

**AGENDA**  
**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**POLICE SERVICES OPTIONS WORKSHOP**  
**Tuesday, September 11, 2012**  
**7:00 PM**

**The Board of Supervisors will be holding “Police Services Options Workshops” at 7:00 pm on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. These workshops will be devoted solely to the review and discussion of the police service options available to East Goshen Township. All residents are invited to attend and encouraged to participate in the discussions. Regular Township business will not be conducted at these workshops.**

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Moment of Silence – Supervisor Carmen Battavio
4. Ask if anyone is recording the meeting
5. New Business
  - a. Update on recent developments
  - b. Discussion
6. Minutes
  - a. August 14, 2012
  - b. August 28, 2012
7. September 25, 2012 Police Services Options Workshop, if needed
8. Adjournment

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**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
POLICE SERVICES OPTIONS WORKSHOP MEETING  
1580 PAOLI PIKE  
August 14, 2012 – 7:00pm  
Draft Minutes**

**Present:** Chairman Senya D. Isayeff, Vice-Chairman Thom Clapper and Supervisors Marty Shane, Carmen Battavio and Chuck Proctor. Also present were Township Manager Rick Smith, CFO Jon Altshul, Erich Meyer (Park & Rec), former Supervisor/Police Commissioner John Chatley, and reporter Michael Price from the *Daily Local*. Present from Westtown Township were Supervisors Charles Barber, Carol DeWolf and Tom Haws, Jr.

**Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance**

Senya called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Everyone said the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Moment of Silence**

Carmen Battavio called for a moment of silence to honor the troops.

**Recording of Meeting**

Michael Price of the *Daily Local* and resident Leo Sinclair recorded the meeting.

**Background from the Chairman**

Senya stated that the purpose of this meeting was to provide an update on the Thornbury contract and to review and discuss the various police service options available to the Township.

Senya said that WEGO is comprised of two charter townships – East Goshen and Westtown, with Thornbury as a contract client. Thornbury's contract with WEGO expires December 31, 2012. Thornbury has asked WEGO to extend their contract for one year. The two charter townships offered to cover Thornbury for another year at a cost of \$786,000 with the condition that Thornbury would have to indemnify the Police Commission for any increase in disability pension and post-employment medical costs in the event an officer is injured in Thornbury and would go out on a service-related disability pension. Senya explained that it would not be fair for the residents of the two charter townships to have to take on the long-term liability that would ensue if an officer injured in Thornbury retires on a service-related disability pension. The charter members decided it would be prudent to require the indemnification from Thornbury. While Thornbury is willing to pay the \$786,000, they rejected the indemnity provision requirement.

Senya said there have been informal discussions with the Police Association, whose members are also concerned about preserving the continuity of the current arrangement. Each Township has appointed liaisons to the Police Association.

East Goshen and Westtown have drafted a five-year plan for WEGO that includes Thornbury.

1 The Borough of West Chester is also meeting this evening to discuss the possibility of using its  
2 police force to cover Thornbury.

3  
4 On August 10 the Police Association was provided a revised five-year contract proposal  
5 document. The charter townships hope the Association will respond favorably and in a timely  
6 manner that will make it possible for WEGO to meet Thornbury Township's September 4th  
7 deadline for a "ready-to-sign" contract extension proposal.

8  
9 The safety of the residents is of utmost importance to the Supervisors.

10  
11 Last Tuesday evening the Board agreed to hold special meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of  
12 each month to discuss options for police service in the event that WEGO cannot continue in its  
13 present form.

14  
15 Senya said that East Goshen has the following options:

- 16  
17 1. Continuity of the WEGO Regional Police Department with a new contract and Thornbury  
18 remaining as a client (this Option is the Township's preference and second only to an  
19 expanded Regional Operation).
- 20  
21 2. Continuity of the WEGO Regional Police Department with a new contract and an  
22 expanded list of clients or charter members to include Thornbury, Pocopson and any  
23 other Township that would like to join with WEGO.

24  
25 If neither of these two options are possible, the Township will have to consider:

- 26  
27 3. Changing over to State Police coverage.
- 28  
29 4. Becoming "like a Thornbury" to another Municipality (paying to receive police services  
30 from another community).
- 31  
32 5. East Goshen going on its own and developing its own police department.

