

Chairman Grey Godshall called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors to order on Monday, January 18, 2016 at 7:01 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 671 Allentown Road, Telford, Pennsylvania 18969.

Present were Chairman Grey Godshall, Vice Chairman David Fazio, 2nd Vice-chairman Robert H. Nice, Supervisor Curtis N. Kratz, and Supervisor Steven P. Barndt. Also in attendance were Township Manager Jon A. Hammer, Chief of Police Joseph Kozeniewski, Township Solicitor Frank Bartle, Esquire, Township Engineer Janene Marchand P.E, and interested residents of Franconia Township.

OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

Chairman Godshall opened the meeting to the public.

Mr. Thiel, of 811 Allentown Road, began stating that he would like to address the many problems of 2015. He requested that the board to listen to the resident's ideas. Mr. Thiel stated that he feels the budget committee and finance committee are not the same. He is requesting that 2 residents be appointed to the Budget Committee. He proceeded to read articles from The Souderton Independent Newspaper saying that two would be appointed and now he is asking what had changed? Mr. Godshall responded that Mr. Hammer was hired 18 months ago and he addressed the issues with the budget. Mr. Hammer stated that he recommended to the board, and by choosing two residents to be a part of a committee would exclude good candidates. By taking this information to the public it would enable the Township to solicit ideas from the community. Mr. Godshall reported that once the budget is set there is about 4% discretionary funds remaining. Once the budget is set the rest goes to salaries, gas, etc. We will bring this information to the public four times a year. Mr. Thiel insisted the Budget Committee goes way back. It was created and now you are saying it will be discontinued. If you are dissolving it, it should have been announced. He requested that a resident be on the committee when the budget is being created in October. Mr. Fazio stated that the Township Manager puts together a budget with the Finance Officer and then it is presented to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Hammer reported that there is a public process

for the budget, every Township in Pennsylvania is handled the same way. A public notice is given to provide open access to everyone in the Township, and allow all residents to provide their input or comments. Mr. Thiel wanted to know “which people” would be preparing the numbers that will go out at the public meetings? Mr. Hammer responded that it is the manager’s responsibility to assemble the budget.

Mr. Ed Tosten, 265 Kingsfield Drive, read aloud an article from The Souderton Independent announcing the public finance meetings. He stated that the meeting times are not good for residents, questioning the choice of a 4:30pm meeting. Chairman Godshall announced that the times and locations will vary to allow different people to attend. The next meeting will be at 7pm.

Ms. Bonnie Miller, 354 High Street, said she was surprised to read that there will not be a finance committee and felt that there should have been communication to the residents that interviewed for the positions before it was in the local newspapers. Ms. Miller likes the idea of the quarterly meetings. Mr. Godshall summarized the last 18 months of meetings that took place to insure the financial future. Going forward, upon the recommendation of Manager Hammer, the residents are looking for information that will be provided at these meetings. Ms. Miller additionally reported that there have not been any email blasts since last September. Township Manager Hammer reviewed the presentations that were given at a prior meeting, regarding a group that does Facebook, Twitter, etc. Ms. Miller questioned if residents might be able to assist with this? Supervisor Godshall said that Mr. Hammer will reach out to see what information the residents really want to know.

Ms. Tara Gray commended the Police Department’s Facebook page.

Mr. Norm Hartzell, 921 Landis Road, was also present in regards to the article. He stated that he was under the impression that two residents would be on a committee before the budget is set. “Before the fact” not as we are now discussing the “after the fact”. Mr. Hartzell stated that it will be nice to report to the residents on how well the financials are looking. Mr. Hammer responded that there is not a whole lot of “before the fact”, 95% of the budget is already accounted for. Mr. Hartzell asked if it is against the law to have public residents on a committee to put the budget together? Solicitor Bartle responded that No, there is no law against it. The law allows the public to be a part of it. That is why it is required to be advertised and the meetings are advertised and the public can then make any comments.

Ms. Gray commented that she welcomes the idea of the sharing aspect and the quarterly meetings. She then commented that she thinks the issue is that the last 5 years have caused a huge distrust between the residents and the Board and being a part of the finances would help to rebuild that trust. Mr. Godshall again stated that the information will be presented four times a year.

Mr. Thiel again requested that the Board of Supervisors put a resident on the Budget Committee for 2017.

Mr. Dan Leidy, 289 Westminster Lane, stated that he felt that the budget committee is basically staff meeting, who then present to the public, the public can then speak up, so there is not really a budget committee.

