

**THORNBURY TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES –November 19, 2013**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Thornbury Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Bob Anthony at 7:11 P.M. in the Thornbury Township meeting room. In attendance were Supervisors Bob Anthony, Chairman; Jim Benoit, Vice-Chairman; Mike Gast, Mike Gallagher and Bob Miller. 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, personnel matters and litigation. It was also noted that an Executive Session was held to discuss similar matters on November the 12th.

II. POLICE REPORT – Chief Bernot

Chief Bernot gave a brief overview of the police activity in the Township during the month of October. She also mentioned that there have been a number of thefts in the Township. Chief Bernot would like to remind residents that when you invite someone into your home, such as a health care worker, a contractor or a cleaning service, make sure your valuables are put away.

Brody Bovero reported that he and Chief Bernot had a meeting with representatives from the Devereux House concerning an incident with one of their residents. The meeting was a success and the issue is being addressed.

Mike Gast mentioned that this Board is appreciative of the WEGO police.

Bob Anthony also wanted to let Chief Bernot know that the police department is very professional and the call response time had been swift.

III. AGENDA BUSINESS

**1. PUBLIC HEARING AND VOTE ON THE ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 2013-2:
REGULATING THE COMMERCIAL USE OF FIREWORKS**

Bob Anthony opened the hearing for the adoption of Ordinance 2013-2, Fireworks Ordinance.

Brody Bovero noted that this ordinance has been discussed at several meetings and the purpose of this ordinance is to provide standards and a

process for a commercial entity to host a fireworks show and also provides a permitting process to do so.

Kathy Labrum presented, as Exhibit1, the public advertisement published in the Daily Local News on the October 25, 2013.

Mike Gast suggested that the Township Manager contact the surrounding Townships and make sure that they understand this ordinance and see if they want to pass a similar one.

Bob Miller said that this Board has spent a lot of time on this ordinance in order to make it appropriate for the Township. When issues like this come up they need to be addressed.

Bob Anthony solicited public comment.

No comments.

Bob Anthony closed the hearing.

Mike Gast motioned to approve the adoption of Ordinance 2013-2: Fireworks Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Jim Benoit. All were in favor. Motion carried.

IV. MANAGERS REPORT

Town Center

The water line break has been repaired and the all backfilling and paving has been completed for this project.

Squire Cheyney Farmhouse and Barn

The informational website is live and advertisements have been placed in the National Trust for Historic Preservation Newsletter (national distribution) and on their website. All bidders must register through the sale website at www.squirecheyneyhouseforsale.com The Bid opening will be on December 11th and the award will be at the December 17th Board meeting.

Road Maintenance

The Township has received two shipments of salt in preparation for the beginning of the 2013-2014 winter. There is sufficient brine solution in storage from last year to start off the new season.

Stormwater inlet cleaning will become more frequent this time of year due to the quantity of leaves.

Squire Cheyney Park – Phase 1 Project

The Park Phase 1 project is moving forward. The advertisement for bids was published in the Daily Local News and a preconstruction meeting will be held on Thursday, November 21st. The opening of the bids will occur December 5th.

Fire Services

Brody has been in discussions with the Chief of the Goshen Fire Department to explore the option of their Department covering the eastern half of the Township, since they are responding from the closest location. He has been expecting additional information from them regarding this, but it has not received a response.

Waln Run Park Subdivision

The soil test results were positive, meaning that septic tanks would properly function on the property. We anticipate advertising the sale of the property within the week.

Parks and Recreation

The annual Thornbury Township Fall Festival was successfully held at Goose Creek Park on October 26th.

The annual Train Ride with Santa will be held December 8th. The train leaves promptly at 5pm.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 15, 2013 BOS Meeting

Bob Miller mentioned that he would like a little more detail in the minutes. He feels we should capture more of what was actually said.

