

Tredyffrin Township

Minutes – May 4, 2009

The first regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Tredyffrin Township for the month of May was held on the above date at the Township Building. Board members present included Warren Kampf, Chairman; John DiBuonaventuro, Mark DiFelicianantonio, Judy DiFilippo, and Paul Olson. Also in attendance were Mimi Gleason, Township Manager; Thomas Scott, Assistant Township Manager; Stephen Norcini, Director of Public Works; Superintendent Andrew Chambers; Thomas Hogan, Solicitor; Lt. Anthony Giaimo, 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 April 20, 2009, as amended.

Supervisor Liaison Reports

Mr. DiBuonaventuro said there has been concern about the 55 mph speed limit on Route 252 north of Central Avenue, which turns into 45 mph by the Radbill ball field. He said we have applied to PennDot and have received verbal approval from them to change the speed limit to 45 mph. Lt. Giaimo said PennDot told us if in six months we have additional data to support our requested 40 mph, they would look at that.

Mr. Olson said there may be a vacancy on the Library Board in the coming months, and anyone interested should send their resume to Mimi Gleason, Township Manager.

Mr. DiFelicianantonio said the EAC held a great Earth Day event at Crabby Creek, and he thanked everyone that was involved in it.

Mr. Kampf said the Board met in Executive Session at 6:45 p.m. to discuss personnel and litigation matters.

Mr. Kampf said the EAC is sponsoring a Greenscaping Workshop on May 27th at the Township Building. A representative from the Environmental Protection Agency will be conducting the workshop.

Mr. Kampf said the Board's Finance Committee has been meeting with staff and focusing on this year's budget process. Township staff did an exercise on where cost cutting can be done. The Township is also looking into finance issues with some of our outstanding bonds, and more will be reported as time goes by.

Miscellaneous - Presentation of a Certificate of Recognition for the Open Land Conservancy's 70th anniversary

Mrs. DiFilippo said it was her pleasure to represent the Board and present to Mitsie Toland a Certificate of Recognition for the Open Land Conservancy's 70th anniversary. She said Mrs. Toland has taught the Township about conservation, open space, greenscaping, and anything to do with the environment and protecting the natural beauty of the Township. This certificate recognizes the 70 years of dedicated service by the OLC in protecting our open space. Mrs. Toland said the OLC is just a "grass roots" organization with about 500 members. She said there is a lot of work for everyone to do, and is very happy to operate in Tredyffrin Township.

Miscellaneous - Intersection improvement plan for Conestoga, East Conestoga and Upper Gulph Roads

Mr. Norcini introduced Pam Conti, Senior Project Manager of Orth-Rodgers & Associates, Inc. Ms. Conti made a Power Point presentation which provided background information and the new design preferred by PennDot.

Ms. Conti said this project originally began because of Westover Park, and the Township request to have a design that would reduce speed and accommodate pedestrians getting access to the park. Speed studies and accident studies were conducted, traffic volume counts were conducted, and six alternatives were developed. Alternative #1, a "T" intersection was chosen, and the Township asked PennDot for stop signs as an interim. PennDot denied the stop signs. After further review, PennDot also indicated they would deny the "T" intersection and preferred a realigned intersection with 3-way stop signs. It will re-align the intersection with minor movement, stop signs will provide necessary traffic calming for speeds and pedestrian safety, and there will be no change in construction cost. It meets the needs of the Township, PennDot and concerns of the community. Pedestrian signage will be posted and sidewalks installed to get to the park. Temporary easements for construction will be required.

Mrs. DiFilippo asked if any additional land was required other than temporary easements, and Mrs. Conti said no. Mr. Olson asked when the accident study was completed. Mrs. Conti said it was a three-year study, from 2002 to 2005, with data from the Tredyffrin Police Department and PennDot. Mr. DiBuonaventuro said this is not approval to build the intersection; it is approval to modify the design which is all that was funded.

Jeff Ogren, Steeplechase Road, was concerned about putting up stop signs, and people cutting through their neighborhood to avoid the traffic light at Valley Forge Road and the new stop signs. He said stop signs might alleviate problems here, but create them elsewhere. He said since there were no more accidents and no speeding, why were we doing it? Mr. Norcini said during meetings for the previous intersection, there were perceived concerns from residents regarding accidents, although they were not serious. Mr. Kampf said serious accidents have occurred at this intersection even if they are not reported to the police, and it is a dangerous place to travel. He wondered if stop signs would help or make it worse. Lt. Giaimo said one of the other issues was truck traffic eastbound on Conestoga Road.

Mr. Norcini said Mr. and Mrs. Shackleford who live on the north side of the roadway have difficulty getting out of their driveway because of cars coming around the curve. Having an intersection more controlled would be positive. Mrs. Conti said stop signs should achieve a high level of service for the intersection. She said p.m. peak time has the highest volume at this intersection and that is when a back-up of about four car lengths will occur. Mrs. Shackleford said she wasn't sure stop signs would help getting in and out of their driveway, and was concerned there would be a construction site on her property. Mr. Norcini assured here there wouldn't be a construction site on her property.

