

Chairman Grey R. Godshall called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors to order on Monday, March 16, 2015 at 7:09 p.m. at the Municipal Building, 671 Allentown Road, Telford, Pennsylvania 18969.

Present were 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-chairman David B. Fazio, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-chairman Robert H. Nice, Supervisor Steven P. Barndt, and Supervisor Curtis N. Kratz. Also in attendance were, Chief of Police Joseph Kozeniewski, Public Works Director Paul R. Nice, Township Solicitor Frank R. Bartle, Esquire, Township Engineer Cindy VanHise, P.E., Finance Director Ami L. Tarburton, Building Inspector Jerry Rittenhouse, and Eric Wert, Esquire and interested residents of Franconia Township. Absent/excused were Township Manager Jon A. Hammer and Assistant Township Manager Jamie P. Worman.

**APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 17, 2015 MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Fazio made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 17, 2015 regular meeting. Mr. Nice seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**OPEN MEETING TO THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Godshall opened the meeting to the public.

Mr. George Brodhead of Lionsgate Community asked about enforcement of the speed limit through the crosswalk on West Broad Street in his community. Several years ago, the township provided two movable signs, but they have either gotten stolen or destroyed. Mr. Barndt asked if the new intersection at Cowpath/Broad/Godshall Roads made the problem worse. Mr. Brodhead indicated that it was hard to tell. Chief Kozeniewski stated that a study was done after the opening of the intersection and 80% of traffic was traveling at 35 mph or less. Paul Nice said that the signs cost over \$500 each. Mr. Godshall asked Chief Kozeniewski if we could increase patrol in that area and he agreed that they would.

Ms. Terri Hettel of 327 Elwood Lane questioned whether anyone had looked into recording the public meetings. Mr. Godshall said that we need to add this item to a work session

agenda to discuss the cost, pros and cons. Ms. Hettel stated that we should check with the school. Her son taped public meetings through school at a different location. Ms. Hettel said that out of respect for those who cannot make the meetings, we should look into taping them.

Mr. Jerry Guretse, President of the Telford Fire Department, wanted to report on what the fire company has been doing. The 5<sup>th</sup> District of Montgomery County (encompassing the Wissahickon through Souderton areas) recognized the Telford Chief as Firefighter of the Year for his handling of a severe accident involving a child. The Telford Chaplain received an award as well. He stated that fire service is changing – more of their members are being certified in emergency medical services. Mr. Godshall asked if they have AED's on all vehicles. Mr. Guretse stated that through a grant they will have AED's on all vehicles in April.

Mr. Gerald Thiel, 811 Allentown Road, asked if there was any answer on the investigation that he called for of the township finances. Mr. Bartle said that Mr. Thiel's questions were turned over to the auditor, Mr. Furman, and he will provide answers to the questions. Mr. Thiel asked for a timeline for receiving the information. Mr. Robert Nice reported that Maillie was expected to be at this meeting, however the audit is not yet completed so he should be reporting on the audit at the next meeting. Mr. Thiel then commended Ms. Bonnie Miller on her presentation in the work session meeting. Mr. Thiel then discussed the Sunshine Act of 1986 stating that the spirit of the Act was to have governments at all levels open the doors of closed meetings to the public, allowing total transparency. He would like for the supervisors to consider allowing residents to attend executive sessions that do not pertain to legal or personnel items. Mr. Godshall stated that one of the primary duties of the township solicitor is to decide which topics are appropriate for public meetings and which must be reserved for an executive session. Mr. Thiel stated that he hears very little talk in meetings about board action before there is a vote and that the action must be discussed somewhere. He would like to know what the action is and have the opportunity to comment on the action. Mr. Thiel is asking for the board to be more transparent – this is why the Sunshine Law was created.

John McDonough, 318 Melbourne Way, asked about the township auditor and if this a position that should be filled. Mr. Barndt replied that it is an elected position with a job that

doesn't do anything and that we use a professional audit firm rather than using the elected auditors. Mr. Godshall said that he believes there is an open auditor position. Mr. Barndt stated that the auditor's job would be to set the supervisors' pay rate should they be employed by the township.

Jim Yoder, 133 Cowpath, stated that he cannot hear anything that the board members, especially Mr. Fazio, have said all night and asked about the possibility of getting a microphone and speaker in the meeting room. Mr. Godshall stated that it had never been requested, and Mr. Yoder said to consider it officially requested. Mr. Godshall said that the board will discuss and Mr. Yoder responded that he will be back next month.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT – FRANK R. BARTLE, ESQUIRE**

No items to report.

**POLICE REPORT- CHIEF JOSEPH S. KOZENIEWSKI**

Chief Kozeniewski submitted his report. He noted a correction in that the gallons of fuel used for the month was 845 gallons. Chief Kozeniewski stated that on February 18, the township had its first homicide in 30 years. He stated that the incident was handled extremely well by all parties, including his officers, the Montgomery County detectives, and the officials from JBS.

**ZONING OFFICER REPORT-CINDY L. VANHISE, P.E.**

Ms. VanHise submitted her report. She noted that the Zoning Hearing Board scheduled this month was canceled due to snow. There is one zoning hearing schedule in April.

**HIGHWAY REPORT- PAUL R. NICE**

Mr. Nice submitted his report. He noted that we have had 45 inches of snow and ice so far this season. Mr. Godshall asked about potholes, and Mr. Nice responded that they were taking care of them. Mr. Nice stated that it has been a difficult winter causing significant wear and tear on equipment, and high diesel fuel costs.

**ENGINEERING REPORT-CINDY L. VANHISE, P.E.**

Ms. VanHise submitted her report. She stated that land development was picking up with projects such as the Rising Sun Road minor sub-division, Bergey's to planning commission, and BioPure, Paragon, Shumaker Welding, and Leidy Rd. She offered to answer any questions pertaining to these items or anything else listed in her report.

**TREASURER'S REPORT – JON A. HAMMER**

A motion was made by Mr. Nice and seconded by Mr. Barndt to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented, and to provide authorization for the Treasurer to pay all bills for the respective funds as presented on Voucher No. 15-16-03 dated March 16, 2015 in the amount of \$185,054.37. The motion carried unanimously.

**PAYROLL**

A motion was made by Mr. Nice and seconded by Mr. Kratz for the Treasurer to be authorized to pay all employees during the pay period of March 14, 2015 through April 17, 2015 according to the hours worked as listed on the Payroll Journal for the aforesaid period. The motion carried unanimously.

**LAND DEVELOPMENT**

Resolution 15-07-16-03: A Resolution granting Conditional Approval to the Gotwals Minor Subdivision/Lot Line Adjustment. Mr. Barndt made a motion to approve Resolution 15-07-16-03 and Mr. Fazio seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Franconia Township Planning Commission will hold its Regular Meeting on Monday, April 13, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Franconia Township Municipal Building, 671 Allentown Road, Telford, Pennsylvania 18969.

The next Regular Board of Supervisors meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 20, 2015 at the Franconia Township Municipal Building, 671 Allentown Road, Telford,

Pennsylvania 18969. The Board of Supervisors Work Sessions will be held on Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. and Monday, April 20, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. at the same location.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

A motion was made by Mr. Kratz and seconded by Mr. Fazio to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ami Tarburton