

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
1580 PAOLI PIKE
May 1, 2007 – 7:00pm**

Present: Chairman Don McConathy, Carmen Battavio, Joe McDonough and Marty Shane. Vice-Chairman Thom Clapper was absent. Also present were Township Manager Rick Smith, Jack Yahraes (Municipal Authority), Jim McRee (Planning Commission), and Phyllis Marron (Park & Rec).

WORKSHOP

DMC Update

Jim McRee gave an update on the progress of the DMC. Jim asked if a survey could be added to the July Township newsletter to provide input from residents as to whether they think the Township has a deer problem or not. Rick suggested the DMC consider a statistically valid survey done by sending a mailing to a random sampling of residents. Carmen said he would prefer everyone in the Township be sent the mailing, not just a sampling. Marty observed that the DMC was not established to determine whether a deer problem exists, but to develop a program to deal with the deer because the Supervisors believe there is a problem.

Marty and Joe do not see the value of conducting a survey because they don't feel it would provide useful data that will help address the deer problem. It would only provide information on the perception residents have about deer.

After some discussion of the progress of the DMC, the consensus of the Supervisors was that if the DMC needs to take another year or more to develop a sound program, and skip having a program for the 2007-2008 season, the Board is willing to wait.

Don recommended the DMC consider what actual information will help them develop a program for the 2008-2009 season. He said he's not sure the DMC is quite ready to know what information it needs from a survey. Don said he would like an interim report from the DMC in June.

Minutes

The minutes of April 10, 23 and 24 were reviewed and corrected.

TMACC

Don announced that TMACC will attend the May 22 meeting to give a presentation on the transit signal priority issue.

Comcast Fence Issue

Bill Egan said the residents had their meeting with Comcast. Comcast presented a proposal the residents felt was inadequate. The residents are supposed to get back to Comcast to let them know what would be acceptable.

Bills

Current invoices were reviewed. The Board requested that Rick have Mark Miller provide a recommendation about switching the traffic lights to LED, and getting a service contract to cover them.

FORMAL MEETING

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Don called the meeting to order at 8:10pm and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Thomas Supplee

Carmen announced that long-time resident Thomas Supplee passed away on April 25. Mr. Supplee was a charter member of the Goshen Fire Company. Marty suggested making it policy to send a sympathy card to survivors in these types of situations. The other Board members agreed this would be appropriate.

Recording of Meeting

Don asked if anyone would be recording the meeting. Mr. Abbas Rahbari said he would be making a video and audio recording of the meeting, and that he plans to maintain custody of the recording.

Approval of Minutes

Joe moved to approve the minutes of April 10, 23 and 24 as corrected during the Workshop. Marty seconded the motion.

Public Comment: Abbas Rahbari, 1613 Manley Road – Objected to the Board taking action on items while away at the PSATS convention in Hershey on April 23-24. Mr. Rahbari said action by the Board should be limited to public meetings held at the Township building. Don advised Mr. Rahbari that the meeting in Hershey was advertised as a public meeting, and the Board took action because there is not enough time at regular Township meetings to complete all business. Carmen told Mr. Rahbari the expenditures that were approved in Hershey were all budgeted items. Marty clarified that the expenditure for the Rossmore curbs was not a budgeted item. Joe said Mr. Rahbari had a valid point, and there is no reason the Board could not have approved the expenditures at a meeting held in the Township. Marty agreed, and said the Board could have discussed the items in Hershey but waited to take action in East Goshen. But he pointed out the meeting was advertised as a public meeting. However, he said the Board did nothing irregular or “wrong” by approving some expenditures while in Hershey. Mr. Rahbari said the Township billboard clearly said “No Meetings This Week,” which sent an incorrect message if the Board was having a public meeting in Hershey. He said any votes taken in Hershey should be re-taken in East Goshen. Don said Mr. Rahbari had a valid point about the Township billboard, but the Board would not be re-voting.

There was no further public comment or discussion. The Board voted, and the corrected minutes were unanimously approved.

