

THORNBURY TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Work Session

MINUTES – July 7, 2009

The Thornbury Township Board of Supervisors work session was called to order at 6:10 p.m. in the Thornbury Township meeting room. In attendance were Supervisors: Ed Travis, Chairman; Mike Gast, Vice-Chairman, Robert Miller, Lou Gagliardi via telephone, Board members, and Cary Vargo, Township Manager. There were 3 signed guests.

I. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Discussion – Ordinance – Scenic Roadway Ordinance, Outdoor Wood Fired Boilers, Engine Brakes

Ed Travis distributed a draft Scenic Roadway ordinance for review and consideration. Bob Miller noted that the distributed draft appeared to incorporate input from Simone Collins and Yerkes and provides sufficient protections for Township roadways

Cary Vargo briefed the Board on complaints received in reference to the one (1) outdoor wood fired boiler currently located in the Township. A discussion was held on regulating and/or prohibiting further use of outdoor wood fired boilers. There was a general discussion held on the positives and negatives of regulating burning in the Township.

Cary Vargo briefed the Board on recent complaints in reference to truck traffic and the use of engine brakes in the Township. There was a discussion about truck traffic, the use of engine brakes, and additional areas of prohibition attained through an ordinance amendment. The amendment will be presented to the Board, along with a request for approval to advertise, at the meeting scheduled for July 21, 2009.

B. Act 32 Consolidation of Earned Income Tax Collections

A reminder that the Board of Supervisors must name a primary, an alternate, and a 2nd alternate to the County Tax Collection Committee at the meeting scheduled for July 21, 2009. A discussion was held about possible persons to be named to the committee.

C. Local Services Tax

Cary Vargo provided an overview of the Local Services Tax. The proposed tax is \$52/annually, collected \$1/week. The tax will be paid by those who work in the Township and earn greater than \$12,000/annually. The LST is estimated to impact 64 Township residents (those who reside and work in the Township). Berkheimer estimates were reviewed – Year 2010 - \$29,000 - \$33,000 and Year 2011 - \$39,000 - \$44,000.

Lou Gagliardi requested that staff review the original enabling ordinance passed several years ago.

D. HB 1682 County and Municipal Property Tax Relief Act

Cary Vargo briefed the Board on HB 1682 County and Municipal Property Tax. This Act will allow the Counties to impose a 1% sales tax with 50% of revenues going to Counties, 40% to municipalities, and 10% to a Municipal Collaborative Fund. 60% of revenues must be used for property tax relief.

There was a general discussion about the pros and cons of HB 1682.

E. Police Services

Mike Gast briefed the Board on ongoing negotiations with Westtown and East Goshen. A tentative agreement has been reached with the deal being similar to the previous agreement. Details will be discussed in executive session prior to public presentation.

II. OTHER MATTERS

A. Historic Preservation

Chris Lang reported that the HPC met last night and approved the historic marker currently displayed in the Township lobby.

Chris also noted that the recently received atlas contains several errors which will be corrected shortly.

There is a Historic Resource Inventory Task Force meeting scheduled for July 14, 2009.

B. Employee Healthcare

The Township has seen a 27.5% increase in healthcare costs in the last 12 months. Cary Vargo briefed the Board on a recommended transition to the Delaware Valley Health Insurance Trust. This transition will save the Township approximately 6% on healthcare and dental costs.

C. 2009-2010 Snow/Ice Control

Cary Vargo briefed the Board on the recommended contract extension (2009/2010) for snow/ice control services. The only change in terms and conditions is a recommended decrease in the required performance bond, \$10,000, down from \$20,000.

Mike Aiello (Roadmaster) confirmed the past performance of the current contractor and had no issues or concerns with the reduction in the performance bond.

D. Draft Landscapes Review

Cary Vargo provided information on recent correspondence received from the Chester County Planning Commission in reference to the draft version of the Landscapes update. Chester County is soliciting input on the draft plan and is requesting input in time for presentation to the County Commissioners on September 9, 2009. This information is also being distributed to the Township Planning Commission.

E. Supervisor Inquiries

Ed Travis inquired about future scheduled shredding events.

Cary Vargo noted that the date (mid-late October) will be posted in the next newsletter.

Ed Travis also inquired about the signage grant.

Cary noted that the grant funds can be used thru November, 2009.

Ed Travis noted that there is interest in sub-division and land development at the Caln Nether property (Route 202/Greentree Drive) and expressed an interest in obtaining public input.

Ed Travis noted that he has been contacted by Jeffrey Mandler in reference to concerns about the development of the Waln Run Park, specifically the asphalt access driveway adjacent to his property.

Cary Vargo noted that the Zoning Hearing Board is scheduled to meet on July 8, 2009 in reference to requested variances need to access and develop the park.

II. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa DeStefano