

**Minutes of the
December 21, 2010
Board of Supervisor's Regular Meeting**

The Regular Meeting of The Doylestown Township Board of Supervisors was held at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 21, 2010 at the Doylestown Township Municipal Building, 425 Wells Road, Doylestown, PA. Members of the Board of Supervisors in attendance included Chairman; Barbara N. Lyons, Vice Chairman; E. Thomas Scarborough, Jr., Supervisors: Cynthia M. Philo, Barbara Eisenhardt and Richard F. Colello. Others in attendance included Township Manager; Stephanie J. Mason, Director of Operations; Richard E. John, Township Solicitor; Jeffery P. Garton, Chief of Police; Stephen J. White

Absent: Township Engineer; Mario Canales

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Doylestown Township Municipal Offices will be closed on Friday, December 24, 2010 for the Christmas Holiday and Friday, December 31, 2010 for the New Year's Holiday.

The Board of Supervisors Re-Organizational meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 3, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. in the Doylestown Township Municipal Building.

The Doylestown Township Auditor's Re-Organizational meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 4, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Doylestown Township Municipal Building.

The Board of Supervisors Regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 18, 2011 at 7:00 in the Doylestown Township Municipal Building.

Go Green This Winter and drop off your tree between January 1st and February 15th behind the Township Building or sign up for our pick up service. Contact the Administration Office to schedule tree pick up.

VISTORS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Resident; Frederick Ameel of 73 Oak Drive questioned when will the Board vote on the budget and if the public will have a change to comment. Ms. Lyons responded; the budget vote is on tonight's agenda and public comments are welcome at anytime during the discussion.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

Mr. Scarborough made a MOTION to accept the December 1, 2010, Budget Work Session minutes, seconded by Mrs. Eisenhardt.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4 -0-1 with Ms. Philo abstaining due to her absence.

Mr. Scarborough made a MOTION to accept the December 7, 2010, Board of Supervisors Regular meeting minutes, seconded by Mrs. Eisenhardt.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5 to 0.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Resignation of Richard Gaver

The Board agreed by consensus to accept the resignation of Mr. Richard F. Gaver as member of the Environmental Advisory Board.

Doylestown Township Hospital – Parking Fees

As a response to Ms. Mason's inquiry of November 18, 2010, regarding Doylestown Hospital parking and valet charges, Doylestown Hospital COO; James C. Brownlow indicated in a letter dated December 9, 2010, in order to balance the cost of recent expansions, charges for parking and valet were implemented, however, free spaces are available near the Pavilion Medical Center and hospital entrance.

REPORTS:

SOLICITOR: No Report

CHIEF OF POLICE: No Report

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER: No Report

TOWNSHIP MANAGER: Bucks County Planning Commission – New Britain Review/Wordsworth Property

The Board agreed by consensus to support New Britain Township's proposal to rezone the TMP #26-11-72 from I Institutional District to RR Residential District at the Wordsworth Academy property along Ferry Road as per the recommendation of the Doylestown Township Planning Commission.

SUPERVISORS:

Mrs. Eisenhardt No Report

Mr. Scarborough wished everyone Happy Holidays and a healthy New Year.

Mr. Colello informed the public of several items, such as....

- 1) At the last Traffic Advisory Committee meeting traffic calming improvements were presented for Turk

Road.

- 2) Planning Commission provided comments to the subdivision land development plan for The White Eagle Labs property on Lower State Road. The Environmental Advisory Committee was also present
- 3) Mr. Colello announced Planning Commission member; Donald Page retirement after 15 years and thanked all volunteers for their contributions to the township.
- 4) Mr. Colello congratulated Mrs. Lyons on receiving the Arthur B. Walsh Jr. Pro Bono Publico Award for her generous Pro Bono Service to the community.

Mrs. Lyons announced Doylestown Boro, New Britain Boro, and Warwick Township, Doylestown Township met with the Department of Community of Economic Development on December 9, 2010 to discuss the potential regionalization of the municipalities into a regional police department. Copies of the study will be provided to other Board members for discussion at the January 18, 2010, Board of Supervisors regular meeting.

