

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

MINUTES – November 12, 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, and Mike Gast. Also in attendance were Kathy Labrum, Township Solicitor; Brody Bovero, Township Manager; and Teresa DeStefano, Secretary. There was one signed-in guest.

I. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

Brody Bovero noted that it has been a tradition of Thornbury Township to contribute to the following organizations in order to support the community services that they provide. The West Chester Library's contribution is different since our census is different. Below is a list of each organization and a brief description of the contribution:

Glenn Mills Historic Society, \$250: Each year, the Glen Mills Historic Society allows Thornbury Township to use their train station to host the "Train Ride with Santa" event.

West Chester Area Senior Center, \$1,000: The Senior Center supports programs involving seniors in our Township. They have participated in projects such as the Thornbury Township Oral History Project.

Neighborhood Visiting Nurse Association, \$1,100: The NVNA provides home health care and hospice care to our area.

Good Fellowship Ambulance Company, \$1,500: The Good Fellowship Ambulance Company provides first responder emergency care to Thornbury Township and the surrounding area.

West Chester Library, \$3,230: The West Chester Library provides library service to our area. The \$3,230 contribution allows the Library to qualify for additional state funding to support their operations.

2. MINIMUM MUNICIPAL OBLIGATION FOR TOWNSHIP PENSION PROGRAM

Brody Bovero noted that under PA law, the Township Manager is required to present the financial obligations and Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) to the Board of Supervisors. Attached you will find these calculations, which were prepared by Summit Financial Corporation, in conjunction with our pension plan administrator, PSATS.

According the latest actuarial report, which was in January 1, 2013, the status of the Pension Plan, is as follows:

Actuarial Accrued Liability:	\$31,584
Market Value of Current Assets:	\$6,985
Funding Ratio:	22.1%
2014 MMO:	<u>\$4,291</u>

State Contribution of MMO:	\$2,590
2014 Twp Contribution:	\$1,701

Brody Bovero noted that the Board needs to vote to either pay the MMO or some different amount at the next meeting.

3. ANIMAL CONTROL CONTRACT WITH SPCA

Bob Anthony noted that last year we went with the limited contract and did not have any problems.

With the limited contract they will accept the animals but will not pick them up, the resident will have to drop it off. The police department will transport the animal as long as they feel safe in doing so.

Bob Miller suggested that we go with the full contract and help support the SPCA, they are a great organization, and also, the police could decide to not transport animals.

4. SQUIRE CHEYNEY FARM SPRINGHOUSE RESTORATION

Brody Bovero stated that Dale Frens, of Frens & Frens Restoration Architects, gave a short-term fix scope of work, and a permanent restoration scope of work for the restoration. Brody presented the cost estimates.

The estimates are:

- Field Survey and drawings: \$2,500 (needed for either option)
- Short-term fix option (3-5 year horizon): \$13,650 - \$15,650 including architectural drawings and actual restoration work. (architectural work is on a not-to-exceed basis, including construction administration)
- Full Restoration option: \$84,363 including architectural drawings and actual restoration work. (architectural work is on a not-to-exceed basis, including construction administration)

The Board discussed what would be the best option to move forward with, since something needs to be done, as the park trail is going right by it.

Bob Anthony suggested that we put information in the newsletter, on the web site and in an article in the “Gander” asking for contractors in the Township to volunteer their time and skills for the project.

The discussion continued with different ways to get donations and help from the residents of Thornbury.

Jim Benoit suggested that his company could offer its services and would work with the staff to get something ready for the “Gander” and the web site. Brody Bovero noted that the HPC has a member with an architectural background and we could ask for her assistance in determining the scope of the project.

Bill Reilly suggested that we contact the Daily Local and do a feature article about the Springhouse and what plans the Township has for it.

Jim Benoit mentioned that he sits on the board for the Williamson Trade School, and would ask them to see if they are interested in participating in a project like this.

5. 2014 BUDGET: OPEN SPACE FUND, LIQUID FUELS FUND, SEWER FUND, AND TREE FUND

Brody Bovero presented the budgets for the Open Space Fund, Liquid Fuels Fund, Sewer Fund and the Tree Fund. The Board discussed the grants that funded projects for the Open Space Fund and the Sewer Fund. Also the Sewer Fund will be maintained by the residents that have already tied into the system.

The Liquid Fuels Account is funded with money the Township receives from the State Gas Tax and those funds must only be used for work done on our roads.

The Tree Fund was established from a donation and will be used to plant trees for the park and the account will then be closed.

6. 2014 BUDGET: PUBLIC INPUT SESSION ON TAXES

Brody Bovero did a presentation clarifying where the residents’ property taxes go: 78% goes to the School District, 18% goes to the County, and only 4% goes to the Township. The presentation continued concerning cost increases and reviewed the projections for the upcoming year.

Bob Miller suggested that the presentation indicate the percentage amount to the totals.

Brody also noted that the Township has actually reduced its annual costs, since 2007, by about \$295,000.

Bob Miller stated that over the years there has been a lot of trimming in the budget and the massive chunk of the budget is for police services.

Brody mentioned that in 2012 the Board knew this would be an issue and sent out a 2012 Township Survey to all residents. The response rate to the survey was high, and the results indicated that a majority of the residents were willing to accept a tax increase in order to keep the level of services the Township currently provides.

The discussion continued using a graphic showing the tax rates of surrounding Townships which use the State Police or do not provide a full service police force. The information showed that Thornbury Township has the lowest tax rate compared with Westtown and East Goshen Townships.

Brody Bovero presented the draft 2014 Budget. In order to maintain the current levels of services the Board can either do a tax increase to cover just next year, or introduce an increase for the next 3 years. Brody also suggested the possibility of implementing an amusement tax, which could reduce the pressure for increasing the property tax.

The Board discussed the amusement tax and whom it would affect in the Township.

Bob Anthony wants to go over the procedures to understand exactly what the amusement tax is, and whom and what it will affect.

II. OTHER MATTERS

Bob Miller inquired about the property maintenance item for 880 E. Street Road, the fireworks from October 18th, and also the Brine agreement.

Mark Litwack inquired about the sale of Waln Run Park.

III. ADJOURNMENT:

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Destefano, Secretary