

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
1580 PAOLI PIKE
March 18, 2008 – 7:00pm**

Present: Vice-Chairman Carmen Battavio, Don McConathy, Joe McDonough and Thom clapper. Chairman Marty Shane was absent. Also present were Township Manager Rick Smith, Jim McRee (Planning Commission & DMC), and Township Solicitor Jeff Sommer. Kathryn Yahraes (Historical Commission) was present for a portion of the meeting.

WORKSHOP

Minutes

The draft minutes of January 30, February 26 and March 4 were reviewed and corrected.

Agenda Review

The Board reviewed the agenda for the formal meeting.

McStravick Variance Application, 104 Tramore Circle

The Supervisors were in agreement to follow the Planning Commission's recommendation of February 8 supporting the application.

Chester County Hospital May Festival

Carmen requested that Rick have Township staff contact Bill Keslick and ask him to notify the neighbors, including those in West Goshen, as well as the police from both Townships about this upcoming event.

Back-Up Cameras for Township Dump Trucks

The Board reviewed Mark Miller's March 14 request for authorization to purchase back-up cameras for the Township dump trucks on a trial basis. Carmen said he is in favor of authorizing the request in the interest of safety. The rest of the Supervisors concurred, and decided to authorize Mark to make an initial expenditure of up to \$2,000.

E-Mail Policy

Jeff Sommer will have a draft policy to the Board by April 29.

1419 Center Street

Jeff said everything is in place to put the property up for Sheriff's Sale, except the owner cannot be tracked down. Carmen is concerned about potential liability and safety issues with this property being vacant and boarded up for so long. Rick said he can get a building inspector to check it. Don suggested setting up a regular inspection schedule for this property. Jeff advised that it also be checked for vermin. Jeff reminded the Board they need to consider establishing a policy on handling delinquent Township accounts and when the property of such accounts should go to Sheriff's Sale. Joe then suggested that the 1419 Center Street property be put up for Tax Deed Sale instead of Sheriff's Sale, and the other Supervisors concurred.

Public Comment: Abbas Rahbari, 1613 Manley Road – Said the property inspection should not be done by Township staff but by a licensed Pennsylvania civil engineer.

Mail Policy

The Board discussed how the Township staff should handle mail addressed to individual ABC members at the Township Building marked “Personal and Confidential.” Jeff said the mail should only be opened by the person to whom it’s addressed. The Township staff should call the person to come pick it up. He also advised that Township staff should not sign return receipts for certified mail sent to ABC members. Don noted that mail sent via courier (such as subpoenas) to ABC members should not be accepted by Township staff either, and Jeff agreed.

Rick will prepare a memo to the ABCs on the mail policy.

Wireless Policy – Annual Reports

Jeff will review this matter after the meeting with NextG.

Interest on Outstanding Balances

Jeff will look into this and will get back to the Board by May.

FORMAL MEETING

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Carmen called the meeting to order at 8:06pm and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Recording of Meeting

Carmen asked if any resident planned to record the meeting. Abbas Rahbari of 1613 Manley Road said he reserved the right to record and/or transmit an audio & video recording.

Moment of Silence

Carmen called for a moment of silence in honor of the men and women serving their country in the armed forces, and their families; and in memory of Gordon Whiting, Jr., who recently passed away. Mr. Whiting was a long-time resident of East Goshen and also served as Township auditor.

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing was conducted to consider the adoption of an amendment to the following sections of Chapter 188 of the Sewer Ordinance: Section 188-21 “On-Lot/COLDS System Maintenance” and Section 188-24 “Violations and Penalties.” The Board voted unanimously to adopt the amendments (Motion: McDonough/McConathy).

A court reporter was present and will provide a complete transcript.

FORMAL MEETING (Resumed)

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Public Comment: Abbas Rahbari, 1613 Manley Road – Reiterated his comments that the property inspection of 1419 Center Street should not be done by Township staff but by a licensed Pennsylvania civil engineer. He also advised the Township to purchase hardwired backup cameras for the dump trucks instead of wireless cameras.

Approval of Minutes

Joe moved to approve the minutes of January 30, February 26 and March 4 as amended in Workshop. Thom seconded the motion.

Public Comment: Abbas Rahbari, 1613 Manley Road – Requested that page 2 of the March 4 minutes be changed to reflect that he said he reserved the right to “record and transmit” the meeting.

There was no further public comment. The Board voted and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman’s Report

Carmen announced that there will be no Supervisors Workshop on March 25. He also announced that the Cingular Conditional Use hearing will be continued until April 15.

Treasurer’s Report

Carmen announced that due to the illness of a staff member, the Treasurer’s Report for this week is not available at this time.

Police Report

Chief John Dumond reported there were 824 calls for service from East Goshen in February. The police are working with other agencies in nearby municipalities to investigate a string of daytime burglaries that have occurred lately, mostly in Glen Mills and Concord Township. One of the victims was able to provide the police with a description of one of the perpetrators.

The Chief announced that Jon Stafford has been named Officer of the Year for the 2nd time in four years. Carmen asked the Chief to convey the Board’s congratulations to Officer Stafford.

