



Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 12, 2016, 7:30 P.M.

Attendees: Supervisors – Ricki Stumpo, Elaine DiMonte, Alice J. Balsama; Tom Bierl, Chairman, Parks, Recreation and Trails Committee.

Public in attendance: 11

1. **Call to Order:** Stumpo called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Sunshine Announcements:** DiMonte and other elected officials will attend the Route 926 Bridge Project Pre-Construction Meeting on December 21st at the PennDOT Office in King of Prussia. She indicated that construction notices will be posted on the Township website. The Project has been let and will begin February 2017 and will conclude in September 2017. Balsama noted that there's a slight decrease in the number of tractor trailers crossing the Lenape Bridge perhaps due to recent signage posted by PennDOT with travel prohibitions. Board met with Township Personnel on November 29th to discuss facilities.
3. **Announcements:** Stumpo noted that this is the last Board meeting for 2016. She acknowledged and thanked Supervisors Balsama and DiMonte for their first year of service as public servants. She expressed appreciation for the intelligence and wit that they brought to the meetings. While there are on-going issues to be addressed in 2017, Stumpo recognized accomplishments to date. DiMonte and Balsama thanked Stumpo for her comments. Attendees were invited to join the Board for cake following the meeting in celebration of DiMonte's birthday.
4. **Public Comment Non-Agenda Items:** Terry Gumppe expressed the following public comments encouraging the Township to refuse acceptance of ownership of the new traffic signal at West Creek/Pocopson/Lenape Roads. Gumppe believes this traffic signal, while improving the efficiency of traffic flow on Lenape Road (Route 52), will at the same time, increase traffic flow and ultimately cause the kind of traffic backups experienced by drivers on the PA Blue Route. He also commented that ownership of the traffic signal is a significant expense to the Township. The Board indicated that installation of the traffic signal for that intersection was requested by the Township as part of the Route 926 Bridge Project and that such installation is solely at PennDOT's expense. The Township has a maintenance contract in place for the signal it owns at Route 926 and Pocopson Road and it is not anticipated that that contract will increase significantly once PennDOT turns over ownership of the new signal. The Board noted that at least the past 5 meetings with PennDOT included discussion on improving traffic flow and minimizing backups on Lenape Road (Route 52). DiMonte noted that it is a great concern that emergency service providers be able to cross the Lenape Bridge. It is expected that a traffic signal will facilitate their approach to crossing the Bridge.
5. **Pennsylvania State Police Report:** Lieutenant Richard H. D'Ambrosio, Station Commander, Troop J, Avondale, commented with regard to the new traffic signal that his agency is aware of it because they have assisted with traffic control during the installation of utility poles. Lieutenant D'Ambrosio provided aggregated crime statistics

for Pocopson Township culled from the Automated Incident Memo System (AIMS) for the last 90 days. There were 148 incidents during this time period which is not considered a high number. Balsama asked and D'Ambrosio confirmed that the number of incidents is similar to previous quarterly reports. The incidents included theft, identity theft, criminal mischief, patrol checks, crashes, and the like. There were 31 false alarm reports, which is considered par for the course. It is unfortunate that manpower is diverted to address each false alarm but that remains the nature of the incident. Officers completed 4 checks at Pocopson Elementary School. He cautioned attendees to be vigilant with regard to holiday package deliveries given recent local reports of package theft. DiMonte stated that with regard to the Route 926 Bridge Project, there is an application process for state funding for additional patrols. D'Ambrosio is aware of the program but noted that the program is a funding source for municipal police departments not the State Police. He agreed with the Board that the Route 926 Bridge Project will be a major disruption to the area and his agency will do all that is possible to show a presence and control traffic. Stumpo noted that there is concern that during rush hours, traffic will shift to using Denton Hollow Road and for this reason, asks that a police presence be shown along that road at the very least to control speed. D'Ambrosio agreed but noted the difficulties in positioning a patrol car given the irregularities with the road. Balsama noted that the installation of an improved guide rail has provided a measure of safety. The Board agreed that the Public Works Department will reinstall the signage that was used during the construction of the Route 52 Roundabout that limits and warns Denton Hollow Road usage. Public Comment: Gumpfer questioned the Board as to a provision in the PennDOT Route 926 Bridge Project Construction Contract as including additional funding for police. Stumpo noted that the Township is not privy to the Contract as the Township is the host community and not a party to the contract. D'Ambrosio commented that quite often additional patrol cars are parked in proximity to a construction zone in order to provide additional protection for the workers.

