

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORKSHOP  
1580 PAOLI PIKE  
January 29, 2009 – 7:00pm**

*Note: This meeting was originally scheduled for January 27 but was postponed to January 29 due to inclement weather.*

**Present:** Chairman Marty Shane, Don McConathy, Joe McDonough and Thom Clapper. Vice-Chairman Carmen Battavio was present for the latter portion of the meeting. Also present were Township Manager Rick Smith, Assistant Township Manager Joe Gill, and Kathryn Yahraes (Historical Commission).

**WORKSHOP**

**Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Marty Shane called the meeting to order at 7:02pm and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Recording of Meeting**

No residents indicated they planned to record the meeting.

**Use of Township Building as a Polling Place**

Mike Steinberger, the Republican Committeeman for Precinct 1, was present to discuss the use of the Township building as a polling place. Mike said he is concerned that moving the polling place will not be in the best interest of the large population of elderly voters, especially those with ambulatory problems. Mike reported that he measured how many steps/paces voters would have to take to access the Township building as a polling place (30 steps), East Goshen Elementary School (70-75 steps if using handicapped ramp) and the Chamber of Commerce Building (50-55 steps). He said there are still voters in the precinct who are unsure about where they are supposed to vote, and if the polling place is moved again it will cause more confusion. Mike said the only times he has seen lines for voting and a significant wait time was during the 2004 and 2008 Presidential elections. He urged the Board to carefully consider the decision whether or not to close the Township Building as a polling place, and not to make a hasty decision. Mike noted that if the voting gets moved to East Goshen Elementary, it will only work out if school is not in session that day.

Joe McDonough asked Mike who makes the decision about where to locate a polling place, and Mike said Voter Services. Joe asked Mike if he thought the Township's large conference room could be split to accommodate two precincts at once. Mike said that might work for a primary election, but not for a Presidential election.

The Board thanked Mike for his input.

### **Pennsylvania Leadership Charter School (PALCS)**

Lou Colagreco, Esq. was present for PALCS, along with Jim Hanak, Eileen Rothrock, Bill Wilson, and Jane Ferris from the school. John Fuchs, owner of the building at 1585 Paoli Pike, was also present.

Mr. Colagreco explained that PALCS is interested in using the vacant building at 1585 Paoli Pike for their University Scholars program for gifted middle-school and high-school students. Unlike the Cyber Charter School students, the University Scholars students attend classes onsite. The building in question is located in the C-5 zoning district, which would have to be rezoned to include a school use.

Joe asked if PALCS would make any changes to the property. Mr. Colagreco said they would make modifications to the interior of the building only. Initially the Cyber Charter School faculty would be located on the second floor and the University Scholars program would be on the first floor. The Cyber Charter School faculty would be moved to another location as student enrollment increases.

Jane Ferris, Director of the University Scholars program, briefed the Supervisors on the program. She said there are currently 91 students in the program, and there will be 125 next year. Their goal is to have 250 students in five years. The students come from all over the state. The students attend classes every other day, and there are several evening events during the year. To get into the program, a student must already be in PALCS and must meet specific criteria as well as be highly motivated. The program is very hands-on, with a low faculty-to-student ratio.

Don said it sounds like the program numbers have already grown from what he heard from the school back in December. He asked what is the maximum number of students that can fit in the building. Ms. Ferris said 250. She said there are approximately 15 students per class, with a maximum of 20.

The issue of parking was then raised. Ms. Ferris said not all of the students of driving age will drive to school, and because some students come a long distance, there is a lot of carpooling. Marty explained that the Township needs to have a clear idea of what the parking situation will be under a worst-case scenario. The Township may have to require a parking space for every employee and for every student of driving age. John Fuchs said the building has 189 parking spaces. Mr. Colagreco said once the school is maxed out with students, and the faculty vacates the second floor, only 53 faculty parking spaces will be required. Don said the Supervisors are confident the building has adequate parking space, but they need to know specific numbers in order to properly word the ordinance. Marty asked Ms. Ferris what would be the worst-case parking scenario. She said probably the two Fridays per month when the middle-school and high-school students have classes at the same time. Based on Ms. Ferris' responses it appears that the worst-case student parking requirement is 64 spaces when the maximum enrollment of 250 students is reached.

Marty asked Ms. Ferris about the school's hours of operation. Ms. Ferris said school starts at 8:45am on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and at 9:00am on Tuesdays and Thursdays. School is over at 3:30pm, but there are after-school activities until 4:30pm. There are also

occasional evening events such as talent shows, back-to-school nights, and movie nights. Marty advised the school representatives to carefully consider how many people might come out during a worst-case scenario evening event, as that information will have to be put on record during testimony at the time of the hearing.

Don suggested some wording to add to the definition of Cyber Charter School Campus in the ordinance.

Marty asked the school representatives about their timeline. Jim Hanak said they would like to be in the building by September, meaning they will require full access to make modifications well in advance of that in order to be ready to go by August 1. Mr. Colagrecó said the conditional use application was filed this week, and he plans to run the rezoning application concurrently with the conditional use application to ideally get approval by April or May. To this end he would like to get the ordinance language finalized in February.

Mr. Hanak then mentioned that for any building that PALCS will own in East Goshen, they would like to have the same tax arrangement (paying a fee in lieu of taxes) as they currently have for their building in the corporate park. In addition, if the school moves into 1585 Paoli Pike, they would like to discuss sharing internet services with the Township.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The Supervisors reviewed the draft minutes of January 17 and January 20 and made corrections. Don moved to approve the minutes of January 17 and January 20, 2009 as corrected. Thom seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The motion passed unanimously.

