

**Minutes - Board of Commissioners Meeting  
Upper Pottsgrove Township**

**September 19, 2016**

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on Monday, September 19, 2016, at the Upper Pottsgrove Township Administrative Offices, 1409 Farmington Avenue, with Commissioners Elwood Taylor, Herbert C. Miller Jr., Martin Schreiber, France Krazalkovich and John Bealer present. Also present were Solicitor Charles D. Garner Jr., Public Works Director, Francis Quinter, Chief Wheatley and Township Manager, Carol R. Lewis. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE** - E. 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.

**PLANNING REPORT – Variance Request, 908 Commerce Drive.** E. Taylor explained that a hearing has been set for October 12, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. for a Variance for 908 Commerce Drive. They are requesting a variance from Section 350-140(b) 1, 2 and 3 regarding overall allowable sign dimensions. Gable Clark and Aaron Rappuci were present and explained that they are purchasing the building for commercial use. The building was built in 1968 and at that time Commerce Drive was not the commercial corridor that it is today. It is a high speed road with multiple intersections which would require a larger sign to attract attention. G. Clark explained that signage is a critical element for commercial building. He discussed the sign ordinance with regards to speed on the road. H. Miller expressed that he was pleased with the presentation. E. Taylor explained to the Commissioners that the Planning Commission feels the sign ordinance is deficient in this commercial area. They will be looking at the ordinance to update it. J. Bealer explained that the signs on the building are very low voltage LED lights. C. Garner explained the variance process to the Board of Commissioners. They are permitted to express their opinion to the Zoning Hearing Board either through a letter or authorizing attendees to explain their position. Motion by F. Krazalkovich seconded by H. Miller and unanimously carried to send the Manager and the President to express their support to the Zoning Hearing Board. H. Miller discussed the history of the area. F. Krazalkovich expressed that he does not feel that these signs are out of place as Applebee’s is much larger and within our Township.

**PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE – Consider request of Thomas Beveridge to trap on township open space.** Thomas Beveridge explained that he is a local attorney and lives in the township. He is an avid hunter and trapper. Mr. Smola had given him approval to trap his land for raccoons and foxes and now they are getting coyotes. The open space property on West Moyer Road has no trails or recreational use. Many of these animals have a problem with mange which can spread to pets and domestic animals. He advised that he usually traps after Christmas when it is cold. He uses special traps that dogs cannot get caught in or raccoons. He uses cable snares for fox and the coyotes. E. Taylor explained that Smola is not a public space yet, that Mr. Smola has control over the property. T. Beveridge explained that they see a lot of coyotes coming across from Prout Farm. H. Miller commented that no hunting and trapping is allowed within the township. He has lived here for forty (40) years and has never seen a coyote but he did have a dog caught in a trap. The issue has not been brought before the Open Space and Recreation Board but he is not in favor of trapping on open space. Speaking for a lot of residents; he is against it. Motion by F. Krazalkovich seconded by M. Schreiber to

table any action on this until it is reviewed by the Open Space and Recreation Board. The motion passed with H. Miller voted nay explaining that by asking for special exemption they are opening Pandora 's Box.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**KEITH KEHL – 1941 Gilbertsville Road** – Advised that he picks up trash at the ballfields. There are a lot of rocks and silt in the grates washing down the bank where they spray. Also the water fountain does not work. The dumpster is locked and the cans are overflowing. He also advised that Mr. Minge has three (3) feet of weeds on the Sprogel's Run property. The Township bought the open space to protect it not to help a Developer. E. Taylor explained that the Developer sold the property with the agreement that he be allowed to put sewer across it. K. Kehl asked if he has been assessed for the EDU's which was passed a couple of years ago. C. Garner explained that the sewer allocation was given to Rouse Chamberlin before the ordinance was passed. They will be bound by everything in the Curative Amendment Agreement which calls for additional fees per unit. F. Krazalkovich explained that a few months ago the gentleman applying for the tax credits said that they were going by an existing plan.