Mike Gast made a motion to approve the October 15, 2013 BOS Meeting Minutes, as amended by Mike Gast and Bob Miller. The motion was seconded by Bob Miller. All were in favor. Motion carried.

VI. AGENDA BUSINESS - Continued

1. AUTHORIZE TOWNSHIP MANAGER TO EXECUTE A STORMWATER AND ACCESS EASEMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE SOUTH CONCORD ROAD CULVERT

Bob Anthony noted that the Board has discussed this at a work session.

Bob Miller made a motion to authorize the Township Manager to Execute a Stormwater and Access Easement Agreement for the South Concord Road Culvert. The motion was seconded by Mike Gast. All were in favor. Motion carried.

2. APPROVAL OF THE BRINE SOLUTION PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH WEST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP

Bob Anthony stated that we have discussed this at the work session and that the contact is the same as last year.

Mike Gast made a motion approval of the Brine Solution Purchase with West Goshen Township. The motion was seconded by Bob Miller. All were in favor. Motion carried.

3. 2013 ANNUAL DONATIONS TO COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Bob Anthony noted that the annual donations are the same as last year except for the West Chester Library which is now \$3,230 to match our census numbers so the library can qualify for matching funds from the State.

Mike Gast noted that the 2013 CONTRIBUTIONS are as follows:

- a. **Glen Mills Historic Society \$250**
- b. **West Chester Area Senior Center \$1,000**
- c. **Visiting Nurses \$1,100**
- d. **Good Fellowship Ambulance Company \$1,500**
- e. **West Chester Public Library \$3,230**

Mike Gast noted that the Township makes these contributions every year.

Mike Gast made a motion to authorize the 2013 Annual Donations to the Community Service Organizations. The motion was seconded by Mike Gallagher. All were in favor. Motion carried.

4. APPROVAL OF THE 2014 PENSION MIMIMUM MUNICIPAL OBLIGATION (MMO)

Bob Anthony mentioned that of the \$4,291 the Township is only responsible for \$1,701 of MMO.

Mike Gallagher made a motion to approve the 2014 Pension Minimum Municipal Obligation in the amount of \$4,291. The motion was seconded by Mike Gast. All were in favor. Motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF ANIMAL CONTROL CONTRACT WITH CHESTER COUNTY SPCA

Bob Anthony stated that this has been discussed at our Work Session and it is the same level of service as last year.

Mike Gast stated that he would like the full contract since the SPCA has always provided services for the Township.

Bob Miller noted that the SPCA does a lot of good work and needs local governments to support them.

Mike Gast motioned to approve the 2014 Animal Protective Contract with the SPCA with the full contract. The motion was seconded by Bob Miller. Bob Miller and Mike Gast voted in favor. Bob Anthony, Jim Benoit, and Mike Gallagher opposed. The motion failed.

Jim Benoit motioned to approve the 2014 Animal Protective Contract with the SPCA with the limited contract with an annual \$500.00 base fee and \$100.00 per unclaimed animal. The motion was seconded by Mike Gallagher. All were in favor. Motion carried.

6. APPROVAL OF THE DISBURSEMENT OF STATE FIRE RELIEF FUNDS

Brody Bovero noted that each year the Township receives money, reserved for fire relief companies, from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The disbursement of these funds is administered by the Township. Brody stated that the Township is served by multiple fire companies. The Township Fire Marshal, David Smiley, submitted his recommendation on how the funds should be distributed.

Mr. Smiley has recommended the following distribution:

West Chester Volunteer Fire Relief Association	75%
Concord Twp. Volunteer Fire Relief Association	10%
Good Fellowship Relief Association	15%
Total	100%

Bob Miller motioned to approve the allocation of the 2013 State Fire Relief Funds. The motion was seconded by Jim Benoit. All were in favor. Motion carried.

7. APPROVAL OF LEASE CONTRACT FOR 842 E. STREET ROAD

Brody Bovero stated that the Board is authorizing him to enter into a lease agreement with the tenant as outlined in an email to the Board.

