

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2015**

**6:45 P.M.**

**Roll Call** Dave Buchewicz presiding. Board members Walt Sackinsky and Ed Snee were present. Also in attendance were: Karen Fosbaugh, Township Manager; Chief Dennis McDonough; and Paul J. Gitnik, Esq., Township Solicitor.

**Purpose of Hearing** The purpose of the hearing is to take oral or written testimony on the condition of the following property to determine if the property should be declared a Public Nuisance by the Board of Supervisors, and subject to the appropriate abatement procedures and/or fines and penalties as outlined in the Code of the Township of South Park.

**Owner(s):**

Josephine Butler

**Location:**

2503 Grove Road  
South Park, PA 15129  
Lot/Block No. 886-E-36

**Testimony** **Mr. Wargo** – Mr. Wargo explained that the Public Hearing was scheduled at the Board of Supervisor’s Regular Meeting held on October 12, 2015. On October 14th, a first class Notice of Enforcement was sent to 2503 Grove Road, which was returned to the Code Enforcement Office. On October 16th, Mr. Wargo inspected the property and reported that the gas and electric have been disconnected, the meters have been removed, and the grass and weeds were overgrown. The front porch concrete posts, which support the large front porch, are falling away from the structure. The front, rear, and basement doors are open to the public. On October 21st, certified and first class Notices of Enforcement were sent to 2503 Grove Road, which were returned to the Code Enforcement Office. For the record, Mr. Wargo stated that the Township has no other address to send correspondence relative to 2503 Grove Road. On October 26th, Mr. Wargo inspected the property at 3:00 p.m. and reported that the property was in the same condition as his previous inspection. At that time, Mr. Wargo took pictures of the violations. Mr. Wargo submitted 17 pictures into the official record. On October 27th, Mr. Wargo posted a sign on the property and in the lobby of the Township Administration Building, giving notification of the time and date of the Hearing. On November 6th, an advertisement was placed in the Post Gazette, giving notification of the

time and date of the Hearing. On November 6th, Mr. Wargo inspected the property and reported that the property is in the same condition.

**Mr. Gitnik** – Mr. Gitnik stated that all evidence should be kept on the record in case of an appeal.

**Mr. Buchewicz** – Mr. Buchewicz stated that he inspected the property yesterday.

**Mr. Sackinsky** – Mr. Sackinsky stated that he inspected the property a few times, and Sunday, October 8, 2015 was the last inspection. He reported that the property was in a deplorable state, and the structure was unsafe.

**Mr. Snee** – Mr. Snee stated that he inspected the property on November 4th and November 9th, 2015, and he agrees with Mr. Wargo's reports. He reported that the windows, front door, and basement door are missing, and the siding is coming off. There is no power or gas to the house, and the front porch and roof are completely deteriorated.

**Chief McDonough** – Chief McDonough stated that he inspected the property on October 26, 2015, at 2:45 p.m.; November 2, 2015, at 1:15 p.m.; and November 6, 2015, at 1:15 p.m., and he agrees with Mr. Wargo's reports. Chief McDonough voiced his concern about the open doors to the structure and the lack of support on the front porch.

**Mrs. Fosbaugh** – Mrs. Fosbaugh stated that she inspected the property on Monday, October 26; Wednesday, October 28; and Monday, November 9, 2015, and observed the front porch pillars are leaning and the front porch floor is being supported by wooden posts and chains and appears to be on the verge of collapse. Mrs. Fosbaugh concurs with the reports given by Mr. Wargo, Chief McDonough, and the Supervisors which include missing windows, the doors open, the gas and electric meters are missing, and the foundation blocks are damaged. Mrs. Fosbaugh commented that the structure is in overall poor condition.

**Darlene Smith, 2505 Grove Road** – Ms. Smith commented that in order to keep the wild animals away from her yard while her grandchildren are playing outside, the lawn at 2503 Grove Road has been maintained by her husband and her sons. Ms. Smith discussed the person responsible for destroying the house and stealing the plumbing fixtures and copper wiring. Mr. Buchewicz asked if she notified the police. Ms. Smith responded that the police are aware of the situation; however, no charges have been brought against him. She added that she would rather see the house demolished than to let him continue to destroy the property. Mr. Buchewicz asked if he is still currently destroying the structure, and Ms.

Smith replied that he has never stopped. She added that he has stolen from other homes, as well. Chief McDonough informed Mr. Buchewicz that they have reports on the matter.

**Adjournment** Motion by Mr. Sackinsky and seconded by Mr. Snee to adjourn the Public Hearing. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**Time: 7:03 p.m.**