

WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING  
Township Municipal Building, Stokes Assembly Hall, 1039 Wilmington Pike, Westtown  
Monday, November 7, 2011 7:30PM

In attendance were Supervisors Chair Thomas A. Foster; Vice Chair Charles P. Barber and Police Commissioner Carol R. De Wolf; Township Manager Robert Layman; Township Roadmaster Mark Gross; and Planning Commission Member Brent Whitig. There were six guests in attendance.

**I. Call to Order.**

As there was a quorum present Chair Foster called the meeting to order at 7:35Pm and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. Approval of Minutes (October 17, 2011 Regular Meeting).**

Mr. Barber made a motion, seconded by Mr. Foster, to approve the October 17, 2011 regular meeting minutes (Ms. De Wolf was not in attendance at this meeting). Mr. Foster asked for public comment. Mrs. Ryan-Platt commented on the incorrect date of the Planning Commission meeting. The Board of Supervisors approved the minutes as correct (Section IV:C change Planning Commission to 11/9/11).

**III. Summary of Board of Supervisors Workshop 11/7/11.**

Mr. Foster stated that representatives from Goshen Fire Company were in attendance and presented a power point on the Fire Company. The Goshen Fire Company serves residents of the Township who reside east of the Septa Railroad line. The Fire Company is requesting an additional donation from the Township. Mr. Foster said as this request is too late for this year's budget it will be considered for 2013. Also in attendance was Michael Wolf, Boenning & Scattergood, to review the Township's bond refinancing. Mr. Foster stated that a recent article in the Philadelphia Inquirer reported that the Township's rating had been downgraded. He explained that this is not correct in that the Township's rating was A1 for five years until Moody's had done a blanket upgrading of municipalities and upgraded the Township to AA2. The Township is now graded AA3 which is a lesser upgrade but an upgrade. The refinancing will save the Township close to \$1 million and will be done in two parts in December and January. The rerating will not affect our interest rate. The Board also discussed a PECO Green Grant which will be covered later in the meeting.

**IV. Departmental Reports.**

**A. Township Building Inspector – John Wilson.**

In the absence of Mr. Wilson, Mr. Layman reviewed the October Building Report. There were six residential permits and two commercial permits issued. Mr. Foster stated that the permits which have been issued are on the Township website ([www.westtownpa.org](http://www.westtownpa.org)).

**B. Township Roadmaster – Mark Gross.**

Mr. Gross presented the October Road Report. He stated that repairs were done to the inlets on Kolbe Lane, a failed stormwater pipe was replaced on Oakbourne Road and the Larchwood Road stormwater collection system was also upgraded. Mr. Gross stated that due to the early snow storm the Department had its first salting of Township roads. He also stated that the Township open space is still too wet for a last cutting and will not be done until spring. Mr. Gross stated that the rebuilt pump for the Pleasant Grove Pump Station has been installed. Mr. Foster suggested that the wash out of the mill way at the Westtown-Chester Creek Plant during Hurricane Irene be included in the claim to PEMA/FEMA.

**C. Township Planning Commission – Brent Whitig.**

Mr. Whitig stated that the Planning Commission did not meet on October 5<sup>th</sup> but will be meeting this week. They will review the revised Fence and Accessory Dwelling ordinances for advertising.

**D. Parks and Recreation Commission – Kristine Lisi.**

As Ms. Lisi was not in attendance Mr. Layman reported for Parks and Recreation. He stated that the last movie night had been canceled and that the Township will receive a refund from the movie company. The next event will be the Township Winter festival to be held at Oakbourne Mansion on December 4<sup>th</sup> from 3Pm – 5Pm. There will be tree lighting and activities for the children.

**E. Oakbourne Mansion Commission.**

As Mrs. Foster had another commitment Mr. Foster reported for the Oakbourne Mansion Commission. He stated that October was a successful month with events every weekend at the Mansion.

