

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

November 17, 2014

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, November 17, 2014, at the Upper Pottsgrove Administrative Office, 1409 Farmington Avenue, with Commissioners Elwood Taylor, Herbert C. Miller Jr., Renee Spaide and Martin Schreiber present. Commissioner Russell Noll was not available for the meeting. 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 COMMENT (non-agenda items)

KEITH KEHL – Gilbertsville Road - Commented about mowing high grass and why some people have to do it and others don't.

REPORTS:

FIRE COMPANY LIAISON – Commissioner Schreiber reported that there were 140 calls year to date while last year there were 99 calls so the Fire Company is up by 40%. The Fire Committee discussed changing their meeting dates to possibly the fourth Tuesday. This is due to the timing of the Bank Statements coming out and allowing enough time get their reports done. There are new officers so they will have to discuss the meeting dates.

POLICE DEPARTMENT LIAISON – Commissioner Miller reported that there is nothing outstanding. Animal Complaints are up; a vandalism person was caught and there were some burglaries. They will be moving the security camera to another area soon.

PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE LIAISON – Commissioner Miller reported that part of the Prout loop trail is completed. He along with Frank Quinter will be going on the trail tomorrow regarding hunting in the park. They will also be meeting with Hopewell Trucking at the end of the week to begin the installation of the portion of Snyder Trail authorized last month. Commissioner Miller also reported about the emerald ash bore. It is an evasive species killing ash trees. It is an evasive species killing ash trees. He then discussed travel and tourism in the Schuylkill Highland region which is on the increase. Commissioner Taylor commented that this is mostly thanks to his efforts and the other members of the Open Space and Recreation Board. He looked at the Althouse Arboretum to be a focus for the township. Commissioner Spaide asked what the solution was regarding the trees. Commissioner Miller advised that the township must have a plan on how to deal with dead trees. They can be injected but the injection only last two years and each injection can cost between thirty five (\$35.00) and one hundred (\$100.00).

DIANA UPDEGROVE – 1404 Farmington Avenue – Questioned what they were supposed to do with contaminated trees. The township will look for more information and get back to her.

PLANNING & ZONING LIASION – Commissioner Taylor reported that there was a short meeting regarding a subdivision which will be addressed later on the agenda.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT – Commissioner Spaide reported that the road crew has finished mowing. They are presently getting the trucks ready for winter and replacing signs. They will be cleaning out the gutters from the storm. Commissioner Schreiber asked if a leaf vacuum would be of benefit to the township such as the one West Pottsgrove Township has. Frank Quinter agreed it should be looked into.

TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR REPORT - Attorney Garner reported that he and the Township Engineer attended a staff meeting with the Borough of Pottstown regarding the Siphon project. The final cost was almost double what was anticipated so they will be adjusting the tapping fee. They plan on having the numbers for the December or January meeting. He also reported that the Agreement with the Borough Authority to purchase additional capacity has expired this year. He asked the Borough Authority to extend that Agreement and they seemed amenable.

TOWNSHIP MANAGER – Carol Lewis reported that when Matt Dallas and she were finalizing the budget they ran the cost for collecting the fees for trash and it is not cost effective for the township to do so. She recommended that they continue the contract with Mascaro for one (1) year with them collecting the fee. A motion by Miller, seconded by Spaide, to extend the contract with Mascaro for one (1) year with them collecting the fee. Aye votes: Miller, Spaide and Taylor. Nay vote: Schreiber. Motion carried. Mrs. Lewis reported that there is a project underway to install stepping stones in order to cross Sprogel's Run on the Snyder Trail. North Coventry is also interested in doing a similar project in their township and would like to partner for the permit with DEP. Correspondence was received from Montgomery County regarding the black fly suppression program which the township had indicated interest in the previous month. They now have the numbers and are requesting townships that are interested in participating to commit to a minimum contribution of \$500 for participation in the project. A motion by Schreiber, seconded by Spaide, to commit \$500 toward the black fly suppression program in 2015. All aye votes.

NEW BUSINESS: ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF SUSAN THOMPSON FROM OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION BOARD - A motion by Spaide, seconded by Miller, to accept the resignation of Susan Thompson from the Open Space and Recreation Board. All aye votes. Commissioner Taylor read a Certificate of Excellence that will be presented to her. A motion by Miller, seconded by Spaide, to appoint Chris Delp to the Open Space and Recreation Board. A motion by Schreiber, to table discussion to see if there are other people interested in serving on the Board. Commissioner Miller pointed out that Mr. Delp has worked in the Township on other boards and goes to the parks regularly with his children. The Open Space and Recreation Board

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have a lot going on and needs to have a full member board. There was no second on Commissioner Schreiber's motion. Commissioner Miller's motion carried with Commissioner Schreiber voting nay. A motion by Spaide, seconded by Miller, to accept Chris Delp's resignation as an alternate member of the Civil Service Board. All aye votes.

