

Halifax Township
Board of Supervisors
Monthly Business Meeting
November 9, 2009

Call to Order: Chairman Shearer called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Roll Call: Supervisors Shearer, Stopfel, Eppley, Schultz and Hoover were present. K&W Engineer Jim Thiele, Solicitor Steve Dzurainin and Secretary/Treasurer David Hoover were also present.

Citizen taping the meeting was Carolyn Nye.

Chairman Shearer announced that three executive sessions were held on the following dates to discuss personnel matters: October 27, 2009 from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM, October 29, 2009 from 6:20 PM to 8:30 PM and November 7, 2009 from 9:00 AM to noon.

Public Comment Period

Jim Eppley: asked if the HOP for the Rte 147, Rte 225 and Parmer Drive intersection had provisions for an advanced turning arrow for Rte 225 southbound traffic. Roadmaster Dale Shoop said that a PennDot representative stated that there was none included in the original plan because it was not warranted at the time. Chairman Shearer asked Dale to research the cost of installing an advanced turning signal at this location. Dale also reported that the current traffic signal at this location is not cycling properly due to damage caused by the contractor doing the upgrades required of Donco. The repairs will be done and invoiced to the contractor who caused the damage.

Flo Mallonee: expressed her concern for the lack of a southbound turning arrow at the Route 225 and Parmer Drive intersection. She stated that the danger is even greater now that there is a turn lane. She feels the Township should take whatever action necessary to have a southbound turning signal installed.

Fred Ford: reported that a pending House Bill #1500 mandates 24/7 police coverage for all Boroughs and Townships in the state. Fred stated that if you have no local police coverage, state police coverage would be required at a cost of \$52 per citizen for the first year, \$104 per citizen the second year and \$156 per citizen the third year for a three year total of over one million dollars. While a regional police force feasibility study is underway, Fred feels the cost of a regional police force would be prohibitive. Fred also stated that the failure to provide either local or state police coverage could result in the municipality being penalized in the reduction of state funding.

Todd Etzweiler: said he was unable turn around at the cul-de-sac on Pawnee Lane recently while he was pulling his trailer. He asked if the Township could take some action to prevent the use of cul-de-sac's as parking lots. Chairman Shearer asked the board to consider posting signs where there is a clear need and asked Roadmaster Shoop to research and provide a cost estimate to do so.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

The paid interim bills and unpaid current bills were presented for approval. Ken Hoover motioned to approve the bills as presented. Gary Shultz seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

The October 12, 2009 Business meeting minutes were presented for approval. Linda Stopfel motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Carol Eppley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

The October Financial Report was accepted following a brief explanation by Sec/Treas Hoover of the new items on the balance sheet.

Planning Commission

Jim Eppley reviewed the report. (See Report)

River Ridge Mobile Home Park – the Planning Commission recommended granting a 30- day extension to the applicant. Supervisor Stopfel motioned to grant the extension. Supervisor Eppley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Strohecker Plan – Jim Eppley stated that the plan has been withdrawn.

Wind Energy Facilities – Jim Eppley reported that the Planning Commission has completed the Scopes of Work for the Wind Energy Ordinance and recommended that the board authorize the Solicitor and the Engineer to respond with a cost to complete the Ordinance. Carol Eppley motioned to authorize a response from the Solicitor and Engineer. Gary Shultz seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Engineers Report

The Engineer's Report was reviewed by Jim Thiele. (See Report)

Jim Thiele recommended that the Board reduce the financial security agreement for Charles Paulvir from \$10,784.95 to \$5,346.00. Linda Stopfel motioned to approve the reduction. Carol Eppley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Jim Thiele also recommended that the Board approve the River Ridge Sewage Planning Module exemption. Ken Hoover motioned to grant the exemption. Carol Eppley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Jim Thiele stated that FEMA reported no change in the Township's flood plain areas. He said that in order to respond to FEMA within the 30 days allotted any public review concerns would need to be received no later than November 23. He also requested that the board approve: (1) K& W's preparation of a more readable representation of FEMA's flood plain maps for public review at the administrative office by Friday, November 13, (2) the advertisement of the public review and comment period, (3) authorization for K&W to respond to FEMA on behalf of the Township. Linda Stopfel motioned to approve the above three requests. Gary Shultz seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Dean Miller asked if it would be possible to provide flood plain maps on the Township's website for review. Discussion ensued. Due to time constraints and the unknown cost the issue was tabled.

Chairman Shearer noted that Tom Wilson has been attending Dauphin County Stormwater Management meetings on behalf of the Township at no cost and will continue to do so. Gratitude was extended to K&W for such voluntary participation.