**DAVID DELONG - 1527 Schwenk Road** - Commented that he did not think that trapping should be allowed in the township.

**GREG CHURACH - 144 Snyder Road** - Said that the ordinance states there needs to be a clear benefit to the township in order to provide an exception. E. Taylor explained that they are not amending the ordinance but that exceptions are permitted to be given by the Board of Commissioners on a case by case basis. C. Garner read Ordinance # 230-4 regarding the exception to the rule. The Board of Commissioners has total control.

**REPORTS:**

**EMERGENCY SERVICES LIAISON** - M. Schreiber presented the Emergency Services Report. He advised that the Fire Company is applying for a PEMA grant for new gas meters and thermal imaging cameras. They will be getting a trailer in order to haul the UTV and asked for permission to park in the lot on the grass. Two of our officers should be commended for their efforts in getting a burglary suspect off of the streets of Upper Pottsgrove Township. Motion by H. Miller seconded by J. Bealer and unanimously carried to authorize the Manager to apply for a Green Light Go Grant for signal preemption. **Consider cameras for police station** – F. Krazalkovich asked how the cameras work. It was explained that they are 24/7 recording which is kept 30 to 60 days. Motion by H. Miller seconded by J. Bealer and unanimously carried to authorize the expenditure of \$3,065.50 for cameras for the police station.

**PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE** –**Consider replacing wood fence with PVC in Turnberry Farms** – H. Miller explained that they had gotten complaints on the fencing in Turnberry Farms. F. Quinter received a quote from Strong Fence for \$3,125 for vinyl fence with screening to keep kids and bikes from going down a steep slope. This was the lower of two quotes. Motion by H. Miller

seconded by M. Schreiber and unanimously carried to award it to Strong Fence. F. Quinter explained that there is no electric to the meter which is why the sign is not lit up. **Consider topdressing of soccer field #2** – H. Miller explained that after many meetings with the school and with Hopewell; the school will take care of the lower field regarding weeding, aeration and over seeding. F. Quinter got a price from H & K to over seed and to top dress the upper soccer field in the amount of \$24,010. It will include double over seed and straw. C. Garner advised them that since it is over the \$19,400 threshold it requires to be put out for bid. Motion by F. Krazalkovich seconded by J. Bealer to bid the project of the topdressing soccer field #2. H. Miller advised them that they are running out of time. C. Garner explained that it must be advertised two (2) times three (3) days apart and cannot be opened until ten (10) days after the bid is received. The motion passed unanimously. H. Miller advised that F. Quinter’s crew has already moved the large boulders out of the field. M. Schreiber asked if the Open Space and Recreation Board could come up with some kind of lottery system if a critter problem does present itself.

**ZONING & ADMINISTRATION** – Motion by F. Krazalkovich seconded by H. Miller and unanimously carried to adopt the resolution and authorize the execution of the application for the modifications to the traffic signal at SR 100 and Upland Square.

**PUBLIC WORKS** – Motion by M. Schreiber seconded by H. Miller and unanimously carried to renew the 5 year Winter Services Agreement with PennDOT via resolution.

**SEWER & WATER** – Motion by M. Schreiber seconded by H. Miller and unanimously carried to apply for a Small Water and Sewer Grant for the lining of Hanover Street main. Motion by M. Schreiber seconded by H. Miller and unanimously carried to adopt the resolution to apply for a Small Water and Sewer Grant for our Act 537 reimbursement. It was suggested by our State Representatives that we apply for a grant for this reimbursement as the other program is no longer being funded

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS** - F. Krazalkovich reported that he will attend the October 6th Board of Elections Committee meeting and they will consider moving the polling location.

**TOWNSHIP SOLICITOR** – C. Garner advised the Board that the Developer continues to work on Phase 3 of Coddington View and they may be ready to have dedication of the roads for October.

