

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
1580 PAOLI PIKE
September 27, 2011 – 6:30pm
Final Approved Minutes**

Present: Chairman Senya D. Isayeff, Vice-Chairman Don McConathy, and Supervisors Carmen Battavio, Marty Shane and Thom Clapper. Also present were Township Manager Rick Smith, Brian McCool (Finance Dept.), Chuck Proctor (Zoning Hearing Board), Erich Meyer (Park & Rec), Jim McRee (Deer Committee and Planning Commission); and Jerry Fokas, Tom Stalnaker and Bob Fleming of the Goshen Fire Company.

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Senya called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. He asked Brian McCool to lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence

Carmen called for a moment of silence to honor the troops, EMS workers and police.

Presentation from Goshen Fire Company

Bob Fleming said the Fire Company's Board would be meeting later this week to review all the financial information that would be presented this evening. Therefore the Supervisors should realize the information is still preliminary. In fact it won't be completely finalized until early in January 2012.

General Information

Bob shared the Fire Company's Mission Statement, explained the role of the contemporary fire department (fire fighting, EMS, vehicular accidents, etc.), and listed their incident management priorities.

He said the Fire Company seeks to meet and exceed the expectations of the organizational stakeholders. They are interested in working with municipalities in "community risk reduction."

Bob noted that the Fire Company's call volume is increasing, as is the number of patients being served.

Thus far in 2011, 65% of the patients served have been 65 years or older. This is throughout their entire service area. In East Goshen the highest call volume is coming from Bellingham, Wellington, and Hershey's Mill.

From 1999 to 2011, the call volume from East Goshen increased 147%, with a 127% increase in patients. From 2000 to 2010, the call volume from East Goshen increased 82%, with a 66% increase in patients. The population of East Goshen increased 7.1% from 2000 to 2010.

Financial Information

Tom Stalnaker shared the Fire Company's preliminary 2012 budget, noting that he anticipates "significant changes" before the budget receives final approval in January 2012.

The largest sources of income for the Fire Company, in order, are:

- Ambulance Billing
- Donations from Townships Served
- Subscriptions from Residents and Businesses
- Fundraising
- Grants

Tom noted that most of the ambulance calls are for Medicare patients, and Medicare reimburses the Fire Company less than 50% of the total bill. Unfortunately the reimbursement rate is trending downward.

Tom said the Fire Company is requesting that Townships increase their donations this year by 10%. Bob Fleming said they are very open to discussing various "in kind" donations.

The largest expenses for the Fire Company are:

- Career Staff
- Vehicle Replacement
- Billing & Fundraising
- Vehicle Maintenance
- Utilities
- Fuel
- Operations Expenses
- Administrative Expenses

Since 2009 the Company's expenses have outpaced their income. This trend is projected to continue through 2015.

Tom noted that all fundraising efforts are very time consuming for staff and volunteers. The Fire Company would like to find a new source or stream of revenue, ideally something involving their land on Park Avenue.

Marty suggested they look into how the Malvern Fire Company sends out its fundraising letters, and consider structuring their fundraising appeal in a similar fashion. Tom was open to the idea but said Goshen currently send out up to 4 letters to each household per year.

Marty also suggested that they compare the Goshen Fire Company to other local fire companies of similar size to get a feel for how well they are doing in comparison, and to find out some ways they might be able to improve their efficiency and effectiveness.

Carmen asked the Fire Company to carefully consider their vehicle and apparatus replacement schedule. Is everything needed and used? Is more needed? Could they get by with less? Could some larger, specialized items be shared with other local companies? Bob assured Carmen that

they are already considering all these issues, and they discuss them with their contacts at the Main Line Fire Chiefs Association.

Marty said they need to seriously look into sharing large pieces of equipment with other fire companies. Tom said they are already sharing specialized equipment and skills with other companies.

Thom Clapper asked what has been the response rate from residents to the fundraising letters. Tom said he didn't have the exact number but it's under 30%. Senya asked what is the average donation from an East Goshen resident, and Tom said he did not know.

Thom Clapper asked what is the response rate from businesses to the fundraising letters. Tom Stalnaker said it's approximately 22%.

Thom Clapper asked what is the Fire Company's break even point for ambulance calls – how much would they have to be reimbursed to break even for a call. Tom Stalnaker said he was not sure but believes it would be something around \$500.

Marty asked that in the future, the Fire Company have their budget information to the East Goshen Supervisors no later than August every year. This information is needed by the Supervisors to help complete the Township's budget.

Senya thanked the Fire Company representatives for their time and information, and said the meeting had been very helpful and served as a strong beginning for future collaboration.

Jerry Fokas closed out by saying he had recently been asked what keeps him up at night as President of the Fire Company. He said what concerns him most is the downward direction they're headed in financially, and the lack of volunteers. He said they really need help from the Township.

Bob asked if it would be possible to have a volunteer drive event at the Township where various groups, including the Fire Company, could inform residents about their organizations and hopefully recruit new volunteers. Senya told him that the concept of a "Neighborhood University" is being revived in the area, which would provide such an opportunity for the Fire Company.

Recording of Meeting

No one indicated they would be recording the meeting.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

None.

Financial Report

Brian McCool of the Finance Department reviewed the YTD results as of August 31 and the year-end projections as of August 31. The Township had a \$289,531 favorable variance as of August 31.

Hershey Mill Dam

Resident Neil DeRiemer was unable to be present, but he had provided a hard copy update on his efforts to save the dam.

