

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
1580 Paoli Pike
January 25, 2010 – 6:30pm
Final Approved Minutes**

Present: Chairman Don McConathy, Vice-Chairman Thom Clapper, Supervisor Marty Shane and Supervisor Carmen Battavio. Also present were Township Manager Rick Smith, Kathryn Yahraes (Historical Commission) and Jim McRee (Deer Committee).

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Don McConathy called the meeting to order at 6:30pm 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.

Recording of Meeting

No resident indicated they planned to record the meeting.

Interviews for New Supervisor

Don said the Board would be interviewing six candidates for the position of Township Supervisor to fill Joe McDonough's unexpired term. Don said that no comments from the public would be taken until the end of the interviews, and no comments would be taken on any other matter this evening. Don said the Board may or may not make a decision this evening.

The interview order was chosen by lottery as follows:

- 1) Carson Middleton
- 2) Peter Mylonas, Esq.
- 3) John A. Reidy, Ph.D.
- 4) John J. Hosey
- 5) Senya Isayeff
- 6) Howard Jones, DMD

However, since Carson Middleton was running late, he was moved to the final position and everyone else was moved up.

A summary of each interview follows.

Peter Mylonas, Esq.

Peter has lived in the Township since 1995. He has learned how Township government operates through his role on the Planning Commission, where he served as Chairman for two years. He is an attorney in solo practice and he is able to set his own schedule. While he does have younger children his wife is home with them full time. He is familiar with managing a business budget. He thinks the Township should strive for balance and avoid becoming overdeveloped. He

believes his listening skills, his ability to identify issues and to address them while applying the facts with a reasoned and logical approach would be assets to the Board. Peter said he would absolutely seek election to a full six-year term in 2011 if selected for the position. He expressed interest in liaising with the Conservancy Board, Planning Commission, and Park & Rec Boards if appointed to the position.

John A. Reidy, Ph.D.

Dr. Reidy has been a resident for approximately 20 months. He is a retired scientist/computer programmer. He is interested in getting involved in local affairs, and when he saw the Supervisor opening advertised he thought it might be a way he could serve the community. He said he is able to look at the pros and cons of issues and approach them in a very logical manner. He knows how to compromise on issues where necessary while still getting basic requirements met. Dr. Reidy has not been involved in local government before. He has an open schedule and would have plenty of time to devote to the position. Dr. Reidy has not had experience managing a business budget. When asked if he would seek election to a full six-year term in 2011, he said his first inclination is no, but he might reconsider if he really enjoyed the position. Dr. Reidy said he would be interested in working on the Township website whether or not he is appointed as Supervisor.

John J. Hosey

Mr. Hosey is a resident who believes his background in law, real estate, and in helping to run a family business make him a good candidate to serve with the Township. He has been a volunteer firefighter and engineer for the Goshen Fire Company since 2004. He also served as the Marketing Committee Chairman of the Greater Norristown Corporation from 2006 to 2008. Through his work in the family business he has experience with business budgets. He is currently self-employed and able to set his own schedule, with no small children to care for. Mr. Hosey said East Goshen provides a very good quality of life for the amount of taxes charged to residents. He said that from the outside it appears to be a very well-run Township. The attributes he believes he would bring to the job are his ability to approach things as logically and objectively as possible, as well as the fact that he tries to be a nice guy as much as possible. Mr. Hosey would be willing to seek election to a full six-year term in 2011, but said he is not very knowledgeable about the process.

Don told Mr. Hosey he was quite impressed with the very eloquent letter he wrote to the West Goshen Supervisors regarding the proposed Traditions development in West Goshen.

Senya Isaveff

Senya has been a resident of East Goshen since 1995. He believes the role of a Supervisor is to protect the quality of life in East Goshen, primarily through control of the budget. He applied for the position because he sees a need to protect East Goshen as a wonderful place to live. He believes his energy, talents, business experience, willingness to research and study issues, and follow-through skills would make him a good candidate for the position. In addition, he is proactive, and skilled in building consensus between parties. With one child in college and another about to leave the nest he has the time to devote to the position. Senya said that the commercial zone on Route 3 is not in keeping with the character of the rest of the Township, and he would like to work to make it more attractive to the residents and those wishing to locate here.

He would also like to aggressively pursue businesses to locate to East Goshen to fill the vacant real estate. Senya said he would be willing to seek election to a full six-year term in 2011 if the other Supervisors found him to be a suitable candidate who was serving the Township well and pulling his weight. Senya said if he was selected he would use his extensive contacts to help East Goshen work in a more collaborative way with other local municipalities. As a Supervisor he would make it his highest goal to protect, preserve, and perpetuate the way of life in East Goshen.

Howard Jones, DMD

Dr. Jones has been a resident of East Goshen since 1997. He knows the amount of time that would be involved in the position and is willing to make the commitment. He has considered the position very carefully and said that serving as a Supervisor is not a responsibility to take lightly. He is retired and has the time to devote to the position. He is very interested in learning more about the Township budget. He considers the residents to be like shareholders of a company, and the Board must act responsibly and answer to them. Dr. Jones said he is not afraid to speak up and share his opinion. He has an open mind, and is not afraid to be shown that sometimes he can be wrong about things. He has had experience serving the Township on the Planning Commission. In addition, he often attends Board meetings and Historical Commission meetings as an interested resident. Dr. Jones employed four specialists in his dental practice while he was still working, and he has had experience running a business budget. He has not yet decided whether or not he would run for election to a full six-year term if appointed. However, if he felt he was a strong contributor to the Board and if he still had the zest for it at that time, he would be willing to run.

