

MINUTES

NON-LEGISLATIVE MEETING

APRIL 7, 2010

The Non-Legislative Meeting of the Lower Swatara Township Board of Commissioners, held at the Lower Swatara Township Municipal Building, was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by President Frank Linn, Sr.

Roll call was taken with the following officials in attendance:

- Frank Linn, Sr., President
- William L. Leonard, Vice President
- Robert L. Loych, Commissioner
- Thomas L. Mehaffie III, Commissioner
- Ronald J. Paul, Manager
- Peter R. Henninger, Township Solicitor
- Richard T. Wiley, Police Chief
- Robert S. Grauel, Public Works Director
- Jean R. Arroyo, Recording Secretary

Absent:

- Thomas R. Clark, Commissioner
- HRG, Township Engineer

Residents and visitors in attendance:

- Steve Hickoff (102 Bradford Avenue)
- Tom Fisher (Farmhouse Ln.)
- Jackie Leonard, Chris DeHart (LST Fire Dept.)

President Linn welcomed the residents and visitors to the meeting, and opened the floor for public comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Steve Hickoff, 102 Bradford Avenue, reminded the Board that there was good news received last fall pertinent to the possibility of reducing the flooding problems in the Jednota Flats area. Penn Dot had indicated that it would be doing some work around the interchange, and the Airport had agreed to clean out its holding pond. These improvements were to begin in the spring of this year. Mr. Hickoff asked if the Township had received any updates on exactly when this work will begin. Mr. Paul explained that the Airport has contracted with HRG, Inc. to do the erosion and sedimentation control plan which is required by DEP in conjunction with removing the silt that is in the pond. The Airport does plan to get the work done this summer, specifically by June. Mr. Paul noted that he has not heard anything from Penn Dot; Commissioner Mehaffie is looking into this now. Commissioner Mehaffie explained that he has made contact with Penn Dot and is awaiting a response. Mr. Paul added that the last communication the Township had with Penn Dot was through Representative Payne's office earlier this year. The letter didn't give a definitive date, but did state that wetlands are being investigated. Mr. Hickoff explained that his concern is that there always seems to be monkey-wrenches throw in the project. Commissioner Mehaffie agreed that it is a major process, but the Board is keeping on top of it.

Tom Fisher, Farmhouse Lane, asked what Township residents are supposed to do with their yard waste. He noted that he had previously used the facility located in the Highspire Borough, but that is no longer available. Middletown Borough does have a woody waste facility, and the cost is a bargain at \$40.00 a year. The problem, however, is that the hours of operation are Monday thru Friday, 7:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Mr. Fisher explained that this is not convenient to most people's work schedules. He asked why Lower Swatara Township does not have its own woody waste facility, since most of the other surrounding municipalities do. Mr. Paul explained that the facility in Middletown is actually a joint facility for the Borough and the Township, as it was financed through a joint DEP grant. He agreed to contact the Middletown Borough to see if more convenient hours can be arranged. Mr. Paul also informed Mr. Fisher that the Township's trash/recycling hauler, Penn Waste, does provide curbside collection of leaf waste bi-weekly beginning in the spring. Grass clippings, however, are not a part of this service. These clippings can be bagged and placed curbside with the normal trash collection. Mr. Fisher explained that his problem is that he has multiple bags of the clippings, since he has a larger property. He noted that Middletown's

facility will take these grass clippings; again, its getting them there during business hours that is the problem. Mr. Paul will pursue this item with the Borough of Middletown.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT:

Bob Grauel, Public Works Director, reported that the Department has been busy getting the baseball fields ready for opening day. The gable end of the roof of the concession stand at Memorial Park is being replaced. Wood carpet is being installed around all of the playground equipment at all of the parks, and mulch will be placed around all of the trees.

The new loader was delivered yesterday. Groff Tractor provided a technician to go over the operations and maintenance of the tractor with the department employees.

The line painters will be here next week to paint the lines on the Township roads. Alpha Space was awarded the bid through the CAP COG program, which Lower Swatara participates in.

Mr. Grauel referenced a request from Ed Flowers, President of the Greenwood Hills Homeowners Association, asking if the Township could install a 6 feet high green chain link fence along the back section of the playground area to stop the balls from rolling down towards the pond. There is an existing split rail fence in that area now which will be removed if the Township installs this chain link fence. Mr. Grauel noted that he is working on obtaining an estimated cost for this fencing. Mr. Paul reminded the Board that Mr. Flowers had attended a previous Board meeting and had initially asked that the white vinyl fence around the perimeter be extended up and across the other property line, where the farmhouse is. Mr. Paul explained that the intent of the Township in putting up such a fence would be to provide security and protection for the children. The split rail fence, however, wouldn't do the job. It was concluded that the Homeowners Association would be okay with a chain link vinyl fence along the pond and a new pressure treated split rail fence along the other property line. The homeowner of the farmhouse, whose porch is close to the fence along the other property line, stated a preference for split rail fence along his property for aesthetics. Therefore, it was suggested that the present split rail fence by the farmhouse remain, repaired in kind and a new vinyl/chain link fence replace the existing split rail fence along the pond. Ultimately, it will need replaced. All parties agreed that this would seem like a good compromise. There were no objections expressed by the Board, and Mr. Grauel was directed to proceed if the prices obtained seem reasonable.

