

WESTTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR MEETING
Township Municipal Building, Stokes Assembly Hall, 1039 Wilmington Pike, Westtown
December 6, 2010, 7:30PM

In attendance were Supervisors Chair Charles P. Barber; Vice Chair Carol F. De Wolf; and Police Commissioner Thomas A. Foster; Township Manager Robert Layman; Township Building Inspector John Wilson; Township Road Master Mark Gross; Township Planning Commission member Russ Hatton; Park and Recreation Commission Chair Kristine Lisi; and Oakbourne Mansion Commission Chair Eva Foster. There were nine guests in attendance.

I. Call to Order.

As there was a quorum present, Chair Barber called the meeting to order at 7:31Pm and led those present in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

II. Approval of Minutes (November 15, 2010 Regular Meeting).

Mr. Foster made a motion, seconded by Ms. De Wolf to approve the minutes of the Board of Supervisors November 15, 2010 regular meeting, Mr. Barber asked for public comment. There was no public comment. The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the minutes as presented.

III. Summary of Board of Supervisors Workshop 12/6/10.

Mr. Barber reviewed the following items discussed at the Workshop: Sewer Bond debt reduction; Collection of delinquent utility accounts; Reviewed three proposals for work on the Oakbourne Road Bridge with a proposed cost of \$150,000 - \$1.2million; Discussed the New Street Bridge; Discussed authorizing a traffic study at Route 202 and E/W Pleasant Grove Road; A brief discussion of the budget which will be continued after the regular meeting; There were two previous meetings held for the budget one on November 29th attended by two supervisors and the other December 2nd with one supervisor in attendance; Discussed East Side Little League's request to use the Cope property as they have turned down the offer for use of the Penn Wood Field.

IV. Departmental Reports.

A. Township Building Inspector – John Wilson.

Mr. Wilson reviewed the November Building Report. He stated that even with the current economy there has been a 13% increase in permits with an increase in fees over last year.

B. Township Roadmaster- Mark Gross.

Mr. Gross stated that the Department has installed the salt spreaders on the trucks. He also stated that an outside firm was hired to do jet cleaning and camera work on the sewer lines and storm drains. The tree trimming work in Plumly is going well with no complaints, so far, from the residents. Mr. Gross stated that Aqua has finished the paving on Colony Lane with the exception of the culvert as they are waiting for the necessary permits from DEP. A wooden guard rail will be installed in the area of culvert where the road drops off. He stated that there was a problem with grease in the sewer lines from Coventry which had extended into Larchwood and Beechwood Roads. There were also two failures in the force main on S. Concord Road. Pictures were taken to try and determine why the line failed.

C. Planning Commission – Russ Hatton.

Mr. Hatton reported on the November 17th, Planning Commission Meeting. He stated that the Commission reviewed the revised plans for the proposed three lot subdivision for the Rossiter

property at 500 S. Concord Road. As there is a small stream on the property the need for a buffer was discussed and how the buffer would be maintained. Mr. Hatton stated the Commission has concerns about this because in the past they had denied building projects because of riparian buffers. The Commission does not want to set a precedent. Mr. Foster asked what the Rossiter's would do if they were denied. Mr. Hatton stated that if denied a different plan would be presented or a more formal plan would be presented if the Commission was agreeable to the present plan. Ms. De Wolf asked if the Commission is aware of the new regulations for stream buffers. Mr. Hatton responded that they are familiar with the regulations. Ms. De Wolf said the Commission needs to be aware of the stormwater issues created by building on buffers.

D. Parks and Recreation Commission – Kristine Lisi.

Ms. Lisi stated that the first Winter Festival was a success and well attended. She thanked Mr. Layman for his help with the event. She also thanked the Friends of Oakbourne for obtaining and planting the tree to be used for the tree lighting. Ms. Lisi stated that the first event for next year is a community yard sale. She will prepare an article for the 1st quarter newsletter with the events in 2011.