Ms. Philo informed the public, due to lack of funds, the Bucks County Transportation Management Association will no longer operate the Dart Bus as of January 1, 2011. If any resident is interested in providing statements to have the Dart Bus continue their operations, please contact BCTMA, Elected Representatives and State Senators.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Proposed 2009 International Property Maintenance Code Ordinance with Amendments

Ms. Philo made a MOTION to approve the 2009 International Property Maintenance Code with Amendments, seconded by Mrs. Eisenhardt.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5 to 0.

NEW BUSINESS:

2011 Final Budget

Mrs. Lyons made a MOTION to approve the 2011 Doylestown Township Final Budget for the purpose of discussion, seconded by Mr. Colello.

Resident; Frederick Ameel referenced the December 6, 2010 Intelligencer editorial and questioned where would the township make up for the \$33,000 needed toward the deficit. Ms. Mason responded; the township employees will be contributing 1% of their pay towards the health plan and the full savings from the recent retiring employee along with the supervisors giving up their pay. Mrs. Eisenhardt added the employees will also contribute towards their pension and even with a small raise this year; they will be losing \$1,800 a year. Mr. Ameel then question the amount of millage increase proposed in the budget. Mrs. Lyons answered; a 1 ½ millage increase is proposed, which is equivalent to \$60.00 tax increase per household per year. The Board also discussed a 3 millage increase, which is equivalent to \$120.00 tax increase per household per year, because of a first time \$700,000 obligation the state has imposed to contribute towards pension plans. Mrs. Lyons explained since the Township does not have the funds, the Board made a 2 mills cut from the budget and a transfer of additional 2 mills from a funding source, which needs to

be returned in 2012. Mr. Ameel then asked when the tax increase will be in effect. Mrs. Lyons indicated after a long discussion amongst the Board, a compromise 1 ½ mills increase may be implemented in 2011. Mr. Ameel thanked the Board for their time and sacrifice of their benefits. Mrs. Eisenhardt indicated even though Doylestown Township has the 8th lowest millage rate, she feels that raising the tax to 3 mills will have the township be more caught up with expenses and hopefully not raise taxes in 2011.

Mr. Scarborough voiced his disagreement with the proposed tax increase by stating he doesn't see a reason for it, since there is \$3,869,532 in the Fund Balance, Revenue of \$14,472,819 and Expenditures of \$10,603,288. Mrs. Lyons explained only 10% of the entire budget, equaling one million is available, and the balance are all restricted funds allocated for spending on certain projects in 2011. Finance Director; Kenneth Wallace further explained the 3.8 million Fund Balance is partially the 2.1 million dollars for the General Fund. The General Fund in 2012 will need a transfer of Capital Funds to fund Township projects under the Capital Reserves, in the amount of \$800,000. Then there is a Fund Balance requirement in the amount of 10% of 6 million dollars, which results in \$600,000 needed for the requirement. The balance of 1 million dollars is for unrestricted funds. 2.1 million makes up about 54% of the fund balance. All other funds are considered restricted for capital fund raising, off site, fire and ambulance tax. The Fund Balance also includes at tax increase of 1 ½ millage and the 2.75 millage reallocation. In 2012, the Board will need to make a decision on how to repay the 2.75 millage reallocation borrowed this year.

Mr. Scarborough stated he would rather tighten the township's spending instead of a tax increase. Mrs. Eisenhardt explained it's more palatable to raise taxes every few years, and the township would not be in this position if this practice was in place ten years ago. The Township has borrowed money for too long, that in 2011 the township may still show a deficit. The only way for the township to pay their bills and be fiscally responsible is to raise taxes 3 mills. Mr. Scarborough stated the Township's main concerns should be the Police and Road departments and tighten spending in others. Mrs. Eisenhardt further explained closing parks will result in the township spending more money to repay state and government grants. Mr. Scarborough disagreed by stating he did not want to close the parks, but create a funding resource to support the parks. Ms. Philo provided several suggestions where certain cuts could be made, such as Board of Supervisor's salaries, cost of living freeze and no membership fee payments, then asked Mr. Scarborough for his suggestions. Mr. Scarborough concluded by stating he will not vote in favor of a tax increase and still feels the township should first look into cutting costs.

