

**Tredyffrin Township
Minutes – December 7, 2009**

The first regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Tredyffrin Township for the month of December was held on the above date at the Township Building. Board members present included Warren Kampf, Chairman; Robert Lamina, Vice Chairman; John DiBuonaventuro, Mark DiFelicianantonio, Judy DiFilippo, Paul Olson, and John Shimrak. Also in attendance were Mimi Gleason, Township Manager; Thomas Scott, Assistant Township Manager; David Brill, Finance Director; Stephen Norcini, Director of Public Works; Superintendent Andrew Chambers; 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 Mrs. DiFilippo, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held November 30, 2009, as amended.

Supervisor Liaison Reports

Mrs. DiFilippo reported that the Tax Collection Committee has had their first formal meeting and elected officers. The Executive Board will be working over the next year to begin implementing regulations required as of January 2012. They also adopted by-laws for the purpose of administering tax collection of an earned income tax, and the Chester Tax Collection Committee will be looking at the Local Services Tax.

Mr. Kampf said the Board met in Executive Session at 7:15 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

Miscellaneous - Update on the Environmental Advisory Council's "Green Tredyffrin" Plan

Mr. Kampf said a few meetings ago, Molly Duffy, Chair of the Environmental Advisory Council presented a draft plan for a "Green Tredyffrin". As a result, he and Mr. Lamina met with Mrs. Duffy and Chris Minshall to create a potential resolution. Mrs. Duffy said she was happy with the language worked out and for all the EAC support. The resolution addresses all the issues discussed at the October meeting.

Motion was made by Mrs. DiFilippo to adopt the resolution as drafted for a "Green Tredyffrin" plan. Mr. Lamina seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Miscellaneous - Chester Valley Trail Easement in Cedar Hollow Park

Mr. Norcini said the County has proposed to construct a portion of the Chester Valley Trail along the south side of Cedar Hollow Park. Although a trail exists in this location, it is not the upgraded trail that will be installed as part of the Chester Valley Trail. The purpose of the easement is to allow the trail to legally traverse Township property.

Motion was made by Mr. Olson to execute the trail easement agreement for the Chester Valley Trail. Mrs. DiFilippo seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Miscellaneous - Request for proposals for janitorial service

Mr. Norcini said in past years, the Township has used a separate janitorial service than that of the two libraries. In order to take advantage of economy of scale, the Township would like to bid a cleaning contract for the Township complex, the Tredyffrin Public Library in Strafford, and the Paoli Library.

Mrs. DiFilippo asked how this would be expensed, and Mr. Norcini said nothing will change as far as payment. The monthly bills for the Library would be processed through the Library, and the Township Building bills would be processed through the municipal complex.

Motion was made by Mrs. DiFilippo to authorize the Township to receive bids for Public Works Project #21-09, "Janitorial Services at the Township Municipal Complex, Tredyffrin Public Library and the Paoli Library". Mr. Olson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Escrows

Motion was made by Mr. Olson, seconded by Mrs. DiFilippo, and passed to release \$989,551.20 from the Bank of New York Mellon to Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania, covering site improvements at 1001 Chesterbrook Boulevard/Penn Medicine at Valley Forge; balance remaining \$847,634.17. Mr. Kampf abstained from the vote.

New Matters – Board

Mr. DiBuonaventuro said the Township flag is at half-staff in honor of another slain police officer from the Pittsburgh area. He said seven police officers have been lost from Pennsylvania this year.

Mr. Olson asked Mr. Sherwood if there were any comments from citizens regarding the library closings. Mr. Sherwood said there were a few comments and most people understood the situation but didn't like it.

Mrs. DiFilippo said student housing and homes being converted into rentals had been discussed at previous Board meetings. She and Mr. DiBuonaventuro, along with Supt. Chambers and members of the Mt. Pleasant community have been working together, and will meet on

December 19th at the First Baptist Church in Mt. Pleasant to discuss the matter further. They are still looking at ordinances relating to student housing.

Mrs. DiFilippo said one of the issues in the preliminary budget calls for the elimination of one of the community leaf sites, either Cassatt Road or Mill Road. The preliminary budget also calls for the elimination of longevity pay to 18 key non-represented employees, a savings of \$40,000, but cuts their salary 6%. She said this is unfair and we should look for other ways to get back this money so there is not a 6% reduction. Her suggestion was to return the cost for street lights and traffic signals to the General Fund Budget from the Sewer Utility Fund. She said this was also a BAWG recommendation.

Mrs. DiFilippo said another suggestion by the BAWG was to accept the \$50,000 offer from St. David's Golf Club in lieu of putting in sidewalks. She said to the best of her knowledge, there was no written offer by St. David's. Instead it was a verbal offer communicated by Paul Olson, and she couldn't support such an offer. There is a Land Development Agreement which obligates St. David's to make the improvements. The decision lies with the Planning Commission, not the Board of Supervisors. The sub-committee of Supervisors and Planning Commission members will meet with Ms. Gleason and Mr. Hogan to discuss the topic further.

Mrs. DiFilippo asked the Board to consider reducing the size of the sewer revenue fee to \$35 or \$40 and raising the real estate tax by \$10-15 per tax payer. This will give more flexibility for amending some of the other cuts.

Mr. DiFelicianantonio was concerned about library reductions, and that in 2010, we will be down police officers. He said he thought the budget that was proposed was "preposterous".

Former supervisor, Bill DeHaven, talked about the budget reduction for fire companies. He said the Township needs to provide adequate support for the fire companies, and the Township is not planning for the future.

Mr. Lamina said there were reductions in every general service we provide, on the average of about 14%. The exception was the fire companies, at a modest 5% reduction. He said we have stepped up to the plate and are supporting the fire companies.

Laurie Elliott said the Board underestimates the intelligence of the residents. People understand the need to have tax increases and staff to be able to maintain services, as well as maintaining the morale of our fire fighters. She said it was a mistake not to raise taxes.

Michael Heaberg commended the Supervisors, BAWG and the employees for arriving at this point in the budget. He said he thought everyone in the community would like to support the fire companies, and said if they do, they should write a check.

Ray Clarke said he believed the budget was a "just getting by" kind of budget, and the Township should think about long term issues. He said he supported Mrs. DiFilippo's comment about Township employees, that retracting the longevity bonus is unfair. He said the Township should try to find some type of seed money for the Eagle Scout project at Crabby Creek.

Maureen Curran, Township employee, said a union was formed from the clerical staff last year. There were 24 employees originally, and after the lay-off there are now 17 employees. The average salary for these workers is \$40,000. She encouraged residents to look at the budget and the services, and asked the Board questions.

Pattye Benson thanked Mrs. DiFilippo for answering the questions she asked at the last meeting about St. David's.

Cindy Verguldi said she would like to see the fire companies level of funding restored to what it was.

Mr. DiBuonaventuro said it is the Township's responsibility to keep the citizens safe and the fire companies funded. He finds it offensive that the fireworks were kept in the budget and fire companies had a 5% cut to their funding.

Mrs. DiFilippo again suggested taking some of the dollars collected from the increase in sewer rental fee and putting it in the General Fund. This will do greater good than \$10 less in the sewer fund.

Mr. Kampf said the question for this Township is in difficult times, do we turn to our tax payers and ask for an earned income tax or raise real estate taxes? The Preliminary Budget answers this question. We are going to look to ourselves and we are going to tighten our belts.

New Matters – Citizens

None

Meeting was adjourned at 8.53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jolene E. Buffman
Recording Secretary