

MINUTES

JANUARY 20, 2010 LEGISLATIVE MEETING

LOWER SWATARA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The regular monthly 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
- Thomas R. Clark, Commissioner
- Robert L. Loych, Commissioner
- Thomas L. Mehaffie III, Commissioner
- Ronald J. Paul, Manager/Secretary
- Peter R. Henninger, Township Solicitor
- Jean R. Arroyo, Recording Secretary

Excused:

- HRG, Township Engineer

Residents and visitors in attendance:

- Jim Lewis (Press & Journal)
- Phyllis Zimmerman (Patriot-News)
- Mike Williams (Bryn Gweled Subdivision)
- Ronald Burkholder, Ronald Burkholder Jr. (Colony of Old Reliance)

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Commissioner Loych, seconded by Vice President Leonard, to approve the Minutes of the December 16, 2009 Legislative Meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner Loych, seconded by Commissioner Mehaffie, to approve the Minutes of the January 4, 2010 Reorganization Meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mehaffie, seconded by Commissioner Loych, to approve the Minutes of the January 4, 2010 Non-Legislative Meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

A motion was made by Vice President Leonard, seconded by Commissioner Loych, to approve Payment of Bills as presented on Warrant No. 2009-12. The motion was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT:

A motion was made by Vice President Leonard, seconded by Commissioner Mehaffie, to approve the Treasurer's Report for December 2009. The motion was unanimously approved.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

None

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Henninger reported that the Township received a proposal from Concord Financial, the Township's financial advisors on the bond issues for the sewer upgrades to the two sewer treatment plants. The proposal is for the annual contract regarding reporting requirements. He and Mr. Paul are in the process of reviewing it and will also send it to bond counsel for comment. Further details on this item will be presented during the February workshop meeting.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Mr. Paul referenced the list of future meetings/events. He also referenced several pieces of correspondence, including an email from the Dauphin County Parks and Recreation. The County is planning to hold a Summer Sunset Movie and Music Series around the area community parks, and is asking the Board's permission to hold such an event at the Shopes Gardens Park on Saturday, June 26, around 8:00 P.M. It was noted that this could also be an opportunity for one of the Township's civic groups, such as the Lions Club, to set up a refreshment stand as a fundraiser that evening. The Board members all agreed that this event would be a good way to reach out to the youth, and President Linn agreed to present the fundraiser idea to the Lions Club at its next meeting. The Manager was directed to pursue further details about the event.

Mr. Paul also referenced correspondence from Wenger Foods requesting that the Township allow its delivery trucks with overweight permits for 95,000 lbs. to be allowed to travel on North Union Street from the Route 283 exit, turn off of North Union Street onto Longview Drive, and travel for 3/10 (0.3) mile to the Kreider Farm complex entrance to deliver feed to their animals. Mr. Paul explained that this request had been turned down in 2000, since the section of Longview Drive which goes from North Union Street to the Kreider Farm entrance wasn't adequate to handle the weight. Since that time, however, that section of roadway has been upgraded. Mr. Paul added that Kreider Farms may be expanding its facilities, which may provide for additional options. More information will be obtained for discussion in the near future.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Police Committee – Commissioner Clark – no report

Public Safety – Commissioner Mehaffie – reported that he had attended a meeting at the Borough of Highspire pertinent to the Highspire Reservoir Park Walkway. He will report on this meeting at the conclusion of the agenda items.

Public Works – Commissioner Loych – reported that the Department is doing its yearly cleaning in the garages and has also cleaned the carpets in the office area. Ceiling fans were installed in the garage area to help circulate the heat and help with the heating costs. The hot water heater in the garage where the Hershey EMS is stationed was replaced. Other jobs include street sweeping and patching roads. Commissioner Loych noted that the dumpster will be available to residents on February 6 from 8:00 A.M. to Noon.

Budget and Finance – Vice President Leonard – reported that cash receipts for the month totaled \$320,968.61 and were comprised of Act 511 taxes, a reimbursement from the State Highway Aid fund for roadwork, and the reimbursement to the General Fund for the expenses related to the new recreation area. Cash expenditures totaled \$330,363.40 and were comprised of the two transfers to the payroll account, the transfer of taxes to the miscellaneous funds, and all invoices due and payable. Cash investments totaled \$786,246.30 with an average annual yield of 0.5%. Revenues are at 94.57% of budgeted projections, and expenditures at 96.33% of budgeted projections. It was noted that many of the line items will be impacted by additional revenues and or expenditures which are still coming in for the year 2009. Also, several items will be further addressed in the annual audit report. Vice President Leonard informed the Board that the Fire Department recently held its election; a list of officers will be forthcoming. He also noted that the Recreation Board meets tomorrow evening.

Community and President Linn – President Linn --- no report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Loych, to table the Final Subdivision Plan for Bryn Gweled East (26 lots), located along Lumber Street, immediately south of PA 283, prepared by Dauphin Engineering Co. and submitted by B W Partnership. The plan was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission on May 24, 2007. 90-day time extensions were granted by the Board on July 18, 2007, November 21, 2007, February 20, 2008, May 21, 2008, August 20, 2008, November 19, 2008, February 18, 2009, May 20, 2009, August 19, 2009 and November 18, 2009. The plan is due to expire on February 17, 2010. The motion to table was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Vice President Leonard, seconded by Commissioner Mehaffie, to table the Final Land Development Plan of Residential Retirement Community, Phase 1, located along Fulling Mill Road at the intersection of Nissley Drive, prepared by Navarro & Wright, Inc. and submitted by Fulling Road LLC. The plan was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission on November 15, 2007 with stipulations. The plan was due to expire on February 20, 2008. 90-day time extensions were granted by the Board on February 20, 2008, May 21, 2008, August 20, 2008, November 19, 2008, February 18, 2009, May 20, 2009, August 19, 2009, and