Chairman's Report

Don announced the following:

- The May 15 BOS meeting has been cancelled as it falls on Election Day.
- The next BOS formal meeting will be held May 22.
- The Board may take action on the Falcone Subdivision application (1334 Park Avenue) at the May 8 workshop.
- The Comcast fence variance application will be continued on May 2 at the Zoning Hearing Board, and the Board will not need to take action on this matter tonight.
- TMAAC will make a presentation on May 22 on the transit signal priority program.

Public Comment: Harold Rennard - Asked if the Board will take public comment from members of the Fire Company after the TMAAC presentation. Don told him yes.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report for May 1, 2007:

	RECEIPTS	EXPENDITURES
GENERAL FUND		
Real Estate Tax	\$ 0.00	
Earned Income Tax	\$ 536,279.02	
EMS TAX	\$ 6,000.00	Accounts Payable \$ 282,069.10
Transfer Tax	\$ 0.00	Debt Service \$ 194,279.27
Codes, Park & Rec, Etc.	\$ 83,168.52	Payroll \$ 80,000.00
Total Receipts	\$ 625,447.54	Total Expenditures \$ 558,348.37
Zoning Hearing Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
State Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Capital Reserve	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,501.32
Transportation Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Sewer Operating	\$ 235,754.06	\$ 204,935.52
Refuse	\$ 137,241.60	\$ 12,569.09
Capital Projects	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

Marty made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and the receipts and to approve the expenditures pending the Board's review. Joe seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

Comcast Variance Application

Don announced that Comcast has requested a delay until June, so this issue has been tabled.

Design Services for District Court

Carmen moved to accept the March 10, 2007 proposal from C.E. Hough Associates to provide architectural, structural, and MEP/FP design and documentation services for the District Court in the amount of \$35,000 (fixed design fee) with \$3,500 for Reimbursable expenses and \$3,500 for estimated additional design services. Joe seconded the motion.

Marty said he is not comfortable with the proposal as it is poorly written, and has not been updated to include the “green” items discussed at the last meeting. Don agreed. Joe disagreed and said he read the proposal to include all the green items. After some discussion, Carmen withdrew the motion. Don announced that the Board will probably take action on this issue at the May 8 meeting.

Resident Michael Bray, Recipient of 2007 Bill O’Neill Award

Joe announced that Bow Tree resident Michael Bray has received the prestigious Bill O’Neill Award from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. This award is presented by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry to extraordinary people who selflessly serve the youth ministry with unwavering commitment and dedication.

Correspondence & Reports of Interest

None.

Meetings & Dates of Importance

Don noted the list of upcoming meetings as published in the agenda.

Public Hour – Hearing of Residents – Receipt of Petitions

Public Comment: Abbas Rahbari, 1613 Manley Road – Made a suggestion regarding the traffic light bulb situation discussed during workshop.

Mr. Rahbari then commented on the April 30 letter he received from Zoning Officer Mark Gordon regarding the alleged ground transportation business Mr. Smith conducts from his home using the school bus driven by his wife. Mr. Rahbari said it is totally inappropriate for Mark Gordon to investigate this matter. He also complained that Mr. Gordon did not cite any sections of the ordinance in his letter. Don told Mr. Rahbari he could pursue the matter with the Zoning Hearing Board if he wished, but the Board supports the recommendation of the Zoning Officer.

Public Comment: Bill Egan, 1422 Mill Creek Drive – Asked for more information on the Rossmore curb issue that was discussed in Hershey. Don said that a bad batch of concrete was used 6 or 7 years ago in Rossmore when the curbs were constructed. A resident brought the issue to the Township’s attention over the winter. Mark Miller has or will be taking samples of the concrete to have it analyzed. The Township’s solicitor is going to investigate if the Township has any recourse. The curbing is crumbling apart, and will have to be replaced. The job will be put out to bid, and the estimated expense will be \$50-60K.

Public Comment: Jack Yahraes – Suggested that next year in Hershey the Board attend more PSATS sessions instead of so much time in private meetings.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the formal meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Meddings
Recording Secretary