

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

MINUTES – September 3, 2013

The Thornbury Township Board of Supervisors Work Session was called to order at 6:02 p.m. in the Thornbury Township meeting room. In attendance were Supervisors Bob Anthony, Chairman; Jim Benoit, Vice-Chairman; and Mike Gast. Also in attendance were Kathy Labrum, Township Solicitor; Brody Bovero, Township Manager; and Teresa DeStefano, Secretary.

Victoria E. Dow, Director of the West Chester Public Library, made a presentation about the Public Library and the need for donations from local municipalities. Victoria explained the different programs and services the Library provides for the residents. She also mentioned that the state funding has been lowered, but the Library is doing a lot of fundraising now.

The discussion continued on how the donation from the Township is divided among the libraries. Victoria explained that when the municipality sends a check they must specify how they would like the funds split between the two Libraries.

I. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. 2014 REVENUE PROJECTIONS

Brody Bovero presented the 2014 draft revenue projections.

The discussion continued with a review of the revenue data. The Board reviewed each line item of the Draft 2014 Revenue Budget. The discussion continued with a review of the real estate taxes and the earned income taxes. The rental income from the lease of the office space at the Town Center was also discussed.

2. 2014-2018 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 2009-2013 Annual Contract Price is \$54,112. The 2014-2018 Proposed Annual Contract Price for the next five year contract for services will be \$88,235 for a difference of \$34,123. That's a 63% increase.

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 that are approximately twice the amount of those during the last contract period. Brody noted that he contacted the President of the Concordville Fire Company to see if they would be interested in a contract for all or a portion of the Township, and their Board has indicated that they are not interested in being the first to respond.

The discussions continued and the Board requested that Brody go back to West Chester and negotiate a better price, since our call count is so low.

3. FIREWORKS ORDINANCE

Brody Bovero presented a draft Fireworks Ordinance to the Board for review. The discussion continued with how to regulate the display of fireworks. 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.

4. NOISE ISSUES RELATED TO SPECIAL EVENTS

The Board discussed the noise issue and how to limit it to certain days of the week and also to set guidelines for time restrictions, with the exception of New Years Eve and the 4th of July. This issue is also about the noise from the loud music and not just from the fireworks.

The discussion continued with the Board trying to create an ordinance that can cover special events with subsections in the ordinance to cover all the issues that may arise from special events, including those can start in the daytime, whereas fireworks are only at night.

Mike Gast suggested that we create the ordinance for commercial events and not residential.

The discussion continued with deciding on what days and times might be covered by such an ordinance.

5. COMCAST FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

Brody Bovero noted that the Townships agreement with Comcast is up in January 2014 and they pay 5% of their gross revenue to the Township. The Township can mandate the rates and also go with a cash grants.

II. OTHER MATTERS

Brody Bovero mentioned that the Karin Crooks Subdivision final plan will be going before the Planning Commission on Monday.

III. ADJOURNMENT:

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Destefano, Secretary