

**THORNBURY TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**Work Session**

**MINUTES May 3, 2011**

The Thornbury Township Board of Supervisors Work Session meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. in the Thornbury Township meeting room. In attendance were Supervisors: Mike Gast, Chairman; Robert Miller; Vice-Chairman, Ed Travis, Percy Neall and Bob Anthony, Board members. Also in attendance were Brody Bovero, Township Manager, and Teresa DeStefano, Secretary.

**I. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**A. Eastside Little League Proposal**

Bob Miller voiced his concern about putting fields on a parcel that is historic and the affect that could have on our grant applications.

Bob Anthony stated his support of Eastside Little League. He noted that, over time there is at least one player from about half of the families in the Township who participates in the organization. The fields that they use are slowly disappearing and without new fields, the size of the league would be cut in half.

Ed Travis is also in support of the proposal, noting that our Township currently has no baseball fields. He stated that it would be an asset to the Township.

Percy Neall stated that in his opinion we already have land in the Township where we can put the fields, specifically the land leased to the West Chester United Soccer Club, and that we should break the lease with them and then lease that land to Eastside Little League. He further stated that he believes that we should keep the Squire Cheyney property historic.

Mike Gast stated that there are other options such as using the fields at the high schools and Cheyney University.

Mike Aiello noted that the fields can just be basic fields that would be used for the younger kids.

Brooks Durham stated that he was in favor of the fields and noted it could be done.

Brian Smith is in favor of the fields, stating that the organization is fundamental for kids. He feels the Township would benefit from it. A lot of younger kids from our Township are a part of the league.

Mike Gast noted that Eastside would be looking for a long term lease agreement with the Township. He commented that after our discussion it looks like there is an interest in having the fields here.

Bob Miller noted that Eastside proposed construction of four to six fields but would be happy with even two. They also would look for a long term lease and the league would maintain the fields year round.

Mike Aiello also noted that if we move forward with this, the Township should keep control of the fields so our residents can use them if they want to.

Following this discussion, Supervisor Neall left the Work Session and did not return.

## **II. MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **State Assembly Legislation Update**

Brody Bovero gave a brief summary of the changes and updates presented at the PSATS convention on items that might affect the Township. All items are just proposals and none have yet been passed by legislature.

### **Brine Solution Purchase for Road De-icing**

West Goshen Township has purchased brine solution equipment and has offered to contract with other townships for purchase of brine for their road de-icing operations. Mike Aiello, Steve Zippi, and Brody Bovero met with West Goshen Township to discuss the possibilities of purchasing brine for Thornbury Township. The brine would be primarily used for pre-treatment of our roads prior to a snow/ice storm. The benefits over rock salt include flexibility in timing and cost savings, because you can put brine down at any time. The savings could be around \$1,300 per storm. The downside would be that the Township would have to purchase a storage tank that would cost around \$3,000 to \$3,500.

Bob Miller has a concern about where to store the tank if we purchase it.

Mike Gast wanted to thank Mike Aiello for the time he volunteers to the Township.

### **Government Access Channel**

Brody Bovero has been able to locate three townships that broadcast their board meetings, including Tredyffrin, Upper Merion, and Lower Merion Townships. Tredyffrin, Upper Merion and Lower Merion use the conventional model of an in-house studio with staff to operate the station, and produce original programming in addition to televising the board meetings. This model would not be feasible from our perspective due to excessive operating costs. Brody Bovero is exploring other alternatives for a more affordable option with the help of a contact he received through Upper Merion.

### **College Hill Sewer Project**

Brody Bovero gave a brief update on the project and how the timeline is important. The project process can start as soon as next week and, hopefully, pipes could be in the ground by June of 2012.

Mikes Gast noted that we will be moving forward and are very positive about the project.

### **III. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

#### **A. Cheyney House & Barn**

- A. Township Facility Option
- B. Process for considering Private Uses

Ed Travis gave a presentation on the public options for the Cheyney House & Barn. Ed is in favor of a stabilized ruin, and turning the House into a Township Building.

Mike Gast noted that is was an outstanding presentation. The discussion continued with the pros and cons of this endeavor and the concrete steps we would need to take.

Tom Spackman stated that at the last Historical Preservation Commission meeting, Dale Frens did a presentation regarding the House & Barn. One suggestion was to put a Township building inside the barn.

Tom Spackman suggested that a Board member and/or Manager attend the next Historical Preservation Meeting.

Bob Miller noted that there are so many options now, as a Township we need to narrow this down and finally get something concrete to move forward.

Bob Anthony stated “let’s just move forward on the Barn as a stabilized ruin within the next 60 days and then decide what to do about the House and a Township Building”.

The discussion concluded with Mike Gast suggesting that we do need to make a decision, but asked if we want to put money into stabilization of the barn, and what would our return on the property be.

Brody Bovero continued the discussion with different options for turning the House and Barn over to a private owner with the following suggestions:

- **Rule-Out Unacceptable Uses**
- **Identify Markets for Advertising**
- **Consider Lease vs. Sell**
- **Make Contacts for Marketing**

- **Entertain Proposals**

Bob Anthony suggested we just advertise. There is no need to identify markets. Let the offers come in and we then decide what we want.

Bob Miller suggested just doing a broad advertisement and see what we get.

**B. Public input methods for Police Services Contract**

Mike Gast stated that prior to formulating a bargaining strategy for the police services contract, the Board should gather public input and define the level of service requested by the community. Below is the list that Brody Bovero put together from the suggestions put forth at our last work session:

- **Professional Survey**
- **Mail-in Survey**
- **Citizen Board Survey**
- **Email Survey**
- **Expert Panel**
- **Public Meetings**

The discussion continued with narrowing down the way to proceed. The consensus was to get a professional survey, and possibly a mail-in survey.

**IV. Other Matters:**

Brody Bovero noted that the blocks for the salt shed need to be built. The job of constructing the salt shed will fall on the Township because the number of Cheyney University personnel is at a minimum.

Tom Spackman was concerned about the Riparian Buffer Ordinance and would like to know where the Township stands on that.

Ed Travis suggested that the Board go to three Supervisors.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Destefano, Secretary