

## **DOYLESTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

*February 3, 2009*

The Regular Meeting of the Doylestown Township Board of Supervisors was held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 3, 2009 at the Doylestown Township Municipal Building, 425 Wells Road, Doylestown, PA. Members of the Board of Supervisors is attendance included Barbara N. Lyons, Chairman; E. Thomas Scarborough, Jr., Vice Chairman; Jeffrey Bennett; and Cynthia Philo. Absent: Barbara Eisenhardt. Others in attendance included Jeffrey Garton, Township Solicitor; Stephen White, Chief of Police; Mario Canales, Township Engineer and Stephanie Mason, Township Manager.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Ms. Lyons noted that this evening the Board of Supervisors interviewed several residents for various Boards and Commissions' positions and our interviews will continue to 5:00 p.m. on February 17, 2009. Tonight, we have reports from the various Boards & Commissions, and she introduced Dr. Feldstein, Chairman of the Open Space Committee.

Dr. Joshua Feldstein reported on behalf of the Open Space & Farmland Preservation Committee that consists of Thomas Kelso; Jeffrey Fehr; Jennifer Wollenberg; Edward Howard; and Barbara Lyons, Liaison to the Board of Supervisors.

Doylestown Township covers an area of approximately 15.54 square miles and the total amount of acreage is 9,945.6 acres. We abut Buckingham, New Britain, Warrington, Warwick and Plumstead Townships and also the Boroughs of Doylestown and New Britain. Total acres preserved in Doylestown Township are 1,278.5378 and that includes 739.8978 acres of open space. 233 acres are farmland preserved by Delaware Valley College and Bucks County has preserved approximately 305.6 acres as part of the Pine Run Reservoir. Bucks County allocated \$500,125 in Doylestown Township for conservation easement and this was expanded to four properties totaling 45.82 acres. We negotiated with them to give us the extra 25% and we were the only Township who did that. Other property owners have contributed in value of \$166,708.33. Bucks County has been allocated as Phase II; \$620,408 in the second phase in open space for preservation and purchase of conservation easements. We expect to be able to negotiate properties under consideration to contribute to the Township 25%, which amounts to \$206,802.66. We already have several of those properties under consideration and are being appraised.

He commended Township Manager, Stephanie Mason who helps us way beyond the call of duty.

Delaware Valley College; Doylestown Hospital; Pine Run; Kutz Elementary School; and parts of the Rt. 202, 611 and 313 are included in our Township as acreage. We have preserved a total of 12.8% of the total acreage. Central Park in New York City has a total acreage of 843. In Doylestown Township, we have 108 acres, which is about 1/8, and we have about 18,000 residents. The past and present Board of Supervisors should be commended for their vision, determination, dedication, courage and action to acquire, develop, evolve and maintain Central Park in Doylestown Township as it is a jewel of the Township.

Mr. Scarborough thanked Dr. Feldstein for his hard work that he has done over the many years acquiring open space.

**VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Ms. Lyons announced the next meeting of the Board of Supervisors is scheduled for Tuesday, February 17, 2009 and interviews for Boards & Commissions will continue on that date at 5:00 p.m. The Administration offices will be closed on Monday, February 16, 2009 due to President's Day.

**MINUTES APPROVAL – January 5, 2009 and January 20, 2009:**

Ms. Philo made a MOTION, seconded by Mr. Scarborough to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2009 Board of Supervisors Reorganization Meeting.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Mr. Scarborough made a MOTION, seconded by Mr. Bennett to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2009 Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**REPORTS:**

**Solicitor:** Solicitor Garton announced that last week, his office participated in a hearing before District Justice Daly with respect to the removal of trees on the Hancock property in Furlong and the decision was the Judge found in favor of the Township. The Township was awarded reimbursement of expenses including attorneys fees, which totals \$2,100, and the Judge also awarded damages of \$500 a day that will keep accumulating. He thanked the residents who attended on behalf of the Township.

**Township Engineer:** No report.

**Police Chief:** No report.

**Township Manager:** No report.

**Supervisors:**

Ms. Lyons congratulated our Chief of Police who has been named Sertoman of the Year from the Central Bucks Sertoma Club, and he will receive his award in March. She received a call from Lynn Bush, County Planner regarding a new grant application process for Efficient Growth for Growing Suburbs that is available through the DVRPC (Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission) for traffic engineer study. We will make that application and hope that Buckingham Township will join in that application. Whether they join or not that application will be filed on behalf of Doylestown Township on or before March 13, 2009, and that grant will be used for Rt. 263 and Rt. 263 intersection.

Ms. Philo asked for a moment of silence for Officer Christopher Jones, the Middletown Police Officer who lost his life in the line of duty.

