

Tredyffrin Township**Minutes – February 2, 2009**

The first regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Tredyffrin Township for the month of February was held on the above date at the Township Building. Board members present included Robert Lamina, Vice Chairman; Bill DeHaven, John DiBuonaventuro, and Judy DiFilippo. Also in attendance were Mimi Gleason, Township Manager; Thomas Scott, Assistant Township Manager; Stephen Norcini, Director of Public Works; Stephen Burgo, Township Engineer; Superintendent Andrew Chambers; Lt. Anthony Giaimo, Thomas Hogan, Solicitor; and Jolene Buffman, Recording Secretary.

Call to Order

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

Announcements

The Board of Supervisors will hold a continued public hearing on February 25, 2009 to consider adoption of a new Comprehensive Plan.

The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on March 16, 2009 to consider amendments to the Stormwater Ordinance.

The meeting was temporarily adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Public Hearing - Approve a Conditional Use Application for St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley

At the end of discussion, motion was made by Mr. Lamina, seconded by Mr. DeHaven, and passed unanimously to approve a Conditional Use Application for St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley.

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

The meeting reconvened at 7:45 p.m.

Miscellaneous - Supervisors Liaison Reports

Mr. DiBuonaventuro reported that PennDot met with Rep. Paul Drucker to discuss snow removal on Rt. 252 and Valley Forge Road. PennDot said they would make sure they put down the appropriate materials two hours before the next weather event, and would improve communications with the Township. Rep. Drucker was comfortable with the outcome of the meeting with PennDot. Mr. DeHaven asked Mr. Norcini to report back to the Board after each

event on the cooperation received from PennDot. Mr. DiBuonaventuro also asked to have associated costs to the Township be included in Mr. Norcini's report.

Mr. Lamina said the Board met in Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters at 7:00 p.m.

Miscellaneous - Resolution for authorization to apply for funding through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development under the H2O PA Water Supply, Sanitary and Stormwater Projects Grant Program

Mr. Norcini said this grant was established by the General Assembly in July 2008 to assist municipalities with construction of drinking water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer projects, in the amount of \$1,960,750 from the Commonwealth Financing authority. The grant will be used for the Valley Creek Trunk Sewer's Wilson Road Pumping Station Upgrade and Expansion Project.

At the end of discussion, motion was made by Mrs. DiFilippo, seconded by Mr. DeHaven, and passed unanimously to adopt a resolution for authorization to apply for funding through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development under the H2O PA Water Supply, Sanitary and Stormwater Projects Grant Program.

Miscellaneous - Accept a temporary grading easement for the Sidewalk Project, Phase I, for the property at 774 Conestoga Road

Mr. Burgo said this is the second of three requests for a temporary grading easement associated with the Safe Routes to School Project. It encompasses a small amount of grading to 1,000 square feet of land at 774 Conestoga Road.

At the end of discussion, motion was made by Mrs. DiFilippo, seconded by Mr. DeHaven, and passed unanimously to accept a temporary grading easement for the Sidewalk Project, Phase I, for the property at 774 Conestoga Road.

Minutes

Motion was made by Mrs. DiFilippo, seconded by Mr. DeHaven, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting held January 26, 2009.

New Matters – Board

Ms. Gleason said the Turnpike is planning on widening the highway from four lanes to six lanes from the Valley Forge Interchange to Route 29, where the new slip ramp will go. They held an open house last week and displayed their plans showing properties scheduled for condemnation or partial condemnation. There are numerous reasons for the condemnation, from the actual road widening, for grading, for sound walls, as well as stormwater management.

Ms. Gleason said the Township has two official roles – our Zoning Ordinance for sound, and our Stormwater Ordinance, that the Turnpike has to comply with. We have been working with the Turnpike already on sound walls for the Township and residents. We have support from Senator Andrew Dinniman and Representative Paul Drucker, but we don't have a commitment from the Turnpike to build sound walls throughout the Township.