33 Senya said that regardless of the option the Township pursues, this Board of Supervisors is  
34 committed to the safety of its residents and businesses, to maintaining the desirability of East  
35 Goshen as a premier destination, and to preserving property values. He stated that all decisions  
36 made by the Board of Supervisors and Township Staff have to be "Environmentally Sound,  
37 Socially Equitable and Fiscally Responsible" so that the Township can preserve the past, serve  
38 the present and protect the future for all present and future residents.

39 *Public Comment: Jeffery Ditz, Anne Drive* – Asked about the Township's inability to sustain the  
40 status quo. Marty said police costs are increasing at a rate the Township cannot sustain. In  
41 addition to the risings costs, WEGO has an unfunded liability of \$10M for health care costs and  
42 pensions for the police officers. The rate of growth in costs associated with the police is not  
43 sustainable. The Township has to address the long-term impacts to the Township. WEGO is at  
44 the confluence of three contracts coming up for renewal at approximately the same time – the  
45 WEGO contract with the Police Association, WEGO's contract with Thornbury, and the  
46 agreement between East Goshen and Westtown. There is a short window of time to reach an

1 agreement with the Police Association. Marty then explained the requirements of Act 600,  
2 which WEGO is legally obligated to provide to the officers.

3  
4 Marty then introduced the Township's recently hired CFO Jon Altshul, who has done much of  
5 the financial analysis on this issue for the Supervisors.

6  
7 Marty said the two primary responsibilities of the Supervisors are 1) caring for the health, safety  
8 and welfare of the residents and 2) running the Township in a fiscally responsible manner. The  
9 Supervisors are responsible to the residents to provide appropriate police service at the lowest  
10 possible cost, and to provide a fair package of salary and benefits to the police officers. Unlike  
11 the Supervisors, the police do not have the responsibility of running the Township in a fiscally  
12 sound manner.

13  
14 *Public Comment: Richard Brodhead, Ulster Terrace* – Thanked the Supervisors for having this  
15 forum for the residents. Asked to what extent has there been discussion of raising taxes to  
16 address the situation. Marty stated that one reason the Township cannot bear the current rate of  
17 growth in the cost of police service is the fact that the Township is built out, which means that  
18 revenues are flat. He noted, however that transfer tax income has been greater than expected  
19 recently due to the sale of a couple of large properties within the Township. In addition to this  
20 windfall the Township has eliminated \$500K from the budget under the leadership of Township  
21 Manager Rick Smith. Marty stated that things have not yet reached the point where a tax  
22 increase is necessary. There has only been one increase since 1978 because the Township has  
23 done a very good job of managing costs. Marty said that because labor costs comprise 80% of  
24 the police budget, that is the area on which to focus.

25  
26 *Public Comment: Andy Wahn, Cornwallis Drive* – Asked that if East Goshen “becomes like a  
27 Thornbury” to someone else, would East Goshen be willing to bear the burden of an indemnify  
28 clause like the one currently being requested of Thornbury. Senya said the request for  
29 indemnification has been made to Thornbury because it's not fair to burden East Goshen and  
30 Westtown residents with long-term liability expenses that could result from a one-year contract.  
31 He used rental car insurance as an illustration of his point. Senya stated that East Goshen would  
32 have a moral and contractual obligation to assume responsibility for an injured officer's future.  
33 He noted that the police services being discussed for the next five years represent a \$40-\$50M  
34 decision and must be viewed from the perspective of the big picture.

35  
36 Mr. Wahn asked how could it be cost effective to start a new police force from scratch. Senya  
37 said that will have to be worked out with the input from residents such as Mr. Wahn. The Board  
38 may opt to create a “think tank” of knowledgeable residents, experts and consultants for such a  
39 purpose. Mr. Wahn said it seems to him it would be more cost effective to keep the current  
40 structure in place. He asked what other municipalities pay for their police coverage. Senya said  
41 it depends on the municipality. Senya stated that East Goshen wants the best police coverage at  
42 the lowest possible cost.

