

Minutes – April 7, 2008

The first regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Tredyffrin Township for the month of April was held on the above date at the Township Building. Board members present included Warren Kampf, Chairman; Robert Lamina, Vice Chairman; Bill DeHaven, John DiBuonaventuro, Mark DiFelicianantonio, Judy DiFilippo, and Paul Olson. Also in attendance were Mimi Gleason, Township Manager; John Farrell, Assistant to the Manager; Stephen F. Norcini, Director of Public Works; Stephen Burgo, Township Engineer; Acting Police Chief Andrew Chambers; Lt. Anthony Giaimo; Thomas Hogan, Solicitor; and Jolene Buffman, Recording Secretary.

Call to Order

Mr. Kampf called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Olson, seconded by Mr. DeHaven, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes, as amended, of the regular meeting held March 17, 2008.

Announcements

The latest draft of the Comprehensive Plan will be presented at a joint Board of Supervisors/Planning Commission meeting on Thursday, April 17, 2008, at 7:00 pm in the Township Building.

Earth Day Celebration is scheduled for April 19, 2008, sponsored by Cabrini College, Tredyffrin EAC, and the Valley Creek Restoration Partnership. It will be held at Crabby Creek Park from 9 am to 1 pm. There will be a habitat project, a rain garden project, ceremonial tree planting, a stream rehabilitation project, and tours.

The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on April 28, 2008 to consider amendments to the Town Center zoning district to limit parking uses and prohibit fourth story height bonuses for properties abutting single-family residential zoning districts.

The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on April 28, 2008 to consider amendments to Chapter 195, Vehicles and Traffic, of the Township Code.

Miscellaneous - Supervisor Liaison Reports

Mr. DiBuonaventuro reported on an accident over the weekend at Swedesford and North Valley Roads, the intersection of concern where the “Round-about” had been discussed. He will be discussing this again at the Traffic Committee next month.

Mr. Kampf welcomed Acting Police Chief Andy Chambers. He said Andy has been a Tredyffrin Township Policeman for many years, and is the Captain of the department.

Mr. Olson said a new Library Director has been appointed. Joseph Sherwood will start next Monday, April 14th. He said Mr. Sherwood is well qualified for the job.

Mrs. DiFilippo reported, on behalf of the Historic Preservation Trust, there was a very successful fundraising event held last Friday night at the Cedar Hollow Design Center - *"In the Mood – Jazz on the Porch & Dancin' in the Barn"*. She thanked the businesses who were sponsors for their efforts to help raise money to rebuild the Historic Jones Log Barn in Wilson Farm Park. She also thanked the Police for their assistance in traffic control.

Mrs. DiFilippo said the documentary produced for the Tricentennial Celebration, "Tredyffrin Township – the First 300 Years", has been selected as one of the documentaries included in the West Chester Film Festival from April 24th to the 27th. She said there are 75 international short films being shown, and it is exciting to have our own documentary be a part of the festival.

At this point, the meeting was temporarily adjourned to conduct a Public Hearing.

Miscellaneous - Consider and adopt an amendment to Chapter 163, Sewers, Utilities and Sewage Disposal, of the Township Code, to comply with Upper Merion Township Sewage Treatment regulations.

At the end of discussion, motion was made by Mrs. DiFilippo, seconded by Mr. DeHaven, and passed unanimously to adopt an amendment to Chapter 163, Sewers, Utilities and Sewage Disposal, of the Township Code, to comply with Upper Merion Township Sewage Treatment regulations.

Complete notes of testimony were taken by Elaine Parrish, Court Reporter, and are on file at the Township Building.

The meeting was then reconvened.

Miscellaneous - Overview of Trout Creek Study and Design Project by Borton-Lawson

Mr. Burgo said Borton Lawson Engineering had been hired to look at the watershed from the perspective of flooding in the watershed, stream bank erosion and water quality. The most important part of their project is to put together a list of potential sites and locations that could be considered for future Best Management Practices retrofit.

Mr. Leonard Smith discussed the Project Overview, which consisted of three phases – Phase I – Hydraulic & Hydrologic Study; Phase II – Analysis and Prioritization of BMPs, and Phase III - Preliminary Design. He said he wanted to focus on Phase II and how he came up with potential sites. The BMP selection - Initial Screening, consisted of reviewing the problem areas from a Township list, the Ratsep Watershed Study, and site field reconnaissance. They identified 22 opportunities and narrowed it down to 10 sites for detailed evaluation.

