

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING (BUDGET PLANNING MEETING)
1580 PAOLI PIKE
MAY 25, 2016 – 9:30am
FINAL APPROVED MINUTES**

Present: Chairman Senya D. Isayeff, Vice-Chairman Marty Shane, and Supervisors Janet Emanuel, Chuck Proctor, Carmen Battavio, Township Manager Rick Smith, Township CFO Jon Altshul, Zoning Officer Mark Gordon, Parks & Recreation Director Jason Lang, Public Works Director Mark Miller, and ABC Member Tom Kilburn (Futurist Committee). The following members of Township staff were also present: Brian McCool, Barb Phillips and Tia Piccolo. The following members of the Goshen Fire Company were also present: Bob Hall, President; Ted Harrison III (Vice President); and Tom Stalnaker, Treasurer.

Call to order & Pledge of Allegiance:

Senya called the meeting to order at 9:30am and asked Jason to lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence:

Senya called for a moment of silence to honor the members of the military who keep us safe both locally and abroad, and to honor those who have given the ultimate sacrifice of their lives in defense of our nation.

Recording of Meeting: *None*

Update on Goshen Fire Company budget and budget forecast

Bob Hall provided an overview of Goshen Fire Company's budget and financial position. He stressed that volunteer hours have been declining and paid firefighter hours have been increasing substantially over the past several months. However, he is hopeful that the Chief's plan to attract more volunteers will reverse these trends.

Senya raised concern about the levels of contributions that other municipalities are making and wants to avoid East Goshen subsidizing service for other municipalities. He suggested that East Goshen convene a meeting with the other municipalities to review the current funding levels and develop a plan or formula for ensuring that everyone is paying their fair share. Senya also asked Bob about whether the Fire Company had had any discussions about alternative uses for its Park Avenue property that would generate more revenue, such as a land swap with adjacent businesses. Bob agreed to take the matter up in an upcoming Fire Company meeting.

Marty asked whether there has been any discussion of area fire companies merging. Bob said that this issue had not been discussed. Marty stated that with costs rising many fire companies will have no choice but to merge in order to remain solvent and recommended that the Fire Company give this matter consideration.

Consider Long Range Planning Memo

Jon provided an overview of his May 20th memo to the Board, including his long-range cost assumptions about the two dams, the trail and the park; staff's recommendations about other Township capital expenses in 2017 including a new brine tank, alarm system, vehicle wash bay and iron worker tool; and the various "what if" scenarios outlined. He observed that the Township's financial policy adopted in 2013 requires the Township to maintain a general fund balance of 20% and an operating reserve balance of 5%, or 25% total, but that he recommends using a more conservative 30% as the threshold that should guide the Township's decision making.

He also discussed some long-term considerations for the sewer fund and Municipal Authority, including staff's recommendation that the Township should repurpose the balance of the 2013 loan proceeds for the proposed Reservoir Road pump station for East Goshen's share of capital improvements at the West Goshen Sewer Treatment Plant; the purchase of a tow mounted trailer; and a long-term plan for brick manhole and concrete asbestos lining to prevent future system deterioration and infiltration.

Jon also stated that Rick had been approached by East Whiteland about possibly revisiting the intersection improvements at King Road and North Chester Road. Marty suggested that Immaculata University be involved in any future discussions as well. Rick will await a future meeting with stakeholders and follow up with the Board then.

Consider conducting a statistically valid recreation survey

Senya had a handful of edits to the format of the survey, which Jon agreed to update. Marty made a motion to authorize staff to conduct the survey with a sample of 833 residents. Chuck seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0, as Carmen had temporarily left the room at the time of the vote. Jon stated that the Township may need to wait until after Labor Day to begin this survey, so as to avoid summer vacations.

Consider amending performance evaluations

The Board expressed support for the new evaluation forms. Mark Gordon raised concerns about the form being too long and detailed and possibly detracting from nonexempt employees' regular job duties.

Any other matter

The Board agreed to have a special Board meeting on Tuesday June 28 at 7:00pm to discuss both the Milltown Dam and the Hershey's Mill Dam. Rick will send a 1,000 foot letter to neighbors of both dams and look into renting the fire hall.

Senya asked Rick to attend the May 26 groundbreaking ceremony at the Goshen Friends School, as neither he nor Marty will be available.

Rick asked if the Board had any objections to him signing the new Memorandum of Understanding for the newly-promoted police lieutenant that contained the same language as had been agreed to for previous lieutenants. No objections were made.

Senya expressed an interest in receiving more data about false alarm violations in the Township. Mark Gordon agreed to provide that to him.

Public Comment

John Smith, 26 Lochwood Lane, expressed concern about the benefit of the trail.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Janet motioned to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 pm. Senya seconded. The Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Jon Altshul
Chief Financial Officer