**TOWNSHIP MANAGER** – C. Lewis presented her report. Although it is not listed as a line item but she is recommending that the current phone system be replaced by those from USA Phones . The cost will be mostly offset by the amount coming off of the Comcast bills. It will be a much better product and will allow the Police Department to receive voice messages which they are currently unable to do and also to have a call back outside of the station. Motion by M. Schreiber seconded by J. Bealer and unanimously carried to approve the new phone system through USA Phones. Motion by F. Krazalkovich seconded by M. Schreiber and unanimously carried to acknowledge the receipt of the MMO for 2017. Motion by F. Krazalkovich seconded by H. Miller and unanimously carried to approve the work needed in the conference room half of which will be covered by the insurance. F.

Krazelkovich questioned whether the mold had been fully remediated which it has.

**MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT** –C. Lewis pointed out that the billboard rental money is not reflected in the report as they have a new person and did not realize that he had to disburse the money on a quarterly basis. The check should be received shortly.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CONSIDER RESIGNATION OF DEB BINGHAM FROM THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION** –Motion by F. Krazalkovich seconded by H. Miller and unanimously carried to reluctantly accept the resignation of Deb Bingham from the Civil Service Commission. Motion by M. Schreiber seconded by F. Krazalkovich and unanimously carried to appoint Tyrone Parker to the Civil Service Commission to fill D. Bingham’s term.

**DISCUSS REQUEST FOR REDUCTION OF SPEED ON SR 100 BETWEEN UPLAND SQUARE DRIVE AND STATE STREET** – A request was received to eliminate jake brakes on Route 100 between Upland Square and State Street. PennDOT advised the Township needs to make a request to them and they will conduct a study to determine if a reduction of speed is warranted in the area. F. Krazalkovich asked about speed and safety on Route 100. Motion by F. Krazalkovich seconded by H. Miller, to request a study from PennDOT. E. Taylor advised that the request came to Pottstown a few years ago and nothing came of it. The motion did not carry with E. Taylor, M. Schreiber, J. Bealer and H. Miller voting nay. They believe that it is safer for trucks to use their jake brakes than to blow through a red light because they are unable to stop.

**DISCUSS INSURANCE LEVELS FOR TRASH HAULERS** – E. Taylor explained the current insurance limits in our ordinance. There is no liability to the township. C. Garner advised them if they are going to have requirements they are going to have to enforce them. Otherwise they should amend the ordinance. Motion by F. Krazalkovich seconded by J. Bealer and unanimously carried to amend the ordinance to remove the insurance requirements for trash haulers.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**CONSIDER FIRE COMPANY ACTIVITIES** - Motion by M. Schreiber seconded by F. Krazalkovich and unanimously carried to approve the Fire Company activities.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**KEITH KEHL – 1941 Gilbertsville Road** - Inquired whether Smola owns the house and the barn. He was told that he does. K. Kehl also commented that Community Day is coming up on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS** – M. Schreiber commended Karlie Kasznay for doing her Gold Project at the Arboretum. He also commended Officer Larry Hanna and Michelle Reddick for doing a great job with the Car Show and suggested that the Township send thank you letters. E. Taylor advised that Ken Hamilton, Director of the Althouse Arboretum, received the Rotary Man of the Year Award. It was a nice ceremony and there were great comments.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – **July 18, 2016** – Motion by M. Schreiber seconded by J. Bealer and unanimously carried to approve the minutes.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS** – Motion by J. Bealer, seconded by M. Schreiber and unanimously carried to approve the Bill List in the amount of \$132,436.36.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – The Board adjourned into Executive Session at 8:48 p.m. to discuss matters of personnel, real estate and litigation. They readjourned at 9:31 pm.

F. Krazalkovich asked whether a second budget could be prepared without the per capita tax.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Motion by F. Krazalkovich, seconded by J. Bealer and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:31pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Carol R. Lewis, Manager