

THORNBURY TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Work Session

MINUTES April 5, 2011

The Thornbury Township Board of Supervisors Work Session meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. in the Thornbury Township meeting room. In attendance were Supervisors: Mike Gast, Chairman; Robert Miller; Ed Travis, Vice-Chairman and Bob Anthony, Board member. Also in attendance were Brody Bovero, Township Manager and Teresa DeStefano, Secretary.

I. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Squire Cheyney Park Grant

Brody Bovero presented a brief outline of the Squire Cheyney Park Grant for discussion. There are not many changes to the plan after meeting with all the Township commissions. The parking lots will have some impervious coverage.

The Township has received letters of support for this project from Willistown, Westtown, and Thornbury Delco Townships. At the April 19th BOS meeting the Township must pass a resolution approving the application for the grant.

Brody noted that the signed resolution must accompany the grant application which the Township will submit to DCNR on April 20, 2011.

Bob Miller inquired about the maximum amount the Township is willing to spend on this project.

Brody reviewed the funding commitment from the Township: The DCNR grant requires a 1:1 match from a secured funding source. Since the grant from Chester County is not secured yet, the Township will have to pledge to match the amount of the DCNR grant. The pledge will look something like this:

DCNR Commitment: \$211,615

Township Commitment: \$211,616

Chris Lang inquired if there is an executive summary that can be put on line for residents to view.

Chris Lang also inquired about the money which has been set aside to purchase open space.

B. On-Street Parking Policy

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Mike Gast stated that this is getting to be a problem on some roads in our Township.

Brody went over the policy language for on-street parking. There are two parts; the criteria and the process. The Board of Supervisors discussed the criteria and the process for designating a no-parking segment of a road.

For example the criteria could be as follows:

1. Whether on street parking affects safe flow of two-way traffic.
2. Whether on street parking inhibits movement of emergency vehicles.
3. Road width.
4. Whether areas served by the proposed section of road have alternative outlets for traffic flow.
5. The amount of daily traffic along the proposed section of road.

Bob Miller suggested that visibility also should be added to the criteria.

Bob Anthony noted that if a resident states that there is a problem we can pursue it. We don't need a petition to back it up. A letter from the resident would suffice.

Ed Travis suggested the option of allowing on-street parking only during certain times of the day.

The process for designating a no-parking segment could be as follows:

1. Letter or request is sent to the staff (define minimum number of signatures).
2. Staff gathers preliminary information on proposed "no-parking" segment of road.
3. Board considers request at Township meeting(s).
 - The Board may, at its discretion, request an opinion from the Township traffic engineer and the police department.
 - The Board may, at its discretion, ask the Planning Commission to consider the request and provide an opinion.
4. Board decides if a vote is appropriate, and if so, votes to approve, deny, or take no action on the request.
5. If approved, the Board amends the no-parking ordinance accordingly.
6. Staff directs the posting of no-parking signs, as appropriate, and notifies police department for enforcement.

C. Township Television Channel

The board discussed the options of cost to the Township for setting up a television channel in the meeting room. Also the options of having just a slide show channel or actual live coverage of the meetings.

If Comcast provides the service, there be nearly no cost for:

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- Equipment
- Software
- Training

There will be a cost for live coverage.

Mike Gast asked the board for their preference, either a slide show channel or live coverage, before we move forward.

Bob Miller would like to get the opinion of other Townships regarding value of the slide show channel.

Ed Travis suggested talking to Thornbury Township, Delco, since they use it.

Mike Gast suggested talking to Cheyney about utilizing their multimedia program students and facilities.

The Board directed Brody to investigate the cost of the project before we can move forward with this item. He suggested this item be discussed at the next work session to determine if the cost is something we want to commit to, or just put this item to bed.

D. Timeline for Police Service Contract

Brody reviewed the Police Contract with the Board. On December 31, 2012 the Township's contract with the Westtown-East Goshen Police Department will terminate. Below is a draft process to use as a starting point for discussions in preparation for the next contract.

- **May 2011:** Decide process to be used in preparing for future police services
- **August 2011:** Determine level of service desired by the Township
- **September 2011 – January 2012:** Explore available opportunities for providing police services
- **January 2012:** Identify final alternatives for police services
- **February 2012-May 2012:** Begin negotiations
- **May 2012:** Conclude negotiations
- **July 2012:** Make final decision on new contract
- **Fall 2012:** Incorporate contract decision into 2013 budget
- **December 2012:** Approve 2013 budget

Bob Miller noted that the Township really needs a significant amount of time to review and decide on the police service contract.

Bob Anthony agrees with the timeline and wants to first determine the level of service and then move forward with the time line.

Ed Travis agrees with the time line but we need to get the residents involved in determining the desired level of service.

Mike Gast likes the format of a town meeting to see what everyone would like.

Bob Miller suggested having a survey go out to get the opinions of all the residents, because not everyone comes out to the meetings. That way we can see what levels of service the majority of our residents want.

Brody suggested that we consider having a company do a professional survey, or we could include a survey in the Gander.

Mike Gast proposed that we continue this discussion at a further date.

E. Stabilization of Squire Cheyney Barn

Chris Lang noted that we have had three (3) proposals for this work. The HPC has invited Dale Frens to be at our next HPC meeting to go over this issue. The Commission needs to know where the Township is heading with this so we know what the cost would be. Having a park with a house and a barn is a very attractive thing to have in our Township.

Chris Lang will forward a copy of the proposals to Dale Frens, which can serve as a starting point for the discussion. Several factors that influence the feasibility of stabilizing the barn include time frame, future use, cost, overall benefit, and funding sources.

The discussion continued by addressing the options of making the barn a managed ruin, and the issue of a final goal for the property of a public or private use.

Bob Miller noted that we have been talking about this for quite some time and now we must move forward because we will be taking ownership of these structures soon.

Bob Anthony said we have to make a decision on this property which we have been talking about for years.

Mike Gast asked that HPC recap our options at their meeting next week and that they make a final recommendation on what has to be done and come up with a plan to move forward with this issue. We will also need to have a back-up plan.

Brody Bovero noted that we can build on Elijah Dallett parcel.

II. Other Matters:

Ed Travis reviewed the Riparian Buffer Ordinance. There are concerns that it isn't compatible with Watersheds.

Mike Gast suggested that Ed, Kathy and Brody work on this before it goes to the Board for approval.

Bob Miller asked about utilizing Recycle bank in the Township. Our ordinance doesn't address this matter.

Mike Gast said he and Brody will look into this matter.

III. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Destefano, Secretary