

WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING
Westtown Township Municipal Building, 1039 Wilmington Pike, Westtown
Monday, September 17, 2012, 7:30PM

In attendance were, Vice Chair Thomas F. Haws; Police Commissioner Carol R. De Wolf; Township Manager Robert Layman; Township Solicitor Robert F. Adams; and Planning Commission Member Eric Rohrbach. There were 35 guests in attendance.

I. Call to Order.

Vice Chair Haws called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. and led those present in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

II. Approval of Minutes (Board of Supervisors, September 4, 2012 Regular Meeting).

Mr. Haws made a motion, seconded by Ms. De Wolf, to approve the minutes of the Board of Supervisors, Monday, September 4, 2012 regular meeting. Mr. Barber asked for public comment. There was no public comment. The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the minutes with the corrections.

III. Summary of Board of Supervisors Workshop 9/17/12

Mr. Haws summarized the executive session dealing with police matters, touching on the current Act 537 Plan that they are planning to submit. The plan will be discussed in greater detail under agenda item B New Business. Township Solicitor, as well as, the Township Engineer, were present to discuss the Rossiter Subdivision which will be on agenda New Business Part C. He opened the floor to questions on the workshop. There were no questions at that time.

IV. Departmental Reports.

A. Westtown East Goshen Police Department –Chief Dooley

Chief Dooley reports on the activity that's taking place. In August, there were radio calls totaling 977, 37% (364 calls) were addressed to Westtown. None seemed to be unusual or outstanding. Ms. De Wolf states that the next police commission meeting will be Monday, 9/24/12. The floor was opened to questions and comments. There were no questions or comments at that time.

B. Township Solicitor – Robert F. Adams.

There were no items to be reported for Mr. Adams at this time.

C. Planning Commission

Details will be reported under Rossiter on the agenda. Alternative energy will be discussed at the next meeting. Three items will appear on the agenda and be discussed. They are as follows: a variance request for a lot that is too small to be subdivided as proposed, the Westtown School Science Building and the Crebilly 2 lot subdivision. Comments were received from the Township Engineer that evening, which will also be on the agenda, Wednesday night. The floor was opened to questions and comments. There were no questions or comments at that time.

V. Public Comment-Non Agenda Items.

There were no items at this time.

VI. Old Business:

There was no old business.

VII. New Business.

A. Westtown-East Goshen Police Report

The committee is planning to draft a letter to all residents, business owners, members of the community that will outline the issues involved, explain the Township arrived at this point and the status of our attempts to keep WEGO intact. This letter will be sent out to all residents in the near future. The committee that was formed June, 2012 between the municipalities have been meeting with the Police Association to come to a deal to make WEGO financially sustainable for the future. The last meeting, held on Friday 9/7/12, had the goal of reaching a deal to get into agreement with the union to keep WEGO viable for the future. The committee was informed that their offer was rejected and this is the Police Association's final offer. Their final offer does not have enough financial savings to make it a viable nor does it adequately address the key financial consideration that is needed to keep WEGO viable. At this time, there are no plans for future discussions with the Police Association. Thornbury Township, which is currently served by WEGO, meets Tuesday, 9/18/12. Thornbury is expected to accept a proposal from the Borough of West Chester to have police services provided to them, which will eliminate Thornbury Township as a client of the WEGO Police Department. Mr. Haws made a motion and Ms. De Wolf seconded the motion to form a search committee for police chief for the new Westtown police dept. It was voted and approved.

The floor was open to police comments.

Joseph Chupen, Attorney for the Police Association, member of the Police Labor Council, resident of Westtown Township for several years, current Thornbury resident, asks if the police were given an opportunity to submit statements regarding their position on the negotiations when Westtown sends out notifications to the citizens of the Township. To ensure a fair and balanced disclosure about the positions of both parties, he asks if the police will be given an opportunity to submit statements regarding their position to the citizens of the Township.

Ms. De Wolf answers that the Police Association has messaged out to the community and they have a website. The Township has a mailing, the data is accurate and it is not misinterpreting anything. Mr. Haws and Ms. De Wolf said the Township will not send out a joint message to the residents.