43  
44 *Public Comment: Mark Wahn, Cornwallis Drive* – Asked why WEGO is so concerned about  
45 Thornbury. If they don't agree to the indemnification, why not just drop them and move on.  
46 Senya said one reason is that the \$786,000 fee from Thornbury for police coverage would

1 represent 10% of the operating budget. He said ideally, WEGO would like to increase in size  
2 (cover more areas) and not decrease. Mr. Wahn said WEGO should drop Thornbury, do what  
3 needs to be done to adjust the size of the force, and move on. He said he does not want to lose  
4 the experienced, trained officers of WEGO. He definitely does not want the Township to go  
5 with the State Police, as that would be stepping back 30 years. He stated that what WEGO is  
6 getting from Thornbury is equal to what WEGO is providing to them. If the Township goes with  
7 the State Police while other surrounding municipalities have private coverage, it would be like  
8 "putting a bulls-eye" on East Goshen and inviting crime.

9  
10 *Public Comment: Michael Horan, Beaumont Circle* – Asked how the Police Association  
11 contract compares with those of other nearby townships. Senya said Jon Altshul would be  
12 distributing a handout containing relevant information at the end of the meeting. Senya stated  
13 that the WEGO force has a relatively high rate of disability compared to nearby communities.  
14 Marty noted that the term "disabled" is very broadly defined in the Police Association contract.  
15 When someone is only partially disabled they may not be able to serve as a police officer but  
16 they can often perform the functions of another job. Mr. Horan expressed concern there would  
17 be more crime in East Goshen if we lose WEGO. He does not want the "diluted" service of an  
18 overburdened State Police force. Senya said the Supervisors have a sworn duty to ensure public  
19 safety.

20  
21 *Public Comment: Steve Maschura, Upton Circle* – Said he has lived here for seven years and the  
22 Supervisors have done a great job and the police service is great too. On what points have the  
23 Township and the police agreed and on what points do they disagree. Senya said negotiations  
24 are in process, despite what the Police Associate President was quoted three times in the  
25 newspaper as saying. Mr. Maschura asked for some details but Senya stated that due to the  
26 legalities of the situation, the Board could not go into specifics at this time.

27  
28 *Public Comment: Joe Virgilio, Hershey Mill Road* – Thanked the Board for having this meeting.  
29 Stated that he is a police officer in a nearby community and he actually moved to East Goshen  
30 because of the great police force provided by WEGO. He is not in favor of changing over to the  
31 State Police as they are already spread too thinly. Senya noted that the Board is obligated to the  
32 residents to consider all options, including the State Police. Mr. Virgilio asked if East Goshen  
33 starts from scratch, won't the same situation of rapidly rising costs come up. Marty said yes, but  
34 by starting over from scratch it would be awhile before the Township would reach the same point  
35 as they are now with WEGO. Marty noted that whatever option East Goshen goes with, the level  
36 of service will be the same or even better as currently exists. He then stated that the legacy costs  
37 will exist no matter what option the Township selects – the legacy costs will not go away. Mr.  
38 Virgilio expressed concern that good officers from WEGO will leave to go elsewhere, just like  
39 the officers from Birmingham Township do.

40  
41 Senya stated that although the federal government and the State of Pennsylvania continue to kick  
42 the can of financial responsibility down the road, the Board of East Goshen is committed to  
43 maintaining fiscal responsibility.  
44

1 Mr. Virgilio stated that he is willing to pay more in taxes to keep the current police force. If East  
2 Goshen has only raised taxes once in 30 years perhaps it's time to raise them again to keep up  
3 with the needs of the Township.

4  
5 *Public Comment: Richard Brodhead, Ulster Terrace* – Asked the Board to speak about the  
6 possibility of having a larger regional police force. This seems like an idea to consider because  
7 the cost would be spread out over a larger revenue base. Senya said it's an idea that deserves  
8 discussion and consideration. Mr. Brodhead wanted to know where the discussions with the  
9 Police Association stood at this point, and if there have been areas of concession on either side.  
10 Senya said at this time the Police Association has in their possession a document from WEGO.  
11 WEGO is awaiting their response. Mr. Brodhead asked about the document. Senya said the  
12 document includes the contract requirements by law as well as enhancements that are not  
13 necessarily current and relevant today. Mr. Brodhead then stated that he is willing to pay more  
14 taxes to keep the current police force.

