

THORNBURY TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Work Session

MINUTES December 6, 2011

The Thornbury Township Board of Supervisors' Work Session meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. in the Thornbury Township meeting room. In attendance were Supervisors Mike Gast, Chairman; Robert Miller, Vice-Chairman; and Bob Anthony. Also in attendance were Brody Bovero, Township Manager, and Teresa DeStefano, Secretary. An executive session was held before the regularly scheduled meeting to discuss real estate and personnel matters. There were 11 signed-in guests.

I. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Police Services Survey

Mike Gast gave a brief update on the details for the police survey. We currently contract with WEGO for our police services. The cost is high and is about 40% of the Township's budget. Since our contract will expire on January 1, 2013 we need to look at ways that we can provide service in a cost effective way.

Brody Bovero went over the schedule for the process of contracting for police services. The first step is constructing a resident survey to see what our services our residents prefer. The Township can then determine what our best law enforcement options are.

The Board agreed to identify possible opportunities and set up a task force to review and provide input for the survey.

Bob Miller suggested putting an example draft on the web site so the residents can be informed before the actual survey goes out. Also he would like to see the information in order to review it before it goes out.

The representatives from West Chester University noted that they are ready to move forward with this.

Wayne Swinehart suggested that the Township not waste too much time or money considering using the State Police, since we went through this before.

Bob Miller agreed but wanted to see what people would now prefer.

B. Thornbury Estates Traffic Management

Mike Gast noted that the Township has received complaints of speeding within Thornbury Estates, particularly along Greentree Drive and Red Lion Road, as motorists travel to and from Route 202.

To date, the Township has primarily managed the speeding issue through periodic traffic enforcement by WEGO. There recently had been pedestrian-vehicle accident involving a minor.

Mike Gast went over traffic options for Thornbury Estates:

- Stop Signs
- Speed Bumps
- Traffic diversion

Mike Gast noted that the best option right now would be to try a few stop signs in the development.

Brody Bovero noted that the proposal is to put one at Greentree Drive and Audubon Road and another one at Red Lion Road and Audubon Road. As a result of our traffic study it was determined that Red Lion Road meets the need for traffic calming, but Green Tree Drive does not.

Wayne Swinehart stated that the stop signs would slow people down but no one stops at the stop signs in the development. We need police coverage and fines to be given out.

Christine Williams stated that on Audubon Road the speeds are excessive and no one slows down. She would like to see speed bumps on the road and feels they would slow the drivers down.

Amanda Starr noted that there were speed bumps before but they were removed when we paved the roads.

Mike Gast noted that the violators are residents of the development.

Art Dunham stated that it is an issue throughout the Township.

Libby Murach stated that the issue is with the neighbors and suggested knocking on doors and asking residents to slow down.

Bob Anthony stated that drivers not stopping at stop signs are an issue all through the Township. Bob was concerned about speed bumps and if the Township is liable for damage to cars.

Karen Overall stated that there are speed bumps on College Hill Road and they have made a big difference.

Bob Miller agrees there is a problem but is concerned about stop signs. There is documentation that stop signs are not a way for traffic calming. He suggested putting things out that force people to slow down, like speed bumps or cut outs in the roadways.

Mike Gast stated that the Township should put in the two stop signs to help the residents, and also provide some form of educational information.

Bob Miller suggested that we also put an article in the Gander to inform the public of the problem.

C. East Side Little League Field

Mike Gast gave a brief update on the process of the proposal for little league baseball fields. There have been many discussions on this as to where they would be constructed. There are some identified barriers for using the Squire Cheyney Park as the site for the fields. These include:

- Deed restrictions
- Environmental impact
- Increased traffic and parking

Mike Gast suggested that the Township look at these issues and see where we stand. Then we can move forward.

Bob Miller agreed and suggested that Ann's Parcel would be the best location for any potential fields.

Bob Anthony understands that there are obstacles that we have to get through, but Bob feels that it would be a shame if our Township can't find a place for our children to be able to play baseball.

Mike Gast suggested that Brody Bovero, Kathy Labrum and a Board member (perhaps Bob Anthony) discuss the options where we stand on this issue. Also he would like to have Art Dunham involved in the environmental issues since he has specific expertise on this issue.

Bob Miller would like to compare the traffic issue to the traffic issue at the Soccer Fields. Bob also suggested the Hill property near Waln Run Park as a potential location for the fields.

Len Chylack wanted to thank the Board for their time and efforts for trying to make this work for Eastside Little League and the children. Len wanted to make it known that these fields will only be used primarily during April, May and June.

D. College Hill Sewer Project Update

Brody Bovero gave a brief update on the time line for the Project and noted that it is moving forward and looking good. The costs are on target. There are seven permits to submit, and we have completed three submissions so far. We have a meeting Cheyney University to discuss the Sewer Treatment Agreement.

Brody noted that in late December or early January we will go out to bid. After that things will move quickly.

Mike Gast stated that a lot of time as been spent on this project and the township will continue to move forward.

E. 2012 Fee Schedule

Mike Gast noted that some of the fees didn't match up with the service provided by the Township. For that reason some of the township's fees should be decreased and some increased. The Township will continue to look at the fees throughout the year.

Brody Bovero noted that the Township's goal is not to make money off of fees; the fee is just to cover the service. So we have to balance this regularly. The changes this time are minor and just cover our administrative costs for the services.

F. Billboard Ordinance

Brody Bovero noted that billboard companies looking for opportunities have approached various Townships and aggressively applied leverage to get billboards permitted. Although the Township has powers through zoning to make regulations regarding billboards, they have not been given the power to specifically outlaw them. Westtown Township was recently approached by a billboard company that challenged their zoning ordinance and filed for a curative amendment which would allow them to locate two billboards in their township.

Brody Bovero stated that he and Kathy Labrum will check what the Township currently has on the books and we can make some changes as needed. We would have to ask the Planning Commission to review the Ordinance and submit it for the Boards approval.

The discussion continued with the various problems with billboards on the roads and distracting drivers.

II. OTHER MATTERS:

Ron Giacinto noted that the traffic in Thornbury Estates is due to the residents. Ron also suggested to the Board to put the generator on Rt 926 and 202.

Brody Bovero stated that he has tried to get information from Westtown on this issue.

Rob Bayley just wanted to note he is not in favor of any stop signs or speed bumps on the streets of Thornbury Estates.

Mike Gast stated that the Township will continue to provide education to the residents of Thornbury Estates and also look into other options we can provide.

III. ADJOURNMENT:

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Teresa Destefano, Secretary