

**Minutes of the Board of Commissioners  
Upper Pottsgrove Township**

**July 16, 2007**

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, July 16, 2007, at the Upper Pottsgrove Township Administrative Offices, 1409 Farmington Avenue, with Commissioners, DeLena, Dolan, Iatesta, Noll and Taylor present. Also present were Solicitor Charles D. Garner, Jr., Engineer Chris Hannum, representing LTL Consultants, Township Manager Jack P. Layne and Township Secretary Cynthia Saylor. Mr. Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. There were five people and a Mercury reporter present in the audience.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE** - Commissioner Taylor requested a moment of silence in honor of the men and women who have served and are currently serving our country in the armed forces.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - Those assembled pledged allegiance to the flag.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment.

**REPORTS:**

**EMERGENCY SERVICES** - Commissioner Noll summarized the monthly Police Report and noted a copy would be posted on the bulletin board. Mr. Noll complimented the Police Department for their efforts involving the recent "bike safety rodeo" which was held at Pottsgrove High School. Mr. Noll reported the Police Department will be conducting "Child Fingerprinting" at Fulton Bank on September 8, 2007 between the hours of 10:00 AM and 1:00 P.M.

**FIRE COMMITTEE REPORT** - Commissioner Noll reported the Fire Committee will meet on Thursday, July 19, 2007 and Emergency Management Training will be held on Tuesday, July 31, 2007 at 2:00 P.M.

**PLANNING & ZONING REPORT** - Commissioner Taylor reported the Planning Commission discussed the proposed Village Commercial Ordinance and the Retail Commercial Ordinance.

**PUBLIC WORKS REPORT** - Commissioner Iatesta reported the Highway Department excavated and paved approximately 100 feet of shoulder along Farmington Avenue. All line painting has been completed throughout the Township by A-1 Traffic Control and the Public Works Employees are in the process of painting stop bars, gore markings and turning lane arrows. New speed limit signs have been installed along Farmington Avenue as well as Handicap Parking Penalty signs where required. The Highway employees removed a tree between Poplar and Willow Street in order to widen a swale in a drainage ditch and filled a sinkhole located over a storm water pipe at 94 Mapleleaf Lane. A metal detector was rented to locate buried manholes in the Regal Oaks Subdivision in order for cleaning and televising to be performed. The Highway Employees cleared an easement on Steinmetz Road to allow for the extension of public water to the Commerce Drive area, continued with mowing and trimming of the parks and open space and took delivery of the new playground equipment. Commissioner Iatesta suggested that gore markings be placed along the shoulder of the road at the intersection of Route 100 and State Street.

**PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE** - Commissioner Dolan provided a brief update with regards to the Prince/Austerberry land acquisition.

**ADMINISTRATION REPORT** - Commissioner DeLena reminded the members of the Board that the deadline for newsletter articles is Friday, July 20, 2007. Mrs. DeLena complimented Linda Coleman and expressed her appreciation with regards to the Township Newsletter.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT** - A copy of the monthly report will be posted on the bulletin board. Mr. Layne updated the members of the Board regarding John Theisen who was injured in a motorcycle accident earlier this month.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT** - Attorney Garner provided a summary of his activities for the month which included: preparation of the proposed storm water management ordinance, the traffic calming ordinance, a proposed tree removal ordinance and on-going discussions with regards to the Prince/Austerberry land acquisition.

**TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT** - Mr. Layne reported he met with PADEP officials and Pottstown Borough Staff to discuss the status of the Wolf Run Water Project. Mr. Layne expressed his thanks to Public Works Director Frank Quinter and the Highway employees for providing the requested improvements with regards to the Willow Street storm water management problems. He also expressed his appreciation to the Highway Department for their assistance in the delivery of the new playground equipment at Heather Place Park. Mr. Layne reported Police Chief Bryan Ross is planning to attend the National Police Chief's Association Conference in New Orleans in October and he will be attending the International City/County Managers' Association Conference in Pittsburgh. Mr. Layne noted the conferences would not occur at the same time. Mr. Layne advised the Township is planning a "Community Day" on Saturday, October 6, 2007; the rain date will be on Saturday, October 13, 2007. Mr. Layne requested an increase in the Township credit card limit from \$500 to \$1,000. A motion by Dolan, seconded by Iatesta, to authorize the increase in the Township credit card. All aye votes.

**FINANCIAL REPORT** - Matt Dallas, Dallas Data Systems, provided a brief overview of the Township's financial status for the first quarter of 2007. Mr. Dallas reported all cash accounts have been closed at Sovereign Bank and a "Combined Cash" account, consolidating all funds, with the exception of the Liquid Fuels (State) account and the Escrow account, has been opened at Fulton Bank. He further reported that the Township has assumed the Regal Oaks sewer billing in June. Commissioners Dolan and Noll both requested clarification with regards to the Open Space revenue.

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT CROSSROADS SEWER PLANNING MODULE TO THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION** - A motion by Dolan, seconded by DeLena, to approve the submission of the Crossroads Sewer Planning Module to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. All aye votes.

**ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION OF PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER** - A motion by Iatesta, seconded by Noll, to accept with regret, the resignation of Planning Commission member David Daniels. All aye votes. Commissioner Iatesta suggested the Township recognize Mr. Daniels for his years of service as a member of the Planning Commission.

