

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
1580 PAOLI PIKE
MAY 27, 2015 – 9:30 a.m.
FINAL MINUTES**

Present: Chairman Marty Shane, Vice-Chairman Senya D. Isayeff, and Supervisors Carmen Battavio, Janet Emanuel, Chuck Proctor, Township Manager Rick Smith, Township CFO Jon Altshul, Mark Miller (Director, Public Works), Jason Lang (Director, Parks and Rec.), Brian McCool (Staff Accountant), Bob Hall (Goshen Fire Company President), Tom Stalnaker (Goshen Fire Company Treasurer)

Call to order & Pledge of Allegiance:

Marty called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence:

Marty called for a moment of silence to honor the members of the military who keep us safe, and for their families.

Recording of Meeting:

No one indicated that they would be recording the meeting.

Chairman's Report:

None

Consider Township Financial Forecasts and Budgetary Pressures:

Jon presented the Township's 2016 Financial Outlook with discussions in the following areas:

- **Public Works:** Due to the Emerald Ash borer problem, Jon recommended that the tree removal line item will be maintained. Marty asked if the trees for removal have been identified and tagged. Jon commented that they have been.
- **Storm water:** The corrugated pipe under the Forest Lane Bridge is rusting and needs replacement with estimates at \$68,000.
- **Paving:** Mark Miller commented on the increased costs in paving for 2016 due to more curb repair.
- **Glenbrook Lane Covered Bridge:** Mark Miller commented that due to truck traffic, low clearance, and wear and tear, this bridge would need to be raised and a new roof installed. Marty feels strongly that any future repairs to this bridge should only be to maintain the bridge surface, with the covered structure and roofing eliminated.
- **East Boot Road Bridge:** Rick commented that the repairs with associated costs as outlined will be completed by the 2016 deadline.
- **Sewer Issue:** Rick commented on the need for two back up pumps at the Ridley Creek Sewer Plant in case of any emergency. Mark explained the pumps earmarked for purchase are top of the line with spare parts manufactured in Sweden. Carmen asked if the pump control panels needed any spare parts to be purchased. Mark said he has spare parts for the control panels in inventory. Senya expressed an interest in having an overall

sewer line maintenance/repair plan for the eventual sliplining of all of the aging asbestos cement sewer lines in the Township. Mark said he would prepare such a plan with recommendations.

- Dams: Marty suggested that unallocated funds from the Sinking Fund be used for this issue, regardless of what solution is decided upon. Rick suggested that the Township hire a surveyor to determine where exactly the property lines are surrounding the reservoir. Senya and Chuck also suggested that Rick check with Kristin Camp regarding legal considerations with respect to the various options at the Milltown Reservoir.

Rick also suggested that he contact the five engineering firms and ask that they send their price quotes separately to Kristin, so that staff and the Board can select the best engineering firm, without being influenced by price consideration. However, the Board was in agreement that pricing should be a factor in choosing what engineering firm is retained.

- Trucks: 4 vehicles are scheduled for replacement in 2016. Jon noted that the costs listed are net costs.
- Traffic: Rick commented that the PennDOT Go Green Grant application has been submitted.

Security Cameras: Due to higher than expected costs, Jon recommended the postponement to 2016 of security camera installation. Carmen raised concern about a potential incident in the park this summer and the remainder of the Board was in agreement that this project should not be deferred. Rick and Jon agreed to have something on the agenda in June about this issue.

Consider Goshen Fire Company Long-Term Financial Conditions:

Bob Hall and Tom Stalnaker presented the East Goshen Township 2015 Financial Needs Forecast. Areas of note are:

- Tom commented on the national trend of rising medical EMS service calls compared to fire calls as a result of an aging society, with Medicare payouts on the decline.
- Goshen Fire Company has its own self-sustaining Apparatus Fund for the purchase of new trucks on a 10 year cycle in order to get the best resale value. Senya asked if this is the best model to use, as some townships, like the Borough of West Chester, buy the trucks outright and the serviced municipalities share the costs based on usage.
- Goshen Fire Company has seen a significant decrease in volunteer activity. Tom noted that increased training requirements and national security regulations are playing a role in this. Marty suggested education programs within school curricula to help increase a draw to volunteerism and vocation.
- 25% of Goshen Fire Company's revenue comes from township contributions (50% of which comes from East Goshen Township). The Board unanimously asked to know exactly what each of these other townships contribute. Bob Hall expressed the need to develop a formula or plan to determine what they should reasonably be asking of all participating townships to contribute in the future based on usage, with a potential \$2 million Capital Campaign in the near future. Tom also noted that he has not been able to secure an audience with any of the other partner townships to discuss these concerns.
- GFC is the only Fire Company in Chester County to not have a full time administrative support staffer. They see this as an immediate need.

- GFC would like to upgrade Station 54 at a cost of \$4,000,000 and will request total contributions of \$255,600, or \$85,200 annually over three years from East Goshen.
- Marty suggested that GFC create Capital and Operating Budgets as best practices to see projections, depreciation, and apparatus maintenance needs. He suggested that whatever their financial considerations to East Goshen Township would be, they should be submitted to Jon by the end of September, 2015.
- Senya asked Tom if GFC has ever considered a better usage of the open space that is reserved for their yearly Fair, with the Fair being held at another location, thereby creating an annual annuity for the Fire Company. Tom felt this would be hard fought as the GFC community is so attached to that land and that specific location of the Fair.

Financial Forecasts/Budgetary Pressures (Cont'd):

- WEGO Police Financial Considerations: Marty reiterated his displeasure with the current financial contract which places an unfair financial burden on East Goshen Township compared to its partners. The Board also agreed to fund the WEGO Police Pension Trust Fund to a level of \$255,272 and then stop. Marty also expressed concern with the newly presented WEGO Long Term Planning Overview document not having been presented and vetted by the Police Finance Committee. He felt that this document needed further explanation and analysis of all items.
- East Goshen Park Tot Lot and Master Plan: The Board agreed with Jason that it is important that the Tot Lot be upgraded soon. Carmen, Janet and Marty also urged that a full Park Master Plan be started as soon as possible. Rick suggested that Jason should proceed with a recommendation on an RFP for the Master Plan at the June 2, 2015 Board of Supervisors Meeting.
- ReadyChesco Emergency Communication System: The Board unanimously agreed to switch its emergency communication system from Blackboard to the County's ReadyChesco system at a renewal cost savings of \$13,334.
- Township Roof: Jon recommends the Board put out for bid a new Township building roof in 2016. The roof is now 22 years old, is fully depreciated, and had minor damage from last year's hail storm.

Consider Long-Range Forecast/What If Scenarios: Jon outlined the Township's long-range financial forecast under various scenarios. Marty asked what the forecast would be if the Board removed the .14 mills from the tax rate once the Applebrook loan is paid off in 2019. Jon explained that lowering the tax rate would have a \$225,000 impact per year. Carmen indicated that the Board has an obligation to lower the tax rate when that loan is paid off, as the loan was approved as electoral debt. Marty observed that the Board should acknowledge the mill rate issue in 2019, but that lowering the tax rate may result in the Township facing financial pressures in the future.

Any Other Matter: None

Public Comment –Hearing of Residents: None

Meetings & Dates of Importance:

Marty concluded that the following agenda items will be addressed at the June 16, 2015 Board of Supervisors Meeting: the Paoli Pike Trail informational update; the vote to move forward with Milltown Dam Engineering; and a presentation from the Sunoco representative.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Marty made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:02 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Christina Rossetti Hartnett
Recording Secretary

Attachments: none