Public Comments:

Resident; Frank La Rosa of 216 Victoria Court commented on a letter he submitted to the Board voicing his dismay with previous Boards decision not to raise taxes since 1988. As a past Board and Oktoberfest committee member, he has experienced a decline in fundraising from \$50,000 to \$20,000 since September, 2001. He is in favor of 3 mills tax increase and feels the Board should begin thinking outside of the box to market the township.

Resident; Mardi Harrison of Edison Furlong attended the last Budget Work Session and witnessed how passionate the Board argued between a 1 ½ to 3 millage increase and believes they and the township employees did their part in assisting the township with the budget. She believes it's not unreasonable for the township to ask residents to do their part. Ms. Harrison concluded by stating the proposed tax increase is equivalent to what most residents spend a month at a local Burger King and it doesn't make sense why it would not go to keep the township working.

Resident; Joseph Paternostro of Houk Road voiced his concerns for the future of his children by stating he would rather pay the tax increase now, instead of his children paying more in the future.

MOTION FAILED to approved the Doylestown Township 2011 Final Budget with a tax increase of 1 ½ millage 2 to 3 with Mr. Scarborough, Ms. Philo and Mrs. Eisenhardt voting nay.

Mrs. Eisenhardt made a MOTION to approve the Doylestown Township 2011 Final Budget with a tax increase of 3 millage, seconded by Ms. Philo for the purpose of discussion.

Mrs. Lyons is in favor of the 3 mill tax increase by stating it's the Boards obligation to do what is best for the township and pass a balanced budget.

MOTION was ADOPTED 3 to 2 with Mr. Scarborough and Mr. Colello voting nay.

Mrs. Eisenhardt thanked all the residents who attended the meeting in support of the Budget's tax increase of 3 mills.

Resolution – Fixing the Tax Rate for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2011

Mrs. Eisenhardt made a MOTION to adopt the Resolution of the Tax Rate for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2011 as amended with the vote on the Doylestown Township 2011 Final Budget relating to the tax millage, seconded by Mrs. Lyons.

MOTION was ADOPTED 3 to 2 with Mr. Scarborough and Mr. Colello voting nay.

Amended Financial Requirement and Minimum Municipal Obligation for 2011

Mrs. Eisenhardt made a MOTION to accept and acknowledge the Amended Financial Requirement and Minimum Obligation for 2011 for both Uniformed and Non-Uniformed MMOs, seconded by Mr. Colello.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4 to 1 with Mr. Scarborough voting nay.

2011 DTMA Budget – Acknowledge Receipt

The Board acknowledges the 2011 Doylestown Township Municipal Authority 2011 Budget.

Eagle Scout Proclamation – Andrew Baumher

Mr. Scarborough made a MOTION to approve Boy Scout Troop 48 member; Andrew Baumher be awarded the rank of Eagle Scout Court of Honor, seconded by Mrs. Eisenhardt.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5 to 0.

2010 Doylestown Township Audit – Firm Recommendation

Mrs. Eisenhardt made a MOTION to approve the firm of Major and Mastro LLC to audit the financial records of the

Township for 2010, in the amount of \$11,000 at 250 hours to complete as recommended by Finance Director; Kenneth Wallace, seconded by Mrs. Lyons.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5 to 0.

TREASURERS' REPORT:

Mrs. Eisenhardt made a MOTION to approve the December 17, 2010 Treasurer's Report, seconded by Mr. Scarborough.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5 to 0.

BILL'S LIST:

Mr. Scarborough made a MOTION to approve the December 21, 2010 Bill's List in the amount of \$231,927.07, seconded by Mrs. Eisenhardt.

Mr. Colello noted the outstanding bills for Friends of Doylestown Township Dog Park is close to \$1400.00, and requested an invoice be sent for payment.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5 to 0.

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ADJOURNMENT: 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by;

Stephanie J. Mason, Secretary