**REQUEST TO LOCATE SPEED LIMIT SIGN ALONG MASTER STREET BETWEEN CODDINGTON VIEW AND NORTH HANOVER STREET AND THAT A STOP SIGN BE PLACED AT THE CORNER OF MASTER AND WILLOW STREETS** - Police Chief Bryan

Ross reported he received a request from a resident for the placement of a speed limit sign along Master Street, between Coddington View and North Hanover Street, for traffic coming out of the Coddington View Development. The resident also requested the placement of an additional stop sign at the corner of Master and Willow Streets making the intersection a three-way stop intersection. Chief Ross suggested posting the area as 25 mph with a single sign in each direction along Master Street. He stated currently there is no existing ordinance establishing the speed limit. With regards to the multi-way stop sign request; Chief Ross stated the area in question does not meet any of the requirements for the placement of an additional sign. After further discussion, a motion by DeLena, seconded by Noll, to authorize the preparation of an ordinance posting the speed limit at twenty five miles per hour (25mph). All aye votes.

**TOWER LEASE PROPOSAL** - Spencer Davis, representing TriStar Investors, Inc., was present to discuss their telecommunication lease proposal and stated they are offering a preliminary purchase price of \$140,000. Mr. Davis explained this price is based on the monthly rental income of \$1,194.00 and approximately nineteen (19) years remaining on the current lease. In exchange for the preliminary purchase price of \$140,000 TriStar will be given an assignment of the beneficial rights under the current lease agreement, as well as a long term lease with respect to the ground that is currently being leased for telecommunication purposes. Mr. Davis further explained that beginning after the expiration of the current lease, and at the point in time in which TriStar acquires control of the site, TriStar will begin to disburse to the Township 50% of the new revenue derived from the site by TriStar. Commissioner Taylor stated taking the money up front would allow the Township to implement a capital project without incurring the cost of borrowing. Commissioner Iatesta noted there are a lot of roads within the Township that are in need of paving. Commissioner Noll expressed his concern regarding taking the preliminary proposal of \$140,000 when the Township would earn an additional \$100,000 during the extent of the current lease agreement.

**GREEN FUTURES ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS** - A motion by Dolan, seconded by DeLena, to approve the letter of support endorsing the nomination of the Summer Grove project for a 2007 Montgomery County Green Futures Achievement Award. All aye votes.

**REQUEST TO PROVIDE A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER AT THE POTTS GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL** - Chief Bryan Ross provided a brief scenario of the school district's

request of having a school resource officer at the Pottsgrove Middle School. Chief Ross stated the School District is requesting that an officer be assigned to the Middle School throughout the school year, Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:30 AM - 3:30 P.M. He further stated the School District is willing to reimburse the Township for nine and a half months of salary plus benefits and they have budgeted \$57,000 for this purpose. Chief Ross noted that the position and the job description must be posted for the bargaining unit. He further noted that removing an officer from the schedule will produce approximately \$9,000.00 in additional overtime to fill the schedule. Chief Ross reported the position will be re-evaluated by both the Township and the School District on an annual basis.

**SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER CONT'D** - After discussion, a motion by DeLena, seconded by Iatesta, to authorize the Police Chief to draw up a contract with the School District for a school resource officer. Aye votes: DeLena, Iatesta, Noll and Taylor. Opposed: Dolan. Motion carried.

**GILBERT DUNCAN - 73 Hanover Drive** - Suggested the School District consider hiring a former police chief to fill the role of school resource officer at the Middle School.

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

**COMMISSIONER DELENA** - Expressed her concern regarding the dilapidated garage located along Farmington Avenue directly across the entrance to the Windsor Heights Development and noted it is a safety hazard. Mr. Layne stated the Fire Company plans to use the property for training purposes.

**COMMISSIONER DOLAN** - Expressed concern with regards to the **800 GOT JUNK** signs posted throughout the Township and stated we need to enforce our ordinances. Mr. Dolan advised he may not be available for the August Board meeting. Commissioner Dolan suggested a letter of reprimand be sent to our officials in Harrisburg with regards to the open space monies.

**COMMISSIONER NOLL** - Stated he had information available from the state convention for anyone that is interested.

**PAYMENT OF THE BILLS** - A motion by Iatesta, seconded by DeLena, to approve the amended Bill List dated July 16, 2007, for General Fund in the amount of \$62,725.61; Fire Fund in the amount of \$1,565.51; Park & Recreation Fund in the amount of \$7,058.00; Sewer Fund in the amount of \$18,671.39; Capital Fund in the amount of \$38,711.59; Open Space Fund in the amount of \$450.00; State Fund in the amount of \$9,348.96 and Escrow Fund in the amount of \$497.98. Total Expenditures - \$139,029.04. All aye votes. Commissioner Noll questioned if the line painting would be classified as a reimbursable expense since it is part of the water project. Mr. Layne stated he would look into the matter. Mr. Noll questioned invoices for the Upland Square traffic review and the Water Extension Agreement with the Pottstown Borough Authority.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 18, 2007** - A motion by Noll, seconded by Dolan, to adopt the minutes of the June 18, 2007, meeting as presented. Aye votes: Dolan, Iatesta, Noll and Taylor. Abstain: DeLena. Commissioner DeLena explained she abstained from voting due to the fact that she was not present at the meeting. Motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** - At 8:42 P.M. Commissioner Taylor reported the Board would meet in Executive Session to discuss personnel and real estate issues. The meeting reconvened at 9:58 P.M.

**ADJOURNMENT** - There being no further business, a motion by Dolan, seconded by DeLena, to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia H. Saylor, Secretary