

Minutes of the
June 5, 2012
Board of Supervisor's Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of The Doylestown Township Board of Supervisors was held at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 5, 2012 in 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; Richard F. Colello, Ryan Manion and Shawn Touhill. Others in attendance included Township Manager; Stephanie J. Mason, Director of Operations; Richard E. John and Acting Chief of Police; Dean Logan

Absent: Township Solicitor; Jeffrey P. Garton, Township Engineer; Mario Canales

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRESENTATION:

Bucks County Commissioner; Robert Loughery addressed the Board regarding the county's goal and priorities. He also wanted to address any issues the Board may have.

The County has three major goals they wish to accomplish during 2012.

- 1) Making the budget work with the most recent tax increase implemented in 2011. During the first six months of the year, the county is on target in meeting their goal to save money. Moving forward the main step in saving money will be to place a hiring freeze. The County began the year with 2,600 employees. Currently only 2,400 are on staff, with only essential hiring being completed. Division leaders and department heads are working hard to maintain the budget into 2013.
- 2) Completing construction of the new justice center by February 2014. In July or August the steel frame is scheduled to begin and the parking garage was completed approximately two years ago. The main focus is to have the construction billed on time and in budget. Another focus is the reuse planning of the existing courthouse. The County had feasibility studies performed last year but couldn't make any directional choices. The goal is to shrink the current footprint, reuse space in the existing building, hopefully reduce overhead from other properties to create better adjacent season efficiencies for human/social services.
- 3) A few years ago the County passed an Economic Development report. The County is trying to implement the recommendations of that report with a commissioner's economic counsel along with other economic agencies. One of the major recommendations is to centralize the economic services to assist businesses access any type of help needed. Another recommendation is assisting the County in doing a better job in engaging the municipal partners when it comes to economic development by tailoring a specific program for each municipality. In order to do so, the County has been working with their Planning Commission to assist in designing a program and possibility hiring an economic services coordinator.

Although the Board appreciates the cooperative relationship Doylestown Township has with the County, Mrs. Lyons commented on several concerns the Board has, such as the additional monies needed for the police response services from county facilities and purchase of radios. Mr. Loughery informed the Board the deadline to purchase radios is no longer active in terms of penalties that would have incurred at a million dollars a day. The timing and upgrades are still being worked on; however the county will lend the money at the same rate the county purchased the radios. Whether it will be short term financing or bond to the municipalities, EMS and local fire departments remains to be seen, but will be completed by the January 2013 deadline. Mrs. Lyons informed Mr. Loughery that special dispensation may be needed if the police regionalization goes through. The township is working vigorously, but with the police contracts still being negotiated, it's unsure a resolution will be made by the January 1, 2013 deadline. Mr. Loughery indicated the County has received requests of radios needed from all municipalities both police departments, EMS and fire departments throughout the county. He is unsure if the county is 100% there, but they have worked through the lines of communication. The county will contact each municipality of when a confirmed number has to be submitted and what flexibility they may have. Police Chief Logan added from his last count for Doylestown is at approximately \$200,000. However if the regionalization goes through the number will drastically change. Mrs. Lyons suggested providing an accurate number upon the five municipalities meeting of Friday, June 8th. Chief Logan reported the number of radios and mobile units needed if a police regionalization goes through has also been provided to the County. The problem is if they don't receive the materials, he is not sure how to budget for these items going into 2013.

Tourist Attraction – Kid Castle

As per the township staff request, Mrs. Lyons informed Mr. Loughery of the huge expense Kid Castle is for the township. A fund account to maintain the castle was attempted, but the burden has fallen on the township. With the castle being a county wide attraction, Mrs. Lyons hopes the county can consider providing dollars to assist with the maintenance from their tourism fund. Mr. Loughery responded; he is not sure tourism dollars will work; however other dollars might be considered. To better understand the situation and consider allocation he requested all information including the outside groups be forwarded to himself, Lynn Bush and Bill Mitchell to review prior to making a decision.

Casino Dollars

As per Ms. Mason's request, Mrs. Lyons questioned if monies generated from Pennsylvania casinos will be shared with local municipalities in Bucks County. Mr. Loughery answered; all monies generated will remain local and currently allocated three ways. The first is for Bensalem, which the casino is located then the adjacent municipalities and the county. Mr. Loughery is looking into creating an Economic Development fund for program from their portion.

