

**THORNBURY TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES – June 18, 2013**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Thornbury Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Bob Anthony at 7:10 P.M. in the Thornbury Township meeting room. In attendance were Supervisors Bob Anthony, Chairman; Jim Benoit, Vice Chairman; Mike Gallagher, Bob Miller and Mike Gast. Brody Bovero, Township Manager; Kathy Labrum, Solicitor; and Teresa DeStefano, Township Administrator were also in attendance. An executive session was held before the regularly scheduled meeting to discuss real estate. After the meeting, there will be another executive session. There were two signed-in guests.

**II. POLICE REPORT – Chief Bernot**

Chief Bernot gave a brief overview of the activity in the Township during the month of May. She also mentioned that the criminal activity has been light this month. She gave a brief update of the police activity in the Township and the PPU totals for our Township. Thornbury had 13.06 hours of patrol coverage and 1.8 hours of traffic coverage.

Chief Bernot again mentioned that in September, WEGO will begin having the Police Academy to familiarize the citizens who participate “what we do and how we do it.”

Bob Anthony inquired about the Police Academy and when more information will be sent out.

Chief Bernot said there should be more information sent out by late June. Also, they should be putting out a commercial about protecting our residents.

**III. MANAGERS REPORT**

**2013 Road Paving Schedule**

- |                             |         |           |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------|
| • Preconstruction meeting   | June 14 | Scheduled |
| • Commence paving work      | July 8  |           |
| • Estimated Paving Schedule | 14 days |           |

### **Sanitary Sewer**

A total of 15 residences have been connected to the College Hill sewer system thus far. There are two others who are either in the permitting or construction process, and one residence in the application process.

With this month's bill list, the DEP Clean Water Grant funds will be completely exhausted. A report of remaining funds in the Federal Grant and the Township Sewer Fund will be provided in July after this month's invoices are submitted.

The Township made two repairs to the sewer system last month. One of the repairs was apparently caused by the actions of a homeowner's contractor. The Township will be working with that contractor to seek reimbursement. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter sewer bills have been mailed out.

### **Town Center**

Yerkes Associates is putting together some specifications for repairs to the walkway of the post office building.

The Township will be re-striping the parking lot this month.

### **Squire Cheyney Farmhouse and Barn**

The Board previously granted approval to move forward with setting up an appraisal of the Farmhouse and the Barn.

### **Squire Cheyney Park – Phase 1 Project**

The next Board action on the project should occur around September to approve going out to bid. Construction should commence around March of 2014.

A verbal agreement has been reached with the trustees of the Cheyney Cemetery to allow the new trail to be on their property as an easement. The details of the easement are forthcoming. A meeting with Orleans was held on June 14<sup>th</sup> to begin coordinating the construction of their portion of the trail.

### **Stormwater**

A structural engineer from LTL Consultants was assigned to inspect a 48-inch masonry culvert under South Concord Road at Timberline Trail. It has been several years since it was last inspected. A full report will be forwarded to the Board when it is received.

### **Administration**

The boardroom presentation setup is in progress. The materials have been purchased and are expected to be installed in the next couple of weeks.

#### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

##### A. May 14, 2013 Meeting

**Mike Gast made a motion to approve the May 14, 2013 minutes as amended by Mike Gast. The motion was seconded by Bob Miller. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

##### B. May 7, 2013 Work Session

**Mike Gast made a motion to approve the May 7, 2013 minutes as amended by Mike Gast. The motion was seconded by Mike Gallagher. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

#### V. AGENDA BUSINESS

##### 1. **AUTHORIZE TOWNSHIP MANAGER TO PURCHASE AND CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SALT STORAGE ROOF UP TO \$10,100 FROM THE CAPITAL FUND.**

Brody Bovero gave a brief overview for the need for a salt storage cover. It would prevent formation of lumpy salt, which becomes difficult to load and move through salt spreaders. It also causes the snow plow contractor to spend more time. It would reduce the risk of contaminating streams with salt runoff and eliminate loss of salt through dissolving and runoff.

Brody Bovero noted that he and the Roadmaster recommend installing a fabric roof structure. The roof structure is made of durable material, and is reinforced by steel rafters, which are mounted on the concrete blocks. The fabric material is 12.5 oz, 24 mil polyethylene. The rafters are made of triple-galvanized structural steel tubing with four layers of protection against rust and corrosion. The fabric and structural tubing comes with a 15-year warranty. The expected life of the fabric is 25 years, and constitutes approximately 15% of the cost of the roof.

Randell Spackman mentioned that the company is reliable and the material is very durable.

**Bob Miller motioned to authorize the Township Manager to Purchase and Contract for Construction of a Salt Storage Roof up to \$10,100 from the Capital Fund. The motion was seconded by Mike Gallagher. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

**2. PUBLIC INPUT SESSION: DRAFT ORDINANCE TO ALLOW THE KEEPING OF SMALL ANIMALS ON LOTS LESS THAN 5 ACRES.**

Brody Bovero mentioned that this draft is the recommended draft ordinance from the Planning Commission.

Mike Gast voiced his concerns about the draft ordinance regarding different neighborhoods and also those with an HOA. Mike was also concerned about the disposal of the animals waste and he also had public health concerns.

Jim Benoit stated that most people will just compost the waste.

Bob Miller stated that we address the disposal issues and also define the rooster issue as in the West Brandywine Ordinance.

Randell Spackman noted that addressing the rooster issue is important and most people will compost the waste. Also, you should add that anyone that has chickens should register them so that if a strain is out, the USDA could track where it came from.

Mike Gast also noted that he was concerned about the number of chickens per acre and also, the care of animals.

Helen DiCaprio stated that she is fine with the ordinance and maybe we should just refine the language, since it sounds so broad.

Ron Miller noted that he is concerned about the 80,000 sq. ft. lot restriction, and it would exclude a lot of residents.

Ann Dzamba agrees with the keeping of small animals, but with the setbacks required, the zoning will discriminate against most homeowners.

The discussion continued with the Board addressing the concerns and then having the Planning Commission review the changes and provide their input. The Board all agrees this issue is about being a good neighbor.

Mick Burke stated that he agrees that the draft ordinance is excluding the people whose families would benefit from this the most.

Judy Asselin is in favor of residents having the right to have chickens and rabbits, if they so desire. Urban Agriculture is a huge industry.

Bob Anthony noted that the Board will have another public comment session and also another rewrite of this ordinance.

Bob Miller suggested that we do not put as many restrictions in the rewrite of the ordinance.

Brody Bovero mentioned that the Township has not had any complaints on rabbits in the Township, so we could just make this an ordinance concerning the keeping of fowl and remove the reference to rabbits, altogether.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mick Burk wanted to note that he was concerned about a comment back in August 2012, and a retraction that was put in the next Board meeting minutes, addressing the change.

Randell Spackman gave a brief presentation of the event that the Historic Preservation Commission is sponsoring on Sunday June 23, 2013, "Secrets Under the Soil".

**VII. OTHER MATTERS**

**VIII. APPROVAL OF FUNDS BILL LIST FOR FOUR FUNDS, \$164,283.59 – Bob Miller**

Bob Miller presented the April bill lists as follows:

- General Funds                      \$25,320.07
- Capital Funds                      \$4,897.94
- Sewer Funds                      \$74,405.78
- Open Space                      \$5,213.70

**Bob Miller motioned to approve the bill list for \$164,283.59. Mike Gallagher seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**Mike Gast motioned to adjourn the meeting. Bob Miller seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Brody Bovero  
Township Manager/Secretary