Joe Kelleher, 1002 Marte Rd, goes on record that he would appreciate all of the facts. He asks the Board to reconsider the Township's decision of not including the union's side of the case on behalf of the police department. Ms. De Wolf responds that she is sure that both sides of the story will be made available in some manner and the comment is noted.

Eva Foster, 734 Westbourne Rd, asks if the costs to the residents will be included in the letter to be sent out to the residents. When will the numbers be available to the residents? In the process who paid for the police who were at the Goshen Fair, communicating their views to the public. Ms. Foster communicated that it was the right decision to drop Thornbury and suggests that we should go through the Westtown police or state police because residents don't need any more costs. In response, Mr. Haws responds that the numbers will not be included in the letter. Mr. De Wolf states that they are in the process of getting numbers and the reviews will take some time. They will not act on this quickly. Many people are involved and the numbers are one of the drivers. Ms. De Wolf also responds as Police Commissioner that she can't answer if the police were paid by the tax payers while sitting at the booth during the Goshen Fair.

Patricia Ryan Platt, Edgewood Chase Drive, comments that communication seems to be a problem and she doesn't think the majority of residents are disappointed with the coverage for many years with Westtown East Goshen. It's wonderful to do a mailing to educate everyone about what is going on and perhaps a second mailing with the numbers. Ms. Platt has a sense that East Goshen is receiving more information than Westtown residents due to private meetings held at East Goshen. She encourages that dialogue be kept open. She states that the Township has a website that can be utilized to summarize information on the 537 Act, as well as, redirecting residents to the police website. Mr. Haws responds that they are just updating the residents on what's going on in the meetings with Westtown and East Goshen. Ms. De Wolf states that Westtown and East Goshen are receiving the same information because they are present at all meetings, However, sometimes during negotiations, they are precluded from sharing some information and states that she appreciates Ms. Platt's comments.

There were no additional comments.

B. Act 537 Plan Update

The Plan needs to be submitted to DEP (Management) at the end of the month, however, it is not ready to be approved at this meeting. The Chester County Planning Commission is making the final revisions and should have it to the Board on Friday. A special meeting is scheduled next Wednesday, September 26, 2012 at 7:30 PM, September 26, @ 7:30 to discuss it.

No comments or questions at this time.

C. Tract 2008-4 Rossiter Simple Subdivision 500 E. Pleasant Grove Road

Adam Brower of Everview, Walsh and Associates with the Rossiters, Ted and T.R. Mosser, equitable owners and developers of the property were present. They were looking for an approval on the waiver and whether or not sidewalks needed to go along E. Pleasant Grove Road. They wanted the Board's opinion on the landscaping plans. Ms. De Wolf motions to approve, seconded by Mr. Haws, the motion was approved.

D. Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) –Township Pension Plan

Mr. Haws makes a motion that the Board acknowledges receipt of the MMO, 2013 for Township employees only, seconded by Ms. De Wolf, the motion was approved..

There were no additional comments or questions.

VIII. Public Comment.

Joseph Chupen renews his request that the Police should be able to communicate in the same correspondence that's sent out by the Township. Mr. Chupen requests that all communication pertaining to the collective bargaining and/or comments on it be addressed to him, as he is the appointed sole spokesperson for the Police Association.

Dennis Flag, Edgewood Chase, reiterates that the Police should be able to send correspondence to the residents. He agrees that if tax dollars are being used to send out mailings, communicate the views of both sides.

Leo Kennedy, 1017 Dunvegan, has worked for the Police for 27 years, states that Police Regionalization is the most economic model in existence and for the Township to get away from it is an irresponsible use of tax dollars. He agrees that if tax dollars are being used to send out correspondences, communicate everything all at once. He wants the Police Union to put out a mailing.

There were no additional comments or questions.

IX. Adjournment.

On the motion of Mr. Haws, seconded by Ms. De Wolf, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert Layman,
Township Manager