

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

April 13, 2005

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on Wednesday, April 13, 2005, at the Upper Pottsgrove Township Administrative Office, 1409 Farmington Avenue, with Commissioners Gallisdorfer, Noll, Schaeffer and Taylor present. Also present were Solicitor Charles D. Garner, Jr., Township Manager Michael Cotter and Township Secretary Cynthia Saylor. There were 30 people and a Mercury reporter present in the audience. Mr. Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:05P.M. Mrs. Reeves arrived at 7:15 P.M.

MOMENT OF SILENCE - Mr. Taylor requested a moment of silent prayer in honor of the men and women who have served and are currently serving our county in the armed forces.

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

POLICE OFFICER SWEARING-IN CEREMONY - Judge Palladino was present to administer the oath of office to newly hired Police Officers: James Hummer, Jason Zoski and Sean Farrell.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

ROBERT SLOSS - 2097 Needhammer Road - Referenced a recent article in the newspaper regarding the Township borrowing \$9 million dollars and questioned whether there would be any discussion at tonight's meeting. Township Manager, Michael Cotter, stated the borrowing would be discussed at the meeting scheduled for April 20 and action by the Board would take place at the April 25, 2005 meeting.

REPORTS:

FINANCIAL REPORT - Mr. Cotter provided a summary of the monthly Financial Report and noted the Township received the annual recycling grant in the amount of \$8,240. He further noted the grant for the magnesium was received in the amount of \$5,000.

COMMISSIONER GALLISDORFER - Expressed her concern that a Cherrytree Farms resident was told she had to pay an additional fee for recycling.

PROPOSED SHARED POLICE SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH DOUGLASS TOWNSHIP/BERKS COUNTY - Township Manager Michael Cotter provided a presentation to the Board members and residents in the audience regarding the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed police service agreement with Douglass Township/Berks County.

HENRY BEALER - 1388 Farmington Avenue - provided a packet of information for the Board and stated he is not in favor of the proposed service agreement

ACTING CHIEF STEVE SIGODA - Stated all of the Police Officers are in favor of the proposed Service Agreement with Douglass/Berks.

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OFFICER JAMES CRAWFORD - Upper Pottsgrove Police Department - Stated he is in favor of the proposed service agreement with Douglass/Berks and suggested the Commissioners go further and look into possible negotiations with neighboring departments i.e. Lower Pottsgrove and West Pottsgrove.

ROBERT SLOSS - 2097 Needhammer Road - Stated the Proposed Service Agreement is a win-win situation for Douglass/Berks; however he questioned the \$230,000 cost involved.

CHRISTINA CRAWFORD questioned the status of the additional Upper Pottsgrove Township officers if after three years Douglass/Berks decides not to participate in the Proposed Service Agreement. Mr. Cotter stated the Township would strive to maintain a full staff within the Police Department.

HENRY BEALER - 1388 Farmington Avenue - Expressed concern regarding the money involved with the proposed agreement.

COMMISSIONER NOLL questioned the number of meetings anticipated between the Township Manager and Solicitors during the negotiation process.

After further discussion, a motion by Gallisdorfer, seconded by Taylor, to enter into negotiations with Douglass Township/Berks regarding the Police Service Agreement. All aye votes.

COMMISSIONER GALLISDORFER - Expressed her thanks and appreciation to Officer Crawford for a job well done during a recent car stop. Mrs. Gallisdorfer also expressed her appreciation to Officers Crawford and Hanna.

PRESENTATION ON FIRE SERVICE OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS - Mr. Cotter provided a status report on the Fire Committee's work and outlined the professional fire service concepts, trends and concerns. The following fire protections options were discussed: re-instate Upper Pottsgrove Township Fire Company #1, create a new Upper Pottsgrove Township Fire Company #2, enter into contractual agreements with neighboring departments and/or enter into a regional fire protection relationship.

COMMISSIONER GALLISDORFER stated she is in favor of keeping the Upper Pottsgrove Township Fire company here and questioned the feasibility of having a paid Fire Chief.

LETTER OPPOSING THE WASTE MANAGEMENT POTTSTOWN LANDFILL VERTICAL EXPANSION - The members of the Board discussed three possible letters addressed to Kathleen McGuinty, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection regarding the Township's opposition to any further expansion of the Pottstown Landfill. After a lengthy and spirited discussion it was agreed that the Manager would draft a new letter reiterating the Township's opposition to any expansion to the Pottstown Landfill.

PATTY BARTHEL, Community Relations Coordinator/Pottstown Landfill, addressed the members of the Board and clarified some misconceptions with regards to the closure of the landfill.