Mr. Joel Hackman, 709 Mill Road, stated that it seems to him through observing previous meetings, over 18 months, that when an idea is brought before the board it is welcomed at first, then it fizzles, and then eventually is tabled and dies. He referenced the Finance Committee, the Advisory Committee proposal, and a Community Day. Ms. Shirley Hackman reported that she did go to the Park and Recreation Committee with her Community Day idea and was told that they could do nothing for her. Chairman Godshall responded that this process is something that needs to be enforced in the future.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 14, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Fazio made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 14th, 2015 regular meeting. Mr. Kratz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Solicitor's Report – Frank Bartle, Esquire

Ordinance 391- -AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE II [DEFINITIONS] AND REPEALING CHAPTER 78[FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT] IN ITS ENTIRETY AND REPLACING IT WITH A NEW CHAPTER 78 [FLOODPLAIN CONSERVATION DISTRICT WITH PROVISIONS FOR STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION; GENERAL PROVISIONS; DEFINITIONS; IDENTIFICATION OF FLOODPLAIN AREAS; USE REGULATIONS; PROCEDURES AND CONDITIONS FOR VARIANCES; TECHNICAL PROVISIONS; ADMINISTRATION; CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE; MUNICIPAL LIABILITY; AND RESERVED SECTIONS FOR FUTURE AMENDMENT

Mr. Bartle asked for a motion to authorize advertisement. Supervisor Fazio motioned and Supervisor Barndt seconded the motion. Approved 5-0

Resolution 16-01-18-1 – A Resolution appointing Code Inspections, Inc. of Horsham PA, as a third party UCC Building Code Official and Inspector. Mr. Fazio made a motion for approval. Mr. Barndt seconded the motion. Mr. Bartle asked if all were in favor, all responded aye. Approved 5-0

Mr. Thiel questioned why we were having this resolution if we have an in house code official. Mr. Hammer responded that this third party agency would be available as a backup for UCC inspections and to aid in increased activity. He additionally confirmed that it is no way related to a possible U&O inspection.

POLICE REPORT- CHIEF JOSEPH S. KOZENIEWSKI

Chief Kozeniewski submitted his report. Chief Kozeniewski noted that the township experienced a second fatal accident. He additionally commended Officer Bivinghouse for his arrest of a Philadelphia man using stolen credit cards to purchase large amounts of diesel fuel and then selling the fuel on the black market.

HIGHWAY REPORT-PAUL R. NICE

ENGINEERING REPORT- JANENE MARCHAND P.E.

Ms. Marchand submitted the report and provided a summary of the projects. She also reported on a question from last month about the Route 113 bridge road widening project. She reported that they have not even begun the preliminary meetings and once they begin the information will be presented.

TREASURER'S REPORT –

A motion was made by Mr. Nice and seconded by Mr. Fazio to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, and to provide authorization for the Treasurer to pay all bills for the respective funds as presented on Voucher No. 16-18-1 dated January 18, 2016 in the amount of \$357,635.94. The motion carried unanimously.

PAYROLL

A motion was made by Mr. Nice and seconded by Mr. Fazio for the Treasurer to be authorized to pay all employees during the current pay period through February 13, 2016 according to the hours worked as listed on the Payroll Journal for the aforesaid period. The motion carried unanimously.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Brad Bissinger, from ReNew Design Group, was present to request a Land Development Waiver on behalf of the Souderton Area School District to add a secure vestibule and handicap ramp onto Indian Crest Middle School. He informed the Board that the proposal is very similar to that of the project for Franconia Elementary School. The major difference would be in that the Elementary School involved approximately 3000 square feet of new impervious and the new project at the Middle School would be about 1500 square feet, roughly half the size. The addition would be in the back of the school and include four new parking spots, a new ramp, and a vestibule.

Mr. Fazio made a motion to approve the waiver, Mr. Nice seconded it. All in favor, motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Franconia Township Planning Commission will hold its regular meeting on Monday, February 1, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Franconia Township Municipal Building, 671 Allentown Road, Telford, Pennsylvania 18969.

The next regular Board of Supervisors Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 16th, 2016 at 7:00 pm at the Franconia Township Municipal Building, 671 Allentown Road, Telford Pennsylvania 18969. The Board of Supervisors Work Sessions will be held on Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. and on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at the same location.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

A motion was made by Mr. Fazio and seconded by Mr. Kratz to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth T. Gooch

Planning and Zoning Coordinator