

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

**October 20, 2014**

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, October 20, 2014, at the Upper Pottsgrove Administrative Office, 1409 Farmington Avenue, with Commissioners Elwood Taylor, Herbert C. Miller Jr., Russell Noll, Renee Spaide and Martin Schreiber present. Also present were Township Solicitor Charles D. Garner, Jr., Police Chief William Moffett, Township Manager Carol R. Lewis, Public Works Director Frank Quinter and Financial Advisor Matt Dallas. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE** - Mr. 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 COMMENTS (non-agenda items)** – **Keith Kehl, 1941 Gilbertsville Road**, asked whether Verizon was going to air PCTV. They have refused since they do not believe it is a government or educational channel. **Dennis Elliott, 576 Evans Road**, asked if the Township could help the clean-up brigade by putting up signs for no littering including these signs. C. Garner advised him that they would have to look at the ordinance to see if it allows the enforcement of these signs. Chief Moffett advised that if they catch someone, they do ticket people now under the motor vehicle code. D. Elliott then asked if the Council of Government looked into businesses and infrastructure to support the hundreds of homes being developed within the area. E. Taylor advised him that private property can be developed per our ordinance and there is no legal requirement to look into those things. He noted that nine communities have coordinated zoning so that there is not an overabundance of townhomes, apartments, etc. **Austin Coale, 1409 N. Charlotte Street**, advised the Board that he lives next to Sunset Park and is having problems with people driving down his driveway and walking across his property. E. Taylor said that they would look into a solution, and that they are aware of some of the problems down there. **Charles Note, 2137 Horseshoe Drive**, had a concern that the gutter cracks were not sealed. F. Quinter advised him that this was not part of the contract but the public works department would be addressing this matter. **John Magill, 2607 N. Franklin Street**, is a representative for Plotts Energy and offered his assistance to help the Board with making an informed decision on whether to prepay for oil.

**REPORTS:**

**FIRE COMPANY LIAISON** – M. Schreiber reviewed the reports and statistics. He advised the Board that November is election time for the Fire Company. They are looking for members at large. The Fire Committee is looking at changing their meeting dates to allow time to prepare the financial reports. The Fire Committee also discussed the collection of false fire alarm fees. M. Schreiber also reported that the Fire Company applied for a PEMA grant for \$15,000.00 for gear.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT LIAISON** – H. Miller provided the report for September, 2014. H. Miller had a meeting with Chief Moffett. There is still a problem with dogs and other animal complaints. There are currently some frauds and scams going around. He advised residents that

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if they are suspicious, they should provide all information to the Chief so they can look into the problem. Chief Moffett advised that there have been people posing as sheriff's officers saying that they have a warrant for people's arrest unless they pay a money gram. CVS Pharmacy is alerting people about the scam when they come into the store to purchase the money gram. H. Miller told the Board that over a year ago, an elderly person was scammed for macadam and eventually the police caught the person in Lancaster. He asked France Krazalkovich to bring up this discussion at their next homeowners association meeting.

**PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE LIAISON** – H. Miller reported that the meeting was changed to October 21, 2014 due to the holiday. He reported that the SAVE Alliance held a Family Night Hike which was a great success. R. Noll advised he attended this event and said there was an amazing turnout. He noted they needed a second bus to transport people. He was very impressed by the volunteers and the people hosting the event. E. Taylor also attended and said there was great coordination between the Township, the SAVE Alliance, teachers and students. There was also a bonfire and roasting of marshmallows. E. Taylor advised that he believes the Althouse Arboretum will become a great identity and focus for the Township. H. Miller also reported that the clean-up brigade will meet the following Saturday, October 25, 2014 and volunteers are welcome. Community Day was held and was a great event. The turnout would have been better if the weather wasn't questionable but everyone there seemed to have a good time. The Fire Company, Police Department and Medivac Helicopter attended and Hopewell Community Church partnered with the Township for this event. The event was organized and run by Susan Thompson who did a great job as always.

**PLANNING AND ZONING & ADMINISTRATION LIAISON** – E. Taylor reported that a meeting was held, and the Planning Commission is reviewing the stormwater and grading ordinances.

