

**EASTTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 6, 2017**

The February 6, 2017 Regular 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: James W. Oram, Jr.; Chairman; Marc J. Heppel, Vice Chairman; Betsy Fadem; Fred Pioggia; and Christopher D. Polites. Also attending were Dan Fox, Township Manager; Eugene C. Briggs, Jr., AICP; Assistant Township Manager; Dave Obzud, Police Chief; Kate Jones, Administrative Coordinator; and Andrew D.H. Rau, Esq., Township Solicitor.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTES

On a motion by Mrs. Fadem, and seconded by Mr. Pioggia, the minutes of the regular business meeting of January 17, 2017 was unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Township Offices will be closed on Monday, February 20 in observance of the Presidents' Day holiday.

The following public meetings will be held at the Township Building unless otherwise stated:

- Planning Commission on Tuesday, February 7, 7 pm at Hilltop House
- Historical Commission on Wednesday, February 8, 7 pm at Easttown Library
- Easttown Citizens Advisory Committee on Monday, February 13, 6:15 pm
- Municipal Authority on Tuesday, February 14, 7 pm
- Library Board on Wednesday, February 15, 7 pm at Easttown Library
- Next Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday, February 21, 7 pm

LIST OF BILLS

On a motion by Mrs. Fadem, seconded by Mr. Pioggia, the Board unanimously approved the payment of \$466,765.01; a total of Warrants (\$340,381.19) and Payroll (\$126,383.82), date ending February 1, 2017, with Mr. Polites recusing himself from voting on Invoice # 25532.

SUPERVISOR LIAISON REPORTS

Chairman Oram requested that staff put a list of liaison appointments in each Board packet. A discussion ensued regarding adding secondary liaisons to board, commissions, and committees. It was decided that, for now, this is not necessary.

Mrs. Fadem updated the Board on the Comprehensive Plan Task Force, which met on January 23, 2017. The Task Force was joined by the Chester County Planning Commission's Planning Services Division Director Susan Elks. Ms. Elks discussed the six month extension that the Township needs to complete the Plan by October 2017. The Task Force then backed into the dates to complete the key deliverables of the Plan. Should the Task Force stay on target, the Public Meeting to present and get input on the Plan's recommendations will be in early May of this year. The date will be confirmed after assessing the Task Force's progress at the February and March Task Force meetings. The next meeting will be held on February 27 at 7 pm at the Township Building.

Mr. Heppe announced that he and Mrs. Fadem met with Mr. Fox and members of the Citizens Advisory Committee to provide direction to the Committee as it does analyses of current and potential Fire Company funding streams. He added that he also met with Mr. Oram and Chief Obzud regarding the Police Department and learned that several staff members will receive high-level training, including Detectives Seshar and Tritz and Officer Price.

Mr. Oram stated that he has an upcoming Historical Commission meeting where a new chair will be appointed to replace Ms. Sicalides, who is stepping down from the position after several years.

Mr. Polites stated, as part of the Chairman's Initiatives, that he, Mrs. Fadem, Mr. Fox, and Mr. Briggs are working with the Tredyffrin Easttown School District to find options for parking at the Easttown Library. In addition, he announced the Library's Fundraiser, The Friends of Easttown Library Present: An Alfred Hitchcock Film Festival from February 23 through February 25, 2017.

Mr. Pioggia stated that he asked Mr. Toscani to address the Board regarding a Park and Recreation Board trail project, which will be a business item. In addition he stated that he attended a Public Officials Ethics class.

CHAIRMAN'S INITIATIVES

The Chairman's Initiatives are projects that subgroups of Board members and Staff will address throughout the year and report upon monthly at Board meetings. Chairman Oram stated the initiatives he laid out at the Board's regular meeting on January 3, 2017 and the Supervisors assigned to each task.

1. Continue to focus on communication with residents and stay abreast of the latest technological platforms for communication and increase presences at Township events – Mr. Heppe and Mr. Pioggia.

2. Resolve short-term space building space issues, especially as it pertains to the needs of the Police Department – Mr. Oram, Mr. Heppe, and Mr. Pioggia.
3. Document Township policies and procedures, including but not limited to the Supervisor Discretionary Fund, appointments to Boards and Commissions, and governance issues – Mr. Oram, Mrs. Fadem, and Mr. Polites.
4. Explore options with the Tredyffrin-Easttown School District regarding the need for parking at Easttown Library – Mrs. Fadem and Mr. Polites.
5. Continue to explore Hilltop House as a performing financial asset for the Township – Mr. Polites and Mr. Pioggia.