15  
16 *Public Comment: Jeffery Ditz, Anne Drive* – Had a question about whether State aid covers the  
17 minimum legacy obligation. Marty stated that WEGO's obligation is \$700K more than is  
18 provided by State aid. Mr. Ditz wanted to know if WEGO is dissolved or the Township goes  
19 with the State Police, would the State aid continue. Rick Smith said WEGO is only eligible for  
20 State aid as long as there are full-time officers on the force.

21  
22 Mr. Ditz asked what has been done to help control medical costs for the officers. Rick noted that  
23 per the contract, coverage must be provided by Blue Cross/Blue Shield. This was quite common  
24 when the original contract was written but the medical insurance landscape has changed a great  
25 deal since then. Senya stated that some of the insurance features the police get through the  
26 contract are out of date and no longer available on the open market.

27  
28 Mr. Ditz then asked who will determine the "level of service." Senya said the residents will  
29 provide input on that issue, but ultimately it's the elected officials – the Board – who makes the  
30 determination on behalf of the residents who elected them. Senya then paraphrased Herbert  
31 Bayard Swope who said that whereas he "couldn't tell you the secret for success, he could for  
32 failure; trying to please everybody all the time" and said that he would guarantee no matter what  
33 happens, the Board will not be able to please everyone.

34  
35 *Public Comment: Mike Ragni, Larch Lane* – Said the police are not asking for too much. They  
36 only want to get what other police make. He stated that they (referring to the Supervisors) have  
37 turned their backs on us (the officers). He said he understands their reasons but he's built his  
38 entire life around the contract and they want to take it away. He asked if the Supervisors will  
39 give residents an opportunity to provide input via a survey. Rick said the Township could take a  
40 survey; they could put the issue on a ballot; or they could hold advertised public meetings like  
41 the one this evening to gauge public sentiment. Mr. Ragni stated that this Board of Supervisors  
42 told the Police Association to "take it or leave it." Senya said that is not true and that Mr. Ragni  
43 has nothing to substantiate such a statement. Mr. Ragni said the truth is the Police Association  
44 and WEGO are at a stalemate.

1 *Public Comment: Hal Zuber, Wyllpen Drive* – Asked if we are self-insured on disability. Rick  
2 said yes, because nobody offers such a policy. Senya said the Township is currently working  
3 with underwriters to see if a special insurance product can be developed for not only East  
4 Goshen but all municipalities across the country who are faced with the same challenge of  
5 having to pay for the ever-increasing post-employment health care and disability pension costs.  
6 Mr. Zuber asked how things got to the point of having \$10M in unfunded liability. Marty said  
7 the poor performance of the underlying investments is the bulk of the problem. Senya added that  
8 unforeseen actuarial events contributed to the situation. Marty said that more will be known at  
9 the end of the year when another actuarial study is done.

10  
11 *Public Comment: Joe Buonnano, Herron Lane* – Asked if the issues are all the result of binding  
12 arbitration. Senya said some issues are from arbitrations but most are from negotiations.

13  
14 *Public Comment: Debra Arvanites, Cherry Lane* – Thanked the Board for having this meeting.  
15 Asked for information about the purpose of the handout to be distributed at the end of the  
16 meeting, and the process and timeline for making a decision on this issue. Senya stated that the  
17 handout contains a comparison of current state and federal requirements and existing WEGO  
18 contract requirements. He stated that this meeting was the start of the process to explore the  
19 various options. The next meeting for the residents is scheduled for August 20. Thornbury has  
20 provided WEGO a September 4th deadline for a ready-to-sign contract extension. West Chester  
21 is meeting this evening to discuss whether they are open to considering a police relationship with  
22 Thornbury. Regardless of the timeline, the Supervisors have an obligation to explore other  
23 options in case WEGO is dissolved.

