

**THORNBURY TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISOR  
WORK SESSION**

**MINUTES – October 1, 2013**

The Thornbury Township Board of Supervisors Work Session was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Thornbury Township meeting room. In attendance were Supervisors Bob Anthony, Chairman; Jim Benoit, Vice-Chairman; Mike Gallagher, Bob Miller (via Phone) and Mike Gast. Also in attendance were Kathy Labrum, Township Solicitor; Brody Bovero, Township Manager; and Teresa DeStefano, Secretary.

**I. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**1. 2014 BUDGET: GENERAL AND CAPITAL FUNDS**

Brody noted that the draft 2014 budget is a balanced budget and ready to be adopted. With that said Brody proposed that the township establish a reserve, or “Rainy Day”, fund which will stabilize the operations of the Township. The 2014 Draft Budget utilizes approximately \$40,000 from the reserve fund in order to balance.

The combined 2014 increase of the WEGO contract and the proposed fire services contract is \$63,794. Without new revenue sources it is becoming difficult to maintain current levels of service for things like roads, code enforcement, and park maintenance. In order to stay on track with the paving program, we will need to budget \$65,000 in road paving.

Brody examined the expenses of the township and feels that the draft budget provides the minimum amount of funding, without reducing levels of service. Whether the Township actually operates with a surplus or deficit in 2014 will depend on factors such as winter storms, state funding, and the real estate market.

The Board discussed different ways to establish a reserve for future budgets. The Board also discussed an additional dedicated tax millage to cover specific functions such as police, fire, and parks.

Brody Bovero then reviewed the proposed 2014 Capital Fund budget with the Board.

**2. SQUIRE CHEYNEY PARK PROJECT UPDATE**

Brody Bovero noted that the Township did get the variance for placement of the Park trail from the Zoning Hearing Board. The Township also received a letter from Chesco Conservation District and is still waiting for the letter from DCNR.

After these documents have been received, he stated that he will be ready to get started on the bid documents.

Brody noted that Dr. Gast has been working with the subcommittee on the signage and the seating area arrangements.

Mike Gast noted that the signage plan can also include a series of locations which utilize a QR code that residents can scan with their cell phone and get an audio tour of the park. Mike mentioned that this works well with the oral history project the HPC is working on.

The Board was very excited about this feature.

### **3. FIREWORKS ORDINANCE**

Brody Bovero presented a draft Fireworks Ordinance to the Board for review. He presented a definition of what the classes of firework are. The discussion continued with how to regulate the display of fireworks and a statement that the primary purpose of the ordinance is safety.

The Board of Supervisors discussed the different classes of Fireworks and their impact on the Township. The discussion continued with ways to address these issues.

Brody noted that first we should move forward on this ordinance and then work on the noise issue. Also, this ordinance has to be respectful of the township residents and the lighting of fireworks.

The Board discussed the fireworks that have recently been set off in the township and the fact that they are so close to a residential area. They also discussed changes to the presented draft ordinance.

### **4. SPECIAL EVENT ORDINANCE**

Brody Bovero presented a rough draft of the outdoor amusement ordinance. The ordinance would regulate special events that are associated with a business, and includes events occurring in a tent or other temporary structure.

Brody noted that per the discussion at the previous work session, the Board desires to enact regulations which bring a balance of commercial property owners' ability to conduct special events, while maintaining peace and good order with neighboring residential areas.

The draft also states what type of fireworks can be used, and requires the proper permitting. Larger fireworks are allowed on appropriate holidays.

The discussion continued with the Board trying not to make this ordinance too restrictive.

The Board decided to have Brody purchase a decibel meter and the township can test it at the next event.

**5. FIRE SERVICES CONTRACT**

Brody Bovero noted that the Borough of West Chester has initiated the process for the 5-year Fire Services Contract with Thornbury and four other townships. The 2014-2018 Proposed Annual Contract Price for the next five year contract period will be \$88,235 for a difference of \$34,123 from the past 5-year contract. That's a 63% increase. We were expecting a \$10,000 difference.

The fee is based on a formula with 50% based on call volume and 50% based on the assessed value of the participating township. The significant increase is not due to any significant changes in Thornbury, since our call volume was lower this year. The majority of the increase is due to projected capital costs for new fire trucks that is approximately twice the amount of those during the last contract period.

Brody mentioned he will contact the Goshen Fire Department to see if they would be interested in covering a portion of the township.

**II. OTHER MATTERS**

Brody Bovero gave a brief review of future Agenda items for the Board.

**III. ADJOURNMENT:**

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Teresa Destefano, Secretary