

**THORNBURY TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MINUTES – October 20, 2009**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Thornbury Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Ed Travis at 7:11 P.M. in Thornbury Township's meeting room. In attendance were Supervisors Ed Travis, Chairman; Mike Gast, Vice-Chairman; Robert Miller, Percy Neall and Lou Gagliardi Board Members, Kathy Labrum, Esq., Solicitor; and Cary Vargo, Township Manager. There were 9 signed guests.

**II. WESTTOWN EAST GOSHEN POLICE REPORT – Sergeant Gorman**

Sergeant Gorman presented the September police report. There were 141 calls for service which constituted 12 % of the total calls for the three Townships.

Steve Ernie inquired how much time is dedicated to Thornbury Township.

Bob Miller noted that last month there was 287 hours dedicated to patrol time and 59 hours for traffic enforcement.

**III. MANAGERS REPORT**

1. Thank you to the Parks and Recreation Commission and Teresa DeStefano for all of their hard work on the Fall Festival. Planning begins for the Santa Express which is scheduled for Sunday, December 6, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.
2. The 2009 Roadway Repair/Paving project is almost completed. As of Friday, October 16, 2009, S. Westbourne has been milled and a 2" asphalt binder course has been applied. Cheyney Road has been milled and is ready for a 2" asphalt binder course. Work to be completed is as follows: 1 ½" overlay on S. Westbourne Road and a 2" asphalt binder course and a 1 ½" overlay on Cheyney Road. The performance of the contractor thus far has been satisfactory.
3. Penn Dot is addressing issues on the Westtown side of Route 926 at Cheyney Road. At the Township's request, Penn Dot is shoring up the roadway and installing a storm water inlet. This will help to ensure proper drainage from Ann's Parcel on the Thornbury side of Route 926.
4. There is a scheduled Historic Preservation Commission meeting on Monday, November 2, 2009 at 7 PM. The meeting will share with the public the results of the Historic Resource Inventory Project.
5. Ed Travis and Cary Vargo attended a meeting at Brinton Village about road improvements at Route 926 and Caleb Drive.

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Frank Riley noted that west of the entrance to Brinton Village there is an accumulation of water and a hole at the intersection.

Cary Vargo noted that these improvements will address those issues.

6. There are two (2) sub-division and/or land development projects on the Planning Commission agenda for their meeting scheduled for Monday, November 9, 2009. These projects include an expansion of the facilities at the Penn Oaks Country Club and the Crooks/Johnson project, located off West Street Road (Route 926). Materials have been sent to all appropriate persons and/or agencies for review.

#### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

##### **A. September, 2009 (BOS Meeting)**

**Bob Miller motioned to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mike Gast. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

##### **B. September 29, 2009 (Budget Meeting)**

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

##### **C. October 6, 2009 (Work Session)**

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

#### **V. AGENDA BUSINESS:**

##### **1. Presentation of 2010 MMO**

Cary Vargo noted that the Board simply needs to acknowledge the MMO for its contribution to the retirement program. This will be our last year for payment. As of 2011 this will be supported by state aid.

##### **2. Consider Brinton Village Escrow Release # 16 \$19,780.00**

Ed Travis noted that they are requesting this for landscaping. Simone Collins and Yerkers Associates recommended releasing \$9,200.00 of the \$19,780.00 requested.

Lou Gagliardi inquired about his request from the last meeting, about landscaping for CVS and Brinton Village.

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Cary Vargo noted that he and Peter DuFault have been talking and the issues with CVS have been resolved. There are still some issues with Brinton Village; however we are fine with the reduction in the escrow release.

Peter DuFault noted that we are corresponding with Brinton Village and have everything documented.

**Bob Miller motioned to approve the escrow release #16 for \$9,200. Mike Gast seconded the motion. Bob Miller, Ed Travis, Mike Gast and Percy Neall were in favor. Lou Gagliardi opposed. Motion carried.**

### **3. Approve Distribution of Fire Relief Funds, \$29,932.60**

Ed Travis noted that our Fire Marshall has recommended the disbursement of funds as follows:

- \$20,952.82 to the West Chester Area Fire Department
- \$2,993.26 to the Concord Township Volunteer Fire Relief Association and:
- \$5,986.52 to Good Fellowship Ambulance

**Percy Neall motioned to approve the distribution of the Fire Relief Funds. Mike Gast seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

### **4. Review 2010 Draft Budget**

Ed Travis noted that we are just trying to modify the budget so it can be advertised.

Cary Vargo noted that the budget is based on expenditures through 2012. It's based on a property tax mileage of .91 mills and the maintenance of a fund balance in the general funds of 25% of recurring expenditures. That is called the rainy day fund.

There was a budget work shop on 9/29/09 and a second work shop on October 6, 2009.

Major revenue sources include the earned income tax of \$775,000 an increase of 5% over the 2009 budget and the Real Estate tax income assuming a .91 millage rate of 276,500. That 9% increase in millage represents 21,700 in revenue.

Cary Vargo noted that the budget is balanced through 2012.