24  
25 *Public Comment: Jeffery Ditz, Anne Drive* – Asked when the Board would have cost estimates  
26 for each of the five options. Senya said he didn't know yet, as the process has only just begun.

27  
28 *Public Comment: Art Polishuk, Grand Oak Lane* – Thanked the Supervisors for having this  
29 meeting. Asked if they could share some of the major points of Thornbury's counter-offer.  
30 Senya said the counter-offer consisted of paying \$786,000 for one year of police service but no  
31 indemnification.

32  
33 *Public Comment: John Chatley, Glenbrook Lane* – Said it's hard to compare WEGO financials  
34 to those of other police forces. It's not like comparing apples to apples. Other municipalities  
35 build their police costs into the municipal budget, whereas with WEGO there is a separate,  
36 distinct police budget.

37  
38 *Public Comment: David Richter, Edith Lane* – Said he was an FBI agent for 24 years and  
39 worked with police in Chester and Delaware Counties, and the WEGO officers were always  
40 professional and very capable. He said he does not believe changing over to the State Police is  
41 the answer to the problem.  
42

1 Adjournment  
2 There was no further public comment or discussion from the Board. The meeting was adjourned  
3 at 9:00pm. Jon Altshul distributed copies of a document titled "Comparison of Current State and  
4 Federal Requirements and Existing WEGO Contract Requirements." This document will be  
5 posted to the Township website.  
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9 Anne Meddings  
10 Recording Secretary

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**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
POLICE SERVICES OPTIONS WORKSHOP MEETING  
1580 PAOLI PIKE  
August 28, 2012 – 7:00pm  
Draft Minutes**

**Present:** Chairman Senya D. Isayeff, Vice-Chairman Thom Clapper and Supervisor Carmen Battavio. Supervisors Marty Shane and Chuck Proctor were absent, as was Township Manager Rick Smith. Also present were CFO Jon Altshul, Interim WEGO Police Chief Gene Dooley, Erich Meyer (Park & Rec), former Supervisor/ Police Commissioner John Chatley, Police Chief Joe Gleason of West Goshen, and reporter Michael Price from the *Daily Local*.

**Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance**

Senya called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and had John Chatley lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Moment of Silence**

Carmen Battavio called for a moment of silence to honor the troops

**Recording of Meeting**

Michael Price of the *Daily Local* and resident Leo Sinclair recorded the meeting.

**Introduction of Chief Dooley**

Carmen introduced East Whiteland Police Chief Eugene (Gene) Dooley. Carmen announced that Chief Dooley will provide interim leadership for WEGO until the current contract issues have been solved, hopefully in a way that will allow WEGO to remain together. He will stay on until WEGO is in a position to recruit and hire another full-time Police Chief to replace John Dumond, who is retiring at the end of August. Senya presented Chief Dooley with a copy of the book *Images of America: East Goshen Township*. Chief Dooley thanked Senya and said he would be available for questions from residents after the meeting.

**Opening Remarks from the Chairman**

Senya noted that Supervisor Marty Shane was away on vacation, and Supervisor Chuck Proctor was celebrating his 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. He said that the Board would be taking no action this evening, and no votes would be taken. The purpose of the meeting this evening was to let everyone share their comments, thoughts and ideas.

**Update on Recent Developments**

Carmen announced that WEGO held a bargaining session with the Police Association last evening that lasted until 1:30am. The special Police Commission meeting that that was scheduled for August 29 at 5:00pm has been cancelled. Thornbury has an offer pending from West Chester Borough which could lead to negotiations and potentially a contract to have the Borough provide police services to Thornbury. Carmen said he left voicemails for Bob Miller and Brody Bavera requesting that they work with WEGO on the timing of the transition as much as possible before they commit to another resource. Carmen said there is a great deal of police

1 experience within WEGO and a lot of very good officers. He hopes for a time extension so that  
2 this issue can be resolved.

3  
4 Carmen said he still believes that maintaining WEGO is a viable option, especially under the  
5 interim leadership of Chief Dooley. Carmen said we're not doing this to make people mad, to  
6 jeopardize the 27 WEGO officers or to change the great police protection East Goshen has.

