

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
GOSHEN FIREHOUSE, 1320 PARK AVE.
December 16, 2008 – 7:00pm**

Present: Chairman Marty Shane, Vice-Chairman Carmen Battavio, Joe McDonough, Don McConathy and Thom Clapper. Also present were Township Manager Rick Smith, Township Solicitor Jeff Sommer, and Kathryn Yahraes (Historical Commission).

WORKSHOP

Review of Minutes

The draft minutes of November 12, November 18, and December 2 were reviewed and corrected.

Invoices

Current invoices were reviewed. The Board would like Rick to check on Rettew invoice #20914 to make sure it's not a duplicate.

Newsletter Bids

The Board discussed Rick's December 11 memo regarding newsletter bids. They agreed to award the bid to GraphiColor in Vineland, NJ. Marty, Don and Carmen said they would prefer to have the newsletters printed on glossy paper. Joe and Thom would prefer less-expensive three-color newsletters.

Police Issues

The Board discussed whether WEGO should provide service to Cheyney University. The consensus of the Board was to explore this option. The Board also discussed the number of full-time police officers WEGO should have on staff.

Committee Assignments

The committee assignments for 2009 will be as follows:

Police Finance CommitteeJoe and Carmen
Township Finance CommitteeMarty and Don
Metered Billing CommitteeDon and Thom

Request for Walking Lane in the Corporate Park

The Board discussed a resident's request for the Township to install a walking lane in the Corporate Park. Carmen said the walking lane would have to be taken from the traffic lanes, which would not leave enough space for two trucks to pass. Rick suggested installing "Watch for Pedestrian" signs as an option. The Board asked Rick to look into this and provide a recommendation.

TMACC Request for Corporate Sponsorship and Advertising for 2009

The Board reviewed TMACC's request and unanimously agreed not to participate in 2009 due to budgetary constraints.

Sewer & Refuse Liens

The Board discussed the December 9 letter from Jeff Sommer on this topic. The Board agreed to rewrite Resolution 08-51 to conform with Jeff’s findings. The revised resolution will be voted on in January.

FORMAL MEETING

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Marty called the meeting to order at 8:00pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Recording of Meeting

Resident Abbas Rahbari of 1613 Manley Road said he would be recording the meeting and that he reserved the right to “record and transmit” the proceedings.

Moment of Silence

Carmen called for a moment of silence to honor of the men and women serving their country in the armed forces, and their families. He then wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Introductions

Marty welcomed the audience to the meeting and introduced the Supervisors, Township Solicitor Jeff Sommer, Sgt. Rick Gorman, the court reporter and the recording secretary to the audience.

Chairman’s Report

Marty announced that the Board met in Executive Session on December 9 to interview an ABC candidate.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Metro PCS, 25 Edgewood Road, Conditional Use Application

Jeff Sommer announced that the Metro PCS hearing will be continued to January 5 at the request of the applicant.

Sewer Rate Increase

The Board conducted a public hearing to consider adoption of an ordinance amendment authorizing a sewer rate increase as follows:

	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>
<i>Single-Family Residences</i>	<i>\$80/quarter</i>	<i>\$146/quarter</i>
<i>Multi-Family Owner-Occupied Residences</i>	<i>\$68/quarter</i>	<i>\$79/quarter</i>
<i>Apartments</i>	<i>\$68/quarter</i>	<i>\$86/quarter</i>

Commercial rates will increase from \$4.57 per 1,000 gallons to \$27.06 per quarter plus \$6.36 per 1,000 gallons

Carmen moved to adopt the amendment. Don seconded the motion.

After hearing public comment, the Supervisors voted 3:2 to approve the motion. (Joe and Thom were opposed.)

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

FORMAL MEETING (Resumed)

Approval of the Minutes

Carmen moved to approve the minutes of November 12, November 18 and December 2 as corrected in Workshop. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report for December 16, 2008:

	RECEIPTS	EXPENDITURES
GENERAL FUND		
Real Estate Tax	\$ 0.00	
Earned Income Tax	\$ 33,387.96	
LST	\$ 0.00	Accounts Payable \$ 91,092.09
Transfer Tax	\$ 0.00	Debt Service \$ 0.00
Codes, Park & Rec, Etc.	\$ 443.20	Payroll \$ 40,000.00
Total Receipts	\$ 33,831.16	Total Expenditures \$ 131,092.09
Zoning Hearing Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
State Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Capital Reserve	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Transportation Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Sewer Operating	\$ 2,029.47	\$ 6,313.15
Refuse	\$ 3,608.72	\$ 74,621.18
Capital Projects	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

Joe moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted, and the receipts, and to approve the expenditures reviewed in Workshop with the exception of Rettew invoice #20914 for \$946.68, until it is verified the invoice is not a duplicate bill. Thom seconded the motion.

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

Police Report

Sgt. Rick Gorman reported there were 594 calls for police service from East Goshen during the month of November.

Public Comment: Art Polishuk, 1424 Grand Oak Lane – Asked if there were 594 individual calls or if some of them could be duplicates within the various categories of calls. Sgt. Gorman said there were 594 individual calls.

Public Comment: Abbas Rahbari, 1613 Manley Road – Had a question about home invasions occurring in other Townships.

Public Comment: Leo Andrew Sinclair, 207 Lochwood Lane – Had a question about the definition of burglary vs. theft.

2009 Police Budget

Joe moved to adopt the 2009 police budget. Carmen seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

2009 Township Budget

Joe moved to adopt the 2009 Township budget. Carmen seconded the motion.