### **ABC Goals**

The Supervisors briefly reviewed the binders Joe Gill assembled which contain the 2009 goals and the Comprehensive Plan goals. They discussed the best way to sort and categorize this information. Joe McDonough wants Joe Gill to check the ABC goals to see if they are in line with the Comprehensive Plan goals. Don suggested Joe Gill review the ABC goals from the past four years. Joe Gill will email the Supervisors on Monday with an estimate of how long it will take him to put this information together. Once they hear from Joe Gill, the Supervisors can schedule a special meeting to review the ABC goals. They will try to meet during the daytime.

### **Bills**

Current invoices were reviewed.

## **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's Report for January 21, 2009:

	<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>		
Real Estate Tax	\$ 0.00	
Earned Income Tax	\$ 58,438.98	
LST	\$ 0.00	Accounts Payable \$ 18,396.33
Transfer Tax	\$ 0.00	Debt Service \$ 0.00
Codes, Park & Rec (2009)	\$ 10,407.36	Payroll \$ 40,000.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 68,846.34</b>	<b>Total Expenditures \$ 58,396.33</b>
State Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Capital Reserve	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Transportation Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Sewer Operating	\$ 85,287.48	\$ 150,254.30
Refuse	\$ 46,779.36	\$ 25.00
Capital Projects	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

Joe moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted, and the receipts, and to approve the expenditures just reviewed. Thom seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The Board voted unanimously to pass the motion.

### **Resolution 09-34, Establishing and Consolidating the Various Fees and Charges Imposed Pursuant to the Code of the Township**

Rick will modify this resolution, which was approved on January 20, so that fees for copies of documents will match the fees required by the new Right-To-Know law. The Board can then re-approve the amended resolution.

### **Recycling in 2008**

The Board reviewed the January 22 memo and bar charts from Mark Miller on this topic. Marty told Rick he would like to see the bar charts revised to show data from the past five years.

### **Costs to Keep Park Restrooms Open During the Winter**

The Board reviewed Mark Miller's January 23 memo on this topic, and had a lengthy discussion on whether to keep the restrooms open during the winter, or to close them and rent port-a-potties. At the close of the discussion, Marty, Don and Thom were in favor of keeping the restrooms open, and Joe was opposed. (Carmen had not yet arrived.)

### **Employee Flex Benefit Plan**

The Board reviewed Joe Gill's January 23 informational memo on this topic.

### **Status of RCSTP Expansion Project**

The Board reviewed a list of expenses for this project as of January 23. The Board told Rick they would have preferred the expenses be incorporated into the original bid so they would not have to be paid out of the contingency funds. Marty asked Rick to send the Supervisors an email listing what the projected Township expenses will be for the duration of the project and at the

completion of the project (site restoration costs). Joe asked Rick if the expenses incurred are being considered a Municipal Authority expense, and Rick said yes.

[Carmen Battavio arrived at this point.]

### **Email Policy**

The Board had a lengthy discussion about the email policy and how it aligns with the new Right-To-Know law. Rick will revise the policy incorporating changes suggested by Don, and redistribute it for review.

### **Park & Rec Storage**

The Board reviewed Rick's January 23 memo on this topic. No one was opposed to Rick's recommendation to move Park & Rec items from the basement to a specially constructed new room in the Annex. This will free up space in the basement for office file storage.

### **How Does an Absent Supervisor Convey His Position?**

The Board discussed how a supervisor who is absent from a meeting should convey his opinion on a particular topic to the rest of the Board. Joe said if someone is going to be absent, they should give their opinion ahead of time to Rick, who will apprise the Board at the beginning of the discussion. It should be done at the beginning of the discussion so that everyone has equal information. Carmen said the Chairman should be the one to be informed and to convey the absent supervisor's position. Don said if a supervisor is not present at a meeting, his opinion should not be expressed or be part of the discussion. Thom said an absent supervisor obviously cannot vote, but may have an opinion to share that will shed more light on an issue that is of value to the rest of the Board. Marty said he personally has no problem with the way the Board currently conducts its business, and agreed with Carmen that the absent supervisor's opinion should be conveyed to the Chairman. Don said that no input should be taken from a supervisor that is going to be absent from a meeting. The Board decided that if a Supervisor is unable to attend a meeting and wants their opinion expressed, he will contact the Chairman. The Chairman will indicate the absent Supervisor's opinion prior to any discussion by those Supervisors present. All the Supervisors agreed to this except Don, who feels that since an absent Supervisor cannot vote, their opinion should not be provided.

### **Board Member Concerns**

Don expressed disappointment with the January 26 letter received from the Township Solicitor on the topic of the Expenditure Register in regard to the new Right-To-Know law. Don said the letter does not answer his question on whether the Register is a public document at the beginning of the meeting or after the Board approves it. Rick will pose the question to the solicitor again and ask for a definitive answer.

### **Public Comment**

*Kathryn Yahraes* – Asked a question about the Right-To-Know law.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further public comment, the meeting adjourned at 10:05pm.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board met in Executive Session from 10:05pm to 11:00pm to discuss a the police labor contract, a personnel matter, and a pending legal matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Meddings  
Recording Secretary