7  
8 *Public Comment: Richard Brodhead, Ulster Terrace* – Asked what the net financial result  
9 would be for the Township if Thornbury is not part of the WEGO equation. Jon Altshul said he  
10 does not believe losing Thornbury would lead to a significant cost savings in the short term.  
11 Some money would be saved on gasoline, but there would still be four officers scheduled on  
12 each shift. Mr. Brodhead asked if Thornbury is not part of WEGO would it be a net negative for  
13 the Township, and Jon said that was a fair statement.

14  
15 Mr. Brodhead asked if the Police Association were to offer concessions on healthcare and  
16 pensions would that make it possible for WEGO to remain intact. Senya said everyone is  
17 working hard to find common ground. Mr. Brodhead asked if there has been any movement on  
18 the issue of concessions. Senya said that discussions are ongoing. Mr. Brodhead asked if  
19 healthcare and pensions were the sticking points. Senya said they are the two most costly  
20 aspects of the matters under negotiation.

21  
22 *Public Comment: Neale Quenzel, Tanglewood Drive* – Asked about the timeline for negotiating  
23 a new contract. Senya said if a charter member of WEGO wants to withdraw, they must inform  
24 the other Township one year in advance of the contract expiration date which is December 31,  
25 2013. Given that date, either Township must inform the other of their decision to withdraw by  
26 December 31<sup>st</sup> of this year. If a decision is made to dissolve the partnership, the contract  
27 requires WEGO to provide the Police Association six months' notice which would be June 30,  
28 2013. He said WEGO would like to enter a new five-year contract actually over six years given  
29 that the recent discussions with the Association have been to renew the contract through  
30 December 31, 2018. If Thornbury is lost, then WEGO has to make a decision as to what they  
31 want to do before the end of year.

32  
33 Mr. Quenzel asked what specific concessions have the Police Association offered and what  
34 concessions has WEGO offered to the Police Association. Senya said he was not at liberty to  
35 share these matters as discussions are ongoing; however, he could say that the Police Association  
36 has offered a counter-proposal and WEGO has offered a counter-proposal. Mr. Quenzel asked if  
37 binding arbitration is under consideration and Senya said no.

38  
39 *Public Comment: Jeffery Ditz, Anne Drive* – Asked what is East Goshen's bottom line number  
40 to amicably resolve this. Senya said he was not quite clear about the question but noted that  
41 Emergency Services account for 46% of the Township's budget. Carmen explained that legacy  
42 costs and disability pensions are also a factor. This Board of Supervisors has decided to put  
43 money aside to help make up for the legacy costs, and not kick the can down the road.

44  
45 Jon Altshul mentioned that the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement  
46 No. 45 requires governmental entities to show on their balance sheet the actuarial value of future

1 retirees' benefits. To offset that, a trust fund is set up, and East Goshen set up such a fund about  
2 a year ago. Not every municipality has complied with the GASB requirements. Jon said that on  
3 the pension side we are about 60% funded (in "severe distress"). The last evaluation by an  
4 actuary revealed that WEGO has a \$5M pension liability and a \$5M medical liability. These  
5 numbers have probably increased since then. Thom added that the actuarial studies are always  
6 two years behind.

7  
8 *Public Comment: Leo Sinclair, Lochwood Lane* – Asked when GASB 45 came out and Jon said  
9 in 2005. Leo asked why the Township waited so long to comply. Jon said that GASB is a  
10 reporting requirement, not a funding requirement. Mr. Sinclair said the Township should have  
11 dealt with the issue of the unfunded liability many years ago. Senya said it's not that the  
12 Township is just looking at it now, but having the two contracts about to expire at the same time  
13 has brought this issue to the forefront. However, this has been on the radar of the Board of  
14 Supervisors and the staff for a long time. Mr. Sinclair then asked what is the balance of the  
15 Capital Reserve Fund and Jon said about \$6M. Mr. Sinclair asked about the balance of the  
16 General Fund and Jon said he didn't have it in front of him but it's somewhere between \$5M and  
17 \$6M. Mr. Sinclair asked how many Township employees are receiving a pension plan. Jon  
18 asked if he meant a defined benefit plan and Mr. Sinclair said yes. Jon said he would have to  
19 check as he did not know offhand. Mr. Sinclair then stated that the Township just hired two new  
20 Fire/EMS employees. Carmen said that was not correct – they were hired by the Goshen Fire  
21 Company, a completely separate entity.