Public Safety

Chief Logan questioned if any discussions have been completed regarding centralized booking in the county. With the new justice court building in the process of being constructed, would the existing building be considered for centralized booking? Mr. Loughery indicated there hasn't been discussion, but several other municipalities have asked the same question. He is currently waiting to hear back and

will contact Chief White upon a decision. Chief Logan reported the Central Bucks Police Departments are utilizing live scans systems for the rehabilitation center which are shifted to the Sherriff's department during normal business hours. This generates a sustainable amount of income to offset personnel costs. If the centralized booking can be in effect for Doylestown Township, this will assist police officers in spending more time patrolling while the centralize booking system completes the process once an individual is arrested. Mrs. Lyons suggested the county contact Chief Logan for further details. Mr. Loughery agreed.

Trails

Ms. Mason reported upon a recent meeting with Ms. Bush and Mr. Mitchell where an easement is needed along the Pine Run reservoir as part of the Destination Peace Valley Trail system. The request will be presented to the commissioners within the next several months. Ms. Mason provided a brief design explanation of the trails and hopes the commissioner is aware of the project in order to move forward with the upcoming phases. Mrs. Lyons added one of the biggest concerns is working towards a county link-up system with surrounding municipalities and existing trails, which are being created. It's currently on target thanks to Lynn Bush's assistance by starting the process as part of the Open Space program.

Advertising Meeting

Mrs. Lyons invited the county to consider linking with Doylestown Township Television (DTV) to broadcast their meetings and/or special events. Mr. Loughery responded; currently the County does not have the capability to cable cast their meetings. As the planning of the reuse of the existing courthouse moves forward, infrastructure on how to connect to local municipalities' cable networks will be considered.

Mr. Scarborough thanked Mr. Loughery for his time to address the township concerns.

Public Comments: None

Mr. Loughery thanked the Board for their time and will be in contact with regards to the purchase of radios, court proceedings and trail system.

VISITOR / PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Resident; Madeline Rawley of 361 Birdsong Lane requested the Board's support of the states pre-emption oil and gas operations as per House Bill 1950 (Act 13) by signing a letter of support and/or passing a sample resolution to cease the gas drilling and avoid a new impact law fee. Currently there are more than 1,000 gas drilling permits issued since the law passed in February of 2012. However, because gas prices have dropped, the dwells have been drilled but not completed.

Ms. Rawley continued to report on March 29, 2012 as law suit was filed challenging Act 13 and requesting a 120 day preliminary injunction which was granted. This will remove any gas and oil ordinances by July of 2012. Also, a hearing will be held on June 6, 2012 to decide the next steps of the process.

Mrs. Lyons commented its fair for the Board to consider creating a letter requesting the legislator to uphold the rights of municipalities to control the zoning and not get into the merits of Marsalis Shale, especially when it's not affecting Bucks County. Ideally she feels the township should support local zoning.

The Board agreed by consensus to review the letter and consider at the next Board of Supervisors regular meeting.

Resident; Lee Schwarz of 189 Sunset View Drive commented he hopes the purpose of the letter is not to shut down the entire gas and oil drilling industry and requested any statement referring to such be kept separate. Mrs. Lyons responded the purpose of the letter is not to shut down the industry.

Resident: Joseph O'Malley of 138 Rogers Road questioned the status of the Grasso Group's revised preliminary land development plans with regards to the York and Swamp project. Mrs. Lyons answered; the Grasso Group project went bankrupt and is possibly going to a Sherriff's Sale. Mr. O'Malley indicated upon a discussion with the applicant's attorney, Mr. David Shafkowitz indicated there were plans to continue the project. Ms. Mason responded the revised land development plans have not been submitted to date. An extension will be needed. The current extension is effective until July 20, 2012.

ANNOUCEMENTS:

The next meeting of the Doylestown Township Board of Supervisors is scheduled for Tuesday, June 19, 2012 at 7:00pm in the Municipal Building.

The Doylestown Township Pubic Water and Sewer Advisory Committee Special Meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 7, 2012 at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held in the main meeting room of the Administrative Building.

Fishing Derby event will be held on Sunday, June 17, 2012(rain or shine) in Peace Valley Park. Please contact the Administrative Offices for details and to register.

