

**THORNBURY TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES – December 16, 2008**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Thornbury Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Ed Travis at 7:03 P.M. in Thornbury Township's meeting room. In attendance were Supervisors Ed Travis, Chairman; Michael Gast, Vice-Chairman; Robert Miller, Lou Gagliardi Board Members; Kathy Labrum, Esq., Solicitor; and Cary Vargo, Township Manager. There were 23 signed guests. An executive session was held prior to the regularly scheduled meeting to discuss personnel & legal matters.

II. WESTTOWN EAST GOSHEN POLICE REPORT – Sergeant Gorman

Sergeant Gorman presented the November 2008 police report. There were 129 calls for service which constituted 11 % of the total calls for the three Townships.

Frank Reilly inquired about the location of a reported burglary.

Sergeant Gorman responded that it was in the 1200 block of Cheyney Road.

Lou Gagliardi inquired about the specifics of an incident involving the detention of a pedestrian on Route 926 in the Township.

Sergeant Gorman responded that he had no additional information.

Pete Delicci stated that he is having problems with trucks using their air brakes on his street.

Cary Vargo stated that a letter will be sent to the quarry asking that all drivers be reminded of the prohibition.

Sergeant Gorman noted that it is the holiday season; please make sure to keep all doors and windows locked on your vehicles as well as your houses.

III. MANAGER'S REPORT – Cary Vargo

- The Santa Express was a wonderful event with approximately 225 participants.
- The wash out repair on 202/Red Lion has been completed by Penndot.
- The Township has had 3 winter events that have required snow and ice control.
- Meadowcroft Presbyterian Church has recorded their plans and has begun site work. The building permit is pending.
- Construction at Squire Cheyney has temporarily stalled due to inclement weather. Orleans has reportedly sold 2 houses.

- 1230 Cheyney Road - Our solicitor has filed suit against Mr. Lal, in an attempt to recoup \$5,408 that was paid for the pumping of sewage tanks on the property.
- Update on the DCED grant. The funds must be spent by June 30, 2009. The Original grant was \$75,000, the starting balance for the Historic Preservation was \$29,014, and we spent thus far \$4,120. The starting balance for park development was \$45,986; we have spent approx. \$15,000 which leaves \$30,986 balance. We can apply for an extension but there is no guarantee that the DCED will grant it again.
- Spoke with A. J. at Sage Hill in reference to the sewage building and he spoke with Ted Moser; neither recollects stating that they would stone the entire building. They have provided the original exhibits for our review. A.J. states that they will continue to work with the Township to reach a reasonable resolution.
- The CVS is moving forward quickly, which has created problems. There has been a great deal of traffic congestion and damage to the loop/sensor system. The Township is having the sensors replaced with the cost to be borne by the project. The repair will be completed as soon as possible.
- We are still gathering information and rates on recycling.

IV. OPERATION REPORTS

A. Road Master Report- Mike Aiello

No current issues. The Township is well prepared for snow/ice control.

B. Approval of Bill List – Bob Miller

Bob Miller presented the November list for \$141,327.46 and reviewed the major expenditures.

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

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Donations:

- 1. Good Fellowship Ambulance Company-\$1,500**
- 2. Visiting Nurses - \$1,100**
- 3. West Chester Area Senior Center - \$1,000**
- 4. Glen Mills Historical Society - \$250**

Ed Travis noted the donations are the same as last years.

Lisa Kessel inquired about the process used to determine how much each organization would receive.

Ed Travis noted that we are giving what we gave last year. Dave Smiley suggested the amount to the Good Fellow Ambulance Company.

Thornbury Township Board of Supervisors- December 16th, 2008

Lou Gagliardi stated that the Township's donations are also based on other area municipalities and their contributions.

Lisa Kessel asked if the Township has a line item in the budget for these donations.

Cary Vargo stated that there is a specific line item for donations.

Lou Gagliardi motioned to approve the contributions. Ed Travis seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

B. Approval to submit application for National Registry of Historic Places-Dallet Property, expenditure of \$5,180.00.

Ed Travis noted that Jane Dorchester submitted a proposal to complete an application for the National Registry of Historic Places (Dallet Property).