22  
23 *Public Comment: Gerry Ruffenach, Reservoir Road* – Said he was happy to see the Board of  
24 Supervisors take a proactive approach to this issue. He stated that after reading the handout  
25 "Comparison of Current State and Federal Requirements and Existing WEGO Contract  
26 Requirements" [available on the Township website] he was appalled. All the enhancements in  
27 the contract are what got us into this mess. He asked why is East Goshen on the hook for  
28 pensions and disability. Why doesn't WEGO quote a dollar amount number to East Goshen for  
29 what they need, and the Township negotiates for that. He added that there are other options  
30 available rather than negotiating a broken contract system.

31  
32 *Public Comment: Jim Schorn, Cornwallis Drive* – Asked why there has been no arbitration.  
33 Senya said if something can be worked out involving only the interested parties, that is the  
34 preferred way. That is better than having the input of a third party that has no stake in the matter,  
35 and no skin in the game. Mr. Schorn asked at what point WEGO might consider bringing in a  
36 third party. Senya said that WEGO has recently brought in Chief Gene Dooley and both  
37 Townships hope that his overall experience, education and the difference he made in East  
38 Whiteland will be of great assistance with this effort.

39  
40 Senya said that although a few residents stated at the last meeting that they would be willing to  
41 pay higher taxes to keep WEGO, East Goshen has to make every effort to maintain low taxes and  
42 help preserve property values. Senya said that of the eight municipalities in the WCASD, East  
43 Goshen has lost the least amount in terms of property values during this economic downturn.  
44 The Board wants to keep East Goshen as attractive as possible to new residents and businesses.  
45

1 Mr. Schorn said he hopes the Board keeps the arbitration option open. Senya assured him that  
2 the Supervisors are residents and tax payers too, and have the same interests as the other  
3 residents.

4  
5 Mr. Schorn said fire and police protection are the most important Township services to him. He  
6 can live with less mowing, less plowing, and less road improvements but he wants a top-notch  
7 police force and fire protection. He said he is willing to pay more in taxes if necessary, as the  
8 safety of his family is of utmost importance to him.

9  
10 *Public Comment: Neil Atkins, Troon Lane* – Said he found it hard to believe that folks would not  
11 be willing to pay another \$100 per year in taxes for great police service. He would hate to lose  
12 the great service and fast response time of WEGO.

13  
14 *Public Comment: Gerry Ruffenach, Reservoir Road* – Said he is not worried about the cost of  
15 police service, but the costs of all the perks the officers are getting. Personally, he is not willing  
16 for someone to be at home rather than on the job. [Note: An individual who did not identify  
17 himself made several unrecognized comments while Mr. Ruffenach was speaking.]

18  
19 *Public Comment: Joe Virgilio, Hershey Mill Road* – Said he does not want the quality of life in  
20 East Goshen to diminish. He has small children and wants them to be safe. He asked what is the  
21 exit strategy if this cannot be resolved. Senya said the details would have to be worked out.  
22 Mr. Virgilio asked if there are any plans to send out a questionnaire or survey to residents.  
23 Senya said that was still under discussion as there is a cost involved.

24  
25 *Public Comment: Ellen Sinclair, Lochwood Lane* – Asked if there is any talk of trying to  
26 restructure the pensions. Senya said there are major differences between state requirements for  
27 pension plans and the current pension plan for officers. He said WEGO is in discussions to make  
28 the pension more financially sustainable for the charter townships. Mrs. Sinclair asked if  
29 calculations have been done regarding what it would take for East Goshen to form its own police  
30 force from scratch. Senya said that it would be in the millions. Mrs. Sinclair asked why the  
31 Capital Reserve Fund could not be used for that purpose. She then had questions for Jon Altshul  
32 about funds in the budget. Mrs. Sinclair stated that she does not want the State Police to cover  
33 East Goshen. Senya said the goal is to have the best possible police force in Chester County.  
34 Mrs. Sinclair said she agreed with Mr. Virgilio that a survey should be taken. She said she does  
35 them for a living and offered her assistance in developing the survey, weighting the questions,  
36 and compiling the results.

