

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

**MINUTES – August 6, 2013**

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 Bob Anthony, Chairman; Mike Gallagher, Bob Miller, and Mike Gast. Also in attendance were Brody Bovero, Township Manager and Teresa DeStefano, Secretary. An executive session was held before the regularly scheduled meeting to discuss real estate and litigation. Another executive session was held immediately after the meeting.

**I. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**1. REPORT ON CONDITION OF SOUTH CONCORD CULVERT**

Brody Bovero requested a structural examination of the culvert under South Concord near the intersection of Timberline Trail. The culvert is approximately 48 inches wide and is constructed partially of concrete, but mostly of stone and mortar. It has been several years since the previous examination and Brody felt it prudent to have a current assessment. Failure of the culvert could have significant costs associated with it, along with the possibility of safety issues. Additionally, there is a pipe that intersects the culvert and the junction of these two drainage channels may contribute to ponding and erosion of the ground above.

The culvert is mostly in the Township right-of-way, but approximately 10 feet of the downstream end is located on private property.

Brody mentioned that the masonry arch mortar should be pointed and patched to prevent any loss of stones. Weep holes should be installed where mortar or stones are missing to provide a path for water to bleed through the wall without damaging the masonry. The driveway and shoulder area should also be re-graded and paved to prevent ponding over the arch. The cost estimate to repair the driveway shoulder to eliminate ponding is \$500. Re-pointing the culvert is estimated to cost \$7,000, for a total of \$7,500. This is just a cost estimate. The Township hasn't had any quotes as of yet.

The discussion continued with different examples and ways to proceed with correcting this issue. Ownership of the pipe needs to be determined since there currently is no easement on the property.

Mike Conrad suggested that the pipe would need to be repaired if it is still in use. If it is not, you could plug it and grout it.

Paul Kittle, one of the owners of the property outside of the right of way, was also concerned about the culvert and wants to work with the Township on correcting this matter, since it is located on his property.

Brody proposed that the Township and the homeowner could work together with a contractor and move forward with this issue. Also, the homeowner and the Township should think about an easement on this property. The easement would be for stormwater management, and once in place, the Township could be responsible for the entire culvert.

## **2. 2014 BUDGET OUTLOOK**

Brody Bovero began the 2014 Township Budget discussion with the revenue projections and guidelines over the next few months.

The Board reviewed the draft of the revenue for the 2014 budget and each of the fund balances.

The discussions continued on several aspects of the revenue calculations and what to expect on the next part of the budget, which will include the 2014 budgeted expenses.

## **3. FIREWORKS ORDINANCE**

Brody stated the purpose of the Fireworks Ordinance would be to provide clear standards whereby both the applicant and the Township Fire Marshall can evaluate whether a permit should be issued. It would provide standards that help ensure the safety of those involved with the discharge, or viewing, of fireworks displays and provide standards that help ensure the protection of property from damage due to fireworks. The ordinance should provide standards that help ensure that applicants assume liability, according to State Law, for any injuries or damages due to fireworks displays and provide standards that help ensure that neighboring property owners can reasonably enjoy their properties while fireworks displays are occurring.

The Board of Supervisors discussed the different classes of fireworks and the impact on the Township.

Bob Miller mentioned recent fireworks displays and loud music at Penn Oaks Country Club and stated that the noise is loud and now it is sometimes every weekend. We should be also addressing the noise issue with this ordinance.

Mike Gast noted, for the record, that today he went to the Penn Oaks Country Club and invited them to attend this meeting.

The discussion continued with ways to address these issues. Brody noted that first we should move forward on a fireworks ordinance and then Brody will work on the noise issue.

#### **4. ELECTRICITY CONTRACT**

Brody noted that on December 31<sup>st</sup>, our electricity contract with Exelon will expire. They have provided new rates for 2014 with options for one, two, or 3 year contract.

The Board didn't see any reason not to renew and also to stay with the fixed contract for three years.

Bob Miller inquired if we move our office location while within the contract period, what happens to the contract. Brody noted that the contract goes with us.

#### **5. WATER QUALITY TESTING AT GOOSE CREEK PARK**

Brody Bovero has recently been in discussion with Dr. Steven Hughes, of Cheyney University, regarding the testing of the water quality at Goose Creek. Dr. Hughes is the Director of the Aquaculture Research and Education Center at Cheyney University, and played a key role in creating the successful tilapia and herb farm located in a state-of-the-art facility on campus.

The project will provide a mutual benefit to the Township and the University. The Township will receive base line information about nutrients and pollutants in the stream, while students at the University will have an opportunity to conduct a "real world" examination of a stream.

Dr. Hughes and Brody did discuss the possibility of the Township paying for supplies and equipment in an amount less than \$500. This cost will be for waders, lab materials, screens and chemicals.

Brody noted that there are two benefits of doing this. It may indicate the health of the stream and provide information regarding the safety aspect.

The discussion continued. By having Dr. Hughes conduct this study, we will realize considerable savings on the labor costs a study like this would incur. The test will be done once, for this cost.

## **II. OTHER MATTERS**

### **A. TOWN CENTER WALKWAY REPLACEMENT**

### **B. UPCOMING RENEWAL OF COMCAST FRANCHISE AGREEMENT**

### **C. UPDATE ON SQUIRE CHEYNEY PARK PROJECT**

### **D. UPDATE ON SALE OF SQUIRE CHEYNEY HOUSE & BARN**

Brody Bovero mentioned that he wanted the Board to be aware of these items that will be coming up within the next couple of months. If all the bids come in for the walkway replacement, the Board can vote on this matter at the next meeting. Also, the Comcast

Franchise agreement draft has been forwarded to our Solicitor. The Squire Cheyney Park Project application was just submitted and, hopefully, we should hear back within 30 days. Finally, the Squire Cheyney House & Barn website is also nearing completion and that is where people can be updated.

**III. ADJOURNMENT:**

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Teresa Destefano, Secretary