

DOYLESTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

REGULAR MEETING

January 19, 2010

The Regular Meeting of the Doylestown Township Board of Supervisors was held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 19, 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: Barbara Eisenhardt, Cynthia Philo and Jeffrey Bennett. Others in attendance included Township Engineer; Mario Canales, Township Solicitor; Jeffery P. Garton, Director of Operations; Richard E. John, Township Manager; Stephanie J. Mason

Absent: Chief of Police; Stephen J. White; in his absence Lieutenant Dean Logan.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Board met in Executive Session to discuss matters of interviews and litigation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Ray Hendrick of 685 Spring Valley Road addressed the Board with his concerns regarding the disruption of plants around the bird blind at Central Park, due to residents using this area for additional walking trails. Mr. Hendrick offered his services to mark the trails to avoid further erosion.

Resident; Ken Snyder of 50 Fox Croft Drive voiced his concerns with several issues regarding the January 4, 2010 reorganizational meeting. First Mr. Snyder urged the Board to reconsider their policy of Robert's Rule of Order pertaining to published minutes. Mr. Snyder felt most residents rely on detailed, published minutes for recorded facts and wondered if the video broadcast would now be considered as a legal document. Mr. Snyder wondered about the perception of the Board and their display during the Board Liaison's elections and the recommendation of a Vacancy Committee member. Mr. Snyder stated he felt the Board was not united and can do whatever they want. Mr. Snyder concluded by suggesting the Board, as a group, view the video of the reorganizational meeting.

Resident; Patty Schiefer of South Shady Retreat Road wanted to bring to the attention of the residences and the Board her frustrations with the Township's lot line change application fees. Ms. Schiefer stated she paid over \$9,000.00 in Township professional fees. After three letters and several attempts to reduce the cost of these fees, Ms. Schiefer has yet been presented with a resolution. Upon further investigation, Ms. Schiefer found several inconsistency and errors regarding charges and discounts and asked the Board to look into this matter.

Resident; James Bingler of Turkey Lane requested the Board reconsider censoring and editing the minutes and feels there is no reason to change the policy. Mr. Bingler informed the Board not only do the residents rely on the minutes for informational purposes, but other Township commissions and committees as well.

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Resident; Kathleen Saunders of 47 Avalon Court also believes public comments should not be removed from minutes, because they are a very important part of the meetings, which the residents can benefit from and hopes the Board can encourage opinions from the public. Ms. Saunders also agreed she would research public meeting by the published minutes and not by video.

A discussion ensued between the Board regarding the Roberts Rule of Order and the conduct of meetings pertaining to public comments. Mrs. Lyons believes the minutes are causing confusions with recorded statements and too much time is being spent correcting what people have said. Ms. Philo respectfully disagreed by stating Roberts Rule of Order is designed to help not hinder the procedure of minute taking. However, the minutes should show an abstract of an assembly and not transcription; due to the fact the minutes are considered a legal document. Mrs. Eisenhardt believes it's a disgrace and travesty of justice for the Board to take the authority on what should be placed in the minutes and feels it's important to include the suggestions and opinions of the public.

Mrs. Eisenhardt made a MOTION that the Board of Supervisors continues with the tradition of taking minutes to include, welcome and encourage public comment as done in the past, seconded by Ms. Philo.

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

Resident; Ken Snyder questioned the procedure on how the minutes are discussed and published. Mrs. Lyons answered by stating the Township Manager and Recording Secretary create minutes then reviewed by the Board prior to publishing.

Resident; Jim Bingler stated once in 13 years of reading the minutes he only had one discrepancy and believes the problem lays with Board's opinion of what should be recorded in the minutes, not the citizens.

Resident; Sue Bingler informed the Board that some residents don't have television cable service and it's not fair to them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next meeting of the Board of Supervisors is scheduled for Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Doylestown Township Golf Outing is scheduled for Monday, June 7, 2010 beginning at 8:00 a.m., located at the Doylestown Country Club.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

Mrs. Eisenhardt made a MOTION to approve the December 15, 2009 Board of Supervisors meeting minutes as originally drafted, seconded by Mr. Scarborough.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4 to 1, with Mr. Bennett abstaining due to his absence.

Mr. Scarborough made a MOTION to approve the January 4, 2010 Board of Supervisors

Reorganizational meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Bennett with comments.

1. Minutes should reflect votes for candidates who were not elected to the Board Liaison positions.
2. The proposed guidelines for Public Meetings, Supervisors and Chairpersons for 2010 should be stated or attached to the minutes.

Mr. Scarborough made a MOTION to table the January 4, 2010 Board of Supervisors Reorganizational meeting minutes and approved at the February 2, 2010 meeting, seconded by Mr. Bennett.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5 to 0.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Doylestown Township Fire Company No. 1-2nd Centennial Anniversary

The Board, by consensus agreed to participate in the planning of activities for the Buck County Firefighters scheduled for the second Saturday in June of 2012.