6. **Public Works Report:** no report submitted.
7. **Barnard House:** DiMonte reported no responses to the Request for Proposal for a Feasibility Study for the Barnard House and Township Facilities. It is not known if the lack of response is due to the holiday season or scope of the project. Public Comment: Gumpfer asked the Board if it is possible to return ownership of the Barnard House to the County. The Board, having met with the County Commissioners earlier this year, confirmed that giving the property back to the County is not an option. Board remarked that the governing documents for the Barnard House property have been reviewed with the Commissioners and the limitations on usage of the property confirmed. The recorded documents provide for a significant number of acres to be used by the County as a spray field if required to do so. Balsama noted that the Barnard House property represents an emotional investment to many who have contributed to renovations to date. She agrees that a Feasibility Study will provide a path forward for repurposing the building.
8. **Parks, Recreation and Trails (PRT) Committee:** Bierl appeared before the Board with 3 recommendations from the PRT Committee. The recommendations were heard by the Board and discussed as follows: (1) Installation of a gate across the maintenance road in Pocopson Park (Locust Grove Road side). PRT is aware that multiple vehicles access the sports fields via the maintenance road which is adjacent to the Tot Lot thus creating a hazardous condition. There is signage in place that the maintenance road is for authorized vehicles only, but additional signage is warranted regarding children at play. In addition, the vehicles use the area around the fields as a parking lot. It has been observed that the vehicles are using the maintenance road during the sports season and off-season. Bierl noted that coaches and organizations who have been

issued a sports field permit by the Township should have access to the maintenance road for the purpose of transporting equipment. The recommendation from PRT includes a programmable combination lock for the gate with the combination issued as part of the permitting. The Township would also issue a placard for the vehicle windshield as evidence of the permit. Board was not certain of the enforcement process for vehicles found to be in violation of the park rule regarding using the maintenance road. During discussion, Balsama noted that the PRT recommendation to monitor vehicles with and without placards would be a first step toward sending written notification from the Township that a vehicle was found to be in violation of the park rule. The Board directed that the Secretary contact Public Works regarding authorization to proceed with the installation of a gate and programmable lock as recommended by the PRT. (2) Lazarus Bradley, Troop 22, Unionville, presented a proposal to construct and install 10 free-standing Bluebird Houses throughout Pocopson Park. This Eagle Scout Project will be paid for by local bird club donations and the Bradley family. DiMonte inquired as to maintenance issues going forward. Bradley explained that the construction materials (cypress wood, galvanized screws, and steel fence posts) are durable and will require little or no maintenance. Board was enthusiastic about the proposal and thanked Bradley for attending the meeting to make the presentation. MOTION: Stumpo moved, Balsama seconded, to approve the Pocopson Park Bird House Project Proposal presented by Lazarus Bradley, Troop 22; motion unanimously approved. (3) PRT Committee Member Leah Luo discussed preliminary plans for participation in Earth Day 2017 with a Pocopson Clean Up. She is proposing roadside clean up along 5 roads, Pocopson Park, and Pocopson Elementary School. PRT will coordinate Earth Day activities with the Brandywine Red Clay Alliance. Luo inquired as to the Township resources that would be available, by example, bags, safety vests, and perhaps a Public Works vehicle with flashing caution lights to follow the crew as a safety measure. Board agreed that they are in full support of this project and commended Luo for organizing it. However, the Board asked that Pocopson Road and Lenape Road (Route 52) be removed as clean-up sites given the anticipated traffic constraints due to the Route 926 Bridge Project. Secretary indicated that the Township Office receives calls from residents that Locust Grove frequently requires clean up. Board supports discussion with Public Works regarding resources and providing homeowner association contact information in order to locate volunteers. Luo asked if the Township would mail a postcard announcement to all residents. Stumpo indicated that the mailing might be possible given that Founders Day will not be presented this year and budgeted funds could be transferred to other Township projects. DiMonte noted that particulars could be posted on the Township website and that other communication protocols may be in place next year such as Facebook. Luo indicated that she may have further components to discuss with the Board in January.

9. Old Business:

- a. Winterwood Dedication – Scott Megill, representing Osborne Place Associates, indicated that engineering and landscaping concerns have been completed as set forth in the review and comment letter dated December 7, 2016 submitted by Township engineer Vandemark & Lynch, Inc. Stumpo indicated that the Township Solicitor reviewed all legal documents and recommends that the Board proceed with dedication with the condition that Osborne Place Associates deposit with the Township \$2,000.00 to secure the health of 3 trees and maintenance issues with respect to the walking trail. Members of the Winterwood Homeowners Association were in attendance and expressed satisfaction with the stormwater basin having been converted to its final form. MOTION: Stumpo moved, Balsama seconded, to approve Resolution No. 2016-30 authorizing the acceptance of dedication of certain

roads and improvements serving the subdivision Winterwood; motion unanimously approved. MOTION: Balsama moved, DiMonte seconded, to approve Escrow Release #13 as reviewed and recommended by Vandemark & Lynch, Inc., in a letter dated December 7, 2016, in the amount of \$61,806.00; motion unanimously approved.

10. **New Business:** no new business.
11. **Correspondence:** no correspondence.
12. **Treasurer's Warrants:** Stumpo moved, Balsama seconded, to approve the Bill Payment Lists for November 29 - December 12, 2016 recommended for payment by the Treasurer; General Fund: 26 bills paid totaling \$23,653.95; 10 debit card charges totaling \$910.63; Highway Aid: 5 bills paid totaling \$1,629.21; motion unanimously approved.
13. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Stumpo moved, DiMonte seconded, to approve the November 28, 2016 public meeting minutes; motion carried.
14. **Adjournment:** At 8:30 P.M. DiMonte moved, Stumpo seconded, to adjourn the meeting; motion carried.

Susan Simone, Administrative Secretary

Ricki Stumpo, Chairman