**A MOMENT OF SILENCE WAS HELD IN HONOR OF THE PASSING OF MIDDLETOWN POLICE OFFICER, OFFICER CHRISTOPHER JONES.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Rt. 263 and Rt. 313 Traffic Evaluation:

Phil Wursta, Township Traffic Engineer, noted that as part of the growing interest of the Rt. 263/Rt/ 313 area, we were asked by the Board of Supervisors to provide a proposal of a comprehensive look at traffic in that area. We broke it down into two components for a future built-out of that area. We would take the amount of traffic generated by each of those developments and add it to the roadway system and see what the impact is and then provide options to mitigate the traffic.

The other option was to take a comprehensive traffic study that includes traffic counts within that study area. The grant previously mentioned by Ms. Lyons would pay for what he proposes as well as provide land use planning associated with that corridor. The grant provides design in a way to mitigate the negative impact of new development; it takes into account ordinance provisions; smart traffic solutions; ordinances associated with each land use and how it contributes to the transportation improvements associated with that area.

Doylestown Township is eligible for this grant, which is a competitive grant, and teaming up with another municipality would add points to the application. The grant application needs to be in by March and award will not be announced until April 23, 2009 so the study would not begin until May. He will ask representatives of DVRPC about reimbursement if the project begins before grant approval, but that is a risk. It is a \$320,000 grant available to 84 municipalities.

Ms. Philo asked about other options the Township can look into if we do not receive approval for this grant?

Mr. Wursta replied this is an annual grant, which is competitive and joining with another municipality, greatly helps grant approval.

Ms. Lyons asked for the status of discussions with the engineer for Temple Judea.

Mr. Wursta replied we met with the Temple regarding traffic associated with the Temple and the impact on Rodgers Road. We came up with finite numbers with regards to the amount of traffic that would be generated by the Temple and the direction of where traffic would be coming from and turning to. We are trying to minimize the impact to residents and provide a real solution that does not compromise public safety. Further discussion on this matter will take place at the Planning Commission meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Ms. Mason noted that it is possible the Planning Commission meeting of 2/23/09 will be held at Lenape Middle School.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

DEP Installation of Public Water Lines in Furlong Area:

Mr. Bennett made a MOTION, seconded by Mr. Scarborough to adopt resolution requesting the DEP (Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection) to install public water lines in the Furlong area of Doylestown Township.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Exonerate Tax Collector:

Solicitor Garton explained that this is to exonerate the Tax Collector for the uncollected 2008 taxes in the amount of \$25,889.04 because of the obligation to effectuate to collector has been transferred to the County of Bucks to be included in the County's Tax Claims Bureau's lienable taxes.

Mr. Bennett made a MOTION, seconded by Ms. Philo to exonerate Tax Collector for the uncollected 2008 taxes in the amount of \$25,889.04 because of the obligation to effectuate to collector has been transferred to the County of Bucks to be included in the County's Tax Claims Bureau's lienable taxes.

MOTION was ADOPTED 3 – 0 with Mr. Scarborough abstaining.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Ms. Lyons noted that the following presentations from the Boards and Commissions are to present what their plans are for 2009.

Doylestown Performing Arts Council:

Ms. Lyons noted there is a publication for the Sounds of Summer with performances beginning on Wednesday, June 24, 2009 at Chapman Park and they alternate between Chapman Park and Central Park. This organization is made up of Doylestown Township and Doylestown Borough residents and these events are free to residents. Representatives from both municipalities participate in setting up and taking down for these events regardless of where they are held. If it rains on any of the scheduled events; the event is held at Central Bucks West High School Auditorium. Also, Doylestown Borough has two openings for the Doylestown Performing Arts Council, but if there is no response, we will fill it with Doylestown Township residents.

Environmental Advisory Council:

Keith Peters thanked the Board of Supervisors and Township staff for their support and attention to environmental issues and how it affects Township residents. In 2008, we reviewed seven development plans and made comment to the Board of Supervisors. We applied for grants and received the PECO Region Green Grant for \$5,200 for a wetland educational trail in the educational and environmental grove in Central Park. Part of the EAC is the Shade Tree Commission. We organize an activity for Arbor Day for the EAC and residents to participate in tree maintenance. We assisted with planting trees at the Memorial and Triangle Parks. We kept track of storm water management along with the outflow issues. We provided articles in the newsletter regarding storm water management; and provide educational brochures in the lobby of the Township Administration Building. We have an educational program on Comcast's Channel 22 and Verizon's Channel 31. We placed a large ad in the Intelligencer concerning stormwater management issues. We also have a stencil placed on top of storm water drains in new developments that says, "Rain only." We also stenciled in the older developments as well.

Part of our role is public education: we do park profiles; anti-littering; household hazardous waste information; education on transporting firewood in/out of the Township; and we are working on a paper-shredding event in conjunction with the Borough in 2009.

