

EASTTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 1, 2016

The February 1, 2016 Business Meeting took place in the Township meeting room at 566 Beaumont Road, Devon and was called to order at 7:00 pm. Supervisors present included: Christopher D. Polites, Chairman; James W. Oram, Jr., Vice Chairman; Marc J. Heppe, Betsy Fadem, and Fred Pioggia. Also attending were Dan Fox, Township Manager; Dave Obzud, Police Chief; Kate Jones, Administrative Coordinator; and Andrew D. H. Rau, Esquire, Township Solicitor.

MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Pioggia, seconded by Mr. Heppe, the amended minutes of the regular business meeting of January 19, 2016 were unanimously approved with a correction made by Mrs. Fadem.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Polites announced that the Board had met in executive session prior to the meeting to discuss legal and personnel matters.

The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 3 at 7 pm at the Beaumont Elementary School located 575 Beaumont Road to consider and possibly adopt the draft Devon Center Overlay Ordinance.

The following public meetings will be held at the Township Building: Planning Commission on Tuesday, February 2, 6:30 pm Workshop and 7 pm meeting; Citizens Advisory Committee on Monday, February 8, 6:15 pm; Municipal Authority on Tuesday, February 9, 7 pm; and the next Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 7 pm.

The following public meeting will be held at the Easttown Library (720 First Ave, Berwyn): Historical Commission on Wednesday, February 10, 7 pm.

For more information about any of these announcements, please visit www.easttown.org.

PUBLIC FORUM

Before opening the floor to the public, Chairman Polites read the following statement:

“Winter Storm Jonas was the fourth largest snow storm in recorded history for the greater Philadelphia region. The Philadelphia Inquirer reported 30 inches of snow fell in areas near our borders. In preparation

for this storm our Township Manager, Police Chief, Director of Public Works, and Staff spent countless hours briefing our snow removal contractor on how best to deal with this event.

We knew a storm of this nature would stretch our resources but we felt comfortable with our Township employees' ability to handle this storm. Their work could also be supplemented by a contractor. Unfortunately we did not meet our goals. Not only did we get more continuous snow than anticipated but, due to equipment failure and contractor issues, we initially lacked the needed support to attack this storm properly. Consequently, we went into emergency mode and into action, engaging additional emergency plowing manpower and equipment. Your Township employees worked on little sleep to tackle the snow problems.

We all live and work together to make this a great township. Events like this, although few and far between, sometimes will happen. We don't like it, and we make every effort to avoid it. When things don't go as planned, our goal is to address the issues as quickly as possible, now and in the future.

I want to take this time to thank Township Manager Dan Fox, Assistant Manager Gene Briggs, Police Chief Dave Obzud, and Director of Public Works Gary Bernhard for their work in monitoring road conditions and ensuring all our residents in Easttown Township were kept safe and secure during this storm. Please join me in thanking these individuals."

After applause from the public and Board of Supervisors, Chairman Polites opened the floor to the public.

The following residents expressed dissatisfaction with the plowing operation and post-storm clean-up for Winter storm Jonas: Robert Ercole, of 611 Clovelly Lane; Louise Story, of 2060 Buttonwood Road; George Rigtarnik, of 365 Pond View Drive; Gus Durante, of 53 Central Avenue; Jody Durante of 580 Kromer Avenue; and Frederick Fletcher, of 362 Pond View Drive.

The discussion that followed included:

- This was an atypical storm. Atypical storms, however, are happening at a greater frequency than they have historically. The Township must weigh its public safety needs with the funding required to stay equipped for large scale storms.
- Standard plowing procedure calls for the initial clearing of one lane for public safety reasons. Once all streets provide access to emergency vehicles, streets are widened.
- Residents expressed particular concern over the Berwyn Borough streets and the Pond View Lane cul-de-sac.
- The Township will reevaluate all aspects of snow plow and de-icing management, including what is considered in its current bid specifications for a third party contractor, internal plow operations, and equipment needs.

Joan Berquist, of 217 Devon Boulevard, was also in attendance. She discussed the history of Devon and expressed concern with the current Devon Yard proposal meshing with this history from the perspective of land use.

SUPERVISOR LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Heppe stated that he completed a “ride-along” with Berwyn Fire Chief Eamon Brazunas on Monday, January 25, 2016 to gain more insight regarding the Winter Storm Jonas clean-up. He added that he will attend an upcoming meeting with the Fire Company to debrief over operations during the storm.

Mr. Oram stated that he completed a “ride-along” with an Easttown Township Police Department on Saturday, January 23, 2016 to gain more insight on Township operations during a major storm.

Mr. Pioggia stated that the Parks and Recreation meeting was cancelled in January due to the storm and that the Hilltop subcommittee plans to meet in early February.

Mrs. Fadem noted that the Comprehensive Plan Task Force meeting was cancelled in January due to the storm. She added that the Pension Committee will be providing an update to the Board at its public meeting on March 21, 2016.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Administration

Mr. Fox discussed administrative projects, including the final stage of review for the Easttown Township Personnel Manual before it goes in front of the Board for approval and the ongoing transition to a new Information Technology provider for the Township. Mrs. Fadem asked for a status update, in percentage form, of the success rate of Portnoff, Inc. with its bill collections effort.

Police

Mr. Pioggia presented Chief Obzud with a 911 Memorial New York Police Department baseball cap.

NEW BUSINESS

Library Board Appointment

On a motion made by Mrs. Fadem, and seconded by Mr. Oram, The Board unanimously appointed Phil Friedman to fill the current vacancy on the Library Board for a three-year term, ending December 31, 2018, and at the recommendation of the current Library Board members.

OLD BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Jones
Assistant Township Secretary