November 18, 2009. The plan is due to expire on February 17, 2010. The motion to table was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Vice President Leonard, seconded by Commissioner Loych, to approve the Preliminary Subdivision and Land Development Plan for the Colony of Old Reliance, A Traditional Neighborhood Development, prepared by Dauphin Engineering Co. and submitted by Ronald A. and Patricia A. Burkholder. The plan was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission on November 19, 2009 with stipulations which have since been corrected. The plan is due to expire on February 12, 2010. Mr. Paul noted that all the pertinent documents have been submitted, and reminded the Board that it had approved several waiver requests associated with this plan during its December 16, 2009 legislative meeting. The motion to approve the plan was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

A motion was made by Commissioner Mehaffie, seconded by Commissioner Clark, to approve Ordinance No. 521. This ordinance amends the Code of Ordinances of Lower Swatara Township, Ordinance No. 448, Chapter 1, Administration and Government, Part 7, Police Pension Plan and Fund, in order to comply with Act 600 of 1956, as amended by Act 51 of 2009, the Emergency and Law Enforcement Personnel Death Benefits Act, effective as provided in the amendment. A roll call vote was taken with the following ballot tabulation: Commissioner Mehaffie – aye, Commissioner Loych – aye, Commissioner Clark – aye, Vice President Leonard – aye, President Linn – aye. Ordinance No. 521 was approved by a 5 – 0 margin.

A motion was made by Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Loych, to approve the appointment of Ryan Gartland to a two-year term of office on the Police Pension Advisory Board. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Vice President Leonard, seconded by Commissioner Clark, to approve authorization of payment for the Highspire Waste Water Treatment Plant BNR construction upgrades, Requisition No. 3 in the amount of \$786,332.17 to Highspire Borough Authority. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Vice President Leonard, seconded by Commissioner Clark, to approve authorization of payment for the Highspire Waste Water Treatment Plant BNR

construction upgrades, Requisition No. 4 in the amount of \$421,660.83 to Highspire Borough Authority. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Mehaffie, to approve the following 2009 Personal Tax Exonerations:

Full Bill List #5	Occupation \$375.00	Per Capita \$150.00	Total: \$525.00
Occupation List #5	Occupation \$400.00		Total: \$400.00

The motion was unanimously approved.

REPORT ON PLANS FOR THE HIGHSPIRE RESERVOIR PARK WALKWAY:

Commissioner Mehaffie reported on the recent meeting held by the Highspire Borough Council to discuss the plans for the Highspire Reservoir Park walkway, which will border Lower Swatara Township. He thanked the Highspire Borough Council and its Mayor for the invitation to the meeting and for its willingness to answer all questions posed by the residents at the meeting. This is a \$500,000 project that was started by the Borough but will be financed by the County. Plans are for a walkway, boardwalk and gravel road to be put around Reservoir Park in the Borough. None of the walkway will be in Lower Swatara Township. Several Township residents did attend the meeting, since there are Township properties that abut this area. During the meeting, concerns expressed included security, tampering with nature, etc. HRG, engineer for the project, and County Commissioner DiFrancesco did an excellent job at addressing these concerns. Commissioner Mehaffie suggested this Board take a good look at this plan, since it does border the Township. He laid out the proposed plan for the Board's review. There will be a walking bridge from Hanover Street on the Township side to Hanover Street on the Borough's side. This is strictly a walking bridge, and will not be wide enough to accommodate vehicles. There will be cameras through the park, and these may possibly be web-driven, and accessible to the community. The area will include motion sensor lights, call stations, and trash and pet cleanup. In response to a question from Commissioner Loych, Commissioner Mehaffie confirmed that there will be a dawn to dusk curfew. This plan is intended to mimic the Wildwood walkway at HACC. President Linn agreed that he has concerns, and would like to discuss the plan in further detail at the workshop meeting. Commissioner Mehaffie noted that Commissioner DiFrancesco plans to file for the grant; the deadline to file is April 1. Therefore, the Board should submit comments prior to this time. Commissioner Clark referenced comments about security cameras in the park, and inquired where

the video from the cameras is actually going. Commissioner Mehaffie responded that as far as he knows, it is web based security, so anyone, included the Township's Police Department, would be capable of dialing in to watch. Mr. Paul stated that he would question the long term maintenance of the facilities being installed. Commissioner Mehaffie stated there is a working volunteer group at the Wildwood Park that has done this on their own time and free of charge. While any costs associated with the park after completion would be the responsibility of Highspire, it is anticipated that this park can be maintained in same manner as the Wildwood Park. Vice President Leonard added that if this walkway proves to be successful, it could possibly be extended beyond Highspire and perhaps trail through Lower Swatara Township. Commissioner Mehaffie agreed, and noted that he feels this is an excellent project. In addition, Commissioner DiFrancesco had commented that this project would enhance property values in the area. The Board agreed to pursue discussion on this at the February workshop meeting.

FINAL COMMENTS:

Commissioner Mehaffie reported that he had attended a meeting on January 14 at the Dauphin County Conservation District regarding municipal granting. There was some excellent information presented which may be able to be used by the Township in the future.

ADJOURN:

Hearing no other business, a motion was made by Commissioner Loych, seconded by Commissioner Clark, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved, and the meeting adjourned at 7:32 P.M.

ATTEST:

Ronald J. Paul,
Township Secretary