Solicitor's Report

The Solicitor's Report was reviewed by Solicitor Dzurainin. (See Report)

Solicitor Dzurainin recommended that the Board act on the request for a two-year time extension for the Flight Source Land Development Plan. Carol Eppley motioned to approve the extension to expire on August 23, 2011. Ken Hoover seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Solicitor Dzurainin reviewed the details of and recommended that the Board vote on the revised draft of the Fire Department Agreement. The agreement has a term of 6/1/2009 to 5/31/10 with automatic renewal periods of 1 year each unless one party notifies the other at least 30 days prior to the end of the current period. Carol Eppley motioned to approve the agreement as presented. Linda Stopfel seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Solicitor Dzurainin recommended that the Board act on the request for the full release of financial security posted for the Kerstetter and Chubb Subdivision Plan. Ken Hoover motioned to approve the request. Linda Stopfel seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Todd Etzweiler questioned the status of the Harn nuisance. He was told that this would be reviewed by Dale Shoop in his Roadmaster's Report.

Roadmaster's Report

The Roadmaster's Report was reviewed by Dale Shoop. (See Report)

Dale Shoop reported that he has not been able to find anyone willing to remove the vehicles from the Harn property. He has also been unable to contact Mr. Harn.

The dump clean ups on Price Road and Middle Road have been completed. Deer fencing is scheduled to be installed along Price Road to prevent future dumping.

Line painting on Matamoras Road, McClelland Road, and Parmer Drive is scheduled for November 10. Linda Stopfel asked if Camp Hebron Road has yellow lines. Dale said all public township roads have lines but due to the expense repainting is done where there is the greatest need.

Linda Stopfel inquired about the progress being made on the electrical work being done at Fort Halifax Park. Dale confirmed that the work was underway.

SEO Report

The SEO Report was reviewed by the Board of Supervisors. (See Report)

Valleys Regional Comprehensive Plan Report

Chairman Shearer reported that a summary report of the public participation meetings has been posted on the Township's website. There is an open house scheduled for December 9 at 7PM at the Halifax Elementary School for sharing meeting results.

Old Business

Secretary Position: Donna Rode declined the agenda request.

EIT Committee: Bob Artman, Township representative for the Dauphin County EIT Committee, reviewed the meetings to date describing them as a simple review of the act. He also volunteered to participate on a steering committee to review the needs of the committee. He reported that Skip Memme from Derry Twp was elected committee Chairman and Michelle Shuler from Lower Dauphin School District was elected Vice Chairman. He also noted the controversy surrounding the appointment of a Solicitor and in response the committee has decided to reissue RFP's with a 30- day response time after which the RFP's will be reviewed and recommendations will be made to an appointed subcommittee which will be responsible for appointing a Solicitor.

New Business

Armstrong Valley Vineyard & Winery: Jake Gruver provided information on the vineyard and winery that is being developed at 212 Rutter Road by him and his partner Dean Miller. They expect to open a public winery in 2011 and have already met with the Planning Commission and will be working with the Liquor Control Board to obtain a small winery's license.

COG: Chairman Shearer reported that there are two rampant weeds in the area, Kudzu and Mile-a-Minute. The Dept of Agriculture has an eradication program for Kudzu. Discussion ensued.

Route 147 & Parmer Drive Traffic Signal: Flo Mallonee declined additional comment.

Fire Relief Funds Distribution: Discussion ensued regarding distribution of the \$21,221.86 in Fire Relief Funds. Ken Hoover motioned to give 100% to the Halifax Fire Department. Linda Stopfel seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Landlord/Tenant Ordinance of 1991: Linda Stopfel reported that the Landlord/Tenant Ordinance of 1991 has not been enforced for some time. Melinda Warfel reviewed the history and the purpose of the Ordinance. Discussion ensued. The Board will review the Ordinance and act accordingly.

Billboard Ordinance: Linda Stopfel expressed concern over the absence of a billboard ordinance that would establish guidelines in the Township for the posting of billboards. Linda motioned to authorize the Planning Commission to investigate a billboard ordinance for the Township. Carol Eppley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Ken Hoover asked about a cell tower ordinance. No action was taken.

2010 Budget: Gary Shultz motioned to authorize the advertisement of the proposed 2010 budget. It will be available for review in the Administrative Office through December 14. Linda Stopfel seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Secretary Hiring: Linda Stopfel motioned to authorize an offer of employment to Shanemarie Ferguson for the Secretary position with a compensation package of \$25,000 to be parceled between salary and benefits as agreed upon with the candidate and contingent upon a satisfactory background check. Carol Eppley seconded the motion and with no abstentions or opposing votes the motion carried unanimously.

Secretary Training: Supervisor Shultz motioned to authorize the registration of Shanemarie Ferguson for a webinar on Municipal Secretary training at a cost of \$95.00. Linda Stopfel seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Announcements

Chairman Shearer reviewed upcoming meetings.

Ken Bechtel expressed concern that not every Supervisor voted for the hiring of the secretary and the budget. Discussion ensued. Chairman Shearer inquired of the board if a call for another vote was necessary. With no requests or objections from any member of the board the original vote was again declared a unanimous vote.

Adjournment

Linda Stopfel motioned to adjourn at 8:38 PM. Carol Eppley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

David W Hoover
Secretary