**PUBLIC WORKS REPORT** – R. Spaide reported that the road crew has finished mowing, the micro sealing and paving projects are complete, backfilling and grass seeding along the curb at Horseshoe Drive has been done, and they are currently cleaning out storm drains.

**SPECIAL TOWNSHIP PROJECTS** – R. Noll reported that a list of bills was passed by the legislature. House Bill 1363 makes the process faster to eliminate blighted properties which could be a positive impact for many townships. He is currently collecting input for priorities for the 2015 PSATC Committee.

**TOWNSHIP ENGINEER'S REPORT** - It was noted that a copy of the monthly Engineer's Report would be posted on the bulletin board.

**TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR'S REPORT** – There was nothing to report.

**TOWNSHIP MANAGER** – A copy of the Manager's report was included in the Commissioner's packets.

**MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT** - Copies of the monthly Financial Reports were included in the Board's meeting packets.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**DISCUSS ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION OF EDWARD O'BRIEN FROM THE SEWER & WATER COMMITTEE** – Motion by R. Spaide, seconded by R. Noll and unanimously carried to accept the resignation of Edward O'Brien from the Sewer and Water Committee. M. Schreiber expressed concern that the Township is not using the committees wisely. R. Noll agreed that it was a concern and was disheartened over the resignation.

**DISCUSS 2015 BUDGET** – C. Lewis received an estimate from LTL to do a study on the current public works/police building. She advised the Board that the study could be done now to plan expenditures on this building in the future or it could be put off until next year. Motion by H. Miller seconded by R. Spaide and unanimously carried to contract with LTL to do the needs assessment of the public works/police building for an amount not to exceed \$3,250.00. M. Dallas and C. Lewis presented the preliminary budget. They reviewed the sewer fund, and as of right now, it does not look like there is a rate increase needed. They then reviewed the police budget. Chief Moffett explained that he had budgeted for the replacement of two vehicles and is currently looking at the phone bills and holiday time. Next, they reviewed the fire budget. The Fire Committee suggested items for the budget. It does appear that the fire tax may need to be increased, and it was noted that last time it was raised was in 2006. The workers compensation insurance is very high as well as vehicle repairs. Also, they need to budget for replacement of one of the trucks which has an open cab and is a safety concern and for the new County radios. The radios will be financed through the County under a no interest loan. Motion by R. Noll, seconded by H. Miller and unanimously carried to advertise for a special budget meeting to be held on Monday, November 3, 2014 at 7:00 pm.

**CONSIDER RATIFICATION OF WINTER SERVICES AGREEMENT RESOLUTION 648** – Motion by R. Spaide, seconded by M. Schreiber and unanimously carried to approve the inclusion of the winter traffic services agreement in resolution 648 along with the master casting agreement. C. Lewis explained that this is a formality to clean up the minutes.

**CONSIDER QUOTES TO TELEVISE SEWER LINES** – Motion by R. Spaide, seconded by H. Miller and unanimously carried to accept the quote from Pipe Data View Services to televise the remaining 102 sewer laterals at a price of \$1.85 per linear foot. F. Quinter explained that one of the public works staff will go around with them to assist in finding cleanouts and anything else they may need.

**DISCUSS CROSSING AGREEMENT WITH PENNDOT** – C. Lewis explained that in order for the trails to cross the road, they need to first have an agreement with PennDOT called a shared use path crossing agreement. After that, the Township would follow the steps outlined in the agreement as to submitting engineered drawings to PennDOT for a trail crossing. It is uncertain at this time exactly where the trail crossings will be needed, but they will be needed at some point in order to connect the trails. Motion by H. Miller seconded by R. Spaide and

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unanimously carried to approve the shared use path crossing agreement and authorize the Manager to execute the necessary documents.