REPORTS:

SOLICITOR: No Report

POLICE CHIEF: No Report

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER: No Report

TOWNSHIP MANAGER: Training Request – Karen Sweeney; Parks and Recreation Director

Mr. Bennett made a MOTION to approve Ms. Sweeney attend the Annual PA Parks and Recreation Society Conference from March 21 to 24, 2010 as part of the requirement for professional certification, seconded by Mr. Scarborough.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4 to 1, with Mrs. Eisenhardt voting nay.

SUPERVISORS:

Setting date for Pension Meeting and Boards & Committee Interviews

The Board agreed to schedule the Pension Meeting and Boards & Committee interviews on Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. in the Doylestown Municipal Building. Interviews will be scheduled for 5:00 p.m.

MR. SCARBOROUGH – EAC Chairman Appointment

Mr. Scarborough made a MOTION to appoint Keith Peters as Chairman and Arnold Feldman as Vice Chairman of the Environmental Advisory Committee, seconded by Mr. Bennett.

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MOTION was ADOPTED 5 to 0.

MRS. EISENHARDT – Discount permit fees

Mrs. Eisenhardt suggested the Board consider eliminating building permit discount fees as practice in other municipalities and possibly address this matter at a later time.

MS. PHILO – Recycle old and new batteries

Ms. Philo announced to the public, that the township now offers recycling of old and new batteries. A battery box will be offered at the Township building.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Ordinance Amendment – Uniformed Employee Pension – Killed in Service Benefits

Mr. Scarborough made a MOTION to adopt the ordinance amendment of the Uniformed Employee Pension – Killed in Service Benefits in order to have the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania assumed the obligation to provide benefits to officers killed in the line of duty as pursuant to the adoption of Act 51 by the General Assembly , seconded by Ms. Philo

MOTION was ADOPTED 5 to 0.

Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Wind Energy

Ms. Philo made a MOTION to accept the black line amendments stated in Subsection H14(b) and Section (14) H-14(g)1,(a),(b) and (c) to the Wind Energy System Zoning Ordinance as per the recommendations of the Bucks County Planning Commission, with no additional advertisements, seconded by Mrs. Eisenhardt.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5 to 0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Development Agreement- Doylestown Hospital Medical Office Building Expansion

Mr. Scarborough made a MOTION to approve the signed Development Agreement for the addition to the Doylestown Medical Office Building Expansion to accommodate the Cancer Treatment Facility, seconded by Ms. Philo.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5 to 0.

Zoning Hearing Board Application

The Board agreed by consensus to forward 511 St. Lawrence Way, Furlong request for a variance and 2 Hidden Lane, Doylestown requests for a Special Exception and variance to the Zoning Hearing Board.

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Exonerate Tax Collector

Ms. Philo made a MOTION to exonerate the Tax Collector for the uncollected 2009 taxes in the amount of \$24,511.97 and transferred to the County of Bucks to be included in the County's Tax Claim Bureau's lien able taxes, seconded by Mr. Bennett.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4 to 1, with Mr. Scarborough abstaining due to his association.

2010 Trash Hauler Permits

Mr. Scarborough made a MOTION to accept the trash hauler permits listed below to collect solid waste and recyclables in Doylestown Township during 2010, seconded by Mrs. Eisenhardt.

*Allied Waster
Gorski Trash Removal
George Leck & Sons
JP Mascaro & Sons
Tinari Container
Ches-Mont Disposal
Waste Management of Indian Valley*

MOTION was ADOPTED 5 to 0.

State Bid for Calcium Chloride (Road Salt) Purchase

Mr. Scarborough made a MOTION to approve participation in the COSTARS Program for supply and delivery of Calcium Chloride (Road Salt) and execution of the Participation Agreement for the purchase of Road Salt beginning August 1, 2010 through July 31, 2011 season as recommended by Mr. Richard John, seconded by Mrs. Eisenhardt.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5 to 0.

Sounds of Summer – Performers Contracts

Mrs. Eisenhardt made a MOTION to approve the Performers Contracts for The Bronx Wanderers in the amount of \$5,000 and the Boy In the Shade for \$4,000 for the 2010 Summer Concert Series, seconded by Mr. Scarborough.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5 to 0

PECO Green Region Grant Program - Resolution

Mr. Scarborough made a MOTION to authorize the application by the Township for the PECO Green Region Grant Program in 2010 to build invasive species and environmental succession trails, seconded by Mr. Bennett.

Ms. Philo asked if the Township will incur any costs. Township Special Project Manager; Sandra Zadell answered by stating the grant is a 50/50 match. The Township will be responsible for \$10,000.00 that can be budgeted into the 2011 Township Budget, if the Township receives the grant.

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MOTION was ADOPTED 5 to 0

Resident; Jim Bingler asked if any materials other than macadam can be used for the trails. Ms. Zadell answered residences with disabilities would not be able to utilize the walkways.

Bill's List

Mr. Scarborough made a MOTION to accept the December 31, 2009 Bill's List, in the amount of \$125,327.40, seconded by Mr. Bennett.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5 to 0

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Scarborough made a MOTION to accept the December 31, 2009 Treasurers Report, seconded by Mrs. Eisenhardt.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5 to 0.

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ADJOURNMENT: 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Stephanie J. Mason