

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORKSHOP
1580 PAOLI PIKE
April 28, 2009 – 7:00pm
APPROVED MINUTES**

Present: Chairman Marty Shane, Vice-Chairman Carmen Battavio, Don McConathy, Joe McDonough and Thom Clapper. Also present were Township Manager Rick Smith, Assistant Township Manager Joe Gill, Public Works Director Mark Miller, Kathryn Yahraes (Historical Commission), Jane Fava (Conservancy Board), Jim McRee (DMC), and Township Solicitor Kristin Camp.

WORKSHOP

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Marty Shane called the meeting to order at 7:01pm and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Moment of Silence

Carmen called for a moment of silence to honor the men and women serving their country in the armed forces, and their families.

Eagle Scout Project

Eagle Scout candidate Mike Magnotta was present with his father to discuss his request for Township funding for his Eagle Scout project, a shelter he wants to build on the Applebrook side of East Goshen Park. Mike said he has already raised \$1,500 of the \$2,700 needed for the project.

Don asked Mike who will supervise the project. Mike said that he, his father, and Mark Miller will oversee the project, as well as a former scout leader who is an architect and the fathers of other scouts. Marty added that if the project goes forward the Township's Building Inspector would inspect the shelter as well. Don advised Mike he would need to take necessary precautions to ensure the safety of those working on the shelter.

Joe McDonough asked Mark Miller if the shelter is a project on the Park & Rec Board's to-do list, and Mark indicated it is not.

Thom asked Mike if the shelter can be scaled down in size to reduce costs. Mike explained the size of the shelter is what it is so that no sawing will be involved. Scouts are not allowed to use power tools. Mike added that although the picture he had passed around showed a sloped roof, the roof of the shelter he plans to build will be flat. Thom asked again if the shelter size could be reduced so that it will accommodate a bench instead of a picnic table to save money on materials. Mike explained again that the size of the shelter was developed to involve the least amount of wood cutting.

Carmen told Mike that in the absence of a written Township policy on Eagle Scout projects, he would like to commend him on his desire to build a shelter in the park but he personally does not feel comfortable committing tax dollars toward the project, especially such a large amount during these difficult economic times. Carmen expressed concern that doing so would set a precedent that would open up the Township to many such requests. Carmen told Mike he would be happy to give him a personal contribution, however.

Don said he had sons who were Eagle Scouts, so he has some experience with these matters, but he has never seen such an expensive Eagle Scout project. He said he cannot support putting tax dollars toward this project.

Mr. Magnotta (Mike's father) asked if the Board would consider approving the project if Mike raised the rest of the funding himself or else scaled back the project. Carmen said he would, as long as the project is built to Township specifications.

Joe told Mike the shelter is a worthwhile project but he would like Mike to do some fundraising to cover the cost. He said he is reluctant to use Township funds for the project, but would be willing to make a personal contribution.

Thom said he would be happy to support a smaller project, or the project at its present size if Mike is able to raise the funds himself.

Marty said he is willing to approve up to \$1,000 of Township money toward the project if Mike raises the rest, because there is value in the project. However, due to the economic climate if Mike thinks he could raise the entire amount himself, he should strive to do so. Marty told Mike he would like to see the project completed and for Mike to become an Eagle Scout, but he would greatly prefer the funding be raised by Mike. Marty added that the Township needs to develop a written policy for such matters.

There was then some discussion on whether there are funds for this project in the Park & Rec budget. Mark Miller indicated there is some Township funding available for scouting projects, but nothing set aside in this amount for this particular project.

Joe asked Mike what his timeline is for completing the project. Mike and his father said the project needs to be done before the end of May. His father added that he believes Mike will be able to raise the funding by himself.

Rick suggested that Mike talk to Mark Miller about a less-expensive type of shingle he might consider using to save money.

There was then a brief discussion on whether the Supervisors must authorize the project or not. It was agreed that the Park & Rec Board would be the authorizing body.