E. Oakbourne Mansion Commission – Eva Foster.

Mrs. Foster stated that the Mansion is decorated for the holiday season and that three parties are scheduled this month. She stated that she has received requests for three more weddings next year which she won't be able to schedule until the Board makes a decision on the Mansion. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

IV. Public Comment Non-Agenda Items.

Virginia Lieb, 816 Serpentine Drive, thanked the Road Department for the cold patching on Serpentine Drive which she hopes will last through the winter. She urged the Board to include the re-paving of Serpentine Drive in the 2011 Township Budget. Mrs. Lieb stated that in the proposed 2011 alternate budget there is \$50,000 allocated to curbs. She stated that this is an inconsistency in the budget as it was stated in the Board minutes of October 18th, 2010 that homeowners by Township Ordinance are required to maintain curbs. Mr. Layman stated the allocation for curbs is only in the alternate budget. This would be for cases where the curbs need to be replaced and the Township would do the work. The residents would then be assessed for the work. Mrs. Lieb asked that budget funds be allocated to streets not curbs.

John Lain, 1540 Johnnys Way, expressed his concerns with the Township Trash/Recycling contract. As the Township pays the tipping fees and bills for the service he feels the contractor does not have any responsibility other than picking up and disposing of the trash/recycling. He suggested that the Township eliminate collection of the fees by going to the "pay for bag" system. Mr. Foster stated that the Township's contract is for three years with a two year option. He stated that the Board has looked at all options in the past including the 'pay for bag'. He stated as the Township was at the end of the three year contract A. J. Blosenski offered the Township the two options years at the same cost of this year. He also stated that having the contractor do the billing will be looked at in the next contract. Ms. De Wolf also stated that this option along with the "pay for bag" system will be revisited for the next contract. Mr. Barber said it saves wear and tear on our roads by having one hauler collect the whole Township. He stated that the delinquent utility debt is for both trash and sewer. In the past when there was an overdue account a lien was placed on the property now the Township is being more aggressive and legally pursuing these accounts.

Timothy Sage, 940 Sage Road, asked why it appears the Sage Road open space was being surveyed again. He had read in the Township Minutes that the Board was not going to proceed with any sale of open space at this time. Mr. Foster stated that the surveying has to do with a dispute between neighbors that boarder the piece of open space behind Sage Road. There have been complaints about people walking their dogs and trespassing on private property. The Township is surveying to resolve this issue not to sell open space. Mr. Layman stated that there is court case involved with this issue.

Ronald Dell, 1410 Ponds Edge Road, asked that the Township address the condition of the old gas station owned by Joseph Reich at Manley Road and West Chester Pike. He stated he had complained about this several months ago. The unoccupied building is attracting kids, trucker's park there overnight,

there are broken windows, as well as old mattresses and futons thrown in the back of the building. He stated he has spoken to Mrs. Reich who indicated the property was for sale. Mr. Layman stated Mr. Wilson had previously contacted Mr. Reich who at that time did clean up the property. Ms. De Wolf asked if Swiss Farms was still going to purchase the property. Mr. Dell responded no and that he also talked to Mr. Brandolini, owner of Market Place, who does not have an agreement with Mr. Reich to purchase the property. Mr. Wilson stated that the police are ticketing the truckers who park overnight and they are also routinely checking the property. Mr. Foster stated that if Mr. Reich does not address this issue the Township can board up the property and charge Mr. Reich.

V. Old Business

There was no old business.

VI. New Business.

A. Approve 2011 Westtown-East Goshen Police Budget.

Mr. Barber stated that the Police Budget needs to be approved before the next Police Commissioner's meeting which is December 16th. He stated there is a significant decrease in what Westtown will pay next year due to a drop in the PPU's during 2010.

Mr. Foster made a motion, seconded by Ms. De Wolf, to approve the 2011 Westtown-East Goshen Police Budget in the amount of \$2,411,371.56 for Westtown with a total amount of \$6,842,680.48. Mr. Barber asked for public comment. There was no public comment. The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the motion.

B. Approve the 2011 SPCA Agreement.

Mr. Barber stated that the Township finds the full contract preferable as it includes animal control services. The amount of the contract for this year is \$2,015.00 less than what is in the 2011 proposed budget.

Mr. Foster made a motion, seconded by Ms. De Wolf, to approve the 2011 SPCA Agreement in the amount of \$2,015.00. Mr. Barber asked for public comment. Ms. Lisi asked what services are provided. Mr. Foster stated that the SPCA picks up stray cats and dogs as long as they are confined. He also stated that it is the responsibility of the Pennsylvania Game Commission to pickup dead deer. Ms. Lisi asked that this information be in the next newsletter. The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the motion.