We transitioned the committee to paperless as all of our agendas and paperwork is distributed by email and wrote a memo to other committee members encouraging them to do that as well. The leaf collection program in which the EAC instituted a drop-off site is located at Delaware Valley College for Township residents, and we are now in full compliance with DEP's Act 101 regulations. We have worked with TAB regarding recycling TV's, and we worked with CB South students as part of the town collaboration to produce videos for the Government Access Channel including issues such as plastic bag recycling. We obtained a video called, "Kilowatt Hours," which is an educational video that explains how to reduce use of energy. We spoke to the Board of Supervisors regarding outdoor furnaces and we are working on an ordinance. The issue of cardboard recycling has been brought up recently and most drop-off sites accept more materials for household recycling as they did in the past. A dumpster located at the Township Administration Building for cardboard has not been finalized yet, but we are close, and will inform the Board of Supervisors as to when it will be there.

Historical Architectural Review Board: No report.

Municipal Authority:

Richard John reported that our customer base is about 2,500 customers; however, we serve various communities for an additional 1,600 customers. The water volume has remained at 920,000-950,000 gallons per day of use. The Authority has been working on contamination projects such as the Furlong area. We recently had a hearing with DEP, Buckingham Township and the Municipal Authority as we are trying to get funding from DEP under their Hazardous Underground Storage Tank Fund in an amount of \$890,000 to install water mains along portions of Edison-Furlong; York Road; and Rodgers Road areas.

Additionally, we met with DEP on another contamination project in Cross Keys, which involves Buckingham and Plumstead Townships as well as Doylestown Township. It is a slightly larger project than the \$2,000,000 that DEP has available, but we are willing to work with them on it. We have another hearing about that area of the Township regarding public water, which needs to be done in 2009 as funding will run out.

The Authority appreciates the support from the Board of Supervisors and for adopting the resolution this evening supporting public water for the Furlong area.

The capital project was completed for the office shop-garage complex for the Authority's staff and vehicles.

We have inter-municipal agreements with Warrington Township, New Britain Township, New Britain Borough, Buckingham and Plumstead Townships so if there is a problem with a water main, we can tap into their main to save money and they do the same thing with us. The Authority has taken a stance, which is a directive from DEP that water works on watershed basis.

The building on the corner of Rt. 202 and Rt. 313 (former Exxon Mobile Station) will be developed by First Savings Bank of Perkasio and they want public water for that site. Buckingham has agreed and asked the Authority to service it.

The Authority has come up with a "Shovel Ready" project in which water systems can take advantage of that funding. They have moved quickly to get on the first list for H2O Pennsylvania State grants. We are making a grant application for \$5 million dollars to place a water line in the central part of the Township to provide public water for that area, and that application needs to be submitted by February 13, 2009.

Oktoberfest:

Mike McCreery, Chairman of the Oktoberfest Committee, reported there are two major goals for Oktoberfest. The first one is to throw a three-day community event that is second to none in Central Bucks County, and the second goal is to generate enough revenue to cover all of our expenses. We fell short in our goal in generating enough revenue as we were \$4,000 short for the 2008 Oktoberfest. However, the 2008 Oktoberfest was a success and a great community event and he thanked everyone on his committee as well as the Board of Supervisors, Township Manager, Karen Sweeney and Daren Grecco for their work on this event. The major stumbling block for the 2009 Oktoberfest is that the Rt. 202 Parkway will go through our property that we use for Oktoberfest. We have explored alternate sites and decided the best interest of Oktoberfest will be served by postponing it this year. The committee will work between now and September to develop plans for the 2010 Oktoberfest and present it to the Board of Supervisors at their Regular meeting on September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Park & Recreation Board:

John Bray, Chairman, reported that last year, we adopted the Comprehensive Plan for the Borough and Township. We made recommendations to the Board of Supervisors of projects they could support. One of the most important items in the plan is that we renew or revise our plan for each of our parks. We are in the processing of developing a master plan for Central Park and eventually engage a professional to complete the process.

Planning Commission:

Rick Colello, Chairman, reported our two major goals are to insure that the plans submitted for development are compliant with the laws and ordinances and to give all parties a fair opportunity to express their point of view. Our second goal is to plan ahead by proposing new ordinances and updating current ordinances to control our changing society.

In 2008, we updated, combined and defined the content of our Comprehensive Plan and put all together in one book. We initiated some ordinances such as Home Based Businesses; Wind Energy; and Adult Use. Some major projects we worked on were Doylestown Hospital; Thomson Auto, Temple Judea; Eastburn; and Touhill developments.

In 2009, we will try to find out about sewer EDU's on the Rt. 611 corridor so that area can be redeveloped. We are working on an ordinance for groundwater so that new development homes will not have water in the basement after returning from settlement. We will also look at well-water conservation; the use of outdoor furnaces; and we will work on having a class on SALDO.