ROUSE CHAMBERLIN SUMMER GROVE PRELIMINARY LAND DEVELOPMENT

PLAN - Steve Gallo, Rouse/Chamberlin, was present to discuss the Summer Grove Preliminary Plan Resolution and noted the plan depicts seventy three (73) lots, plus an estate lot owned by Marie Prout located on Chestnut Grove Road, between Fall Brook Lane and Pine Ford Road. Mr. Gallo discussed the conditions as outlined in the Preliminary Plan Resolution and stated he was in agreement with the exception of a payment to the Township of a Goose Run Main Trail contribution, not to exceed Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000) made payable prior to the issuance of any building permits. After a lengthy discussion the matter was tabled until the April 25, 2005, meeting.

BROWN & BROWN INSURANCE PROPOSAL - Mr. Cotter reported the Township has been reviewing its existing insurance coverages for possible cost savings and outlined a proposal from Brown & Brown Insurance which reflects an annual cost savings of \$6,113. Mr. Cotter noted the proposal from Brown & Brown included workers compensation, inland marine and property and casualty coverage. A motion by Gallisdorfer, seconded by Taylor, to approve the proposal from Brown & Brown Insurance. All aye votes.

DIANA UPDEGROVE - 1404 Farmington Avenue - Questioned the proper ratings/calculations for highway employees with regards to workers compensation insurance.

ORDINANCE #380 - An Ordinance of the Township of Upper Pottsgrove, to amend the Upper Pottsgrove Township Uniform Construction Code Ordinance to require issuance of permits for certain accessory structures and for certain alterations or repairs to residential buildings. A motion by Taylor, seconded by Gallisdorfer, to adopt Ordinance #380. All aye votes.

ORDINANCE #381 - An Ordinance of the Township of Upper Pottsgrove, adopting the International Property Maintenance Code 2003, and establishing the minimum regulations covering the conditions and maintenance of all property, buildings, and structures to ensure that structures are safe, sanitary and fit for occupation and use; and for the condemnation of buildings and structures unfit for human occupancy and use and the demolition of such structures. A motion by Gallisdorfer, seconded by Schaeffer, to adopt Ordinance #381. All aye votes.

When **REGINALD LEISTER, 1693 Farmington Avenue**, questioned whether a copy of the 2003 national Property Maintenance Code was available in the Administrative Office. Mr. Cotter responded "yes."

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - Mrs. Saylor reported the Bill List was amended due to a double payment of the Manager's life insurance and noted the General Fund expenditures were reduced to \$81,881.41 and the total expenditures reduced to \$114,520.63. A motion by Schaeffer, seconded by Taylor, to approve the amended Bill List dated April 13, 2005, for General Fund in the amount of \$81,881.41; Fire Fund in the amount of \$7,265.51; Park and Recreation Fund in the amount of \$8.75; Sewer Fund in the amount of \$21,366.39 and State Fund in the amount of \$3,998.57. Total

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST CONT'D - Expenditures - \$114,520.63. All aye votes.

ROBERT SLOSS - 2097 Needhammer Road - Questioned the expenditure from Steeley and Smith as noted on the April 13, 2005, Bill List. Mr. Cotter reported the expenditure is for vehicle insurance for the fire trucks owned by the Township.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

COMMISSIONER GALLISDORFER - Requested an update on the Maugers Mill Road property with regards to a possible zoning violation. Mr. Cotter reported an inspection was made of the property in question and was found to be in compliance with the zoning code. Mrs. Gallisdorfer questioned the Faggioli property on Commerce Drive; Mr. Cotter stated the property owner was cited by DEP and a cease and desist order was issued. Mrs. Gallisdorfer referenced the Zoning Hearing Board's decision concerning the property owned by James J. Callahan and questioned whether the Zoning Officer is addressing the issue with regards to the home business and whether it is a permitted use.

ROUTE 100/MOYER ROAD TRAFFIC SIGNAL - Mr. Cotter reported the Route 100/Moyer Road traffic signal will be placed on the "flash mode" for a minimum of three (3) days. Board President Reeves suggested the light remain on flash for a longer period of time. Mr. Cotter noted it is strictly up to PennDot. Mr. Cotter expressed his thanks and appreciation to Public Works Director Frank Quinter for all his help and assistance in getting the traffic signal operational.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, a motion by Schaeffer, seconded by Taylor, to adjourn the meeting at 10:28 P.M. All aye votes.

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia H. Saylor
Township Secretary