

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
1580 PAOLI PIKE
April 1, 2014 – 7:00pm
Final Approved Minutes**

Present: Chairman Marty Shane, Vice-Chairman Senya D. Isayeff, and Supervisors Carmen Battavio, Chuck Proctor and Janet Emanuel. Also present were Township Manager Rick Smith, CFO Jon Altshul, and ABC members Erich Meyer (Conservancy Board), Judy Schafer, Ellen Carmody and Bill Schultz (Historical Commission).

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Marty called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Erich Meyer led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence

Carmen called for a moment of silence to honor the troops and all those in uniform who keep us safe.

Recording of Meeting

No one indicated they would be recording the meeting.

Request to Remove 1331 E. Strasburg Road from Historic Resource Inventory

Attorney Debra Shulski was present along with the applicant Jason Grothmann, who is the equitable owner of the property. Also present were Sarah Credeur, the existing property owner, and Wayne Grafton, Mr. Grothmann's Land Planner.

Ms. Shulski respectfully requested that the Board approve a resolution that would remove the property in question from the Township's Class II Historic Resource Inventory.

Marty asked if it is true that at the time of the February 25 hearing before the Historical Commission, the applicant was not intending to demolish the existing structure and rebuild, but instead was planning to keep part of the existing stone structure. Mr. Grafton said that is correct.

Carmen said that with no disrespect intended toward the current owners, the home is in very bad disrepair. He believes in this case the prudent thing to do is to let the new owner rebuild on the site if that is what he chooses to do.

Carmen moved to approve a resolution that would remove the property in question from the Township's Class II Historic Resource Inventory and allow the owner to remove the existing structure. Senya seconded the motion.

Marty asked Mr. Grafton if there is anything of historical significance about the building. Mr. Grafton said there are two marble fireplaces from 1885 to 1900. However they are not rare, just old.

Ms. Shulski said the applicant is willing to donate the stone from the structure to the Township or another entity if the recipient is willing to bear the cost of its relocation.

Bill Schultz said the Historical Commission listened “intently” to the testimony at the February 25 hearing and at that time the applicant’s plan was not to demolish the structure but to keep the façade. The home was built by John Roberts, a founding father of the Township, and his family lived there. It’s not correct to say the property has no historical significance.

Carmen asked if anyone from the Historical Commission did a walk-through of the property. Mr. Schultz said a number of them have done so, and the Historical Commission members agree it’s in bad shape, but the façade is salvageable and it is possible to restore the home.

Marty asked Mr. Schultz what makes this property different from the other two properties recently removed from the Class II Historic Resource Inventory. Mr. Schultz said this particular property had an historic resident, and the home dates from 1820-1830.

Carmen said while he understands and respects the position of the Historical Commission, he’s a firm believer that a homeowner has the right to decide what to do with their property without interference from a governmental entity. He added that of course if the Township had the resources to purchase such historic properties and restore them, it would do so as the preferred option.

Judy Schafer stated that it’s not within the purview of the Historical Commission to determine if a property should be demolished or not, but only to offer a recommendation on whether it should be removed from the Historic Resource Inventory.

Carmen asked Mr. Grothmann if he’d consider allowing the Township to put a marker sign on his property noting its historic significance to the Township. Mr. Grothmann said he would consider it.

Marty noted that the home is not visible from the street. He asked Mr. Schultz what is noteworthy about the Roberts family. Mr. Schultz said the Roberts were early settlers and founders of the Township. He then stated that the Township has to draw the line at some point and determine when it will no longer be permissible to tear down historical structures. Once these structures are demolished, they are gone for good and cannot be rebuilt. Marty said he understood what Mr. Schultz was saying but he also sympathizes with the owner’s situation.

Public Comment: Nancy Keslick, E. Strasburg Road – Said she grew up in the home in question. The condition of the structure is so bad that it would have to be gutted to the stone walls, at which point the walls may collapse.

Public Comment: Tom Casey, Windsor Drive (West Goshen) – Suggested the Township consider taking some of the stone and use it to build something in the Township Park perhaps, as a remembrance of the Roberts house. Mr. Casey added that just because something is not seen (as this house is not visible from the street) does not mean it’s not valuable.

Public Comment: Margaret Dunn, E. Strasburg Road – Stated that the condition of the house has gone down markedly in the last 10 years, and it is not a safe structure. There are jacks holding up the beams in the basement. The plumbing, electrical and plastering would all have to be completely redone.

There was no further discussion or public comment. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Marty asked Mr. Grothmann to be in touch with the Township if he still wishes to donate the stone.

Sunoco Pump Station Project in West Goshen

West Goshen resident Tom Casey and East Goshen resident Tom Rath were present to discuss their concerns about Sunoco's Mariner East pipeline project as well as the plans to possibly restripe Boot Road between Wilson Drive and Greenhill Road.

Chairman's Report

Marty announced the following:

- The Board met in Executive Session on March 27 on a police matter.
- The Friends of East Goshen will conduct interviews for new members at their next meeting on April 22.
- A public hearing is scheduled for April 10 in West Pikeland Township to discuss the process for notifying and informing the public of proposed natural gas pipeline projects, and how this might be improved.
- The Board will meet in Executive Session on April 8 to conduct ABC interviews.
- April 5 is Keep East Goshen Beautiful Day. Volunteers will meet at the Township Building at 8:30am.