Of these 10 sites, 4 sites were identified with local benefits. These included: Old State Road, between Howellville and Hickory; Gateway Shopping Center; Devon Park Drive, and Richards Road Culvert. Six sites had regional impact with storage area, and they included Teegarden Park; Devon Park Drive open area; Route 202 interchange basin; the Richter property; Devon Park Drive natural area (Avonwood branch); and Devon Park Drive natural area (Weadley branch).

Mr. Brian Marengo discussed the BMP selection process which was based on health and safety; water quality to reduce runoff volume and reduce streambank erosion; socio-economics; constructability, and life-cycle costs.

The next steps to be taken are to complete the preliminary analysis and screening; identify the projects with most potential; present findings to the Board of Supervisors; and prepare a preliminary design of two potential sites.

Mr. DiFelicianantonio said although the presentation was a little technical, he complimented Mr. Marengo and Mr. Smith on a good job. Mr. Kampf said this study will benefit the flooding problems in the Township.

Ms. Gleason asked the Board if there was any part of the presentation they would like more information on. The Board asked that it get to the bottom line and to keep it practical. Ms. Gleason asked the consultants to explain what some of the regional benefits are. They will be helpful to everyone. Mr. Burgo said we anticipate coming back to the Board on May 5th with the final two sites and request direction from the Board on which site to proceed with final design in 2008.

Mr. Kampf said the Township has not in any way made a decision to take any property; we are just trying to find a way to solve our stormwater problems.

Miscellaneous - Approve location for the Garrison Flag and Veterans Memorial at Wilson Farm Park

Mr. DiBuonaventuro said last month he presented to the Park Board a location for the Garrison Flag that came about after numerous visits to Wilson Farm Park by Mr. DeHaven, Mr. Norcini and several others. The Park Board has unanimously approved this location because it has access for the elderly, a location which could provide a quiet area, would be an appropriate distance from the Jones Barn when it is built, and the footprint was an appropriate scale for the park.

Motion was made by Mr. DiBuonaventuro, seconded by Mr. Olson and passed unanimously to approve the location for the Garrison Flag and Veterans Memorial as indicated on the map of Wilson Farm Park.

Mrs. DiFilippo provided more detail of what a Garrison Flag is. She said it is 20 ft. high and 38 ft. long, and requires a substantial pole to hold it. The Garrison Flag can be flown daily or on certain days throughout the year. She is working with the veterans group on these details. Mr. Lamina said that when this protocol is defined, it should be discussed at a future meeting.

Mitsie Toland asked about the lighting of the flag. Mr. Kampf said there are some outstanding issues that need to be worked out.

Miscellaneous - Discuss alternative uses for Wilson Farm Park grant

Ms. Gleason said since the Board chose not to go ahead with plans for the picnic pavilions or roller hockey court at Wilson Farm Park, we must decide whether to return the County grant or seek their approval to use it for other improvements within the Park. She said the \$225,000 grant requires a dollar-for-dollar match. The Park Board is recommending we use the money for upgrades to Shire Pavilion which would include a permanent stage and improved lights and sound equipment. A very rough estimate of the cost of these improvements is \$250,000. Mrs. DiFilippo said the Park Board has had great success with the concert series and we could expand on it if we enhanced the pavilion. She said we are also looking at expanding the parking area near the Shire Pavilion, and would like to tie these two things together if we ask the County for the money. Ms. Gleason said the criteria for the grant is the money must be used for recreational purposes.

Mr. Kampf asked about the proposed improvements to the basketball courts. Mr. Norcini said two improvements were investigated. One was the change to the lighting system to allow night play, and the estimate for this project was approximately \$10,000. The other improvement was converting the courts to an ice skating rink. Although this is possible, it is not necessarily feasible. Problems arose in trying to contain the water within the boundary of the courts. Also, depending on the weather, the rink may not be usable for skating or basketball at times during the winter. Mr. DeHaven felt the cost of maintenance would be minimal, and discussed thawing. He thought there would be a low cost way to reflood it. There was discussion on the liner used and containing the water.

