

THORNBURY TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Work Session

MINUTES August 2, 2011

The Thornbury Township Board of Supervisors Work Session meeting was called to order at 6:20 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.

I. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Update on College Hill Sewer Project

Brody Bovero gave a brief update on the project and how the timeline is important. The project's targeted completion date is late June of 2012. Yerkes has 85% of the survey work completed.

The permitting process has begun; the project plans will be on the Planning Commission agenda for the August 8th meeting. The Plans will then be submitted to DEP for review in September. The whole process should be completed by November. Then the Township can go out to bid in December/January. Construction is scheduled for late spring early summer.

Brody Bovero noted that the Township still need permission from Thornbury Township, Delaware County. The solicitor is working on that currently.

Brody Bovero went over the current estimate for funding the project. The current estimate for the project is \$519,300. There are three funding sources as follows:

- EPA Grant
- DEP Grant
- Township's Sewer Fund

Brody noted that the project is on target with the expenses.

Mike Gast noted that the Township will have another meeting with all the residents in the fall.

B. Police Services Survey Outline

Mike Gast noted that the reason for a survey is to see what the residents want from the Township's Police Service Contract. For example:

- What kind of service
- With whom do we contract

Mike noted that the Board will be asking the residents a variety of questions to see what is wanted.

The discussion continued with a few different questions that could be included in the survey. For example:

- Resident experience with the current service
- What level of service is desired
- What is an adequate level of expenditure for our township

Mike Gast noted that the Township could put information on the web site and an article in the Gander to inform our residents.

Bob Anthony noted that questions on the survey should be presented carefully.

Jeffery Osgood, Jr. and Lorraine Bernotsky, both from West Chester University will be assisting with preparing the survey questions and will interview the Board members to determine the kind of questions to ask.

Mr. Alexander noted that the survey will be interesting, since a lot of residents are not even aware of the current police service.

Brian Smith noted that putting a dollar amount on the service would be helpful.

Karen Overall inquired if there is validation or measurement on the level of service.

The discussion continued with additional input from several of the residents and the board members present.

C. Discussion on East Side Little League Proposal

Mike Gast opened the discussion with a review of the options that Len Chylack presented at the last Board meeting.

Bob Anthony stated that East Side League would be a good neighbor, since they would be a great partner and also help us develop the park. They will also maintain the fields.

Bob Miller noted that this proposal presents a lot of pro and cons. Bob feels they would be a good neighbor also, but he feels the historic nature of the park should be kept. The traffic also is a major concern.

Mike Gast noted that he is in favor of providing a site for Eastside and also presented options such as Waln Run Park and Cheyney University. Mike also has concerns about traffic, parking, and the historic concerns. He doesn't see any trouble with using Ann's parcel but he does have concerns about the historic section of the park.

Art Dunham noted his concerns about the environmental issues with having a ball field or any development in the park. The loss of open space is an issue not to mention the historical integrity of the land. He also has concerns about the wildlife on that site.

Bob Miller also would like to get feed back from the residents.

Madeleine Scheerer, not a resident of Thornbury Township, Chester County, has concerns about the ball fields being on an historical site.

Brian Smith is in favor of the fields, stating that the organization is fundamental for kids. He feels the Township would benefit and Eastside would work well with the Township. A lot of younger kids from our Township are a part of the league and factual information on their participation is available.

Mike Gast noted that this discussion is still in its early stages and nothing is decided.

Tom Spackman inquired if Eastside Little League has contacted the school districts for use of their fields.

The discussion continued with a several residents expressing their concerns about the ball fields being on an historical site and the number of residents that will benefit from the fields.

The discussion closed by summarizing the safety issues and environmental concerns about the site. The Board will need to meet with the township commissions and other interested parties, and then resume discussions with Eastside Little League.

D. Update on Squire Cheyney House & Barn Subcommittee

Mike Gast gave a brief review of the status of the Squire Cheyney House and Barn. The Squire Cheyney Property Committee, led by Bob Miller, has been working on the details.

Bob Miller noted that he has asked Brooks Durham to be on the committee and he has accepted. Bob has also asked Molly Morrison but hasn't heard back from her as of yet.

The goal of the committee will be to preserve the House and Barn, but it must be practical regarding the costs and conditions for doing such.

Brody Bovero noted that the task force was set up to see if the Township could get a private user for the House and Barn.

Mike Gast noted that there are three competing options for the House & Barn:

1. Privatization with restriction

2. The proposal from Madeleine, working on a semi- private option (private and educational) that would involve partners with private monies, public monies and Cheyney University monies.
3. Public Option

Bob Miller added that he feels the public option is the least feasible option and would be the last resort.

Madeleine Sheerer presented a brief vision for the project; she is working to form a non-profit group and would be partnering with Cheyney University. The University could use it for classes. The discussion continued with Madeleine going over her proposed plans. She is applying for grants and also a tax exempt status to be able to move forward with her vision for this site.

Mike Gast asked if her plan would have any impact on the walking trails that are currently proposed. Also Mike suggested that Madeleine should keep in touch with the task force about her process.

Mike Gast noted that the discussion will continue at another work session and all residents are welcome to present their input.

II. ADJOURNMENT:

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Destefano, Secretary