

Tredyffrin Township
Minutes – February 8, 2010

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, Chairman; John DiBuonaventuro, Philip Donahue, Warren Kampf, Michelle Kichline and Evelyn Richter. 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, Tom Hogan, Solicitor; Lt. Anthony Giaimo, and Sharon Rose.

Call to Order

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

Minutes

Motion was made by Mr. Lamina, seconded by Mr. Kampf, and passed unanimously to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2010 meeting, as amended.

Announcements

The Board of Supervisors will hold a continued public hearing on Monday, February 22, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. for the “Patriots Path Plan”.

Residents interested in receiving the Township’s monthly e-newsletter can submit their email addresses to e-newsletter@tredyffrin.org.

In March of 2010, census forms will be delivered to every residence in the United States. When you receive yours, fill out the questionnaire and mail the form back in the postage-paid envelope provided. The 2010 Census will help communities receive more than \$400 billion in federal funds each year for things like hospitals, job training centers, schools, senior centers, bridges, tunnels and other public works projects and emergency services.

Supervisor Liaison Report

Mr. Lamina acknowledged Mr. Norcini and the outstanding work he and the Public Works Department did during the recent snow storm. Mr. Norcini said the weekend snow storm was the second largest storm in Township history, and was officially recorded at 20”. He said not enough could be said about the dedication of his department.

Ms. Kichline reported that the Cable Television Advisory Board is working on exciting changes to the communication in the Township. Gene Donahue has saved the taxpayers \$10,000 by obtaining a new system, called Tricaster, instead of repairing the old system. This

new system will have better graphics for broadcasts, as well as options for those producing shows in our studio. In the spring, a new TV will be installed in the Township lobby and will be showing some in-house programs, programs from Harrisburg, storm management programs, and history programs. Mrs. Kichline said she would keep everyone updated on the new system.

Mr. DiBuonaventuro reviewed the Strafford Station Apartments fire which occurred on January 30, 2010, and presented a slide presentation. The initial alarm involved three fire companies – Berwyn, Radnor, and Paoli. A total of fourteen fire companies responded to the incident. A heater inside a utility closet was the source, and two citizens who were initially trapped were both extricated successfully. The organization T/E Cares has been assisting families impacted from the fire. Many local churches adopted some of the families and assisted. Recognition was given to all officers involved including Officers Costa and Mutter from Tredyffrin, and Sergeant Prorock and Officer Oreshevik from Easttown. These officers entered the buildings to get residents out. Capt. Brazunas of the Berwyn Fire Company thanked the Tredyffrin Police Department and everyone involved for their quick response, and said it was totally a team effort. Mr. DiBuonaventuro also thanked Steve Norcini and Mike Pilotti, our fire official, for their assistance. Mr. Lamina commented that Mr. DiBuonaventuro, in addition to being fire department liaison is also member of the Paoli Fire Company and thanked him for his service.

Paoli Pedestrian /Bike Plan Study Committee

Mr. Scott discussed a grant received for a pedestrian and bicycling plan in Paoli, including connections between the Paoli Business District and the Chester Valley Trail. The Township was awarded a \$32,000 grant from the DVRPC. Months were spent collecting proposals from various firms. Part of what we had planned in the proposal was a study committee to work with the consultant and staff for community involvement in the plan. Several interested citizens have expressed willingness to be part of the committee.

Receive bids for green roof at Hillside Elementary School

Mr. Burgo discussed a grant for installing a green roof on a portion of Hillside Elementary School. Staff is requesting Board approval for advertising to receive bids for this project to be constructed over the summer of 2010. Motion was made by Mr. Lamina, seconded by Mr. Kampf, and passed unanimously to receive bids as described by Mr. Burgo, for a green roof at Hillside Elementary School.

New Matters – Board

Mr. Lamina said relative to Mr. Olson's motion last week regarding the escrow release to St. Davids, he is aware of all the citizen concerns, as well as legitimate concerns expressed by other Board members regarding the process utilized on this particular motion. He said he believes everyone here tonight agrees the process was less than perfect, and a better job could have been done. He intends to learn from the lessons of this decision to avoid problems in the future. Mrs. Richter and Mr. Kampf agreed with Mr. Lamina.

Resident Hans van Naerssen said he was concerned about last weeks' process. He discussed how the STAP committee was formed. He said 75% of our citizens supported more paths and walkways. We need to think how we want Tredyffrin to be in the future, and allow us to walk safely along side roads. He said the Board needs to make a resolution that says anything that undoes a Zoning Ordinance or change to the Comprehensive Plan must have a full hearing; the Board needs to ask the STAP committee why they want this, as opposed to making an assumption. He encouraged the Board to support paths and sidewalks and put something in place to prevent this from happening again.

Dariel Jamieson, 200 Lafayette Lane, said she was the newly elected chairperson of the Tredyffrin Township Democratic Committee. She is speaking as a resident now and acknowledged the apology and asked if actions were taken to undo the release of the escrow funds to St. Davids. She discussed comments that were made regarding political party affiliation at the January 25th meeting, and stated this is not just a Democratic issue. Ms. Jamieson hoped the actions of last meeting can be undone and also hoped funding would be restored for the fire companies.

Jean Sauer of Daylesford Lake agreed with Ms. Jamison and stated she is a Republican and spoke of the importance of doing the right thing and following process and procedure.

Matt Valocchi of Devon spoke about the motion and implications of it. He asked if there was a request in writing from St. Davids, and Mr. Lamina answered no. He asked if the Board ever referred this matter to the Township Engineer, and Mr. Lamina answered no. Mr. Valocchi said this was a heated political issue and there was a lack of procedure and transparency.

Jerry Henige stated what was heard tonight was an apology for failure of process. Questions were asked regarding Supervisors' position with respect to development plans, zoning plan, etc. and he stated at the moment, residents cannot trust any plan to be upheld in light of this incident.

John Petersen asked Mrs. Richter why she voted yes for the motion. Ms. Richter said she spoke at length with individuals who discussed details of the specifics of sidewalks and agreements with St. Davids. At its source, she felt that the whole plan was not a fair burden to place on businesses in these economic times. Mr. Peterson also questioned the legality of the issue. Mr. Hogan explained that attorney client privilege has to be respected and members of board would not be able to answer.

Jim Bailey expressed concern about the precedent this case sets moving forward. Mr. Lamina said plans are being made to reach out to the Planning Commission for discussions on land development and other issues.

Pattye Benson stated she would like to understand how the events of the January 25th meeting did not set precedent for future. Ms. Benson said a large percentage of people are troubled by these actions.

Mr. DiBuonaventuro commented that what we are hearing is the frustration of the community regarding how this was done. The problem is not about sidewalks. They are not mad about where sidewalks are going to go or not go. They are mad because they saw a procedure that was not followed. He asked if there was a way to turn this back and start over and do it right.

Christine Johnson of Mount Pleasant said she took offense at St. David's sidewalk being referred to as "a sidewalk to nowhere". They have approval for new housing units, and a plethora of college students can walk back and forth to the library. Laurie Elliott echoed her thoughts, and asked to have this decision reversed.

Liz Fineberg responded to comments that were made regarding the comprehensive plan and said that many people have worked very hard on the committees. There are people that want this to be a walking community and look forward to plans for future.

Steve Shapiro from Valley Green Development discussed agendas of previous meetings and requirement of Home Rule Charter to have item on the agenda. Other residents spoke about this, and suggested this be added to the next meeting's agenda. Mr. DiBuonaventuro said he would like to reverse the decision and start over following proper procedure.

Meeting is adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Rose
Recording Secretary