

**THORNBURY TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES – February 17, 2009**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Thornbury Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Ed Travis at 7:00 P.M. in Thornbury Township's meeting room. In attendance were Supervisors Ed Travis, Chairman; Michael Gast, Vice-Chairman; Robert Miller, Percy Neall, Lou Gagliardi Board Members, Kathy Labrum, Esq., Solicitor; and Cary Vargo, Township Manager. There were 10 signed guests.

II. WESTTOWN EAST GOSHEN POLICE REPORT – Sergeant Gorman

Sergeant Gorman presented the January police report. There were 145 calls for service which constituted 12 % of the total calls for the three Townships.

Yvonne Webster inquired about specific Township incidents.

Sergeant Gorman reported that a suspect was apprehended in reference to the recent thefts from motor vehicles at the Penn Oaks Fitness Club.

III. MANAGER'S REPORT – Cary Vargo

- Ø Two H2O PA Act 63 Grant Applications were completed and submitted to the DCED.
- Ø The deadline for federal earmark applications is Saturday February 21, 2009 via electronic submission.
- Ø We will not hear from Chester County in reference to the Waln Run Park development grant until March. The County Commissioners are scheduled to meet on both March 5th and March 19th.
- Ø The work on the Dallet House and the cleanup is approximately 75% complete.
- Ø We have been advised by Keith Heinrich of the PHMC that they are currently reviewing the National Registry application. The PHMC will most likely return the applications with questions and/or recommendations. We will then address these issues, if necessary, and return the application for review at their April meeting. This is good news for the timeliness of the review. The potential amendment of the application was taken into consideration in the original project budget.
- Ø A Wavetronix demonstration is scheduled for Wednesday February 18, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the West Goshen Township building. All Chester County municipalities were invited if they were interested. Local municipalities in attendance will include West Goshen and Westtown. Thornbury, Delaware County was also invited to attend.
- Ø PECO reported a high of 919 customer outages in the Township during the wind storm yesterday. According to PECO, power to a majority of these affected customers was restored within several hours.

Thornbury Township Board of Supervisors- February 17th, 2009

- Ø Information on the sewer grants is now posted on the website.
- Ø Budget information update through January 31, 2009 - we have received \$14,865.00 for Real Estate Transfer Tax. That is 10.6% of what we budgeted and a 6.8% increase over last years total.
- Ø Through January 31, 2009 we have received \$67,408.00 in Earned Income Tax. That is 9.1% of what we budgeted a 4.9% decrease from last year.
- Ø Permits - we have received almost 50% of our budgeted number. This is due to one large project – Meadowcroft Presbyterian Church.
- Ø Snow & Ice control to date – we have spent \$37,938.36, 54% of our budgeted number.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. January 27, 2009 (BOS Regular Meeting).

Mike Gast motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Bob Miller. Mike Gast, Bob Miller, Ed Travis and Percy Neall were in favor. Lou Gagliardi abstained. Motion carried.

V. AGENDA BUSINESS:

1. Hearing – Ordinance Amendment – Chapter 105 Sewers, Article 5, “Pre-Treatment Standards and Regulations for Industrial Wastewater Discharges”

Kathy Labrum opened the hearing and introduced the proof of publication from the Daily Local News. Kathy explained that the amendment is required in order to comply with U.S Environmental Protection Agency Standards. There are currently no industrial users in Thornbury Township. Public comment was solicited with none being heard.

Ed Travis motioned to approve the Ordinance Amendment. The motion was seconded by Mike Gast. All were in favor. Motion carried.

2. Meadowcroft Presbyterian Church Escrow Release # 1, \$88,578.15

Yerkes Associates has reviewed the request and recommends release of the full amount.

Lou Gagliardi inquired if everything was in order.

Cary Vargo noted that the initial request was slightly larger and was reduced to its current amount after consultation with Yerkes.

Bob Miller noted that \$490,845.85 remains in the escrow fund.