Public Comment: John Schorn, 1401 Larch Lane – Asked if the police have a vehicle description for the robbers. Chief Dumond said he is not aware of one.

Carmen asked the Chief for an update on the investigation into who shot out all the vehicle windows in the West Chester area. Chief Dumond said the SUV that was captured by a surveillance camera has been ruled out as the vehicle of the perpetrators.

Public Comment: John Schorn, 1401 Larch Lane – Asked if a replacement has been selected for the sergeant position. Chief Dumond said yes, and the announcement will be made on Thursday March 20.

Public Comment: Abbas Rahbari, 1613 Manley Road – Commended the police department, especially Sgt. Cahill, for providing fast and “impeccable service” to him after he reported that his credit card had possibly been stolen. Mr. Rahbari said the police were also very helpful to him last year on a civil rights matter.

Jim McRee asked if the Police keep track of accident patterns in the area to monitor which intersections or areas are especially dangerous, and if so, suggested something be put in the Township newsletter for residents.

Don noted that there were 7 reported traffic-related injuries in February, which seems high. The Chief noted that even very minor injuries and aches have to be reported, so the injuries were not necessarily anything serious.

Public Comment: Bob Phiel, 1386 Boot Road – Told the Chief he has noticed an epidemic of drivers going through red lights, and also an increase in the number of drivers that refuse to yield for emergency vehicles. He asked that the Chief convey this to the officers.

Resolution 08-41, Procurement Cards

Carmen thanked Don for his work on this matter. He told the audience that the Procurement cards would not be used by Township staff to circumvent the bidding process. Don offered to give a copy of the resolution to any member of the public who would like one.

Don moved to adopt Resolution 08-41 authorizing the issuance of individual procurement cards to certain Township staff members. Joe seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

McStravick Variance Application, 104 Tramore Circle

Greg McStravick was present and briefly explained the rationale behind his request for a variance.

Thom moved for the Supervisors to recommend the Zoning Hearing Board grant the variance request for impervious coverage to Mr. McStravick for his property at 104 Tramore Circle so that he can put in a swimming pool. Joe seconded the motion.

Joe asked Mr. McStravick if he understood that the Zoning Hearing Board has the final say, and that they are not bound to follow the recommendation of the Supervisors. Mr. McStravick said he understood. Carmen suggested that Mr. McStravick be prepared to make a presentation to the Zoning Hearing Board and it would be helpful if he took a sketch of the property to show them.

Public Comment: John Schorn, 1401 Larch Lane – Asked if the variance is just for the stormwater (impervious coverage). Mr. McStravick said yes.

Mr. McStravick said that after his presentation to the Planning Commission, he discovered a slight miscalculation in his application, to his advantage. The Supervisors recommended he let the Zoning Hearing Board know that when he appears before them.

There was no further public comment or discussion by the Board. The Board voted and the motion passed unanimously.

Joe told Mr. McStravick that the Supervisors will send a letter to the Zoning Hearing Board with their recommendation for approval.

Sorrell Hill, Escrow Release #4

Thom moved to approve Escrow Release #4 in the amount of \$35,217.75 for the Sorrell Hill development per the March 7 request of Public Works Director Mark Miller. The funds will be used for earthwork, sanitary sewer construction, and stormwater construction. Don seconded the motion.

Jim McRee of the Planning Commission noted that there is still a lot of dirt and stones on Line Road due to construction of this development. Rick will look into it.

There was no further public comment and no discussion by the Board. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution for Plan Revision, Sullivan's Grove Development

Joe moved to approve the application by Wooldridge Construction for a sewer extension for the Sullivan's Grove development. Thom seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The Board voted and the motion passed unanimously.

Chester County Hospital May Festival

Carmen moved to approve the request of the Goshen Fire Company to allow the Chester County Hospital to hold their May Festival on the Goshen Fair Grounds in 2008 on the condition that Bill Keslick notify the neighbors, WEGO and the West Goshen police ahead of time. Don seconded the motion.

Public Comment: Bob Phiel, 1386 Boot Road – Speaking on behalf of the Fire Company, he said they are already working on notifying the neighbors.

Kathryn Yahraes of the Historical Commission asked what dates the Fair would be held. Carmen said he believed it would be the weekend before Mothers' Day.

There was no further public comment and no discussion by the Board. The motion passed unanimously.

Back-Up Cameras for Township Dump Trucks

Joe moved to authorize Mark Miller to expend an amount not to exceed \$2,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase and testing of two backup cameras for Township dump trucks. Future requests for expenditures on cameras should include a budget.

Public Comment: John Schorn, 1401 Larch Lane – Said the cameras are a great idea, but they should be installed by a professional and checked periodically. He recommended buying color cameras.

Public Comment: Bob Phiel, 1386 Boot Road – Said Mark Miller is welcome to stop by the fire house anytime to see their back-up cameras.

