is 28 pages. All the issues about are we guaranteed this and guaranteed that, we did not have any of that with East, nothing from East, not one word of contract. We have never had any documentation about how much coverage the Township has had or is going to get.

Larry Maier said there could be unknown problems and issues that would be lurking by signing even a one-year contract with East Cocalico under the same parameters of the 2013 deal. He said that township would save $400,000 by going with NLCRP. He said East Cocalico cannot even give us a number because they are in arbitration. He said even with a buy in fee with NLCRP the Township would save $300,000. He said that doesn’t even consider the unfunded liability of $750,000 that would be figured into our monthly cost with East Cocalico Twp.

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

James Stoner motioned to approve use of the Schoeneck Fire Police to assist with the Cocalico Education Foundation run on September 28, 2013. Terry Scheetz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

James Stoner motioned to do an early renewal of the health insurance as of 12/31/13 with an increase of 4%. Terry Scheetz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

James Stoner motioned to approve purchase of two new roof top heating units. Terry Scheetz seconded the motion. Motion carried. With the purchase of the two new gas heating units and a gas generator, the building will be more useable as an emergency facility.

Terry Scheetz motioned to approve the purchase of new carpet for the office. James Stoner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chief Beever gave the Police Report for August 3 through September 5th:

* There were several burglaries and thefts
* There were two crashes at Short Rd. and Line Rd.
* There was a report of shots fired on Laurel Ridge Rd. on August 3rd.
* An individual was charged for DUI, Endangering the Welfare of a Child and Careless Driving as a result of an accident on Steinmetz Rd. on July 25th.
* Officers responded to the 900 block of Swamp Bridge Rd. at 11:40 am on August 27 for a reported missing autistic child. The child was located safe on Blainesport Rd.

James Stoner asked Chief Beever if there are ongoing issues with the intersection of Short Rd. and Line Rd. Chief Beever said some of the accidents involve people not from the area and they are pulling out from Short Rd. and crossing Line Rd. thinking it is a 4 Way Stop. Chief Beever said there is a visibility issue when pulling out from Short Rd. and looking left, there is a tree that hampers visibility.

Carolyn Friesema gave the Manager’s Report as follows:

 1. Investigated the following complaints/concerns:

 a. Numerous long grass complaints

 b. Storm water complaint

 c. Tree complaint

 d. Burning complaint

 2. Attended the Park Board – Wednesday, August 28, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.

 3. Met with Dean Hoover and JJ Stoner on Monday, August 26, 2013.

 4. Met with Kristen Kyler from Penn State on Tuesday, August 27, 2013 to discuss a
 donation of trees for Chapel Gate Park.

 5. Met with various members of the Cocalico municipalities to discuss police issues on
 Thursday, August 29, 2013.

 6. Met with Carl Sagetti, a police consultant, Terry Scheetz and Mike Hession, Denver
 Borough manager, on Friday, August 30, 2013 to discuss police issues.

 7. Met with Marty Gerhart, Harding Yost insurance, to discuss our upcoming insurance renewal on Wednesday, September 4, 2103.

On a motion by Terry Scheetz and seconded by James Stoner, the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

James Stoner

Secretary