Mr. Grauel noted that road construction season is here, and asked for authorization to advertise the cold in place recycling of Market Street Extended for bid opening on May 17, with award at the Board's May 19 meeting. There were no objections stated by the Board.

Due to the holiday weekend last weekend, the dumpster will be open this Saturday, April 10, from 8:00 to noon for Township residents.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Chief Wiley noted that the accreditation assessment is scheduled for June 23 – 24. A mock test was conducted last year and went very well; since then, the Department has been working diligently to get the recommendations implemented.

The Board was updated on the new central booking area, which will be located in Swatara Township. The equipment has been delivered and set up, and training has taken place. It is anticipated that the new facility will be ready to utilize by the end of June/early July. Chief Wiley stated this will be a great advantage, since the location is closer and more convenient, and will save the officers time.

As mentioned last month, studies associated with the new records management system have been completed and the Cody System was the vendor selected. Funding for this very expensive project (2 million dollars) is being solicited through Arlen Specter's office. At the last meeting of the Dauphin County Chiefs of Police, Chief Wiley had stated that the group needs to get fixed prices on this item since Lower Swatara Township is not going to spend any more money. He noted that he wants to make sure that if the 2 million dollars is approved and it takes 1.7 to set up the system, the remaining funds will go towards the maintenance costs for the next two years. The President of the Committee directed that all other vendors be looked at carefully. Chief Wiley explained that the Committee needs to look at the three top picks as far as funding. He noted that all three vendors have a good product. Although Cody was selected as the top pick, the Committee shouldn't go with the company unless the price is right.

The crime statistics for the month were referenced; crime is steady. There continues to be problems with thefts from autos. This problem started in the Shopes Gardens area. The area was then saturated with patrol and residents were informed of the important of keeping vehicles locked. The problem then stopped in Shopes Gardens and has now moved to the Old Reliance Farms and Longview Acres developments. Chief Wiley reported these thefts are from unlocked vehicles

having visible values in them. He stated the Police Department continues to educate the public on the importance of keeping their vehicles locked, and has included an article about this in the upcoming Township newsletter.

Chief Wiley also informed the Board that traffic in the Township continues to increase, and so does the Police Department's traffic detail. Warnings and citations are being issued, and traffic details will continued to be set up based on complaints received.

Vice President Leonard stated that unfortunately, many residents toss their newsletters with their junk mail. He suggested that while it is manual work, another option for informing residents of important issues/programs (woody waste collection schedule, thefts from vehicles) would be to use residential door hangers. Chief Wiley informed the Board that the Police Department has been putting flyers on the windshields of unlocked cars; they also lock the cars when they encounter an unlocked vehicle. Also, if people are observed in the home, the officers knock on the door and speak to them personally. Commissioner Loych stated that perhaps an area scouting troop would be willing to take on the door hanger project.

Mr. Paul requested an executive session immediately upon conclusion of this evening's meeting in order to discuss personnel matters that impact the Police Department.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Chief DeHart distributed the monthly report, and noted that calls for the month of March totaled 35, with a total of 122 year-to-date. A turkey dinner will be held this Sunday, April 11, beginning at 11:00 A.M. and continuing until sold out. Chief DeHart clarified for the record that the engine grant has not been received to-date, although it was not rejected either. Hopefully word will be received soon. The new grant period begins in May, and the Fire Department can apply for up to three grants from the Federal Fire Act grant.

Chief DeHart again thanked everyone who attended the Fire Department's annual appreciation banquet. He then referenced a graph showing total staff hours by training category, and a graph showing incidents by district.

Vice President Leonard reported that the Biker Breakfasts will soon commence. These are held the fourth Sunday of the month, from 7:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. The Biker Breakfast scheduled for August 22 will also include a fundraising effort. After the breakfast, a motorcycle ride will be held with the "Feel Your Boobies" organization in order to raise funds for breast cancer awareness.

PLANNING AND ZONING/MANAGER'S REPORT:

Mr. Paul reported that items to appear on the April agenda include payment of bills pertinent to the Highspire Wastewater Treatment B NR Project and the Middletown Wastewater Treatment B NR Project. Also appearing will be three resolutions for back-up action that the Township has taken pertinent to the police pension funding. As the Board is aware, the MMO is done yearly; this is the methodology used to come up with the percentage of contribution that the police put into their pension fund. In the course of the audit, it was determined that the Township should have enacted a resolution each year stating these percentage. Therefore, these three resolutions will bring the Township into compliance for calendar years 2008, 2009, and 2010. The Code Department is working on updating the Property Maintenance Code; a draft of the code will be provided to the Board. Plans are to advertise the ordinance for Board action at its May legislative meeting.

Mr. Paul reminded the Board that a representative from Tower One will be in attendance of the April 21 legislative meeting to provide a presentation on its program.

ADJOURN AND CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Hearing no other business, a motion was made by Commissioner Loych, seconded by Vice President Leonard, to adjourn the meeting and convene into executive session. The motion was unanimously approved, and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

ATTEST:

Ronald J. Paul,
Manager/Secretary