There was a discussion on stocking the pond, and Board members were in favor. Steve Norcini said we could hold a Trout Derby in the near future, making it a Township event.

At the end of the discussion, Mr. Lamina asked about getting the Shire improvements finished. Mr. Norcini said he was meeting with the consultants tomorrow and will get a timeline. Ms. Gleason said we have to spend the grant money by April 2009. It was also decided to do the improvements to the basketball courts, improving the lighting and making it multi-purpose courts. Mr. Kampf made a motion to stock the pond this year with the available money. Mr. DeHaven seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Staff was also asked to get a cost for the improvements to Shire Pavilion.

Miscellaneous - Approve an amendment to the Fire Task Force Contract

Mr. Farrell said Tri-Data, a Division of System Planning Corporation, is conducting a study of the Berwyn and Paoli Fire companies. They are requesting an additional \$1,555 to convert the Chester County Computer Aided Dispatch information into a tabular (Excel or Access) format. The consultants say they need this information to determine the different levels of fire service being provided throughout the Township, and the County data is in "raw" format which must be modified to be useful. The amended total cost of the study would be \$46,910, of which Tredyffrin would contribute \$30,961.

Mr. DiBuonaventuro was vehemently against this additional charge. He said we are already paying \$45,000 to the consultants, and he had previously proposed a cap to the proposal. He read several sections from the consultant's proposal, and said they were supposed to show us where we need service that we aren't getting. Ms. Gleason said the consultants have to spend time that wasn't included in the contract. Mr. Kampf said Easttown Township has already approved it.

At the end of discussion, motion was made by Mr. Kampf, and seconded by Mr. Olson to approve an amendment to the Fire Task Force Contract with TriData, a Division of System Planning Corporation, in the amount of \$1,555, for the conversion of Chester County's Computer Aided Dispatch information. Motion passed, with Mr. DiBuonaventuro voting no.

Miscellaneous - Approve a Resolution adopting the Wilson Road Pumping Station Act 537 Plan Revision

Mr. Norcini said the Wilson Road Pumping Station has been evaluated and it was determined that it would reach capacity in the 2009-2010 time frame. In order to make changes to the pump station, an Act 537 plan evaluation must be completed and submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection. The plan has been reviewed, and we must now adopt a resolution to adopt the Act 537. The expansion/upgrade would increase capacity at the station from 16.3 MGD to 20.16 MGD.

At the end of discussion, motion was made by Mrs. DiFilippo, seconded by Mr. DeHaven, and passed unanimously to adopt a resolution adopting the Wilson Road Pumping Station Act 537 Plan Revision.

New Matters – Board

Mrs. DiFilippo asked what was happening along Bear Hill Road. Ms. Gleason said it is part of a PECO project upgrading facilities lines, and replacing a lot of poles. She said this will be a benefit to Easttown and Newtown Townships, but not Tredyffrin.

Mr. DiFelicianantonio read an article about a New Jersey community where haulers use instruments to weigh each property's recycling material, thereby earning proportional "recycling dollars" which can be used at local stores. Mr. Lamina said he would ask the EAC to look into it.

Mr. Lamina asked how the upgrade to the audio system in Keene Hall was coming. Mr. Farrell said RFP's are planned to go out this week, and construction should take place over the summer.

Mr. Kampf said the Board met in Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters.

Mr. Kampf said in accordance with our Administrative Code, the Board will be conducting an employment search to fill the position of Superintendent of Police, and a candidate will be chosen after advertising in Police Journals in Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

New Matters – Citizens

Carol Clarke said now that the TIP money has been returned to PennDOT, what is the Township doing to make the intersection of Swedesford and North Valley Road safe? Mr. DeHaven said PennDOT owns the road and there is nothing we can do without their approval and meet their warrants. Mrs. DiFilippo said the Traffic Committee will look at signage to see if that can make the intersection a little safer. Mr. DiBuonaventuro said we will look at what we can do to get drivers to slow down going up the hill. Mr. Kampf said we will discuss it at the Traffic Committee meeting, and Acting Superintendent Chambers said he would look at it.

Joan Aikers, a resident of Sullivans Bridge Condominiums, submitted photographs to Mr. Norcini of the retaining wall on their property which is in disrepair, and asked the Board to see if it can be repaired.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jolene E. Buffman
Recording Secretary