



Board of Supervisors Special Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 10, 2015, 8:30 A.M.

Attendance: Supervisors – Barney Leonard, Georgia F. Brutscher, Ricki Stumpo.

Public in attendance: 6

1. **Call to Order:** Leonard called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Leonard stated that this Special Meeting is administrative in nature and there will not be any tax dollars allocated or spent at this meeting. The meeting is called at the request of the Barnard House Steering Committee to act on the items listed on the agenda which is limited to the Wawaset Park Project.
2. **Public Comment:**
 - a. The Secretary distributed a letter from Sean Rafferty addressed to the Board.
 - b. Holly Manzone spoke regarding the dissension in the public evaluation of the Wawaset Park Project and Phase 2 of the Barnard House. She noted a parallel with a project she encountered when she served as an elected member of the school board. She believes the matter is exacerbated by misunderstandings and communication issues, particularly regarding comments she has heard in the community regarding the EIT tax has having the connotation of a subsidizing tax for the Barnard House. Manzone continued that the vitriolic language is eroding the community-culture or familial-culture of the Township. Brutscher responded that the Special Meeting was called to facilitate the appointment of work groups and approve the railing for the entrance ramp.
 - c. Jean Conary - noted that the railing recommendations of the Barnard House Steering Committee were not acted on during the regular meeting of the Board on July 27th. Stumpo and the Secretary indicated that the railing was not a line item on the July 27th agenda. On July 27th, the Board authorized the Secretary to request the railing proposal and KURC confirmation to pay the difference. The proposal was received by the Secretary on July 30th and the letter from KURC on July 31st. Conary commented further that the project is supported by federal, state, and county laws, as well as former supervisors. There are aggressive, negative comments from a few residents but the Township should preserve the property.
 - d. Carol Haaf - commented that neighbors she has encountered are in favor of the Barnard House and it is a small percentage of people being loudly heard.
 - e. Susan Woodward - commented that as a teacher of economics, obstructionism will continually increase the costs making the project more expensive.
 - f. Laressa McNemar - stated that the perception that the EIT was enacted to fund the Barnard House is absolutely not correct. The EIT was enacted following public meetings and its purpose is to recapture taxable income going to other municipalities. There is apparent lack of understanding of the EIT. No new taxes were imposed. It is a transfer of governmental funds for facilities.
3. **Wawaset Park Project/Barnard House:**

- a. Railing for Ramp - Board reviewed change order request for Lechmanik, Inc., for an exterior entrance ramp railing different from that which was originally specified. The cost of the new, preferred railing will be \$9,360.00. The Kennett Underground Railroad Center Board approved in writing the expenditure of approximately \$1,800.00 to fund the difference between the original amount in the contract and the final cost of the railing as installed. MOTION: Leonard moved, Brutscher seconded, to sign a change order removing the railing specified in Wawaset Road Park Contract 1 (which was accepted by the Township on 7/28/2014) and replacing it with a black aluminum railing, cost not to exceed \$9,360.00; DISCUSSION - Stumpo noted Board approval is out of line with item #7 of the 2014-5 Township Resolution requiring three quotes for purchases. Brutscher responded that the railing was in the original contract and the change order specifies a different vendor. There being no further discuss, motion carried with dissenting vote by Stumpo.
- b. Format for Question and Answer Session - Leonard was sorry that Elaine DiMonte was not in attendance. He agreed with Manzone that an open dialogue on the subject matter is desirable but for several reasons collaboration on the particulars for a question and answer session have failed. It also became apparent that significant expenses would be incurred by the Township for the proposed question and answer format which included touring the Barnard House, as well as identifying a professional moderator. It was also apparent that some panelists would not be available. Leonard is suggesting that an asynchronous web-based approach would allow participants to read and respond intermittently without limitation as to occurrence. In addition, this would eliminate additional costs to the Township. Stumpo would like to see the question and answer format remain public with a face-to-face exchange. Public comment on this agenda item:
 - i. Carol Haaf - it is disconcerting that during public discussions attendees are rude and verbal insults are exchanged.
 - ii. Holly Manzone - is it possible to substitute the question and answer session for some sort of survey? She recounted previous experience with the school board and the importance of resolving issues through direct communication.
 - iii. Laressa McNemar - governance of the Township is the responsibility of the governing body and not the role of any one group of residents.
 - iv. Jean Conary - cited importance of communication with regard to the EIT and the efforts former Supervisor Steve Conary made to speak directly to residents who had questions about the EIT.
- c. Appointment of work groups - Brutscher provided a brief overview of the tasks of the Construction Work Group in preparing the Phase 2 bid package. She recommended the following individuals for the Construction Work Group: a project manager to be named; Supervisor Barney Leonard; Jean Conary as historic consultant regarding renovations; Scott Megill, a real estate developer; Don McKay, a certified carpenter; and three consultants to serve at no expense to the Township: John O'Neal from the Kennett Underground Railroad Center, Dennis Melton, architect, and Karen Marshall, County Preservationist, to oversee the windows as specified in the Keystone Grant. MOTION: Leonard moved, Brutscher seconded, to approve the members of the Construction Work Group as described during the discussion; motion carried. Brutscher described the task of a second work group, the Finishing Work Group, to make sure that finishes, moldings, and paint are within budget and meet the expectations of the project. MOTION: Leonard moved, Stumpo seconded, to approve the appointment of the following individuals to serve on

a Finishing Work Group - Georgia Brutscher, Susan Woodward, and Ellen Muentner; motion carried.

4. Adjournment: at 9:10 a.m., Stumpo moved, Brutscher seconded, to adjourn the meeting; motion carried.



Susan Simone, Administrative Secretary



Barney Leonard, Chairman