Lou Gagliardi noted that with the suggestions he submitted we could eliminate a tax increase.

If we lower snow & ice, traffic engineering, and road paving we could eliminate any tax increase for 2010.

With Cary leaving, the line item of salaries will be reduced.

Mike Gast noted that a lot of the items are estimates.

Ed Travis noted that we do not have any line item for a salt shed. He referred to Steve Zippi on this matter.

Steve Zippi noted that currently we have our salt at Cheyney University with a tarp over it. It gets wet and is hard for his guys to get to it. Steve believes the Township in the long run would save money with a salt shed.

Percy Neall inquired where we would put a salt shed.

Cary Vargo noted that we are in violation of DEP regulations for storing salt.

Bob Miller inquired about Waln Run Park and why we want to spend so much on that but not get a salt shed that we need.

Cary Vargo noted that Waln Run Park is 12 acres and is owned by the Township. It was included in the Master Park Plan. The original cost was \$575,000. There is a great deal of site work needed. There will be a bridge at the back of the park. We have received grants from the DCNR for \$252,000, \$100,000 from the Chester County Open Space and \$10,000 from PECO Green Region.

Dave Leever inquired if we have to match the grant money.

Cary Vargo noted that we only have to match about 20%.

Mike Gast noted that over the years the price of everything has increased.

Ann Connelly noted that we should just forget the park and sell the property.

Bob Miller noted that he agrees.

Rob Morris noted that we should just leave it as open space and keep the area rural. We do not need a city park in our Township.

Dave Leever inquired if the residents can vote on whether we keep it or sell it.

Bob Anthony inquired if we have to make the park ADA compliant.

Kathy Labrum noted that at this time we do.

Bob Miller noted that we should get the engineers input on this.

Brian Smith suggested that we should just walk away from the Waln Run Park project at this time. We should take it off the budget.

Rob Morris inquired about the parking project at the Town Center. If they are profit centers why don't the tenants pay for it?

Pete DuFault asked what does the lease state. As the landlord you can regulate the parking spots.

Cary Vargo noted that the Township spends very little on the Town Center. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> time we are making any improvement.

Kathy Labrum noted that they are up for renewal.

Frank Riley inquired about the lot next to the train station and why we can't we use it.

Lou Gagliardi noted that it is private property.

Mike Gast summarized what we have covered so far; he noted that we have 8 items to check into.

Bob Miller noted that Ann Connelly inquired about the web site line item.

Staff was tasked to amend the draft budget based on feedback provided by the Board. The next presentation of the draft budget is scheduled for, November 10, 2009.

## **VI. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

David Smyth noted that there is a tremendous amount of traffic on South New Street and Route 926. He felt that a traffic study should be done. He also felt that a turn lane should be installed as soon as possible.

David Smyth was also concerned about the increase in the police budget. He suggested meeting with the chief at Birmingham Township to try to work out a better price. He noted that WEGO is 1<sup>st</sup> class, but they are not around 24-7.

Steve Ernie inquired about the police force also.

Mike Gast noted that the police contract was signed several months ago & we can revisit this issue in the future.

Patrisa Witting spoke in regards to the issues at Mr. Galantino's property. She noted that the Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor and Cary Vargo, the Township Manager hadn't responded back to her since presenting the issues at the last public meeting.

## **VII. OPERATION REPORTS**

### **A. Road Master Report – Cary Vargo**

Cary Vargo noted that the roads are in good shape. The 2009 paving project is finished and Joseph Sucher & Sons did a great job.

### **B. Approval of Bill List, \$129,151.41 – Bob Miller**

Bob Miller presented the August bill list for \$129,151.41 and reviewed the major expenditures.

**Ed Travis motioned to approve the bill list as presented. Mike Gast seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

### **C. Treasure's Quarterly Report – Bob Miller**

Bob Miller presented the Treasurers Quarterly report and reviewed points of interest.

**Mike Gast motioned to approve the Treasurer's Quarterly Report as presented. Percy Neall seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

## **VIII. OTHER MATTERS**

Mike Gast noted that we need to appoint a temporary chief administrator at the Township.

**Percy Neall motioned to appoint Ed Travis as temporary administrator. Bob Miller seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

**Mike Gast motioned to appoint Percy Neall as deputy temporary administrator. Ed Travis seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

Cary Vargo noted that we need to name an additional member to the Historical Resources Inventory Task Force, as a replacement for him.

**Lou Gagliardi motioned to appoint Peter DuFault to the Historical Resources Inventory Task Force. Bob Miller seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

Cary Vargo noted that we need to appoint a primary voting delegate to the County's Tax Collection Committee.

Cary Vargo noted that we have Resolution 2009-21 naming Bob Miller as primary delegate, Dee Ann Manley as the 1<sup>st</sup> alternate and Mike Gast as the 2<sup>nd</sup> alternate.

**Percy Neall motioned to approve Resolution 2009-21. The motion was seconded by Ed Travis. Motion carried.**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**Lou Gagliardi motioned to adjourn the meeting. Percy Neall seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Ed Travis