

MINUTES

NON-LEGISLATIVE MEETING

OCTOBER 6, 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
- Thomas R. Clark, Commissioner
- Robert L. Loych, Commissioner
- Thomas L. Mehaffie III, Commissioner
- Ronald J. Paul, Manager
- Peter R. Henninger, Township Solicitor
- Robert S. Grauel & Steve Anderson, Public Works Dept.
- Jean R. Arroyo, Recording Secretary

Absent:

- HRG, Township Engineer
- Richard T. Wiley, Police Chief

Residents and visitors in attendance:

- Jim Lewis (Press & Journal)
- Chris DeHart (LST Fire Department)

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Mr. Anderson reported that the Department has completed the Longview Drive road construction project. All signs have been installed and lines have been painted. The Department is continuing to paint crosswalks throughout the developments in the Township, street sweeping, and repairing several storm drains. The leaf boxes were installed and the trucks are serviced and ready for leaf collection. Early leaf piles are being collected now, although scheduled leaf collection will actually begin on Monday, October 25 and run through Friday, December 10. The dumpster will be available to Township residents on Saturday, November 6, from 8:00 A.M. to Noon.

Mr. Grauel reported that some months ago, PPL had informed the Township that it would be replacing bulbs in the street lights in attempts to reduce electric costs. Specifically, it would be replacing the current 100 watt mercury vapor street lamps with 75 watt high pressure sodium lamps. This work has started, and PPL has already replaced all of the lamps in Woodridge and Market Street Extended. Globes in the tops of the lamps have also been replaced, and PPL is even painting the street lamps and poles at Woodridge. Mr. Grauel added that this work is being done at no cost to the Township. Mr. Paul stated that he thinks some of the upgrades are being done by PPL to fulfill its obligation to conserve energy. Mr. Grauel conveyed his appreciation to PPL for an outstanding job. President Linn stated that if there is no objection, he will direct staff to send a thank-you letter to PPL for this work. No objections were noted. Commissioner Clark asked if LED's are being looked into for street lights; he stated that he knows they are available for the cobra head lights. Mr. Grauel responded that LED's aren't being pursued at this time. Mr. Paul added that Republic had them, but they weren't being pushed. It was indicated that the science wasn't fine tuned for the street light industry. He noted, however, that this was over a year ago. Commissioner Clark agreed to look into this item.

Mr. Paul reported that the Township will pursue the constructing of a cross-over on the ramp outside of the Fire Department. This work will be done in-house, and the materials (stone) will cost approximately \$6,000. This will be accomplished this year.

Mr. Paul also informed the Board that there is only one intersection left that hasn't had LED's installed – that is the North Union Street/Fulling Mill Road intersection. The Township was hoping to piggy-back with the Lehman Shope project to get this accomplished, but since it doesn't know when that development will proceed, the Township has went ahead and authorized the LED's

be installed. After this is done, all of the Township's intersections will be up to standard. Mr. Paul noted that the Meade Avenue intersection will have the LED's installed as part of the project.

Mr. Paul reported that the streets in the lower half of Shopes Gardens are scheduled to be addressed in the road projects for next year. The water company had indicated that it plans to repair water lines in that section of the Township, so a meeting was held with United Water. As a result, the Township was able to negotiate a restoration price from the water company of \$50,000 for the overlay of those roads. Mr. Paul estimated that total paving and restoration work will cost approximately \$150,000, so this is 1/3 of the cost of the work, which is a very good price. The water company had emailed him to ask for confirmation of this figure. He noted that he will respond positively if there is no objection from the Board. President Linn stated that he is very unhappy with United Water right now, especially with the ongoing water leaks in the Market Street Extended area. Mr. Paul again asked the Board's direction on this item. Commissioner Clark and Commissioner Loych both agreed that the proposed contribution is satisfactory. Commissioner Loych added that the Board can still talk to the water company about this other issue. Vice President Leonard and Commissioner Mehaffie agreed. Mr. Paul explained that these are two unrelated issues. He is talking about the water company's plans to physically replace all the mains in the old section of Shopes Gardens, while President Linn is talking about water leaks in Market Street Extended. President Linn stated he still believes that United Water should do all the road restoration at its own expense, since it will be tearing up the roads. Mr. Paul clarified that the water company is responsible for restoring what it disturbs, which is only the trenches. Mr. Grauel added that the laterals will be punched, which doesn't involve digging up the entire road. President Linn agreed that this does make a difference in his statement. Mr. Paul added that any concrete work necessary due to disturbing the curbing, sidewalk, etc. will need to be addressed by United Water too. This \$50,000 price is based solely on normal trenching operations. President Linn suggested the Township monitor this work. Mr. Paul confirmed that the staff would indeed do so. Commissioner Mehaffie stated that it is favorable that the water company advised the Township of its plans to do work in Shopes Gardens prior to the Township actually resurfacing the roads. Mr. Paul agreed. Mr. Paul asked the Board if it would like him to respond positively to the restoration fee offered. The Board concurred that it would. Mr. Paul stated that in another matter, the water company is following up with complaints regarding the water pressure problems. President Linn

again suggested the water company also follow up on the water leak issue. Vice President Leonard agreed that it might be beneficial to request a meeting with United Water to discuss these problems.

