

**INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF
CARNEYS POINT TOWNSHIP
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 14, 2012**

The regular monthly meeting of the Carneys Point Industrial Commission was held on the above date at the time of **6:35 p.m.** Commission members Bomba, Leighty, O'Donald and Redfield were present. Also present was J. Proffitt-Secretary. Mr. Merendino and Ms. Pennington were not in attendance.

Mr. O'Donald called the meeting to order; read the **Open Public Meeting Act** and led the **Salute to the Flag**. **Roll call** was taken and a Quorum was established.

Mrs. Leighty **motioned to approve minutes from the April 9, 2012 Industrial Commission meeting**, seconded by Mr. Bomba and all were in favor.

Mr. O'Donald mentioned **Correspondence** of an e-mail from Chairperson Pennington talking about resigning from the Commission. Township Committeeman Dennis suggested a letter to the Mayor to formally resign. Mrs. Proffitt will get a hold of Ms. Pennington requesting a written resignation if that is her intention.

Old Business; Mr. O'Donald asked about the YMCA property. Mrs. Proffitt said she had a letter from Ms. Pennington to Committeeman Dennis. The letter stated the Mayor would like for Mr. Dennis to pursue getting the deed corrected. Mrs. Proffitt told the Commission she phoned Andrea Rhea the Township Solicitor at the time the deed was created and asked if she could make the correction to the description line. Ms. Rhea said she would make the correction and forward a copy of the corrected deed to the Township Clerk's office. Mr. O'Donald asked about the easements on the property. Committeeman Dennis said Ms. Rhea was supposed to look into them and he will check on that with her.

Mr. O'Donald moved on to **New Business** and had Committeeman Dennis introduce Michael Batten, Former Mayor of Pitman to address the Commission. Mr. Batten said he grew up in Penns Grove and moved to Pitman 43 years ago. Pitman is a small town with a relatively large population of around 10 thousand people. Mr. Batten spoke of the empty stores and the old 76 acre Sony building closing. Mr. Batten said whenever a buyer came to look at a building he was there to tell them the positive points of the town. He said they did not want a bid box store because they tend to eliminate all the small stores. Mr. Batten said the Committee appointed a beautifier Committee to make Main Street look pretty with flowers and such. He said the Industrial Commission, Chamber of Commerce and Historical Commission worked together to bring in businesses to fill the empty stores along with keeping the small town flavor. Mr. Batten said one thing they did was to keep an inventory of all businesses and the history of the buildings, such as square foot, buy or lease, how much looking for. He said parking was an issue in Pitman so signage was important to everyone coming through town. Mr. Batten spoke on the 1926 theater in Pitman, which was a big landmark. He said it was empty the roof was leaking and it was run down. A contractor said it would take about 700 thousand dollars to renovate. After a public bid the theater was bought and renovated. This is the best investment Pitman ever made said Mr. Batten. The Industrial Commission members said Carneys Point does not have a

downtown, which makes things a little different. There was some discussion and Mr. Batten said one town recreated an area as the down town. They bought some property and changed the area to a downtown. The Commission members thought Shell Road would make the most since as a downtown. Mr. O'Donald asked if the Beautification Committee had a Municipal budget. Mr. Batten said they did to start but now creates their own money. Mr. Batten said two things to help the Commission. One the Chamber of Commerce and the Industrial Commission need to work together and two, you need a good grant writer. Mr. Bomba mentioned DuPonts and the need to redevelopment their area. This started a lot of discussion about DuPonts and what can or needs to be done there. Mr. Dennis mentioned promoting the Township. Mr. Batten said Pitman did a commercial for television. He said it can be run on the website also. He said the person who did their video was Cory Sickles, Burning Image, LLC. Mr. Dennis said he would contact him to see if he can come to a meeting to address the Commission. Mrs. Leighty mentioned Frank Vit of WLK Omnimedia who put together a video for the Habitat for Humanity 30th Anniversary. She said she will contact him to see if he can also attend a meeting.

Mr. O'Donald asked the Commission members to review the bill list. Motion was made by Mr. Bomba, seconded by Mrs. Leighty, and all were in favor to approve the bill list.

Mr. O'Donald opened the meeting up for **Public participation**. There being none this portion was closed and Mr. Redfield made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Bomba and all were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Adopted: 6-11-12


June Proffitt, Secretary