Public Comment Period

Marty announced that because this was a workshop meeting with a heavy agenda, all public comment would be taken at the end of the evening, the only exception being when a motion is put on the floor.

Draft PALCS Order

The Board reviewed the revised draft PALCS order dated 4/28/09 with Township Solicitor Kristin Camp, PALCS attorneys Lou Colagregco and Alyson Zarro, and Dr. James Hanak and Jane Ferris from PALCS. A number of changes were made to the conditions. Kristin Camp said she would revise the order and send the revisions to the Supervisors. Marty announced that the Board will render its decision on the PALCS Conditional Use application at the May 12 meeting.

Minutes

The draft minutes of April 14 were not in the packets; therefore, they will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Bills

The Treasurer’s Report and Expenditure Register Report were reviewed. Don expressed concern that payments for tree work are not being charged to the correct account. Marty requested that Joe Gill review the accounting of the invoices before they come to the Supervisors. The Supervisors should only have to review the legitimacy of the expenses, not the accounting behind them.

Treasurer’s Report & Expenditure Register Report

The current Treasurer’s Report and Expenditure Register Report were reviewed.

The Treasurer’s Report for April 23, 2009:

	RECEIPTS	EXPENDITURES
GENERAL FUND		
Real Estate Tax	\$ 20,138.98	
Earned Income Tax	\$ 73,629.30	Accounts Payable \$ 330,679.35
LST	\$ 1,000.00	Electronic Payments \$ 54,119.11
Transfer Tax	\$ 24,904.22	Debt Service \$ 205,582.30
Codes, Park & Rec (2009)	\$ 38,490.79	Payroll \$ 80,000.00
Total Receipts	\$ 158,163.29	Total Expenditures \$ 670,380.76
State Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Capital Reserve	\$ 0.00	\$ 805.00
Transportation Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Sewer Operating	\$ 197,383.95	\$ 243,973.31
Refuse	\$ 93,547.87	\$ 10,974.03
Capital Projects	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

Joe moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report and Expenditure Register Report dated April 23 as recommended by the Treasurer in her April 24, 2009 memo to the Board, to accept the receipts and to authorize payment of the invoices just reviewed. Don seconded the motion.

Public Comment: Bill Egan, Mill Creek Drive – Had a question about mileage reimbursement for Township employees. He then asked what was the total cost for the Supervisors' recent trip to Hershey. Marty said he did not have the total yet, but would soon, after all the expense reports had been submitted. He noted that the cost will be significantly less than last year. There was no further public comment and no discussion. The Board voted and the motion passed unanimously.

Bond for Assistant Township Manager

The Board reviewed Rick's April 23 memo on obtaining a \$150K bond on the Assistant Township manager. The Supervisors concurred with Rick's recommendation to obtain the bond. The Township will pay the premium.

Resolution 09-48, Establishing the Policy for Disposal of Fill Dirt

The Board reviewed the fill dirt policy drafted by Rick. Don wanted point #1 modified to indicate that the transfer of the dirt to an individual or business will be scheduled by the Public Works Department, to be done at their convenience. Rick will revise the document.

Don also wanted the resolution to state who would be responsible for loading/unloading the dirt. He noted that having this resolution in place will mean an employee must be present at the Township yard to monitor who takes the dirt. Rick said that the issues raised by Don would be handled by Mark Miller or the Public Works Department on a case-by-case basis with each requestor.

Mill Creek Easement

The Board reviewed the language of the Access License Agreement provided by Synthes USA and had no comments or changes.

Comcast Generators

Rick said Rich Werner from Comcast will be present at the May 12 meeting to discuss the painting and screening of the generators.

Alarm Ordinance

The Board reviewed the latest draft of the Alarm Ordinance. Don had no additional changes to make. The Board will take action on this item on May 12.

