M I N U T E S

June 7, 2006

LOWER SWATARA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The non-legislative meeting of the Lower Swatara Township Board of Commissioners was called to order at 7:50 P.M. by President Frank Linn, Sr. The record indicated the following officials in attendance:

- Frank Linn, Sr., President
- Thomas R. Clark, Vice President
- William L. Leonard, Jr., Commissioner
- Lauren LeVan-Williams, Commissioner
- Robert L. Loych, Commissioner
- Ronald J. Paul, Manager/Secretary
- Robert Grauel, Public Works Director
- Richard T. Wiley, Police Chief
- Jean R. Arroyo, Recording Secretary

Excused:

- HRG, Township Engineer
- Peter Henninger, Solicitor

Residents & visitors in attendance:

- Tim Clouser (Re/Max Realty Select)
- Chris DeHart (Lower Swatara Volunteer Fire Dept.)
- Pete Strella (Press & Journal)
- Mike Williams
- Amy Wimmersberger
- Shirley Wendal (resident)

President Linn welcomed the visitors to the meeting, and opened the floor for public comments.
PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Amy Wimmersberger informed the Board that she had phoned the Township office about her intent to do a fundraiser for the Harrisburg branch of the Humane Society, and was told to present her idea to the Commissioners for approval. A commercial landowner in the Township has agreed to provide her use of his property for a weekend event. The event would include setting up a temporary six-foot-high chain link fence the size of one acre, divided in half for small dogs and large dogs, to create a temporary dog park. Donations would be requested for those bringing their dogs into the temporary park. Ms. Wimmersberger stated that there seems to be groups of people in the area who would like to have a dog park in order to let their dogs run free; she noted this might be a good opportunity to see if there really is sufficient interest for a dog park in the Central PA area.

Ms. Wimmersberger further explained that the main events at the dog park will be held Saturday, and will include music, contests and games, and various types of animal demonstrations. The Middletown Police Department, which has a canine unit, has agreed to participate in the demonstrations. Other rescue operations will also have an opportunity to set up booth for their particular organizations. There are no plans for any commercial vendors. The hours Saturday will be from 8:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M., at the latest. Sunday will be a rather low-key day, with just the fenced dog park and the collecting of donations.

In response to a question from President Linn, Ms. Wimmersberger explained that the property in question is owned by Gary Stewart, and is located across from the Dairy Queen on Route 441/Fulling Mill Road. Those attending the event will be permitted by the property owner to have access to the office park’s private parking area. The Humane Society has agreed to provide special events’ insurance coverage. There will be no liability to Lower Swatara Township.

The Board thanked Ms. Wimmersberger for her attendance this evening, and expressed no objection to the plans. President Linn explained that it is important for the Board to be aware of these events, since the Commissioners are often the ones approached by residents wanting to know what is going on in the Township.
Shirley Wendal, Bradford Avenue, noted that Alan Knoche had informed her that settlement for the buy-out of her property is scheduled for next Wednesday at 10:00 A.M. President Linn expressed his appreciation to Alan Knoche for all his diligence in making this happen. Ms. Wendal agreed, and added that Solicitor Henninger has also been extremely helpful during this process.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Chief DeHart distributed the monthly report to the Board, and stated that calls for the month of May totaled 46. This brings the yearly total to 225 calls.

The Department has been busy working with SGS to finish up plans for the new station. In response to a question from Commissioner Leonard, Chief DeHart explained that the Department is still waiting on a few items from its engineer. Mr. Paul anticipated it would take at least a week for he and Mr. Snavely to review the specs once the final plans are forwarded to them. He added that he personally feels the architect should place the project out for bid, not the Township or its Solicitor. He will speak to Solicitor Henninger about this.

Chief DeHart reported that Fire Department members will be attending the Dauphin County Convention Saturday.

Chief DeHart expressed the Fire Department’s appreciation to the Police Department for the great communication and assistance during the accident on Strites Road Monday night. He also provided the Board with follow-up information about the recent fire at 500 Industrial Lane. The latest report indicates that while the building suffered damage, no product was damaged during the fire. This means the Fire Department potentially saved the tenant about $200,000,000 in damages.

Chief DeHart referenced a graph indicating incident responses by day of the week. He also distributed graphs depicting mutual aid response.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT:

Robert Grauel, Public Works Director, reported that the Department has finished painting crosswalks and speed control lines for the Police Department. Stop bars and turning arrows will be repainted at the intersections throughout the Township.
The Department is currently working on the garage at Memorial Park. All exterior sheeting has been replaced and painted and a new garage door has been installed. Trim is being installed around the eves. President Linn commended the Department for their excellent job on the garage.

Other recent projects include mowing and trimming playgrounds in the Township, and making repairs to a section of North Union Street in front of the Quaker Oats building and to a section on Stoner Drive around the Turnpike Bridge.

Mr. Grauel concluded his report by reminding the Board and residents that the dumpster will be open the second Saturday of July (July 8), from 8:00 A.M. to Noon, due to the holiday weekend.

PLANNING & ZONING/Manager’s Report:

Mr. Paul introduced Tim Clouser, who presented the Board with a sketch plan for development of the former Bosnjak tract. The plan proposes a cul-de-sac extending off Morgan Drive in the Morgan’s Run development. Mr. Paul stated that he would recommend that instead of a cul-de-sac, the street extend through the development to Stoner Drive. President Linn agreed that he is not in favor of cul-de-sacs. He informed Mr. Clouser that the Board has maintained a position of not approving cul-de-sacs, since they are safety hazards and maintenance nightmares. Mr. Clouser explained that he is proposing a cul-de-sac due to an issue with the depth of the pipeline; he will need a variance from the Township since the grade cannot be met. Mr. Paul replied that in his opinion, an alteration of the grade would be more palatable than a long cul-de-sac. After reviewing the sketch plan, the Board suggested that Mr. Clouser have his engineer analyze the plan and forward it to the Planning Commission for review and comment.

Mike Williams also presented the Board with a sketch plan of his development off Lumber Street. He noted that his plan also shows a cul-de-sac, and therefore may need to be tweaked due to the Board’s position.
ADJOURN:

Having no further business to conduct, a motion was made by Vice President Clark seconded by Commissioner Leonard, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved, and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

ATTEST:

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Ronald J. Paul
Township Manager