Public Comment: Art Polishuk, 1424 Grand Oak Lane – Asked how much the real estate tax will increase in 2009. Marty told him there will be no real estate tax increase in 2009. Mr. Polishuk then asked if there are any contingency funds in the budget. Marty told him there are no contingencies because the Board took a very conservative approach to revenue projections for 2009. Joe told Mr. Polishuk there will be an estimated \$400K deficit in 2009. Mr. Polishuk asked if the 2009 budget includes funds for the Supervisors to go to Hershey this year and to have a public meeting there. Marty said yes. Mr. Polishuk said he does not think it right for the Board to have a public meeting in Hershey. Marty said the Board has funds in the budget for a trip to Hershey, but no decision has been made about whether the long-range planning meeting will be held in Hershey or not.

Public Comment: Leo Andrew Sinclair, 207 Lochwood Lane – Had questions about the expense of the trail along Line Road. Marty told him the Township received a grant for the project and the Township's out-of-pocket expense will be less than \$50K. Mr. Sinclair then said that \$120K is too much to pay an Assistant Township Manager. Marty noted there is not much difference between that salary and the salary Kathy Glass was receiving before she passed away. Mr. Sinclair then objected to the budgeted amount of \$14K for an ABC appreciation event. Marty said the Board has not decided whether to hold that event in 2009 or not. Mr. Sinclair then asked how much the Board spent on the ABC appreciation event this year, and Marty said \$12K. Marty then stated that overall, the Board trimmed \$300K from the 2009 budget. Mr. Sinclair then had a question about Mark Gordon's salary, and Rick Smith explained that while Mr. Gordon is deployed for military service, the Township pays the difference between his military compensation and his Township salary. Mr. Sinclair then asked if the Township is paying to fly in out-of-state candidates to interview for the Assistant Township Manager position. Marty said the Township has not paid to fly in any candidates.

John Schorn, 1401 Larch Lane – Said he is opposed to any Township employees receiving a salary increase in 2009. He said the Township has too many office employees. Not all of them are needed and the Board needs to eliminate some jobs. Mark Miller is the only Township employee who does a good job. Mr. Schorn said there is an excessive number of police officers on the payroll too. The Township should hire a private investigator to check out all the officers out on Workman's Comp to make sure they are legitimate.

Bill Egan, Mill Creek Drive – Asked for clarification if the \$120K salary for the Assistant Township Manager position includes benefits. Marty said the \$120K figure is a combination of salary and benefits. Mr. Egan then asked what happened to the \$700K earned income tax windfall the Township received in 2008. Marty said it fully funded some capital reserve items.

Public Comment: Abbas Rahbari, 1613 Manley Road – Stated that when he moved to the Township in 1986 there was one building inspector, and now the Township has four people to handle the same job duties. He stated the Township employees do not work, but instead walk around the Township building like they are in a country club. The police officers are also not working hard and are wasting time getting coffee. The Township needs to investigate these things to save the taxpayers money. He then gave accolades to Public Works Director Mark Miller.

There was no further public comment, and no discussion among the Board. The Supervisors voted 4:1 to approve the 2009 budget. (Thom was opposed).

Lexington - Escrow Release #5, Lot 12 Goshen Parkway

Thom moved to approve Escrow Release #5 for Lexington at Lot 12, Goshen Parkway in the amount of \$76,064.66 per the December 2, 2008 recommendation of Public Works Director Mark Miller. The amount of \$89,064.66 was requested, but \$24,144.00 will be withheld for the following:

- Wearing course not completed
- 20% landscaping withheld until spring
- \$5,000 in contingency funds
- As-builts not complete

The balance after this release will be \$24,144.00. Carmen seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

ABC Appointments for 2009

Marty announced the following ABC appointments for 2009:

Historical Commission

Kathryn Yahraes
Jason Young
Joe Zug

Conservancy Board

Sandra Snyder
Mark Kawecki

Planning Commission

Susan Carty
Charles Proctor

Zoning Hearing Board

Janet Emanuel

Municipal Authority

Jack Yahraes

Park & Rec Board

Bob Huebner

Newsletter Award

Thom moved to accept the 2009 newsletter bid from GraphiColor of Vineland, NJ for three-color newsletters in the amount of \$14,080. Joe seconded the motion.

Public Comment: Leo Andrew Sinclair, 207 Lochwood Lane – Asked if glossy newsletters are recyclable. Rick said yes.

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

Correspondence and Reports of Interest

Marty acknowledged receipt of the following:

- Fire Marshal Report and Goshen Fire Company Report for November 2008.
- Letter from resident Donald Coover dated December 1, 2008 about the sewer rate increase.

Meetings & Dates of Importance

Marty noted the list of upcoming meetings as listed in the agenda. The Historical Commission is planning to hold a workshop on January 10 immediately following the Township Planning Session.

Public Comment

Bill Egan, Mill Creek Drive – Asked for clarification on whether the LST tax stays in the Township of a person's employer, or goes to the Township where he resides. Rick said it stays in the Township of the employer.

John Schorn, 1401 Larch Lane – Asked when the 2009 salary increases for Township employees will go into effect. Marty said on January 1. Mr. Schorn then commended Philadelphia Mayor Nutter for taking a voluntary pay cut, and he commended Supervisor Thom Clapper for voting independently from the other Supervisors in regard to the budget.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Meddings
Recording Secretary