Bob Miller asked if this work has already been completed.

Cary Vargo noted that there was historical research completed by Orleans as required by the sub-division and land development process; however, we must continue with the process.

Chris Lang expressed support for the application.

Lou Gagliardi asked if the proposal included a fixed cost.

Mike Gast motioned to approve the Dorchester proposal to complete an application for the National Registry of Historic Places – Dallet Property. The motion was seconded by Bob Miller. All were in favor. Motion carried.

C. Consideration of and approval of 2009 Township Budget

Ed Travis noted that the board considered a number of comments on the budget, and as a result, expenditures have been reduced by \$55,772.00. General Fund expenditures, minus capital park improvements, have been balanced and have been reduced by approximately 6% from 2008. Certain aspects of park development will potentially be deferred until 2010 based on actual costs. This was done due to a reduction in grant funding received.

Lou Gagliardi suggested a complete review of the budget due to the complexity of the changes.

Bob Cicconi inquired if capital funds were appropriate to use for the development of a park.

Ed Travis replied yes.

Mike Gast noted that the Township is committed to spending the funds received from the DCNR, and a 50% Township match.

Jim Jordan asked if the posted budget is accurate.

Brain Smith inquired about the availability of Township funds in reserve.

Cary Vargo noted that all funds in reserve are unencumbered and available to the Township.

Lou Gagliardi suggested removing \$10,000 from the traffic engineering line item and \$80,000 from roadway paving.

Bob Miller noted that this is a budget, a process; we do not have to spend the money.

Jim Jordan noted that Moser is responsible for repairing a portion of Westbourne Road. Jim also stated that he did not believe that the Township would make its real estate transfer tax projections because of the current housing crisis.

Cary Vargo stated that the budgeted number is not unrealistic, we have had 11 transfers in October; Orleans has sold two houses in the Preserve at Squire Cheyney and one has recently sold in Sage Hill. There has been a slow down, but we have not been profoundly affected.

Jim Jordan expressed displeasure about the funds designated for traffic engineering, specifically because the area to be studied includes S. Concord Road.

Mike Gast noted that changes have been made to the area and, as a result, a study is warranted.

Lou Gagliardi asked if the Board was committed to implementing the recommendations made by a traffic study.

Mike Aiello suggested that we use the Township traffic counter and consult with Yerkes in reference to possible changes to S. Concord Road.

Mary Lyn Jones, Twaddell Drive, stated that the changes to S. Concord Road have been beneficial.

Celia Lang agreed that the changes have been beneficial and disagreed with further studies.

Mike Aiello recommended additional maintenance to the Hollow to include the removal of trees, roots etc.

Mike Aiello inquired about the funds designated for signs/signals.

Ed Travis noted that the signs/signals line item includes a volume density system to be installed on the traffic signal at Greentree Drive & Route 202.

Mitch Sentman noted that a volume/density system improves the flow of traffic and will not be a safety improvement at this intersection.

Cary Vargo noted that Penn Dot explained this system would be a safety improvement, utilizing radar to alter the phasing of the traffic light.

Bob Miller again noted it is in the budget, if the system is not useful, we do not have to spend the funds.

Bill Reilly disagreed with spending money on additional traffic studies.

Lou Gagliardi noted that there have been no safety issues or complaints in regards to S. Concord Road documented by the Township.

Ed Travis noted that there have been complaints and, as a result, we will do the study and put everyone's mind at ease.

Mary Lyn Jones stated that she has seen an improvement in safety on S. Concord Road with the installation of signs.

Renee Braun stated that he is unaware of any safety issues on S. Concord Road and recommended police enforcement to combat problems.

Chris Lang noted that he is not in favor of spending any money on the road. We should not spend unnecessarily in 2009.

Brain Smith inquired about \$30,000 in grants; have these funds been received in prior years.

Ed Travis replied yes.

Brian Smith inquired about reserve funds, escrow funds and what these funds are earmarked for.