C. Authorize Advertising of Ordinance 2010-6 Yield Sign Carolyn Drive.

Ms. De Wolf made a motion, seconded by Mr. Foster, to approve advertising of Ordinance 2010-6 Yield Sign Carolyn Drive. Mr. Barber asked for public comment. There was no public comment. The Board of Supervisors approved the motion.

D. Authorize Advertising of Ordinance 2010-7 Reduce Speed Limit Stanton Avenue.

Mr. Foster made a motion, seconded by Ms. De Wolf, to approve advertising of Ordinance 2010-7 Reduce Speed Limit Stanton Avenue. Mr. Barber asked for public comment. There was no public comment. The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the motion.

E. Adopt Resolution 2010-17 Debt Reduction.

Mr. Barber stated that the Board has decided to reduce the Township debt by calling in a bond that was intended for sewer construction in order to save the interest costs as the sewer project has been put on hold. Mr. Layman stated the money borrowed for the sewer project was refinanced in 2005 at a better interest rate but has not been used on the sewer system. It does not seem financially prudent to hold 3.3 million for a project that is further off in the future. If the bond issue is turned back the Township will reduce its debt service in the sewer department.

Mr. Foster made a motion, seconded by Ms. De Wolf, to adopt Resolution 2010-17 Debt Reduction with the stipulation that this will be used solely to pay off the debt and not used on any other project. Mr. Barber asked for public comment.

Mr. Lain stated that as this involves a significant amount of money the Board should table this for two weeks so that the public can be informed. Mr. Layman reviewed why the Township has considered this. He stated that the Township is 20 million dollars in debt which is a large amount for a Township the size of ours. The bond for the sewer project was taken out in 2000 but the project was put on hold. In 2005 the bond was refinanced and the Township revisited the public sewer issue but this was again put on hold due to the reactions of the residents. Mr. Layman stated that as of December 15th of this year the Township has the opportunity to call in the bond and reduce the debt and given the fact that public sewer is not being extended throughout the Township it seems sensible to do this. Mr. Lain stated that the Township is still obligated under Act 537 to provide for public sewer and aside from his personal interest there are residents in the eastern end of the Township who are anticipating public sewer and the funds are in the budget. Ms. De Wolf stated that these funds are not in the budget but are borrowed money on which the Township is paying interest. She stated that as the budget is not balanced they are considering an increase in the Township Tax. If the bond is paid off the Township's monthly expense will be lowered by \$200,000. Ms. De Wolf stated that she is aware that there is a need to sewer parts of the Township but it makes sense financially to reduce our debt at this time. Mr. Foster stated that they fully intend to provide public sewer for the Township and have discussed with DEP revising the Act 537 plan to be more cost effective for the residents. Mr. Layman stated he wanted to clarify that there will be a small amount of funds left from the bond issue with the debt reduction. The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the motion.

F. Authorize Traffic Study For Route 202 & E/W Pleasant Grove Road.

Mr. Foster stated, because of a recent accident there have been concerns expressed from residents about this potentially dangerous intersection. The Board has spoken with Westminster Church and PennDOT and feels a traffic study should be done.

Mr. Foster made a motion, seconded by Ms. De Wolf, to approve a traffic study by the Township's Engineer of the area of Route 202 and E/W Pleasant Grove Road that is the Township's responsibility. The study is not to exceed \$5,000. Mr. Barber asked for public comment. There was no public comment. The Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the motion.

VII. Public Comment (all topics)

Virginia Lieb asked when the 2011 budget was to be approved. Ms. De Wolf responded at the next scheduled Board meeting on December 20th. Ms. Lieb stated that she was told that the Board would give her a decision by the end of the year for the paving of Serpentine Drive. Mr. Gross stated that Serpentine Drive is close to the top of the three year list for paving. Ms. De Wolf advised Mrs. Lieb that she has her support on this issue.

Ms. Lisi thanked Mr. Pavelchek publically for his help with the Winter Festival. She said she would like some statistics concerning recycling in the newsletter and additional recycling ideas.

VIII. Payment of Bills.

On the motion of Mr. Foster, seconded by Ms. De Wolf the bills were approved as presented.

IX Adjournment.

At this time the Board of Supervisors recessed the meeting to continue their workshop. The meeting was officially adjourned at 10:10Pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert Layman, Township Manager.