There was no further public comment and no discussion by the Board. The motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence & Reports of Interest

Carmen acknowledged receipt of an email from resident Penny Alderson complimenting the Park & Rec Board and the Public Works Department for the quality maintenance of the Township park.

Meetings & Dates of Importance

Carmen noted the upcoming meetings as listed in the agenda. There will be no Supervisors Workshop on March 25. Also, April 22 is Election Day, not the Annual State Convention as listed.

Public Comment

Bill Egan, 1422 Mill Creek Drive – Asked if the Township was aware of the pothole on Paoli Pike. Rick said he will have it reported to PennDOT as that is a state road.

Public Comment: Abbas Rahbari, 1613 Manley Road – Noted that there is still water intrusion on the building facade which could pose a serious health and safety concern. He said that he and John Schorn the took the liberty of performing a moisture analysis of the area before the meeting this evening. The analysis indicated a problem. He recommended having someone look into it. Carmen said the staff will take appropriate action.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the formal meeting adjourned at 9:11pm.

WORKSHOP (Resumed)

Grant Policy

Don and Carmen had some suggested changes to the draft policy. Rick will revise the document and distribute it back to the Board. This item will be on the April 1 agenda.

GETS Eligibility

The Board reviewed the March 11 memo from the County regarding GETS (Government Emergency Telecommunications Service). Carmen, Don and Thom said they were okay with the Township using this service if necessary. Joe had some concern about the potential cost. Rick said he could follow up in a year and let the Board know how much, if any, was spent on the service. The Board agreed that Rick, Mark Miller and Bill Keslick should be the Township employees having access to this service in the event of an emergency.

PECO Work at Rocky Hill

The Board reviewed Rick's March 18 memo on this topic. PECO plans to work at the N. Chester Road/Strasburg Road intersection April 25-28, working around the clock from Friday evening to early Monday morning. Rick has requested that PECO offer to accommodate nearby residents elsewhere during that weekend. No action was required by the Board.

Tree Request from Park & Rec

The Board reviewed Mark Miller's March 12 memo stating the Park & Rec Board would like to use 110 of the YMCA replacement trees for the park and open spaces. The question arose as to how many replacement trees are due to the Township from the YMCA. Rick will check the records and get back to the Board. Don suggested the Park & Rec Board create a list of the species they want, and the quantities of each, so the trees can be ordered and be ready for planting in the autumn.

Boot Road/Greenhill Road Project

Joe reported that per Dr. White, the West Goshen Supervisors want to stripe Boot Road, and are not in favor of putting in the additional lane at this time. Perhaps in the future, if a developer builds near the fire house, West Goshen could get them to contribute a good portion of the money that would be required to put in the additional lane. Then perhaps both Townships could work to get PennDOT involved too. The Supervisors agreed to tell West Goshen to proceed with striping for now.

Applebrook Walking Trail

Thom asked to revisit this issue. He suggested terminating the path at the first driveway to the carriage homes for now. In the meantime the Township could apply for a grant for the upper part of the path and the E. Boot Road portion. The grant application could include a request for funding for the stormwater plan. Don, Joe and Carmen said they wished to leave the plan as is, and have the path installed up to E. Boot Road, per the group's decision at the March 10 workshop.

Public Comment: John Schorn, 1401 Larch Lane – Had a question about the grant application.

Kathryn Yahraes of the Historical Commission asked where the wetlands are on E. Boot Road that would interfere with the path. Don said they are right near Shirley Fox's property, on both sides of Boot Road.

Liaison Reports

Joe provided a written summary of the March 13 Historical Commission meeting. Carmen had previously provided an email summary of the March 11 Municipal Authority meeting to the Supervisors.

Super Wawa in West Goshen

Joe asked Rick for an update on this project. Rick said Wawa is still waiting on PennDOT.

Possible New Staff Position

Joe said that he & Don were impressed with a college student who received an academic award at the recent CCATO dinner. The student is studying public administration, and interned last summer with East Bradford Township. Joe suggested the Board consider speaking with Mike Lynch to get some feedback. If Mike has positive things to say, the Board could get a copy of the young man's resume and explore the idea of having him come on board at East Goshen after graduation. If this particular student doesn't work out the Township could extend its search. Everyone agreed it would be beneficial to have a recruit that could be trained from the ground up. The person could initially serve as "Assistant to the Township Manager," with the hope that they would eventually grow into an Assistant Manager position. Carmen suggested talking directly to the student as well (depending on what Mike's feedback is), as the young man may already be hired or have other offers. Joe said he spoke with Marty about this, and Marty is in favor of the plan. The Board agreed that Rick should contact Mike Lynch and go from there.

Public Comment: Abbas Rahbari, 1613 Manley Road – Advised the Board not to hire someone strictly on their academic achievements but to consider the kind of well-rounded person that would succeed in such a job, where the employee has to wear many hats.

Kathryn Yahraes of the Historical Commission suggested the Board consider developing an internship program at the Township to work with students on an ongoing basis. Carmen noted that would demand a lot of Rick's time, and said the Board would probably just explore creating and filling this particular position for the time being.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Meddings
Recording Secretary