Cary Vargo noted that funds for all development projects and grants are escrowed. Individual escrow accounts for development projects are not included in Township reserve funds.

Brain Smith noted that we should be budgeting very conservatively. The Township controls only real estate tax income. We should continue to defer items we do not need.

Mike Aiello inquired about the long-term plan for the Dallet House.

Cary Vargo noted that the Township may take dedication of the property this year, and as a result, some money should be allocated to the property.

Lou Gagliardi motioned to adopt the 2009 proposed budget based on the budget that was advertised and posted on the web site with the following changes:

433-000 - Traffic Engineering – reduction to \$6,000
438-.900 - Road Paving - reduction to \$40,000.

Ed Travis called for a second. No response, motion failed.

Barbara Iacovelli asked if the budget was balanced. Barbara thanked the Board for not raising taxes and applauded the Board for paying off the outstanding Township debt.

Bob Miller motioned to approve the 2009 Township Budget. Mike Gast seconded the motion. Bob Miller, Ed Travis and Mike Gast were in favor. Lou Gagliardi opposed. Motion carried.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Steve Erney noted that the contractors working on the CVS project have been parking on property owned by Brandywine at Thornbury, adjacent to Route 926. Steve asked that this be documented so the damage can be repaired at the appropriate time.

Chris Lang inquired about how we can control what work Orleans undertakes on and around the Dallet House.

Cary Vargo noted that the work to be completed on the house is supposed to consist of what was included in the proposal submitted by RNR, Orleans contractor.

VII. COMMISSION REPORTS

A. Planning Commission – Jim Jordan

Jim Jordan stated that the Planning Commission has been working ordinances. The Scenic Roadway Ordinance has been completed. The commission is currently working on a Riparian Buffer Ordinance and hope to have it completed at our next meeting so that it can be presented to the Board. We have tabled the Institutional Zoning Ordinance until after the first of the year.

B. Historic Preservation Commission – Chris Lang

The Historic Resource Inventory project continues to move forward. The HPC tasked Jane Dorchester to begin research on the Dallet Property. This research can be used for the National Registry nomination.

C. Park and Recreation – Cary Vargo

Cary Vargo thanked all involved with the Santa Express event. The Township is now offering discount ski tickets and movie tickets to AMC theaters. All information is available on our website.

D. Council of Governments – Mike Gast

Mike Gast stated that WCACOG met on November 20, 2008. There was a presentation on the transition to digital television; contact the Township manager for additional information. Plans are being made to invite our state and federal elected officials to a discussion on local transportation improvements

E. Cheyney Liaison – Mike Gast

There is a potential for collaborative efforts in reference to Cheyney's sewer plant and sewer service to residents in our Township and possible areas of Delaware County not currently sewerred.

F. Dallet Property – Cary Vargo

Orleans will begin cleanup of Lot #39 shortly.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. November 12, 2008 (BOS Wok Session)

Mike Gast motioned to approve the minutes. Bob Miller seconded the motion. Mike Gast, Ed Travis, Bob Miller were in favor. Lou Gagliardi abstained. Motion carried.

B. November 18, 2008 (BOS Regular Meeting)

Mike Gast noted that there were two spelling changes.

Lou Gagliardi motioned to approve the minutes with Mike Gast's changes. The motion was seconded by Ed Travis. All were in favor. Motion carried.

C. December 2, 2008 (BOS Work Session)

Mike Gast noted that this meeting was a holiday gathering to celebrate all of the volunteers who work so hard throughout the year. You can check the minutes on line to see all of the people who give their time to the Township.

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

IX. OTHER MATTERS

Cary Vargo noted that, included in the books, were proposed 2009 meeting dates.

Ed Travis inquired about the best day for work sessions and availability.

Lou Gagliardi suggested that we hold quarterly work sessions, rather than monthly.

Ed Travis noted the requirement to advertise, it would be better to advertise a monthly meeting and cancel if necessary.

Cary Vargo noted that the re-organization meeting and the January meeting have already been advertised. Cary suggested the Board review the proposed meeting dates and provide feedback at the re-organization meeting.

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Cary B. Vargo
Township Manager/Secretary