Percy Neall motioned to approve the Meadowcroft Presbyterian Church Escrow Release # 1 for \$88,578.15. Mike Gast seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chris Lang expressed concern about the security of the Dallet Property and believes that two Dutch door sections from the barn and shutters from the Dallet House may have been removed from the site.

Bob Miller asked if we have sufficient video or photographic documentation of the barn.

Chris Lang noted that he does have pictures.

Percy Neall recommended an inventory of the property and volunteered his time to walk the site and assist with this task.

Lou Gagliardi recommended that Chris and Cary meet to review the issue and then schedule a meeting with Orleans.

Eric Burling expressed his support for preserving the property to include the barn and the house. Eric read a piece on Squire Thomas Cheyney and his involvement with the Battle of Brandywine.

Ann Connolly commented on the Board's meeting held on February 10, 2009. Ann also inquired about the Township ordinance requiring maintenance and reporting of septic systems.

Cary Vargo noted that, by law, haulers are supposed to report their activities but this is not frequently done. Cary will contact the Health Department to follow up.

Dick Webster inquired if there is any evidence of homeowners not taking care of their septic systems.

Ann Connolly inquired about general fund tax monies being spent on sewer projects.

Mike Gast noted that the Township is in the first stages of this process. Grant applications have been submitted in an attempt to obtain funding for sewer infrastructure. Mike invited anyone interested in discussing this issue to contact him.

Mike Gast recognized Tom Spackman for achieving the National Association of Realtors status of Realtor Emeritus as noted in the Daily Local News. This is recognition for 40 or more years of service and membership and exhibits Tom's dedication and service to the industry.

VII. COMMISSION REPORTS

A. Planning Commission

No Meeting in the month of February.

B. Historic Preservation Commission – Chris Lang

Chris Lang reported the commission last met on February 3, 2009 and discussed the progress on the Historic Resource Inventory Project. The commission decided on a classification system.

Ed Travis inquired about the classification system.

Chris noted that the 4 classifications are as follows:

1. Properties that are already certified eligible
2. Properties that have been deemed by the Township to be either locally, state, or nationally significant but that have not as of yet been certified eligible
3. Properties that have local significance
4. Properties that are over 50 years of age but do not have local significance

The commission also discussed the Dallet Property.

C. Park and Recreation – Percy Neall

Percy Neall noted that Lauren Durham is now the Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission. We also discussed collaborative efforts with Westtown Township.

D. Council of Governments – Mike Gast

The next WCACOG's meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2009.

E. Cheyney Liaison – Mike Gast

Mike Gast noted that recent activity with Cheyney University includes collaboration on the sewer grants, discussions on musical events in the park and discount tickets to sporting events. Cheyney has expressed an interest in working with the Historic Preservation Commission.

Lou Gagliardi asked about the recent on campus incident and any response or input provided by the Township

Mike Gast responded that the University President is taking campus safety and security very seriously and has formed a task force to address the issue. The Township has been asked to participate on this task force.

F. Dallet Property

No Report

VIII. OPERATION REPORTS

A. Road Master Report- Cary Vargo

We currently have an adequate stock pile of road salt and, barring severe weather, should not have to order any additional inventory. John Neff has completed an evaluation of our roadways and located only several pot holes. These pot holes will be addressed to limit further roadway damage.

B. Approval of Bill List, \$161,059.48 – Bob Miller

Bob Miller presented the February bill list for \$161,059.48 and reviewed the major expenditures.

Ed Travis motioned to approve the bill list as presented. Percy Neall seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

IX. OTHER MATTERS

Ann Connolly inquired about the map of the Waln Run Park and the segment of the existing trail to be removed.

Cary Vargo noted that there is a possibility that a small piece of the asphalt trail will have to be removed in order to increase the level of the bridge, thus avoiding the identified flood plain.

Lou Gagliardi inquired about WEGO police contract negotiations.

Bob Miller responded that preparations have begun and discussions will follow with Township representatives being Mike Gast, Bob Miller and Cary Vargo.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mike Gast motioned to adjourn the meeting. Bob Miller seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cary B. Vargo
Township Manager/Secretary