37  
38 *Public Comment: Leo Sinclair, Lochwood Lane* – Asked if the five options before the Board are  
39 written down on paper somewhere. Senya stated that they are in the minutes. Mr. Sinclair said  
40 he did not see them in the minutes posted to the website so far. For Mr. Sinclair's benefit Senya  
41 enumerated the options again:

- 42  
43 1. Continuity of the current arrangement of having the three Township make up WEGO  
44 (this is the Township's preference).  
45 2. Continuity of the current arrangement plus working to add additional Townships to  
46 WEGO.

1 If neither of those two options are possible, the Township will have to consider:

- 2 3. Changing over to State Police coverage.
- 3 4. Becoming "like a Thornbury" to another Township (paying to receive the services of
- 4 someone else's police force).
- 5 5. Going solo and building a new police force

6  
7 Senya stated that a sixth option would be to merge with another existing police force, such as  
8 West Chester Borough, East Whiteland, West Goshen, Willistown, etc.

9  
10 *Public Comment: Gerry Ruffenach, Reservoir Road* – Asked that the Township put all the  
11 police-related documents in one place on the website. Jon Altshul said that was a good  
12 suggestion and he would start working on that tomorrow morning.

13  
14 *Public Comment: Paul Day, Ashton Way* – Asked that everyone at these meetings treat one  
15 another with civility, courtesy and respect.

16  
17 *Public Comment: Neil DeRiemer, Hershey Mill Road* – Asked what the police officers currently  
18 pay toward their healthcare and pensions. Jon Altshul said they pay 5% toward their pension,  
19 and WEGO pays 100% of their healthcare premiums.

20  
21 *Public Comment: Joan Atkins, Troon Lane* – Asked if having the officers contribute more to their  
22 own pensions and healthcare premiums has been brought up in the discussions. Senya said that  
23 has been part of the ongoing discussions.

24  
25 *Public Comment: Neale Quenzel, Tanglewood Drive* – Thanked the Supervisors and staff for all  
26 the time they have been putting in to resolve these issues. Their efforts are appreciated.

27  
28 *Public Comment: Jack Trevisan, Joshua Drive* – Said he is a police officer in another location,  
29 and he knows WEGO does a fine job. He hopes this can all be worked out so the officers can  
30 keep their jobs.

31  
32 *Public Comment: Jim Walsh, Jefferson Way in Hershey Mill* – Said this is the first time in 11  
33 years of living the Township that he has come out to a meeting. He thought the topic was so  
34 important that he needed to attend. He said it's important for the Township to take a survey of  
35 the residents as it's a cost-effective means to gather information.

36  
37 Carmen asked that the Hershey Mill residents let their neighbors know that the Township will be  
38 having more than three special meetings to discuss the police options. He suggested that the  
39 Hershey Mill residents consider designating liaisons to come to the meetings and then fill in their  
40 neighbors on what took place. This will help keep an accurate flow of information to residents  
41 who might not be able to attend. Senya reminded everyone to sign up for Constant Contact on  
42 the Township website to get information as it becomes available.

43  
44 *Public Comment: Joan Atkins, Troon Lane* – Asked why East Goshen doesn't have a Township  
45 emergency call system similar to the one in West Goshen. Carmen said it was looked at in the

1 past but had too many quirks at that time. Carmen said the Township would look into it again,  
2 hopefully toward the end of September.

3  
4 *Public Comment: Candy Kulzer, Ashton Way* – Read aloud a statement in support of the police  
5 officers. She said she is in favor of paying more in taxes to keep WEGO. She stated that  
6 property values will go down if WEGO is lost. She stated that West Goshen and Willistown are  
7 able to fund their police forces so she is not sure why East Goshen cannot make it work.

8  
9 **Adjournment**

10 There was no further public comment or discussion from the Board.

11 The meeting was adjourned at 8:47pm.

12  
13  
14  
15 Anne Meddings  
16 Recording Secretary