A resident expressed concern about people not knowing about the approaching stop signs, and suggested putting in blinking lights. Another resident was concerned about cars backing up at the intersection and traffic cutting through neighborhoods. Mr. Norcini said blinking lights are part of the plan.

Mr. Norcini said this is the first presentation for the revised plan, and if we move ahead, we will meet with the 4-5 residents directly affected.

Mr. Kampf said the question before the Board is are we generally in favor of what PennDot is in favor of: a 3-way stop. Mr. Olson suggested waiting until the next meeting to vote because there are two members missing.

Motion was made by Mr. DiFelicianantonio to move forward with the design and permit for modified Alternative #4, but not construction. Mrs. DiFilippo seconded the motion, and it passed, with Mr. Olson voting no.

Miscellaneous - Award contract for "Public Works Project #4-09, Box Hill Pump Station Electrical Construction"

Mr. Norcini said eight bids were received on April 22, 2009 for electrical work associated with the upgrade and modernization to the 35-year old Box Hill Pumping Station. The lowest bid was from A. N. Lynch Company in the amount of \$88,410.00.

Motion was made by Mrs. DiFilippo, seconded by Mr. Olson, and passed unanimously to issue a Notice of Intent to Award to A. N. Lynch Company in the amount of \$88,410.00.

Miscellaneous - Award contract for "Public Works Project #5-09, Box Hill Pump Station General Construction"

Mr. Norcini said five bids were received on April 22, 2009. The low bidder was Heisey Mechanical Company in the amount of \$195,160.00.

Motion was made by Mr. Olson, seconded by Mrs. DiFilippo, and passed unanimously to issue a Notice of Intent to Award to Heisey Mechanical Company in the amount of \$195,160.00.

Miscellaneous - Resolution to apply for a Pennvest grant for the stormwater project along Vincent Road/Maude Circle/Lisa Drive

Mr. Scott said these resolutions will accompany the Township's application to the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) for the purpose of partially financing the construction and rehabilitation of the storm sewer system to alleviate stormwater runoff concerns in front of the lots along Vincent Road and at the eastern end of the double sided cul-de-sac of Maude Circle and the existing stormwater outfall located in the Open Land Conservancy area.

Motion was made by Mr. DiBuonaventuro, seconded by Mrs. DiFilippo, and passed unanimously to adopt a resolution to apply for a Pennvest grant for the stormwater project along Vincent Road/Maude Circle/Lisa Drive.

Mr. Scott said the second resolution would authorize the Township to be reimbursed for funds used by the Township for the Maude-Lisa-Vincent Drainage Project prior to award of the grant.

At the end of discussion, motion was made Mr. DiBuonaventuro, seconded by Mrs. DiFilippo and passed unanimously to adopt the resolution as drafted entitling reimbursement for project costs declared of official intent.

Miscellaneous - Resolution to accept a Deed of Dedication for Bocce Grove, Chestnut Avenue, Devon

Mr. Norcini said a Deed of Dedication from DHM Realty, Inc. for park area known as Bocce Grove was accepted at the last Board of Supervisors meeting, and this resolution is required to memorialize it.

Motion was made by Mr. Olson, seconded by Mr. DiBuonaventuro, and passed unanimously to adopt a resolution accepting a Deed of Dedication from DHM Realty, Inc. for Bocce Grove.

Miscellaneous - Schedule a public hearing to consider amendments to the Vehicles and Traffic Chapter of the Code of Tredyffrin Township

Supt. Chambers said the changes requested would be to add a stop sign on the eastbound side of Henry Avenue and Fairview Avenue, and to prohibit on-street parking at all times for West Walker Road. Both changes were reviewed and recommended by the Traffic Safety Committee.

Motion was made by Mrs. DiFilippo, seconded by Mr. Olson, and passed unanimously to schedule a public hearing on Monday, June 15, 2009, to consider amendments to the Vehicles and Traffic Chapter of the Code of Tredyffrin Township.

New Matters – Board

Mr. DiBuonaventuro said the definition of the word “present” as applies to the Supervisors at a public meeting was not determined when the Administrative Code ordinance was amended. He proposes “present” to mean physically being there. He said there are three options: 1) leave it undefined, 2) define it as physically being there, or 3) define it as something other than 1) and 2).

Mr. Kampf said they would try to come up with some category that would make Board members and citizens more comfortable that it wouldn’t be abused if it wasn’t undefined. He was concerned leaving it as being physically present, because Board members are all volunteers who work or have other commitments. He said certain situations or health conditions would be alright to keep you away. He will be part of a group that will put together a list defining “present” at Board of Supervisors meeting.

New Matters – Citizens

None

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jolene E. Buffman
Recording Secretary