Review of Minutes

The Board reviewed and corrected the draft minutes of March 18. Marty stated that the minutes would stand approved as corrected.

Finance Committee Recommendations for Utilities Collections

Jon summarized his memo of March 26 on this matter. The Finance Committee recommends the Board consider amending the utilities collection resolution to authorize serving writs of *scire facias* against liened account holders. This collections tool is likely to be more effective in driving down receivables than the Township's current practice. The Finance Committee recommends that the threshold be when a delinquent account balance reaches \$2,000.

In addition, the Finance Committee recommends that both the Sewer and Solid Waste ordinances be amended to conform with the Second Class Township Code and other state statutes.

Chuck stated that writs of *scire facias* are a good tool but the Township has to be prepared to execute them in a timely manner. Otherwise, the writs expire and the process has to be restarted.

Senya moved to accept the recommendations of the Finance Committee and for the staff to proceed with scheduling a hearing on the ordinance amendment and to prepare a revised utilities collection resolution. Janet seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and no public comment. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

FEMA Letters

The Board reviewed draft letters to Senator Toomey, Senator Casey, and Representative Meehan regarding FEMA aid for the February ice storm. Carmen had some suggested changes in the language. Senya would like to get the Chester County Commissioners on board. Rick will reach out to the County Commissioners, revise the letters, and get final approval from Carmen and Senya before sending them.

Amendment to Resolution 2014-34A (2014 Sewer Rates)

Jon summarized his memo of March 27 on this topic. The staff recommends that the 2014 fixed sewer rate be \$26.56 per quarter (an increase of \$0.36/quarter) and the variable rate be \$7.68 per thousand gallons (an increase of \$0.17/thousand gallons).

Marty moved to adopt Resolution 2014-34A Establishing and Consolidating the Various Fees and Charges Imposed Pursuant to the Code of the Township per the recommendation of Township staff. Carmen seconded the motion. There was no discussion or public comment. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Any Other Matter

Annual Planning Session – The Board scheduled their Annual Planning Session for May 19 at 10:00am.

Police Merger Study – Senya distributed copies of articles to the other Board members regarding various types of police shifts.

Website Update – Senya distributed copies of a survey form prepared by West Chester Borough regarding their website.

Comprehensive Plan – Marty stated there will be a meeting next Tuesday with representatives from the Brandywine Conservancy and the Chester County Planning Commission to discuss the future course of action.

Treasurer's Report & Expenditure Register Report

See attached Treasurer's Report for March 27, 2014. The Board reviewed the Treasurer's Report and the current invoices. Carmen moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and the Expenditure Register Report as recommended by the Treasurer, to accept the receipts and to authorize payment of the invoices just reviewed. Chuck seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and no public comment. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Action List

Openspace Plan – A meeting was held with Ann Toole on March 19 and the format was finalized.

Hershey Mill Dam – DEP now wants additional information on the connection between the existing spillway and the new spillway.

Correspondence & Reports of Interest

None.

Meetings & Dates of Importance

Marty noted the upcoming meetings as listed in the agenda.

Public Comment Period

None.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the regular meeting was adjourned at 10:00pm.

Anne Meddings

Recording Secretary

Attachments: Treasurer's Report

March 27, 2014

TREASURER'S REPORT
2014 RECEIPTS AND BILLS

GENERAL FUND

Real Estate Tax	\$652,514.87
Earned Income Tax	\$96,500.00
Local Service Tax	\$0.00
Transfer Tax	\$0.00
General Fund Interest Earned	\$10.51
Total Other Revenue	\$52,864.62
Total Receipts:	<u>\$801,890.00</u>

Accounts Payable	\$179,726.91
<u>Electronic Pmts:</u>	
Health Insurance	\$0.00
Credit Card	\$9,208.33
Postage	\$0.00
Debt Service	\$0.00
Payroll	\$90,812.00
Total Expenditures:	<u>\$279,747.24</u>

STATE LIQUID FUELS FUND

Receipts	\$0.00
Interest Earned	\$0.00
Total State Liquid Fuels:	<u>\$0.00</u>

Expenditures:	<u>\$0.00</u>
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SINKING FUND

Interest Earned	<u>\$0.02</u>
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Expenditures:	\$4,907.84
Credit Card	\$805.02
Total	<u>\$5,712.86</u>

TRANSPORTATION FUND

Interest Earned	<u>\$0.00</u>
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Expenditures:	<u>\$0.00</u>
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SEWER OPERATING FUND

Receipts	\$35,093.71
Interest Earned	\$0.00
Total Sewer:	<u>\$35,093.71</u>

Accounts Payable	\$51,174.70
Debt Service	\$0.00
Credit Card	\$0.00
Total Expenditures:	<u>\$51,174.70</u>

REFUSE FUND

Receipts	\$17,932.30
Interest Earned	\$0.00
Total Refuse:	<u>\$17,932.30</u>

Expenditures	<u>\$11,616.44</u>
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SEWER SINKING FUND

Interest Earned	<u>\$0.00</u>
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Expenditures	<u>\$5,000.00</u>
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OPERATING RESERVE FUND

Receipts	<u>\$0.00</u>
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Expenditures	<u>\$0.00</u>
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Events Fund

Receipts	<u>\$0.00</u>
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Expenditures	<u>\$0.00</u>
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