Sounds of Summer Concert Series begin on Wednesday, June 27, 2012 in Chapman Park with a performance by "Almost Fab" beginning at 7:00 pm. Free to the public.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

Mr. Scarborough made a MOTION; seconded by Ms. Manion to approve the May 15, 2012, Doylestown Township Board of Supervisors Regular meeting minutes with the following corrections...

Cover Page; second line – change year to 2012 instead of 2011.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4 to 1 with Mrs. Lyons abstaining due to her absence.

CORRESPONDENCE: Need Assistance from Central Bucks Ambulance

Ms. Mason reported upon an email received from Central Bucks Ambulance requesting establishing a committee to discuss long range planning for emergency medical services with regards to current and future needs from each municipality. Ms. Mason asked if any Board Member would be interested in participating as part of the committee. Mr. Scarborough offered his services. Chief Logan volunteered to attend the next meeting to see if his services are required.

REPORTS

SOLICITOR: No Report

POLICE CHIEF: No Report

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER: No Report

TOWNSHIP MANAGER:

Request for Training – Kenneth Wallace

Mr. Scarborough made a MOTION; seconded by Mr. Colello the Doylestown Township Board of Supervisors approve Director of Finance; Kenneth Wallace attend with an overnight stay the PICPA Local Government Conference on July 23rd and 24th in Hershey, PA.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5 to 0.

Hours of Operation

Ms. Mason reported at the beginning of 2012 the Administrative Offices changed their hours of operation to remain open until 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. During this time the office averages 4.8 calls and 1.3 visitors per week during this extended period. Upon the recommendation of Assistant Township Manager; Sandra Zadell the Administrative offices should close one day per week late and possibly opens earlier than 8:30am one day. The consensus of the Board of Supervisors was to make the changes and alert residents of the change.

Telecommunications Advisory Board

Ms. Mason noted a memo from the TAB Board outlining the success of the web streaming for Board's review.

SUPERVISORS:

Mr. Touhill reported two weeks ago the Doylestown Township Creek Coalition completed their spring tree planting of 150 native specimens for buffers along Pine Run. The Conservation District, Boy Scouts and students of Central Bucks High School South were present to assist. A spring stream cleanup is scheduled for July. Mr. Touhill encouraged anyone who is interested to please get involved.

Mr. Scarborough reported on his and Mrs. Lyons participation in a sing along at Oscar Hammerstein's property as part of the Doylestown Bicentennial Celebration. The celebration was a great success and wonderful to be a part of.

Mrs. Lyons congratulated the Bicentennial Celebration Committee for completing a wonderful job during the weeklong celebration. Commemorative books are on sales at the Bucks County Historical Society for \$20.00 and are loaded with beautiful pictures celebrating Bucks County.

Mr. Colello reported in the month of April, the TAB Board recorded 247 visitors to the township's website to view videos, agendas and minutes. Residents are utilizing the search features for the township's minutes and agendas, which saves on staff time. The Board of Supervisors meeting averages approximately 50 viewers with a small decline as the week ends. He feels the website has been a great

success and asset to the community.

Mr. Colello urged the community to consistently view the website and newspaper for updated meeting dates. Finally, the Planning Commission recently viewed a sketch plan for a proposed assisted living facility presentation. It was very impressive to see the developer already meet with neighboring residents to discuss any issues and should be presented to the Board very shortly.

With sadness, Mrs. Lyons reported on the death of resident; Peter McClaughlin who was a constant attendee of the Board's meeting. Mrs. Lyons commented on what a wonderful character and intelligent man Mr. McClaughlin was who died suddenly of a heart attack.

PUBLIC HEARING: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Eagle Scout Proclamation

Mr. Scarborough made a MOTION; seconded by Ms. Manion the Doylestown Township Board of Supervisors award Boy Scout Troop 71 member; John Kopperman rank of Eagle Scout at the June 4, 2012 Boy Scout Court of Honor ceremony.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5 to 0.

BILL'S LIST

Mr. Scarborough made a MOTION; seconded by Mr. Touhill the Doylestown Township Board of Supervisors approve the June 5, 2012 Bill's List in the amount of \$98,701.78.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5 to 0

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ADJOURNMENT:

The Doylestown Township Board of Supervisors Meeting of June 5, 2012 was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by;

Stephanie J. Mason, Secretary