

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

**MINUTES – October 7, 2014**

The Thornbury Township Board of Supervisors' Work Session was called to order at 6:10 p.m. in the Thornbury Township meeting room. In attendance were Supervisors Robert Anthony, Chairman; Jim Benoit, Vice-Chairman; Mike Gallagher; Bill Reilly and George Stasen. Also in attendance were Jacqui Guenther, Township Manager; Kathy Labrum, Township Solicitor; and Teresa DeStefano, Secretary.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Bob Anthony announced that there was an Executive Session before the Work Session and will continue after the meeting to discuss real estate and personnel matters.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**1. Squire Cheyney Walking Trail**

Jacqui Guenther started the discussion noting that that the Squire Cheyney Walking Trail was part of the Subdivision and the plans were recorded in July 2008 which was prior to the homes being sold. Mike Conrad provided the Township with a full set of the recorded plans.

Bob Anthony let the members of the public have their say and voice their concerns about the trail and the location of the trail. There were about 15 people against the trail and one resident in favor of trail and the history of the land.

Bob Anthony wanted to clarify the history of the trail, noted that the trail on the Comprehensive Plan that was drafted as far back as 2005.

The discussion continued with concerns about what is on the web site and on the Comprehensive plan is not accurate.

The residents from the Preserve at Squire Cheyney where here to ask for help from the Township with the location of the trail and how it is impacting there development.

The discussing continued and the most concerning issue is the location of the trail and the area where it connects with Greenbriar, a development in Thornbury Delaware County.

**2. Brake Retarder Signs/Dilworthtown Road**

Jacqui Guenther mentioned that she looked into having the brake retarder signs on Dilworthtown Road moved and discovered there are two issues. The first is that the signs were placed where they are because we cannot put signs in Delaware County. The second issue is that there does not appear to be a PennDOT permit for the signs which are located on a State Road. Without the PennDOT permit it is not an enforceable offense in court. We could request that PennDOT consider installing the brake retarder signs if Delaware County will get on board.

The discussion continued with the requirements that need to be met to move or install the signs.

The Board suggested that the Township Manager will approach Thornbury Township, Delaware County to see if they are willing to pass an ordinance for brake retarder signs.

**3. Traffic Study/Dilworthtown Road**

Jacqui Guenther spoke to Jeff Seagraves, the Manager of Thornbury Township Delaware County, about a traffic study for a speed limit reduction on Dilworthtown Road. Jeff said that two traffic studies were done, one in 2010 and one more recent. Jeff said that Delaware County is not interested in going down this path again. The majority of Dilworthtown Road is located in Delaware County and without their consent, PennDOT will not undertake a traffic study.

Jacqui noted that she has spoke to PennDOT again and without Delaware County's cooperation that another traffic study will be done.

A resident from Dilworthtown Road has been getting signatures from residents to have the speed limit lowered.

**4. WCUSC/New Sign Requirement**

Bob Anthony noted that this issue was discussed in Executive Session and the Board will not move forward with it until all issues are resolved. Jacqui Guenther will be sending out a letter to inform them of the right procedure.

**5. Stabilization Fund & Tree Fund**

The Township has a "Stabilization Fund" at DNB Bank which has an approximate balance of \$58,000 and is yielding .05% interest. The Township General Fund, also at DNB, is yielding .14% interest. Jacqui recommend that we consider moving these funds into the General Fund. George Stasen suggested that we contact the bank and request matched interest without moving the money.

**6. Snow Plow Bid Results**

Jacqui Guenther stated that the Township received the Snow Plow Contract Bids for the Township Roads and the Town Center. We received 4 bids for the Township Road Plowing Contract. The low bidder for the Township Roads was Unlimited Trucking which is \$383.00 per hour less than what we paid in 2013 and 2014. They have plowed Chester Heights for many years and their references were wonderful.

The Township also received 4 bids for the Town Center. Once again S&M was the low bidder for the Town Center. Their rate increased by \$160 per hour, however they came in much less than the other three bids.