Ms. Gleason said the Turnpike is in the very early stages of stormwater management. They have to comply with State regulations enforced by DEP and with Township regulations, and they are not meeting either rules or regulations yet, and this is a very important issue. Tredyffrin already has significant issues resulting from lack of stormwater controls from the Turnpike. This is an opportunity to address these serious issues.

Ms. Gleason said the Turnpike plans are not final. There are a couple of years of work that remain to be done. We have the expertise of our Township Engineer, Steve Burgo, and we are optimistic we will be able to work with the Turnpike to continue to improve their plans by using more innovative measures that require less use of land.

Mr. DiBuonaventuro said he saw plans six months ago which had more property takings than the current one, but the new plan is still totally unacceptable. We want to get to the point where the Turnpike can say they did everything they could before taking a property. He encouraged residents to stay in contact with Senator Dinniman and Rep. Drucker, maintain open communication, stay together and stay organized.

Mrs. DiFilippo said she and Mr. DiBuonaventuro met with Superintendent Michael Caldwell of the Valley Forge National Historic Park and Dierdre Gibson, a planner for the Park. They are willing to work with us to find alternate ways to manage stormwater.

Mr. Lamina said the Township and DEP are required to issue permits, and he would never support issuing permits for the plan that is currently on the table. With residents' help, we will overcome this together and minimize the impacts to the community.

New Matters – Citizens

There was a large crowd of residents in the audience against the Turnpike's proposed plan for taking and partial taking of their properties. Resident Jim Bailey was concerned about the safety, environmental and economic impacts of the Turnpike's plan. He believes the Board has the best interest of the residents and the community. Jeff Sansone of Green Hills asked if the Township requirements were greater than DEP. Ms. Gleason said we have regulations that are stricter than State regulations, but the Turnpike is not even complying with DEP's regulations yet. We want them to do Best Management Practices throughout the Township. Mr. Sansone asked if the Township had latitude with regard to stormwater. Ms. Gleason said there is latitude in the ordinance to work with the Turnpike. They have to demonstrate that there is truly no other alternative, and they have not done that.

Mr. Sansone thanked the Board for their support to the community and asked for guidance if this proceeds in property taking. He asked if they could get legal support from the Township. Mr. Hogan said from an advocacy standpoint, the Township would provide the citizens in general with the best legal support you could possible get. As an individual, if properties are at risk for taking, they should consult an attorney because there is a set procedure they have to go through to get fair value for their property. The Township could provide names of attorneys who are local and qualified. Mr. Hogan suggested residents contact their legislators for their staff assistance.

Evelyn Richter of Green Hills thanked the Board and offered her help. Audrey Sarsfield said she was pleased to hear all the support from the Board, but was concerned about the water retention basin they want to put in next to her property. She asked about spray irrigation. Mrs. DiFilippo said that Valley Forge Park had suggested this to the Turnpike about a year ago. They discussed seeking federal funding for an environmental assessment to see if they could store water underground to disburse the water.

Jim Bailey asked about shoulder space for a three lane highway. Mr. Burgo said the Turnpike has their own design standards for the roadway and they want to have full width shoulders. Several residents had concerns about the proposed water basins and the additional noise created by the extra lane.

Tom Shubert of Green Hills asked about the Township's relationship with Valley Forge Park. Ms. Gleason said our relationship is very good, and anything done there requires approval from Washington and potentially an Act of Congress. The Park staff is willing to work with us to find solutions.

A resident asked if a cost benefit analysis would be available, and Mr. DiBuonaventuro said the Turnpike provided one for the sound walls. David Miller, President of Chesterbrook Civic Association asked to meet with the Township, and Mr. Lamina said we would set up a meeting with each of the affected community associations.

Mr. Lamina thanked the residents for coming and expressing the concerns shared by all, and the Board will continue to communicate as we go forward.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jolene E. Buffman
Recording Secretary