Senya noted that the Township received a legal opinion from the Township Solicitor this week regarding the Township's liability for the dam. Kristin Camp opined that East Goshen has a liability issue with respect to the trees on the dam and with the dam itself since no steps have been taken to correct any of the issues raised by DEP in 2007, 2008 and 2009.

Rick reviewed the cost estimates he obtained from Advanced GeoServices in 2010 to design and permit the pipe, weir and sheet piling options. These costs would now have to be adjusted for inflation. The Board discussed the estimates obtained by Neil DeRiemer to have core boring taken to a depth of 9 feet, which everyone agreed would be totally inadequate. Rick drew a sketch on the board to illustrate Neil's proposal.

Thom suggested taking down the minimum number of trees and applying for grant money to breach the dam. Thom said he had been told recently that grant money is now available to breach dams.

Don said he believes the Township has to take this issue over from the Friends of the East Goshen Historic Hershey's Mill Dam (FoHMD), although Neil DeRiemer could still have input.

Carmen stated that he has totally lost confidence in the residents' willingness to rally and come through on their promise to raise the money to save the dam. Carmen said he agreed with Tom that the minimum number of trees should be taken down now, and he also agreed with Don that the Township needs to take over the dam issue from the FoHMD. However, he did not agree with Don that Neil DeRiemer should be involved any longer.

Senya stated that the Township is responsible for the dam and should take the issue back from the FoHMD.

Thom said the entire Township should not have to bear the cost of saving the dam just so a handful of residents can benefit from the view it provides from their property.

Senya said he would like to schedule another time for the Board to vote on whether to save the dam or breach it, once the Supervisors have had time to review all the information on the matter. After some discussion about this, it was decided that Rick would provide the Board with copies of the latest cost estimates from Advanced GeoServices for the next meeting.

No decision was made on the trees.

Resolution 2011-64, Creating a Community Development Commission

Thom moved to adopt Resolution 2011-64 to create a Community Development Commission. Marty seconded the motion.

Don questioned whether the group should be a commission or committee. Senya said that making it a commission will give the members greater status and weight. Since they will be communicating with many different people out in the larger community and serving as representatives of East Goshen, that will be important.

Carmen asked if the members will have to be residents of East Goshen. Senya said that since the members will be representing East Goshen, he would prefer they be residents.

There was no further discussion and no public comment. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion. Rick will advertise for volunteers.

Laptops or iPads for the Supervisors

The Board discussed whether or not to stop getting paper packets and instead access the packets on laptops or iPads. Don expressed concern about the quality of the documents scanned and posted to the Township website. He would like that issue addressed if the Township decides to move in this direction.

Public Comment: Jim McRee, Bowen Way – Suggested that next Friday the Board use only the packet online (as posted to the web) to prepare for the October 4 meeting, and based on that experience decide whether or not they feel comfortable switching to an electronic format. He noted that if the Township moves in this direction, the packets as posted to the web will need to be broken up into many separate files (one per topic) to make future document retrieval easier for the Supervisors. Currently the packets are broken up into 1-3 files, with several topics in each file.

Yard Waste Pickup Schedule

The Board reviewed a proposed pickup schedule for 2012 prepared by Rick. There will be the same number of yard waste pickups as in 2011 (28 total).

Public Comment: Erich Meyer, Monte Vista Drive – Suggested the Township not pick up trash on October 31 because that means the cans will be out the evening of October 30 which is Mischief Night. The Board agreed to move the proposed October 31 pickup date to October 24.

The 2012 dates that Rick will ask Blosenski to pick up yard waste are as follows:

January 11 & 25	July 11 & 25
February 8 & 22	August 8 & 22
March 7 & 21	September 5 & 19
April 4 & 18	October 3, 17, 24
May 2, 16, 30	November 7, 14, 21, 28
June 13 & 27	December 5 & 19

Thom moved to adopt the proposed yard waste pickup schedule as revised this evening. Don seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Review of Minutes

The Board reviewed and corrected the draft minutes of September 20. Marty moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Don seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The Board voted and the motion passed unanimously, with one abstention (Carmen).

Treasurer's Report & Expenditure Register Report

See attached Treasurer's Report for September 22, 2011. The Board reviewed the Treasurer's Report and the current invoices. Thom moved to accept the Treasurer's Report of September 22 and the Expenditure Register Report as recommended by the Treasurer, to accept the receipts and to authorize payment of the invoices just reviewed. Don seconded the motion. There was no discussion and no public comment. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Any Other Matter

GIS - Rick mentioned that Ellen Carmody of the Historical Commission would like to include the Battle of the Clouds in the GIS. The Board said they would support this request and a letter will be sent to the County Commissioners.

Tire Asphalt - Senya reported that State Rep. Dan Truitt checked with PennDOT and tire asphalt is not approved for use in Pennsylvania at this time.

Contribution to Goshen Fire Company - Marty moved to give the Goshen Fire Company their donation for 2012 with the 10% increase they requested. However, the Fire Company should be informed that this is a one-time increase and is not to be expected on an ongoing basis. Carmen seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Night Lighting for Willistown Soccer Games – Rick will send a letter to Willistown informing them that an East Goshen resident has expressed opposition to the proposed night lighting towers, and the Board supports the resident.

Correspondence & Reports of Interest

Senya acknowledged receipt of a letter from Stephen H. Arnold regarding the proposed night lighting towers for the soccer fields in Willistown.

Meetings & Dates of Importance

Senya noted the upcoming meetings as listed in the agenda. The Board agreed to schedule an Executive Session meeting with Westtown for 7:00pm on October 10.

Public Comment Period

None.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50pm.

Anne Meddings

Recording Secretary

Attachment - Treasurer's Report