**7. Squire Cheyney preserve/Orleans Request for Early Dedication of Roads**

Mike Conrad noted there are two concerns. First, we have already gone out to bid for our snow removal contract and the roads to be dedicated were not a part of the contract. Second, if they pave the road when the weather is not optimum, we could see issues with the road later. We did allow Moser to get out early and we have had nothing but problems with the road surface around

the storm sewers. In the alternative, we could counter offer to hold a maintenance bond for 24 months longer than originally agreed but that will not help us with the added costs to the snow plowing for the additional roads.

**8. Fee Schedule Amendment/Stormwater Management**

Jacqui Guenther noted that Mike Conrad asked that she, Jim, Dickey, the Township Zoning Officer, Teresa meet to discuss the newly enacted Stormwater Management Ordinance requirements. As a result of the meeting the Township revised the *Grading/Stormwater Management Permit Application* to include an escrow to cover engineering fees. The discussion continued with the different reasons for requiring an escrow fee and the complex issues of each permit.

**9. Digital Antennae System Ordinance/Update from Solicitor**

Jacqui Guenther noted that the Board discussed this issue back in June. Kathy Labrum has been working on the ordinance and will be submitting a draft for the Board's review to be considered at the November meeting.

**10. Noise Ordinance**

Tabled.

**11. Fire Works Ordinance**

Bob Anthony started the discussion due to conflicting requirements between the Township's Ordinance and the state requirements and, to clarify the definition of "Competent Operator". It is defined in our Code of Ordinances §81-2 as follows: *"A natural person who, or business entity which, is currently registered with the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania pursuant to 35 P.S. §1276.2."*

The discussion continued with determining what consumer grade fireworks are and we can remove the statement that a competent operator must be present to set off fireworks from the Ordinance. This will make the ordinance more user friendly. The Board also mentioned putting in the Ordinance a notification when the fireworks are going off.

**12. Home Business Ordinance**

Bob Anthony noted someone was approached from a resident that running a manufacturing business from their home is not allowed. Jacqui attached a draft of a "No-Impact Home Occupation" Ordinance that Jim Jordan, Planning Commission Chairman, requested that Board to consider implementing in Thornbury Township. The Board discussed the options of doing this and how it would impact our neighborhoods.

**13. Property Maintenance Ordinance/Trees & Brush in ROW**

Jacqui Guenther was asked by a Supervisor if there was anything in the Township Code that would require property owners to keep their trees that hang over right-of-ways, roadways and/or sidewalks to a certain height distance; and, to keep brush back from the curbs or roadway edge a certain distance. Currently our code does not address either issue and if it is the Board wish to do so she would prepare a draft proposed Property Maintenance Ordinance for their consideration.

Jacqui continued stating that many municipalities have ordinances for property maintenance which, in addition to the above, include some or all of the following: keeping lawns mowed to a certain height in residential zones; weeding; shoveling snow from sidewalks; not shoveling snow into the street; not leaving trash containers by the curb or roadside for more than a few days; and not dumping leaves and brush into the street. Jacqui stated that she was not suggesting that the Township include any of those issues; she was just making the Board aware in the event they wanted to consider them as well.

The Board did discuss the issue of trees that hang over the street in the right of way but the Board doesn't want to restrict what a homeowner can or cannot do on their property. The discussion continued with the Board suggesting amending the current ordinance to add the Brush in the Right of Way.

**14. 2015 Budget: Expenditures**

Jacqui Guenther gave a brief review of the 2015 budget expenditures, and provided a copy to all Board members.

Bob Anthony reviewed each line item with the Board and discussed what items are down this year. Bob also mentioned that the three large items are, road paving, salt and plowing the roads. The Board continued discussing what could be trimmed back and what larger expensive we will have this year with the road program on roads that need to be repaired.

**OTHER MATTERS:**

There was no other matter discussed.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Destefano, Secretary