Public Comment

John Schorn, Larch Lane – Asked for an update on the Sunoco monitoring well situation. Rick said the Township has sent Sunoco the revised agreement and is waiting for their response. Mr. Schorn asked if any legal expenses have been incurred for this matter, and Rick said no. Mr. Schorn requested that the Board hold a special public meeting to discuss the police budget to explain to the residents why police services cost so much money. Marty said the police budget information is available on the website, and noted that the budget is a completely separate matter from the bargaining. Marty told Mr. Schorn he could explain the police budget in 30 seconds. The police budget is 44% of the net cost of operating the Township. Approximately 88% of the police budget is the officers salaries and benefits, which are contractual. Another 6-8% is for

cars and insurance, which leaves 4-6% over which there is some discretion. Mr. Schorn wanted more information and said he planned to file a Right-To-Know request with the Township. Mr. Schorn asked if a public meeting was held in Hershey, and Marty said no; the meeting that is usually held in Hershey will take place at the Township building this year on May 28. Mr. Schorn asked the status of hiring a sewer project manager. Rick said a project manager has been hired. Mr. Schorn asked how much the person will be paid, and Rick said the project manager will be paid \$175K for the duration of the project. Don said the person has been retained through next July. Mr. Schorn then had a question about the decision not to pave the access road to the Mill Creek ballfield. Mr. Schorn said he supports the Eagle Scout project proposed by Mike Magnotta and he thinks the Board should have agreed to fund the project since it will be an asset to the Township. Marty told Mr. Schorn that he personally agreed with him, but there was a difference of opinion on the Board and the vote did not go in favor of funding the project.

Bill Egan, Mill Creek Drive – Asked if the April 7 minutes have been approved, because they were listed on the agenda but not reviewed at this meeting. Marty said those minutes were already approved and were listed again in error. Mr. Egan asked if there was any benefit from the Supervisors attending the meeting in Hershey. Marty said he served on a panel while there, and the benefit was getting to network with other Townships. Mr. Egan said there have been problems with getting minutes from the Deer Management Committee (DMC). Marty said he knows they've had some issues with their Recording Secretary which may have caused the gaps. Jim McRee of the DMC said he was only aware of two missing sets of minutes – the minutes from last September are missing due to an issue with the Recording Secretary, and the March 2009 minutes are missing because they were not included in the April packet sent to the DMC. Don asked Joe Gill to check into this matter. Mr. Egan then had a question about the Township's financial audit. Rick said the audit has been completed by Maillie, Falconiero & Company but their report has not been issued yet.

Kathryn Yahraes, Vista Drive – Reported that Keep East Goshen Beautiful Day on April 18 was very successful, although a couple of groups still have to complete their part. Over 60 volunteers participated, collecting over 80 bags of trash. A report from Jack Yahraes will be forthcoming. Kathryn announced that a strategy meeting will be held on May 6 or May 13 at the Township building to discuss fundraising efforts for the Hershey's Mill dam. The group is continuing to search for sources of funding to save the dam. Kathryn indicated that a quorum of the Historical Commission would not be present at the fundraising meeting, and therefore the Board determined there was no requirement to advertise the meeting. Kathryn then told the Board that Linda Gordon plans to donate her royalties from the *Images of America* book toward items for the Plank House.

John Buonanno – Asked if there is a proposal to link the Hershey's Mill sewer system into the East Goshen sewer system, and Marty said no.

BOS Pending Actions List

The Board reviewed the Pending Actions list. Regarding the LED traffic lights, Carmen said he is in favor of proceeding and not waiting any longer for the grant. Marty requested Thom to

make some phone calls to find out when the “drop dead date” is for the grant. Marty said the Board will make a decision on this matter at the first meeting in July.

Marty asked Rick and Joe to provide the Board with up-to-date information about the Line Road path for the May 28 meeting.

Don suggested that Joe Gill add two additional items to the list: the Sunoco well issue and the Codes Department oversight of contractors issue.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Meddings
Recording Secretary