

WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING
Westtown Township Municipal Building, 1039 Wilmington Pike, Westtown
Monday, January 22, 2013 at 7:30PM

In attendance were: Chairman Thomas Haws, Vice Chair Carol DeWolf, Police Commissioner Charles Barber, Township Manager Robert Layman, WEGO Police Lt. Bill Cahill, Township Solicitor Bob Adams, Planning Commission member Jim Lees. There were 9 guests in attendance.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Haws called the meeting to order at 7:40PM and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Approval of Minutes (Reorganizational & Board of Supervisors, January 7, 2013)

Mr. Barber made a motion to accept the January 7, 2013 reorganizational and regular meeting minutes as presented. Chairman Haws seconded the motion. There was no public comment and motion was approved. Vice Chair DeWolf was not present at the Jan. 7 meeting, and therefore abstained from voting on approval of the minutes.

III. Summary of Board of Supervisors Workshop - January 22, 2013

Chairman Haws summarized the Supervisor's workshop held at 6:00pm this evening. The supervisors interviewed a final candidate for the Planning Commission vacancy. The Board also met with a candidate for the Parks and Recreation Commission. They discussed the ordinance to establish a Historic Commission, the Multi-use Field agreement with East Side Little League (ESLL), and parking restrictions at Coventry Village. Mr. Layman will contact the Coventry Village Homeowner's association to determine their position and work towards a resolution.

The Board had a brief executive session breakout to discuss the status of the selection of a new Chief of Police.

Representatives from McCormick Taylor were present to address the departure of our current engineering contact, Rob Pingar. They informed the Board of their transition plan until a new engineer is identified. Ms. DeWolf thanked Rob Pingar for his years of excellent service.

IV. Departmental Reports

A. Westtown East Goshen Police Department – Lt. William Cahill

Lt. Bill Cahill reported on a December 27, 2012 robbery at the Wawa on Paoli Pike in East Goshen. The victim was followed from Harrah's Casino in Chester by three career criminals who targeted this individual after observing him at the casino. Lt. Cahill cautioned residents to be aware of your surroundings. He also reported that theft from motor vehicles at night continues to be a problem, particularly in Thornbury and Birmingham townships. He suggested that residents remove valuables and lock their cars, stating that over 90% of thefts occur from unlocked cars. Mr. Barber inquired if the car break-ins are concentrated in apartment complexes. Lt. Cahill said that some have been in apartment complexes, but others have been in neighborhoods such as Pleasant Grove.

Lt. Cahill reported that a Safe Schools Summit will be held at Owen J. Roberts High School on January 31, 2013. School administrators, District Attorney Tom Hogan, law enforcement, and security specialists will attend. He stated that the police want to do all that they can to improve safety in our schools. The police have "park and walk" programs where officers on day work visit school administrators regularly.

At 8:00am on Jan. 28, at the Police Commission meeting, five new part-time officers will be sworn in. District Judge William Kraut will preside over the ceremony.

Lt. Cahill stated that the police department is having difficulty finding a facility for firearms training. West Goshen Police has shut down their range. Three new part time officers have no prior police experience, and will need training for state certification. Mr. Haws asked why range has been shut down. Lt. Cahill reported the closure was due to complaints from residents about noise and safety. Mr. Barber asked about the facility in Downingtown. Lt. Cahill said that other facilities in Downingtown and West Whiteland do not allow outside agencies. The Police are considering other facilities, but cost and distance are issues.

Mr. Barber asked Lt. Cahill to explain the process for getting a gun permit. The Chester County Sheriff's Office maintains all licenses to carry a firearm. The Sheriff's Office forwards the gun permit applications to the township police departments for additional background research. Lt. Cahill reported a big increase in the number of applications they are receiving.

Lt. Cahill was pleased to introduce Officer Ted Lewis as the newly elected president of the Police Association. Mr. Lewis has been with the Police Department since 2001. Prior to that he was a paramedic with Chester County Hospital, and is still a certified paramedic. Mr. Lewis expressed his intent to improve communication between the Township and the police department.

Chairman Haws asked for public comments.

Kathy DiDomenico, 1530 Woodland Road, asked why the canine unit has been disbanded. Lt. Cahill reported that although the canine unit has not yet been disbanded, the certified canine handler has submitted his resignation. Ms. DeWolf interjected, explaining that the Boards have decided the dog will be transitioned. Mrs. DiDomenico asked why. Ms. DeWolf explained the canine unit wasn't being used by the Township enough to justify the cost. She advised Mrs. DiDomenico to direct any additional questions to the Police Commission at their next meeting.

There were no further questions or comments from the public.

B. Township Solicitor – Bob Adams

Mr. Adams had nothing to report. Chairman Haws called for any questions for Mr. Adams. There were none.

C. Township Planning Commission – Jim Lees

Mr. Lees reported on the Jan. 9 meeting. John Snook was present to review his amendments from Dec. 26 concerning the alternative energy zoning ordinance. The Commission spent several hours discussing objections, suggestions, and revisions to the ordinance. The Planning Commission hopes to have a final draft of the ordinance to pass on to the Board after their Feb. 6 meeting. There will be no meeting tomorrow night.

