



Pocopson Township

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Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes Monday, 7:30 P.M., February 24, 2014

In attendance: Supervisors – Ricki Stumpo, Georgia F. Brutscher, Matt Read; Mark Knightly, Public Works Director; Richard Jensen, Zoning/Code Enforcement Official; Don Lane, Chairman, Deer Management Committee.

1. Call to Order: Stumpo called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Announcements: The Kennett Area Regional Planning Commission meeting held on February 18th was attended by Stumpo and Rob Miller, Township Planning Commissioner. Stumpo and Read attended a meeting on February 19th organized by PennDOT to discuss the status of the Route 926 Bridge Project. Board met in Executive Session on February 20th to discuss legal issues related to zoning. Stumpo announced that the Comprehensive Plan Update Task Force will meet on February 26th. On February 27th, Board members will attend a meeting organized by Longwood Fire Company.

3. Public Comment: Terrence Gumpper requested clarification that the Township Code Chapter on Burning has not been repealed and includes provision for burning storm debris. Jensen responded that the Ordinance is in effect with specific conditions that must be met in order to proceed with a controlled burn related to storm damage.

4. PA State Police, Troop J, Avondale: Lieutenant Richard H. D'Ambrosio, Station Commander, attended the meeting as a community liaison. He reviewed state police incident statistics for Pocopson Township for a 3-month period. He also answered questions regarding the state police complement and false alarm recidivism.

5. Bayard Taylor Memorial Library: Library Director Donna Murray and Library Trustee President Barbara Cairns appeared before the Board to review current library programming which includes new initiatives such as the PA Forward literacy program and partnering opportunities with Longwood Gardens. A report dated February 24, 2014, was submitted showing usage statistics. Murray noted zero per capita support from Pocopson Township for 2013 and stated that surrounding municipalities provide financial support based on a fair share equation. Board response prompted discussion regarding the nomination of two Township residents in May 2013 to fill a library board position vacated by the resignation of a Township resident. Supervisors learned via email that all library board appointments were on hold while the Trustees reviewed the appointment process. Board agreed that Pocopson residents should have a voice in the overall governance of this community asset if Pocopson is to be a financial contributor. Murray indicated that based upon the recommendation of a consultant, the background of trustees should include

professional experience required to support the acquisition of a new library. Cairns apologized for what may be a gap in communication and stated that the Trustees will address the issue. She added that the appointment process is evolving as consideration is given to balancing representation and the professional background of appointees.

6. Public Works Report: Knightly reported pothole repairs underway on Locust Grove Road between Unionville-Lenape and Corinne. Significant damage caused by a power surge occurred at the garage as a result of the February 5th ice storm. Township road salt supply is adequate. Going forward, a significant purchase of road salt will be required to replenish the supply. Knightly is working with the Treasurer and Jensen as Emergency Management Coordinator to submit storm-related expenses to County Emergency Management for consideration for disaster relief.

7. Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Report: Jensen noted the Marlborough Farm Corn Maze Zoning Hearing Board Hearing is February 25th at 7:30 P.M. He is meeting with representatives of The Barn at Spring Brook Farm to work through the Conditional Use Decision list of conditions.

8. Old Business:

a. Deer Management Committee – Read provided Dave Ziegler with a written response from the Board regarding Ziegler’s request for an investigation into the mismanagement of the Deer Management Committee. Board indicated that the Township investigated the concerns and found no occasion of misuse of Township resources. Lane outlined the reasoning for the number of committee members needed to hunt the properties in the program. Going forward, the Board asked all Township Committees to develop a set of operational bylaws to be approved by the Board. This may take a few months to complete but will be in place in advance of the 2015 committee appointments. Board agreed that Ziegler will be contacted personally regarding his interest in being appointed to the 2015 Deer Management Committee and any other Township Committee.

b. Website Requests for Proposals (RFP) – A number of responses were received. The submitted proposals will be reviewed for compliance with the specifications of the RFP.

c. Joint letter to Chester County Conservation District – Brutscher contacted London Grove Township regarding their request. George Wickersham, a member of the Township Ag Security Area Committee, noted County and State agencies provide satisfactory assistance and oversight of manure management. Board declined to participate in the joint letter to the Conservation District.

9. New Business:

a. PC Report from 2/19/2014 Meeting – Board received a Memorandum of Recommendation from the Planning Commission regarding Zoning Hearing Board Appeal No. 1-2014/Marlborough Farm Corn Maze.

b. Streetlight at Parkersville Road and Route 52 – PECO reported that they cannot reactivate the streetlight because they cannot determine ownership based on their streetlight inventory. Board reviewed Treasurer’s report regarding monthly cost estimate for the Township to take ownership and maintain the light. Action on the matter tabled

pending a report from Public Works and response from Four Stream Farms Homeowners Association.

10. Correspondence: no action required.

11. Treasurer's Warrants: Read moved, Brutscher seconded, to approve the Bill Payment Lists for February 11 - 24, 2014 recommended for payment by the Treasurer; **General Fund:** 16 bills paid totaling \$26,198.96; 7 debit card charges totaling \$635.46; **Highway Aid Fund:** 5 bills paid totaling \$22,705.50; **Rt 52 / Road Improvements:** 1 bill paid for \$444.00; **Township Facilities Fund:** 1 bill paid for \$8,950.00; motion unanimously approved.

12. Approval of Meeting Minutes: Brutscher moved, Read seconded, to approve the Meeting Minutes dated February 10, 2014; motion unanimously approved.

13. Adjournment: At 8:30 P.M., Read moved, Brutscher seconded, to adjourn the meeting; motion unanimously approved.

Susan Simone, Administrative Secretary

Ricki Stumpo, Chair