DISCUSS APPOINTMENTS TO THE SEWER & WATER COMMITTEE BOARD AND OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION BOARD – A motion by Spaide, seconded by Schreiber to appoint Don Reed to the Sewer & Water Committee. She said he is a good businessman and would be an asset to the Committee. All aye votes.

DISCUSS APPROVAL OF MELVILLE ESTATES – This was previously the Boerner Tract. Attorney Garner pointed out that this is a pretty minor subdivision. The original intention was to spin the home off from the major tract. Comments were received and outlined in the LTL review letter. The waivers are minor. A formal resolution has been prepared granting four (4) waivers and having the applicant conform to the conditions. A motion by Miller, seconded by Schreiber, to approve Resolution #650. All aye votes.

REVIEW AUDIT RFP'S – This matter was tabled to a future meeting.

DISCUSS REMOVAL OF POSTAGE METER – A motion by Miller, seconded by Spaide, to end the lease for the postage meter. All aye votes.

DISCUSS MEETING DATES FOR 2015 – The Board decided to keep the same dates with any holidays to be adjusted for. Commissioner Schreiber requested that we advertise for the two meetings per month with the first date as needed and the third being designated as the regular monthly meeting date. A motion by Miller, seconded by Spaide, to authorize the advertisement of those meeting dates. All aye votes.

AUTHORIZE PREPARATION OF ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT DEED OF DEDICATION FOR GREEN VIEW DRIVE – Green View Drive, which is a road in Coddington View, has submitted an executed Deed of Dedication. A motion by Spaide, seconded by Miller, to authorize the Solicitor to prepare the Ordinance. All aye votes. Attorney Garner pointed out that the Chief advised him that the ordinance will need to be amended regarding traffic as well.

OLD BUSINESS:

DISCUSS 2015 BUDGET - The Board discussed Budget #1 vs. Budget #2. They are same except that Budget #2 does not call for a fire tax increase. The extra funds would come from the \$50,000 cushion in the General Fund. Commissioner Miller pointed out that he has a lot of respect for today's Fire Company and is pleased with how they are being administered, however; he does not want to see a tax increase. A motion by Miller, seconded by Spaide, to authorize the advertisement of Budget #2 for public review. Commissioner Spaide pointed out that if it were not for the worker's comp insurance there would be excess money in the Fire Fund to be used for

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equipment. Commissioner Miller also gave kudo's to Commissioner Spaide for her dedicated work over the years. **Keith Kachel**, newly elected President of the Fire Company, asked what guarantee they have that the money will be there. Commissioner Taylor stated it would be a one-time transfer to the Fire Fund. He feels that is not responsible to raise taxes to build a piggy bank. Commissioner Schreiber agreed that no one wants to raise taxes but if more money is needed we need to raise taxes. The Fire Company is trying to save up money for future equipment needs. Commissioner Taylor pointed out that future Boards can change things but this Board and these Commissioners have supported the Fire Company. The Board voted aye on the motion with Commissioner Schreiber voting nay. Motion carried. A motion by Spaide, seconded by Miller, to authorize the advertisement of the ordinance for the tax rate. The motion passed with Commissioner Schreiber voting nay.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

COMMISSIONER MILLER reported that there was recently an article in the Pottstown Mercury regarding a grant received by Pottstown to install a bike lane. He advised the Board that the Open Space and Recreation Board as well as the Regional partners are looking to connect to these trails with the goal to be ultimately connecting to the Schuylkill River trails.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 20, 2014 – A motion by Spaide, seconded by Schreiber, to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2014, meeting as presented. All aye votes. **November 3, 2014** – A motion by Schreiber, seconded by Spaide, to approve the minutes of November 3, 2014, meeting as presented. All aye votes.

PAYMENT OF BILLS – Commissioner Schreiber questioned tire repair and keys that were made. The tire repair was for mounting and balancing and the keys were for Upland Square and the Police Department. A motion by Schreiber, seconded by Spaide, to approved the payment of the bills in the amount of \$93,096.28.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - At 8:03 P.M. Commissioner Taylor advised the public that the Board would retire to Executive Session to discuss a matter of real estate. They may re-adjourn with a decision. The Board reconvened at 8:28 P.M. The Board discussed the maintenance and use of open space. They also discussed the redevelopment of the area and the pros and cons of open space and trails. A motion by Miller, seconded by Spaide, to execute the Agreement of Sale for 1458 Chestnut Grove Road for an amount of \$610,000. Nay vote: Schreiber. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion by Schreiber, seconded by Miller, to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 P.M. All aye votes.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol R. Lewis, Assistant Secretary

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