Mike Gast made a motion to authorize the Township Manager to enter into a lease agreement for 842 E. Street Road, in accordance with the Manager's November 18th email. The motion was seconded by Bob Miller. All were in favor. Motion carried.

8. AUTHORIZE ADVERTISEMENT OF THE 2014 BUDGET FOR ADOPTION ON DECEMBER 17, 2013

Bob Anthony noted that several meetings, including work sessions and public meetings, were held at which the Board discussed the upcoming year's budget.

Bob Miller noted that a lot of hours were spent on the budget this year and wanted to thank Brody and Dee Ann for their time in putting this together. Also Bob mentioned that Brody had a great presentation prepared for our last work session to explain the 2014 Budget to the residents, but no one attended the meeting.

Mike Gast suggested that the presentation and the budget should be put on the web site for anyone who wishes to see it.

Brody Bovero noted that the new milage will be .995 which is up from .84. That is an 18.5% increase.

Bob Miller stated that is an increase of about \$41.00 per household.

Mike Gast also stated that the Township Real Estate Taxes have not increased in over 10 years.

Bob Miller noted that back in 2012 the Township survey showed that our residents wanted to keep the level of police services and would be willing to pay for it with an increase in their taxes.

Mike Gast motioned to Authorize Advertisement of the Draft 2014 Township Budget. The motion was seconded by Bob Miller. All were in favor. Motion carried.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Beverly Egbert noted that she has spoken to all members of the Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB) - and they would like to address the open, unfilled, position of Mary Zurawski, who has been on the Zoning Hearing Board for the past 28 years. If this was an oversight, all of ZHB members, unanimously, are asking that you reappoint Mary to the Zoning Hearing Board. She has been our leader and support system, and also has been the Chairman for the past 10 years.

The ZHB members are asking the Board of Supervisors to reappoint Mary Zurawski to the Zoning Hearing Board at this time, to correct the oversight.

Bob Anthony was glad to hear the support the members have for this issue.

Mike Gast mentioned that the Board can make the appointment at any time and he recommends that the Board do it tonight. Mike also noted that Mary Zurawski has

been a volunteer for the Township for the past 28 years and would like the Board to reappoint her tonight.

Bob Miller stated that when the other Zoning Hearing Board members make a plea to reappoint her, it is a no brainer to do this.

The discussion continued with the other members wanting to review their options and to continue the discussion at the December work session.

Brody Bovero asked if the Board wants any information to move forward.

Randell Spackman wanted to let the Board know they will be having a reenactment in May 2014 at Sandy Hollow. He will be working with surrounding Townships since close to a 1000 people are expected to attend and there will be road closures.

Mike Gast suggested that we put something on our web site to inform residents.

Randell Spackman wanted to update the Board on items the HPC has been reviewing, including the Squire Cheyney Park Project. He also wanted to let the Board know that the HPC would like to preserve the Springhouse for the Park and the enjoyment of Township residents.

Brody Bovero mentioned that the Board discussed preserving the Springhouse at the last work session and is trying to find ways to get skilled tradesmen to help complete the project.

Randell also inquired about the Waln Run Park sale and where the funds from the sale are designed to go.

Bob Anthony stated that a decision has not been made as of yet.

Joseph Ostrowski inquired about the status of the section of property that is to be donated to the Township.

Bob Anthony stated that if the property doesn't sell, the Township will not take possession of the pond.

VIII. APPROVAL OF 4 FUNDS BILL LIST, \$140,234.46 – Bob Miller

Bob Miller presented the October bill lists as follows:

- General Fund \$ 130,224.03
- Capital Fund \$.00
- Liquid Fuels Fund \$.00
- Open Space Fund \$ 9,615.31
- Sewer Fund \$ 395.12

Bob Miller motioned to approve the bill list for \$140,234.46. Jim Benoit seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Brody Bovero
Township Manager/Secretary