In addition, Board members offered their own initiatives:

1. Working with the Planning Commission to complete a sidewalk plan for the Township – Mrs. Fadem.
2. Spending time with employees of the Township to get reoriented with their duties - Mr. Heppe.
3. Working with Planning Commission and Staff to redefine the Township ordinance regarding fencing and signage - Mr. Heppe.
4. Modernizing the Township in ways that can reduce its expenses, such as through LED lighting for street lights – Mr. Pioggia.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Mr. Fox discussed administrative matters with the Board, including the smooth transfer of Real Estate Tax processing to the County and the Devon Yards Land Development and Conditional Use submittal to the Township, which is slated for discussion at the February 7 Planning Commission meeting at Hilltop House.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment; Director of Public Works

Mr. Fox explained the thorough and comprehensive process for hiring a new Director of Public Works and introduced the chosen candidate, Don Curley. Mr. Curley introduced himself to the Board and expressed gratitude for the opportunity. He added that he has academic degrees and professional experience in both Urban Planning and Engineering and looks forward to applying both to the position.

On a motion by Mr. Polites, and seconded by Mr. Pioggia, the Board unanimously appointed Don Curley as Easttown Township's Director of Public Works.

Resolution 2017-09; Berwyn Veterans Memorial

On a motion by Mr. Heppe, and seconded by Mrs. Fadem, the Board unanimously adopted Resolution 2017-09, acknowledging the Township's intent to perpetually maintain the Berwyn Veterans Memorial should the underlying Veterans Association cease to exist.

Discussion; Route 252 Traffic

Mr. Polites brought to the Board's attention that several residents living on roads which intersect with Route 252 south of Darby Road requested a potential traffic signal at the intersection of Buttonwood Road or Fox Creek Road and Route 252. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation completes traffic studies to determine the need of signals on state roads, such as Route 252. If the need is determined, the Township is responsible for the cost and maintenance of the traffic signal.

Louise Story, of 2060 Buttonwood Road, stated that she is not in favor of this stoplight and believes that her neighbors on Buttonwood Road are not the residents driving this request.

The Board tabled discussion and requested Staff to do further analyses.

Discussion; Park and Recreation Board Initiative

Tom Toscani, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board, was in attendance to discuss a potential natural trail in Township Open Space across Newtown Road from Hilltop Park. Mr. Pioggia, liaison to the Parks and Recreation Board, requested his presence to publically introduce the trail concept. This trail would be a couple of miles long, low-impact, and potentially fundable through state grant monies.

Mr. Polites read the following into the record:

"The suggested name for the site is the Beaumont Preserve, which is a name that will be associated with a school and Township road to give it credibility and feel for locality. The Preserve is to consist of 17 acres set aside for a walking trail, bird sanctuary, pollinators, wildlife preserve, and a natural infiltration for water runoff. The preserve will connect people with nature and will continue the preservation of open space for use by residents of Easttown Township as well as other townships. The preserve will allow residents to observe birds and wildlife in a spectacular wooded setting in their natural habitat. The water is part of the Darby Creek Watershed that feeds into the Delaware River, a local source for drinking water. In the future, the Preserve could connect with Hilltop Park trail and Waterloo Preserve to offer a destination walking trail system in Easttown Township. It should be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan to create a long term vision to transform and maintain walking trails throughout Easttown Township and a master site plan should be

developed. Funding and possible grant money from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.”

The Board expressed interest in moving forward and asked staff to examine the property deed and determine next steps.

OLD BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC FORUM

Martin Cappelletti, of 1129 Waterloo Road, requested that the Police Department monitor speeders on his street. Chief Obzud told him that he would assign his traffic officer to do the analysis and report back at a future date.

Stacey Ballard, President of the Berwyn Devon Business and Professional Association, spoke to the Board regarding the Association’s goals for 2017, including an enhanced light display during the December holiday season. The Association’s intent is to not only expand upon its own display in Berwyn Center, but to also encourage businesses along Route 30 to do the same.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Jones
Assistant Township Secretary