Commissioner Mehaffie commended the Public Works Department for the nice job on Longview Drive.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Chief DeHart reported that calls for the month of September totaled 54, for a total of 406 thus far into the year. Open House is scheduled for this Thursday, from 6 PM to 8 PM. The Department's fire safety house has traveled to various local school districts.

Chief DeHart asked the Board for permission to have two old cars at the old fire station for extrication training purposes, which should be completed by the end of November.

Approximately 200 people attended the last biker breakfast. The Auxiliary will be having a filled chicken breast dinner on October 17.

The Dauphin County Commissioners signed off on the new rescue grant application. The next step is for it to go before the grant committee.

The Fire Department took part in the HIA drill last month and had nineteen personnel attend. In response to a question from Vice President Leonard, Chief DeHart explained the Fire Department is still reviewing bids for a new engine. A few option changes were made, and the Department is now waiting for the vendors to come back with figures. He noted that there may be a bare bones engine (\$325,000) priced out and signed off on next month.

Chief DeHart noted that he has a check for the Township for the monthly payment.

Vice President Leonard stated that John Payne will be at the Fire Department Open House tomorrow at 6:30 P.M. to present two checks: a check for \$15,000 to the Township and a check for \$10,000 to the Fire Department. President Linn stated that he plans to attend the Open House. Vice President Leonard reminded him that the two of them, along with Mr. Paul, are also scheduled to attend a meeting with the School District tomorrow evening at 6:00 P.M. After a brief discussion, it was decided that Vice President Leonard will represent the Board at the Fire Department Open House, and President Linn and Commissioner Loych will represent the Board at the School District meeting.

PLANNING AND ZONING/MANAGER'S REPORT:

Mr. Paul noted that Chief Wiley is not in attendance this evening, but has provided activity reports for the Board's review.

The budget has been drafted, and the Budget and Finance Committee will need to meet with the Board. Mr. Paul referenced a copy of the budget calendar outlining the deadlines for the budget process. President Linn stated that he would like to see the budget adopted in November, since Mr. Paul will be out of town in December. Vice President Leonard reminded him that the budget must be advertised prior to adoption. Mr. Paul also informed the Board that the Public Works Department had submitted its contract demands. Commissioner Loych and Commissioner Clark will be representing the Board on these negotiations.

Mr. Paul referenced a list of budgetary adjustments that will appear on the October legislative agenda for formal action. He also requested the Board convene into executive session immediately upon conclusion of this evening's meeting in order to discuss personnel issues.

Mr. Paul informed the Board that the request for student housing in the Eagle Heights area has been before the Planning Commission twice, and will be back for a third time in October. As of now, the plan is tabled. However, the developer plans to present a zoning amendment to the Commercial Neighborhood District as a special exception for student housing. This is similar to what was done with the Residential Retirement District and the Traditional Neighborhood District. In addition, the developer has tweaked the sketch plan several times. Mr. Paul explained that he expects that the Planning Commission will be in a position to make a recommendation at its October meeting. The developer will then be directed back to the Board's workshop meeting to bring the Commissioners up to speed on the plan. The Board will also need to think about scheduling a time and date for a Public Hearing.

Solicitor Henninger reminded the Board that the ordinance pertinent to the Comcast Franchise Agreement will also appear on the October agenda for formal action.

FINAL COMMENTS:

Vice President Leonard questioned if there is any movement at the Linden Centre. President Linn responded there has been nothing recently. Vice President Leonard also asked if the recent heavy rains had resulted in flooding problems in the Jednota Flats area. President Linn stated they did not. Mr. Grauel explained that the ground was very dry prior to the rains. Mr. Paul added that

he believes the duration of the storms was a factor too. The pausing in between downpours gave the ground time to absorb the water. President Linn added that Alan Knoche, EMA Coordinator, did an excellent job in keeping both the residents and the Board informed during these heavy rains.

President Linn reported that next Thursday is the Lions Club Halloween Parade at Shopes Gardens.

Mr. Paul reported that staff had a meeting yesterday with its insurance carrier, Benacon. The Township, along with the other participating municipalities, will be entering into a new agreement with Benacon. Solicitor Henninger was also provided a copy of the agreement for his review. Mr. Paul explained this is more of a housecleaning matter. The group was operating under the name of Capital Region Insurance Trust. However, since there are so many members, the name has been changed to Pennsylvania Municipal Health Insurance Cooperative. It was noted, however, that the group has technically been operating under this name for the last several years. The group will take action on the agreement at its November 12 meeting, and then the Board will need to consider it for adoption. Mr. Paul noted that other than the name change, there is only one other change and that is a change in the prescription drug company from Express Scripts to CVS CareMark. He added that Benacon has done a pretty good job of controlling costs in this hectic market. In response to a question from Commissioner Mehaffie, Mr. Paul reported that the proposed increase is roughly 10%, which is excellent.

ADJOURN AND CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Hearing no other business, a motion was made by Commissioner Loych, seconded by Commissioner Mehaffie, to adjourn the meeting and convene into executive session. The motion was unanimously approved, and the meeting adjourned at 7:41 P.M.

ATTEST:

Ronald J. Paul,
Manager/Secretary