Mr. Lees also thanked Rob Pingar for his contributions.

There were no questions or comments from the public.

D. Parks and Recreation Commission – Kristine Lisi

Kristine Lisi reported that at their Jan. 8 meeting they discussed officer appointments: Kristine as Chair, Jen Schwacke as Vice Chair, Rick Brown as Mansion Manager, Bridget Brown as Treasurer. She stated that they are excited to have Maria Klang join the Commission.

They plan to reinstate the Mother's Day Tea event in the spring, which will be advertised in the next newsletter. The Yard Sale meeting on Jan.16 at the Mansion was well attended. The sale will be in April, and is in its third year.

There were no questions or comments from the public.

V. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Nicholas Valenski stated that he is working on his Citizenship and Community merit badge for member of Boy Scout Troop 222, and is required to report on a controversial issue at a township meeting. He has chosen to report on the police canine unit. The Board expressed their willingness to help him on his project.

Kathy DiDomenico, 1530 Woodland Road, wanted to know about any correspondence from the DEP regarding Act 537. She was told there has been nothing new. She encouraged the Board to be proactive regarding Act 537. Chairman Haws stated we have provided a draft ordinance of the Act 537 plan to the DEP and are waiting for their approval. Chairman Haws explained the process, stating that we are still under the consent order, and need to wait for a response from DEP before doing any more work with URS on our onlot management monitoring plan. Once we hear from DEP, the Township will look at what data needs to be collected as part of that monitoring, and determine what infrastructure has to be built. If there is any deviation from our current 537 plan, then there will be an implementation stage. The township will have public meetings on the new onlot management ordinance, put it out for review, gather comments, have further review, and then go to the Board for approval. To do more work prior to DEP approval of our outline would be a waste of time and money. If the DEP requires modifications or adjustments to our plan, then the Board will address them.

She then asked about the onsite package plant discussed at the last meeting (Walter Barry, 1018 Robin Drive, is applying to DEP for an onsite package plant with a stream discharge). Chairman Haws reported that this is a request for a new onsite package plant. The Township is responsible for waste disposal systems within its boundaries, but the DEP must review and approve the module.

Mrs. DiDomenico continued, stating that 40+ residents have contacted her expressing their concerns over the 1 mill tax increase, which she estimates will be at least \$200/home. Ms. DeWolf asked whether Mrs. DiDomenico was speaking on behalf of a neighborhood group, or representing herself. Mrs. DiDomenico said she was voicing the concerns of a network of residents and reiterated the need for greater transparency. Chairman Haws stated that residents should contact Mr. Layman, the supervisors, and come to meetings, rather than using Mrs. DiDomenico as a go-between, and stressed that the Board has and will continue to use the listserv to reach residents.

There were no other public comments on non-agenda items.

VI. Old Business

A. Historical Commission

The Board reviewed the draft ordinance and made minor grammatical revisions. Ms. DeWolf made a motion to authorize advertisement of the ordinance, after it has been reviewed by our solicitor. Once that is done, the ordinance will be sent to residents on the listserv. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barber.

Ms. DiDomenico asked what the Historical Commission would be. Ms. DeWolf explained the purpose of the Commission. There were no further comments or questions and the motion to advertise the ordinance was approved.

B. Agreement with StrategicLink for IT services

Vice Chairman Barber wanted to clarify for the record that the company we have contracted with to provide IT service, StrategicLink, is locally based and one of the principals of the company is a Westtown resident.

There was no further public comment on old business.

VII. New Business

A. Appointments

Chairman Haws asked for a motion to appoint Bob Layman as Public Records Officer, with Pam Coleman as Assistant. Ms. DeWolf made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Barber. There was no public comment and the motion was approved.

After interviewing several applicants for the Planning Commission, the Board selected Steven Rodia, 1514 Woodland Road. His background is in finance and investments. Ms. DeWolf made a motion to appoint Mr. Rodia to the Planning Commission, seconded by Mr. Barber. There was no public comment and the motion was approved.

The Board also met Maria Klang, who has expressed interest in becoming a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Ms. DeWolf made a motion to appoint Mrs. Klang, which was seconded by Mr. Barber. There was no public comment and the motion was approved.

B. Tract 2012-3 RiteAid Development

RiteAid and PNC Bank have submitted a land development plan, and the Township has determined it to be administratively complete. Ms. DeWolf made a motion to refer it to the Township Planning Commission for review and recommendation. Vice Chairman Barber seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion was approved.

VIII. Public Comments on All Topics

There was no public comment.

IX. Payment of Bills

Ms. DeWolf and Mr. Barber stated they had reviewed the bills and had no questions. Chairman Haws asked about a \$2,590 bill to Ron Agulnick for attorney fees. Mr. Layman explained that the bill was for an email to Elaine Adler relating to the decision of the zoning hearing board regarding a variance to the science building at the Westtown School. Ms. DeWolf made a motion to approve the check register for January 17, 2013, with the caveat that the check register clarify the Agulnick fee. Mr. Barber seconded the motion.

There was no public comment and the motion was approved.

X. Adjournment

Ms. DeWolf made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Barber. There was no public comment and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Layman,
Township Manager