



Allen Township Supervisors

4714 Indian Trail Road

Northampton, Pennsylvania 18067

Phone: (610) 262-7012

Fax: (610) 262-7364

Paul Balliet, Chairman
Bruce Frack, Vice Chairman
William Holmes
Alfred Pierce
Michelle Drzewiecki

B. Lincoln Treadwell, Jr., Esq.
Brien Kocher, P.E.
Ilene M. Eckhart, Manager

ALLEN TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

A General Meeting of the Allen Township Supervisors was held on Thursday, May 12, 2011, at 7:00 P.M. at the Allen Township Municipal Building, 4714 Indian Trail Road, Northampton, Pennsylvania 18067. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Chairman Paul Balliet.

Roll Call: Paul Balliet - Present; William Holmes- Present; Alfred Pierce - Present; Michelle Drzewiecki – Present; Bruce Frack - Present; B. Lincoln Treadwell, Jr., Esq. - Present; Ilene M. Eckhart – Present; Brien Kocher PE (Hanover Engineering) - Present.

Public to be Heard: John Stoffa read a summary of the growth statistics which noted Forks Township and Allen Township as the highest municipal increase over the recent several years. He explained that he is pleased that Northampton County has implemented a program, the only county of 67 counties to do so, which allows municipalities to assess a ¼ mill portion of the earned income tax for the purpose of open space preservation. He indicated Moore Township and Plainfield have experienced a 35% percent return on these monies when leveraged against other open space funding sources. He urged the Township to reconsider the referendum for the Fall ballot. He further wished the Board to reconsider the Wildlands Conservancy proposal to prepare the open space plan and educational materials necessary to prepare for the referendum. Mr. Balliet questioned what would happen with the land once acquired through the program? Mr. Stoffa indicated that it remains in farmland in perpetuity. Mrs. Drzewiecki questioned if the property is owned by the County? Mr. Stoffa indicated that the farmer continues to farm and owns the land but the land must remain in farm production.

Mr. Treadwell indicated that if the Township wished to schedule the referendum for the Fall ballot, the Board would need to adopt an ordinance before August 2011 regarding the ballot question. The ballot question must be received by the County Board of Election within that timeframe. Mr. Frack made a motion to authorize the Solicitor to prepare the referendum question and ordinance for an added earned income tax at a rate of 1/4% for the preservation of open space and draft the associated ordinance to place the question on the ballot; seconded by Mr. Holmes. On the motion, by roll call vote, all supervisors present voted yes. Mr. Treadwell clarified that the Board wished to increase the earned income tax for this purpose. Mr. Treadwell further described the lands allowable for purchase.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Holmes made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Mrs. Drzewiecki. On the motion, by roll call vote, all supervisors present voted yes.

Reports

A. Treasurer: Mrs. Drzewiecki made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Mr. Frack. On the motion, by roll call vote, all supervisors present voted yes.

B. Solicitor: On file.

C. Engineer: On file.

i. Delli Santi Associates – Revised Land Development Plan Approval: Mr. Brian Gasda, PE, Lehigh Engineering Associates, Inc. was present to discuss the plan review conditions. Following some discussion, Mr. Holmes questioned the existing use of the concrete slab. Mr. Gasda responded that the slab would be paved over. Mr. Holmes made a motion to approve the plan contingent upon the potential adjustment to the note regarding the 30" pipe that terminates on the west Horwith property line and further subject to the Hanover Engineering letter of review dated May 12, 2011; seconded by Mr. Pierce. On the motion, by roll call vote, all supervisors present voted yes. Mr. Pierce was concerned that EWMI now owned the Horwith property that is mentioned as the adjoining land to the west. This is to be confirmed prior to plan recording to be clear who is responsible for the pipe and who may access the pipe.

D. Zoning Officer: On file.

E. Code Enforcement: On file.

F. Road Superintendent/Public Work Director: On file.

G. Fire Company: On file.

H. Parks: On file.

Unfinished Business

A. Resolution #2011-06 Authorizing submission of the Notice of Intent to apply for CDBG (FFY 2011 NC-DCED): Mr. Victor Rodite, Community Development Director was present to discuss the Notice of Intent to apply for the current round of CDBG funds. Following some discussion, Mr. Pierce made a motion to approve the resolution as presented; seconded by Mrs. Drzewiecki. On the motion, by roll call vote, all supervisors present voted yes.

B. Resolution #2011-07 Adoption of written procedures to determine selection process for professional service providers for Township Pension Plan (compliance with Act 44 of 2009): Mr. Pierce made a motion to approve the resolution as presented; seconded by Mr. Holmes. On the motion, by roll call vote, all supervisors present voted yes.

C. Series of Draft Letter pertaining to the Sanitary Sewer Agreement with Northampton Borough, fees to Township residents and fees to Developers: Mr. Pierce made a motion to approve the letters as drafted and presented by Mr. Treadwell concerning the future charges for sewer tapping and user fees in light of the expired Intermunicipal Agreement with Northampton Borough; seconded by Mr. Frack. On the motion, by roll call vote, all supervisors present voted yes.

D. Bethlehem Authority – correspondence regarding acquisition of PUC territory within Allen Township: Following some discussion, Mr. Pierce made a motion to authorize the Solicitor to draft a response letter that requests a map that illustrates the service area proposed in the May 3, 2011 letter; a funding strategy for the improvements associated with East Allen Gardens water system area; seconded by Mr. Pierce. On the motion, by roll call vote, all supervisors present voted yes.

E. NBMA – correspondence regarding proposed extension of water distribution system within Allen Township: Following some discussion, Mr. Pierce made a motion to authorize the Manager to write a response letter to NBMA and request a refined map outlining the service area proposed in the April 27, 2011 letter; seconded by Mr. Frack. On the motion, by roll call vote, all supervisors present voted yes.

F. EIT report on TCC transition: Mr. Pierce provided an update on the TCC meeting held earlier today with the Northampton Area School District concerning the transition. Mr. Pierce reported that the discussion focused on a potential shortfall in early 2012 due to the transition. He additionally reported that a letter will be coming from the Northampton Area School District announcing scenarios available to the Townships/Boroughs to handle the transition from the time the District stops collecting until the TCC collect.

New Business

A. Lehigh Township Country Fair: Mr. Frack made a motion to authorize the off-site sign as requested; seconded by Mr. Holmes. On the motion, by roll call vote, all supervisors present voted yes.

Public to be Heard: No comments from the audience.

Respectfully submitted,

Ilene M. Eckhart