Carson Middleton

Mr. Middleton has been a resident of East Goshen since 1991. He believes that a diverse township is a strong township, and thinks it would be good to bring a youthful perspective to the Board. He currently serves on the Township's Board of Auditors, and said he would be prepared to give up that position if appointed to the Board. Mr. Middleton said that although he applied for the Supervisor vacancy, he would be willing to serve the Township in any appropriate capacity where the Board thinks he would fit in best. When asked what needs he sees in the Township, Mr. Middleton said the shopping center on the corner of Paoli Pike & Boot Road has too many vacancies. He would also like to explore finding different sources of revenue for the Township. The attributes he would bring to the Board include youth and a willingness to devote a great deal of time to the position, as well as knowledge of all levels of government. He said he does not have business budget experience. If selected for the position, he would be most interested in liaising with the Park & Rec Board, and learning about zoning issues. When asked if he would run for election to a full six-year term if appointed, Mr. Middleton said his inclination would be to say no. Carmen asked if he had any experience writing grants and Mr. Middleton indicated he had a small knowledge of this area but not much experience. Thom asked him if had the time to devote to the position, given his demanding job working for the Carole Aichele campaign. Mr. Middleton said his days could be long but he would make the time if selected. He also indicated that he was always open to new employment opportunities and was also considering going to law school.

Public Comment

Leo Sinclair, Lochwood Lane – Asked if the Board would make a decision tonight. Don said he would have to see what the feeling of the other Board members was. Mr. Sinclair said he recommended the Board sleep on it before making a decision. Marty said that if the Board did not make a decision this evening they would no doubt be accused by some residents of deliberating behind closed doors.

Remarks from the Board

Carmen said he was very impressed with all six candidates, and their drive and willingness to “jump into the fire” of Township government. He said it speaks well for East Goshen to have such a diverse group of candidates willing to step up to the plate. He said he sees a good future for each of the candidates whether they get to serve on the Board or in another capacity for the Township.

Marty said he was also very pleased with the quality of the six candidates and thinks they would all bring something different and valuable to the table, and it’s almost a shame there is only one opening. He does, however, think it is very valuable for applicants to have some experience working for the Township.

Thom thanked the candidates for applying and coming out for the public interviews. He said he was disappointed that only a small handful of residents were present to see the candidates being interviewed, as this is an important matter.

Don thanked the candidates for their interest in the position, and said it was great to get to know them all. Those not selected as Supervisor would definitely be considered for other positions with the Township as openings come up. Don agreed with Marty that it is very helpful to have Township experience before becoming a Supervisor. He said he found his prior Planning Commission experience to be of great value in his role as Supervisor. Don regretted making an oversight and neglecting to invite John Chatley to the meeting this evening. In the event of a tie vote Mr. Chatley, would have to serve as the tie breaker.

Nomination of Senya Isayeff

Marty moved to nominate Senya Isayeff to fill Joe McDonough’s unexpired term as Supervisor. Carmen seconded the motion. Marty said it was a very difficult decision for him, and the choice ultimately came down to Senya and Peter Mylonas. Marty said that both gentlemen would be excellent Supervisors. However, knowing the time demands of the position, he felt that Peter would be at a slight disadvantage because he is still in the midst of raising a family, which in itself is a demanding job. Marty said that Peter would most assuredly be considered when there is another opening on the Board. The other deciding factor for him was the breadth of Senya’s contacts, which will be invaluable to the Board. For instance, Senya was instrumental in getting the Township a rent increase for the District Court. Marty said at this time he felt that Senya would be the most appropriate choice for the Township, but he hoped Peter would be able to join the Board in the future.

Thom said he personally had four criteria for selecting a candidate:

- Time to devote to the position

- Planning Commission experience
- Willingness to run for election
- Has a home on the public sewer system

Thom said Peter Mylonis was his choice for the position, as he alone meets all four criteria.

Carmen said he was looking for a candidate willing to serve East Goshen to the very best of his or her ability, and to fairly represent all 18,000 residents. He noted that networking is a extremely important in this position.

Don said that his previous Planning Commission experience has been very valuable to him in his role as Supervisor, so he would prefer a candidate with that background. Don then noted that he, Carmen, and Senya all live in close proximity to one another, which would merely be coincidental if Senya were to be selected. Don also commented that Senya enjoys speaking as much as Marty does, which could make for some long meetings.

Public Comment: Leo Sinclair, Lochwood Lane – Asked Marty if Senya Isayeff donated to his re-election campaign. Marty said no. Mr. Sinclair then asked if Senya was involved in Marty’s campaign in any capacity, and Marty said yes he was, as was Peter Mylonas.

Public Comment: Jim McRee, Oneida Lane – Said he thinks the Supervisors’ process for selecting a new Supervisor was very well done, fair and open. He said the Township could not go wrong by choosing either Peter or Senya.

Public Comment: Kathryn Yahraes, Vista Drive – Identified herself as Chairperson of the Historical Commission, and told the candidates there are always opportunities to serve the ABCs on a project basis, and there are frequent opportunities to serve on the ABCs as openings come up.

Vote on the Motion to Appoint Senya Isayeff

There being no further public comment, Don called for a roll call vote. The motion was passed in a 3:1 vote. Marty, Carmen and Don voted in favor in the motion to appoint Senya Isayeff. Thom was opposed.

Don told Senya that District Magistrate Chet Darlington would be present at the February 2 meeting to swear him in. Senya would not be able to cast any votes until being sworn in.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Meddings
Recording Secretary