**DISCUSS TRASH BIDS** – Two bids were received for this project – one from A. J. Blosenski and one from J. P. Mascaro. The Township has the option to extend the contract for two years. R. Spaide expressed disappointment that only two bids were received. She feels we should extend the contract with J. P. Mascaro as it is cheaper than any of the other options received. R. Noll felt that Mascaro should continue to do the billing as the staff has lots of other work to do. M. Schreiber felt that they should do away with all contracts, and that one size does not fit all. R. Noll says that there have been a lot of complaints and concerns, and that he is disappointed there has not been a reduction in truck traffic as this was one of the goals. C. Lewis pointed out that not all of the complaints were against Mascaro but included complaints about other haulers as well. **Deborah Bingham, 1998 Detweiler Road**, advised that she has never had a problem with Mascaro and hopes the Township extends the contract. Sam Augustine, representative from Mascaro, expressed his concern that other haulers in the Township do not offer all of the services that they do. He explained that five years ago people were spending a lot more money on collection, and that the other rates have dropped to compete with Mascaro. He feels the Township should do the billing as it would strengthen their control over the process. **Charles Note, 2137 Horseshoe Drive**, asked if the Township has considered an all or nothing contract. E. Taylor explained that residents want the right to choose their own hauler. **Keith Kachel, 1412 Farmington Avenue**, asked if the contract is extended, would the rules remain the same. E. Taylor explained that they would. Motion by M. Schreiber to dissolve all contracts and have an open market. The motion did not pass for lack of a second. Motion by R. Spaide seconded by H. Miller, to extend the contract with J. P. Mascaro with the Township doing the billing. R. Noll again expressed that he does not think it is a benefit. Aye votes: Spaide, Miller and Taylor. Nay votes: Noll and Schreiber. Motion carries.

**DISCUSS HB 1671 RELATED TO EXECUTIVE SESSIONS** – C. Garner explained that this bill is an amendment to the Sunshine Law that would require recording of executive sessions, and if the executive session is about personnel, the Commissioners would have to name the person the discussion was about. If the solicitor was not present for the executive session, he would need to submit a written opinion about the validity of the executive session. C. Lewis pointed out that this is another unfunded mandate that would cost money. Motion by R. Spaide seconded by H. Miller and unanimously carried to oppose the bill.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**FIRE POLICE ACTIVITIES** – Motion by M. Schreiber, seconded by R. Spaide and unanimously carried to ratify the fire police activities for the previous month.

**OTHER PUBLIC COMMENT** – There were no public comments.

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS** – M. Schreiber explained that he called many companies regarding heating oil and prepaying based upon last year's usage. F. Quinter pointed out that Plotts Energy is the same company that shorted the Township for fuel and refused to deliver any

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additional fuel oil until they were paid. H. Miller believes that the oil prices are going to drop based upon the television news. M. Schreiber asked the Township to track the price per gallon so that they consider whether or not to prepay next year. F. Quinter pointed out that William Gift also gave cards to the public works and police department so that they could fuel up in an emergency.

R. Noll thanked the open space and recreation board and C. Lewis for Community Day and said it was a very nice event.

M. Schreiber expressed disappointment that Verizon will not give a channel to PCTV, and he is considering dropping them because of it. **Keith Kachel, 1412 Farmington Avenue**, questioned when the agreement expires. It was explained that these agreements are for ten years.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Motion by R. Spaide seconded by R. Noll and unanimously carried to approve the September 15, 2014 as presented.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS - Bill List dated October 20, 2014** – C. Lewis explained that the Bill List would be amended to remove \$74.35. M. Schreiber expressed disappointment that the Fire Marshall was paid \$60.00 for his first aid class since the Fire Company paid for the trainer. Motion by R. Noll, seconded by E. Taylor and unanimously carried to approve the bill list dated October 20, 2014 for General Fund in the amount of \$154,450.26; Fire Fund in the amount of \$42,914.74; Sewer Fund in the amount of \$47,121.38; Open Space Fund in the amount of \$3,808.11; State Fund in the amount of \$464,909.60; and Escrow Fund in the amount of \$722.78. Total Disbursements ~ \$713,926.87.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – At 8:59 P.M., Commissioner Taylor advised the Board will be having an executive session, but no action will follow.

**ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting reconvened at 9:41 P.M. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Carol R. Lewis, Assistant Secretary