

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORKSHOP
1580 PAOLI PIKE
February 9, 2010 – 7:00pm
Final Approved Minutes**

Present: Chairman Don McConathy, Vice-Chairman Thom Clapper, Marty Shane, Carmen Battavio and Senya Isayeff. Also present were Township Manager Rick Smith, Assistant Township Manager Joe Gill, and Kathryn Yahraes (Historical Commission).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board met in Executive Session until 7:25pm to discuss a personnel matter.

WORKSHOP

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Don McConathy called the meeting to order at 7:26pm and led everyone in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Recording of Meeting

No resident indicated they planned to record the meeting.

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.

Bills

The Treasurer's Report and Expenditure Register Report were reviewed.

Treasurer's Report & Expenditure Register Report

See attached Treasurer's Report for February 4, 2010.

Thom moved to accept the Treasurer's Report of February 4 and the Expenditure Register Report as recommended by the Treasurer, to accept the receipts and to authorize payment of the invoices just reviewed. Marty seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Joe Gill reported that the Verizon bill Don had questioned at the previous meeting was for the disconnected phone at the park, and will not be paid. Verizon has been contacted about this billing error. Joe also reported that the camera questioned at a previous meeting was purchased to replace a 7-year-old camera used by the Codes Department.

Adoption of Resolution 10-11A Appointing Maillie, Falconiero & Company, LLP

Don had two small changes to the version of this resolution that was in the Board's packet. In the second paragraph starting with a "Whereas" he noted the date should be changed from

January 9 to January 7. Also, an extra space after the word Accountant toward the end of this paragraph should be deleted. Rick will make the changes to the final version.

Marty moved to adopt Resolution 10-11A, as amended, appointing Maillie, Falconiero & Company to replace the elected auditors of East Goshen Township for the purpose of making an examination of all the accounts of East Goshen Township for the 2009 fiscal year. Carmen seconded the motion.

Thom said he had no objection to appointing Maillie, Falconiero but asked should the Board consider appointing another firm next time.

Public Comment: Leo Sinclair, Lochwood Lane – Identified himself as one of three elected auditors for the Township and said he wanted to know: 1) What is scope of work involved, 2) Will this be a financial audit only and 3) Will it encompass the Municipal Authority and Fire Company. Mr. Sinclair was told that the answers to questions 1 and 2 could be found in the Scope of Work received from Maillie, Falconiero, and Mr. Sinclair was immediately provided with a copy. Mr. Sinclair was told that the Fire Company is responsible for making the decisions about the auditing of their own books, and the Municipal Authority has already separately decided to select Maillie, Falconiero to audit their books.

Mr. Sinclair then disputed the wording on the Township webpage saying that the Township is seeking “to replace the elected auditors” by considering the appointment of Maillie, Falconiero. He offered to have his attorney send corrected wording if the Board so wished. He then asked why the Township does not list its elected auditors on the webpage. Rick said he thought they were there but will double-check. Don said it was a reasonable request to list the names of the elected auditors but no bios would be posted. Carmen said that if the names are listed, phone numbers must be included. Mr. Sinclair said he had no problem sharing his contact information.

Carmen suggested the Board look at the Code to see if the elected auditors are permitted to communicate directly with the residents, or if communications must go through Township Staff. Mr. Sinclair said an auditor has a responsibility to work on behalf of the residents, but said he will not cross any lines, and that he is not on a hunting expedition. Mr. Sinclair also stated that he plans to refer to the Association of Local Government Auditors for guidance in doing his job. He made a number of other comments about the role of an auditor, etc. Don told Mr. Sinclair that elected auditors are not to impede the day-to-day work of the Township Staff.

There was no further discussion or public comment. The Board voted unanimously 4:0 to approve the motion (Carmen was out of the room when the vote was taken).

Tire Changer and Balancer

Marty moved to approve the purchase of a tire changer and a balancer at a combined cost of \$3,449.00 per the January 27 recommendation of Public Works Director Mark Miller. Purchasing these machines will save in tire purchases and labor costs. Thom seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The Board voted unanimously 4:0 to approve the motion (Carmen was out of the room).

Metered Billing

The Board discussed the status of the conversion to metered billing for public sewer usage. Don suggested billing in 100s of gallons instead of 1,000s of gallons to be more fair to users when rounding out bills. After some discussion the rest of the Board was in agreement with this approach.

Don said he would try to have a draft letter to the residents ready for review at the next meeting. Marty advised that once the letter is mailed out, Township staff should be prepared to answer a lot of phone calls from residents asking what their sewer bill will be. Carmen requested that a summary sheet of sample questions and answers be prepared for the staff and the Board to refer to so that everyone is giving the same (correct) response to inquiries from residents.

Senya asked what the net revenue effect of the change to metered billing will be. Don said there will be no change to the revenue bottom line. The Board then discussed whether to have cents on the bills or to bill only in whole dollars. Don said he and Joe would discuss this with Deb Beury. The Board then discussed fixed and variable cost increases for high-volume users. They also discussed how much money to keep in the Sewer Operating Fund for contingencies.

Public Comment: Joe Buonnano, Herron Lane – Said that the switch to metered billing for sewer usage is unfair and is a head tax on an essential service. The bulk of the cost and expense for the service will be borne by single families with children. He also stated that the cost of operating the sewer system should be paid out of the General Fund. Marty said that by law the Township must bill for sewer usage, and the Township has been requested to bill it this way by residents in the interest of fairness. He told Mr. Buonnano that the Board is also considering billing for trash removal in a similar manner (based on usage).

Carmen said the Township has received many calls from seniors, empty nesters, and snowbirds who are upset that they have to pay the same price for sewer service as do families with children. The Township does not get complaint calls from families with children about the cost of service.

PSATS Resolutions

Don asked if anyone had a suggested resolution for consideration at the upcoming PSATS convention. Thom recommended a resolution to eliminate the requirement to pay prevailing wage for construction work. Don said if anyone else thought of a resolution, to submit it to Rick before Friday.

Adjournment

Due to deteriorating weather conditions (snow), the meeting was adjourned at 8:47pm before many of the agenda items could be addressed. Discussion of these items will be postponed to a future meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Meddings

Recording Secretary

Attachments: Treasurer's Report