**V. Public Comment Non-Agenda Items.**

Patricia Ryan-Platt, 1069 Edgewood Chase Drive, asked why the recommendation of the Planning Commission to post the building permit applications on the Township website is not being followed. The approved permits are posted not the applications. She stated that this does not allow any public input before the permit is approved. Mrs. Ryan-Platt asked if the Board voted not to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation. Mr. Foster stated that the decision was to post a permit once it is approved. He stated that the Township has fifteen days to approve a permit. Once the permit is issued there is a thirty day appeals period. Mrs. Ryan-Platt stated she feels it is just as easy to post the application as she feels neighbors have a right to know the project that is being applied for. She said if the application is posted then it can be determined if all the codes are being applied to the review process. Mr. Foster stated that a permit is not issued unless it meets all the codes. There is possible liability to the Township if permit approval is held up because of unfounded objections. Ms. De Wolf expressed that the Township needs to be "more website savvy" as to what should be posted. After more discussion on this issue Mr. Foster advised Mrs. Ryan-Platt the Board will review this with the Township Solicitor.

**VI. Old Business**

There was no old business at this time.

**VII. New Business**

**A. Approve 2012 SPCA Animal Control Contract.**

Mr. Foster stated that the rate for our annual contract with the SPCA is \$1,880.00 which is a decrease from last year.

Mr. Barber made a motion, seconded by Ms. De Wolf to approve the 2012 SPCA Animal Control Contract in the amount of \$1,880.00. Mr. Foster asked for public comment. There was no public comment. The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the motion as presented. \_

**B. Approve Payment New Street Bridge Repairs to Mar-Allen Concrete Products, Inc. in The Amount of \$101,805.50.**

Mr. Foster stated that the Township Engineer is recommending that the Board approve full payment to Mar-Allen in the amount of \$101,805.50 as all final documentation has been received and reviewed.

Mr. Barber made a motion, seconded by Ms. De Wolf, to approve the payment for the New Street Bridge Repairs to Mar-Allen Concrete Products, Inc., in the amount of \$101,805.50. Mr. Foster asked for public comment. There was no public comment. The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the motion as presented.

**C. Accept Sewage Planning Modules Westtown-Thornbury Elementary School.**

Mr. Foster stated that the Board has met with the School District and they have assured the Township that they will be finalizing the easements for the Bayard Rustin sewer line by the end of the month. The Board also signed the agreement with West Goshen to enable the sewage flow from Westtown-Thornbury to go to the Westtown-Chester Creek Plant. The Board will accept the Planning Modules and pass them to DEP for their review.

Mr. Barber made a motion, seconded by Ms. De Wolf, to accept the sewage planning modules for Westtown-Thornbury Elementary School and pass to DEP for their review. Mr. Foster asked for public comment. There was no public comment. The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the motion as presented.

**D. Approve Statement of Support For American Soldiers in The National Guard & Reserve.**

Mr. Barber stated that Westtown is in support of this statement honoring and supporting employees who are in the National Guard and Reserve.

Mr. Barber made a motion, seconded by Ms. De Wolf, to approve the Statement of Support for American Soldiers in the National Guard & Reserve. Mr. Foster asked for public comment. There was no public comment. The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the motion as presented.

**E. Approve Applying For PECO Green Grant.**

Mr. Foster stated that this is a matching grant offered by PECO. The Township is considering applying for the Grant to do work at Tyson Park. Ms. De Wolf said if the Township is awarded the grant it would be used to revitalize the meadow area at the park which would be an example of what residents could do on their properties. Mr. Foster stated that the grant would also be used to make Tyson Park a welcoming place and user friendly.

Mr. Barber made a motion, seconded by Ms. De Wolf, to approve applying for the PECO Green Grant to be used at Tyson Park. Mr. Foster asked for public comment. There was no public comment. The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the motion as presented.

**VIII. Public Comment (all topics)**

Pierson Sill asked if the work done on the New Street Bridge was due to storm damage and applicable for reimbursement from FEMA. Mr. Foster stated that the Township has met with FEMA & PEMA but the New Street Bridge was already scheduled for repairs before the storms.

**IX. Payment of Bills.**

On the motion of Mr. Barber, seconded by Ms. De Wolf, the bills were unanimously approved for payment as presented.

**X. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15Pm on the motion of Mr. Barber, seconded by Ms. De Wolf.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Robert Layman,  
Township Manager