Public Water & Sewer Advisory Committee: No report.

Summit on Aging: Written report provided to the Board (See attached to minutes).

TAB:

Kurt Kraus, Chairman, reported that in 2008, we were able to broadcast the Board of Supervisors' meetings and installed cameras and audio technology. It is a live broadcast and recording of the meetings. Utilizing our technology enables us to do an emergency broadcast using the channel capabilities of Verizon and Comcast to broadcast emergency messages over the normally scheduled program. We have been working with the Boards and Commissions in creating unique programming and also in collaboration with Central Bucks Schools. Central Bucks High Schools have a senior-level course in their telecommunications and audio department, and we let students select topics and create a custom video that is specific to the Township, and three videos have been produced.

In addition, we have the ongoing responsibility of working with Verizon and Comcast in assisting residents with the scope of the franchise agreement. There is a federal mandate to move from analog to digital transmission.



In 2009, we will continue to enhance and optimize the technology currently installed. The first project underway is to add additional microphones so that each Supervisor has their own microphone. Audio has been the most challenging pieces of this project as it has been difficult to pickup audience comments.

Another key project is the Community Bulletin Board, which is provided to the Township by a free service called, "Televue," the agreement in the past was that they had sponsorship ads to cover their costs and now they no longer seek sponsorship and have informed us there will be a fee in June when our two-year contract expires. Our technology will enable us to migrate from the Televue Service to use the equipment we have to continue replaying bulletin board slides.

We will continue to work with the CB Schools; we will look closely at Verizon and Comcast franchise fees and evaluate options for the use of a second channel. The franchise agreement also provides for a public access channel, which we are not currently utilizing on Comcast or Verizon. Regarding Comcast's franchise agreement, Doylestown Township still has several years on it; however, neighboring Townships will begin renegotiating their agreements next year.

John Everett, Turk Road, asked about archiving Board of Supervisors' meetings on the Township website so residents can access it as opposed to watching them on television.

Mr. Kraus replied we looked into how we could make the digital broadcast available on the website, but the challenge is that the files are very big. It would be a \$3,000 upgrade to the equipment located in the backroom and it is a \$200 a month fee and, due to the budget; that is not one of the projects we plan to do.

Mr. Everett asked about copies of digital videos.

Mr. Kraus replied as part of the open records law; a digital copy can be made with a thumb drive or a VCR tape.

Ms. Mason clarified that we do not have the capability right now to put it on a DVD.

Chief White commented that the County has a Community Alert Network, which is a program that residents can be notified by phone, cell phone or email of a hazardous situation of any kind.

Mr. Sterling, resident of Furlong, asked why residents of Furlong cannot get FIOS.

Mr. Scarborough explained that there is a section along Rodgers Road in Buckingham Township that cannot get FIOS because Buckingham Township has not settled a contract with Verizon. There are three members of the Telecommunications Advisory Board, and they put this TV program together and did it at a cost of \$20,000 for equipment. It would

have cost \$100,000 if we went with an outside source. He thanked them for doing a fantastic job.

Traffic Advisory Board:

Mark Shiner, Chairman, thanked the Board of Supervisors for their support. We spent most of the past year on a roadway classification project, which was given to us by the Planning Commission two years ago, and it has been completed. We have spent a considerable amount of time on Rogers Road issues and also on traffic calming. We will look at traffic calming in more detail and look at where it might apply. Every month, we review Township residents' concerns and review new development plans.

Zoning Hearing Board: No report.

Ways & Means Committee:

Mark Glassman, Chairman, reported that we meet monthly to review budget expenditures, and with the help with Mr. Bennett as liaison, we will look at trying to balance the budget as we did in 2008. In 2009, we will be looking at capital projects and the budget and, due to economy it will be a difficult task.

Ms. Lyons added that the 2008 budget was balanced with no tax increase.

Bike and Hike Committee:

Andy Hamilton thanked the Board of Supervisors and the Public Works Department for their support. In 2008, we put a trail through Delaware Valley College that included a large undertaking of a bridge for SEPTA for access as a safe route to school and for emergency vehicles to get to the college campus. A grant paid significantly for the bridge and for materials and the installation of the trail was done in-house. We had a trail put in on Iron Hill towards Peace Valley Park. We have a DCNR grant for vision studying access to Peace Valley Park through Doylestown and New Britain Townships as we are trying to create that link. We are looking for volunteers, and we look forward to create recreation resort; create commuting routes; create recreational routes and create safe places for children and families.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Ms. Lyons announced that the next meeting of the Board of Supervisors is scheduled for Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. and interviews for the Boards and Commissions will begin at 5:00 p.m. on that date. The Administration offices will be closed on Monday, February 16, 2009 due to President's Day.

Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting

February 3, 2009

**ADJOURNMENT:** 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Mason, Township Manager

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