

Minutes of the East Rockhill Township Board of Supervisors
Work Session
Tuesday, June 10, 2008
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman David R. Nyman. Also present was Vice-Chairman John R. Cressman, Supervisor Gary W. Volovnik as well as Township Manager Anne W. Klepfer, and Solicitor John B. Rice, Esquire, Solicitor Patrick Armstrong and Engineer C. Robert Wynn, P.E., as well as members of the press and public.

Item #1. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Mr. Cressman, **seconded** by Mr. Volovnik, the May 13, 2008 Work Session Minutes were **approved 2-0**.

Item #2. Payment of Bills

On motion by Mr. Volovnik **seconded** by Mr. Cressman, to approve the Bills List totaling \$92,798.75 dated June 10, 2008. With no additional comment, **all voted in favor**.

Public Comment Period #1: There were no public comments.

Item #3. Manager's Report:

Golf & Communications Survey: Mrs. Klepfer advised the Board that she is still digesting the results of the survey. This evening she would like to focus on some of the comments and results relating to Communications.

Communications proposal: Mrs. Klepfer indicated that she is concerned with regard to the survey results that indicate that most residents have never used the Township's website and among those who have used the site the majority felt the site was only somewhat helpful. Written comments submitted also suggested that the website is difficult to navigate and in need of updating. Residents were critical of the currency of the information on the website. Mrs. Klepfer said that she requested and is still waiting for a proposal from the current website consultant to update the website in terms of navigation, design and tools and she received a proposal from the consultant who conducted the survey to create a new website. Word Works, also proposes to launch an e-newsletter that residents can sign up for to receive monthly news alerts. In addition, Mrs. Klepfer requested and received a proposal from a company called Inner Media to launch the Township's first PEG Channel, which is a community access channel on cable T.V. dedicated to East Rockhill news. Innermedia would arrange for zip code specific news ranging from weather, to traffic, to emergency notifications to be continuously updated. The Township could also post Township news and content from the

Township's website. She liked the idea of using the Peg Channel because she believes Cable T.V. is an easy means to get information and may reach more people than email or the website. She said the cost is comparative to the cost of launching a monthly e-newsletter. The Board agreed to take these options under advisement and suggested Mrs. Klepfer inquire if any neighboring Township's are interested in the PEG Channel proposal since costs savings may be available if more than one community signs up.

Trash and Recycling Survey: Mrs. Klepfer said that a few more than 100 surveys were returned. Significantly 67.7% of those residents indicate that they are not satisfied with the cost of their trash and recycling service and many feel it is very expensive. Approximately 40% of the respondents pay between \$400 and \$500 per year for trash and recycling. While 60% of respondents feel they are adequately informed about the Township's recycling requirements, 70% said they would like to see an improved curbside program. Significantly, 73.7% of respondents said they would be interested in trying a single hauler program if it would lower their annual bill. Mrs. Klepfer told the board that the consultant who performed a Feasibility Study for the Pennridge Area Coordinating Committee recommended that interested members of PACC should jointly contract for a multi-municipal trash and recycling curbside collection program. Mrs. Klepfer suggested that now might be the best opportunity to try to implement such a program and she recommended applying for a second technical assistance grant to draft bid specifications for the type of program that might work in East Rockhill Township. The Board agreed and suggested Mrs. Klepfer contact Hilltown Township to see if there is any interest in creating a multi-municipal trash and recycling district for a single-hauler contract.

County Error with Interim Tax Bills: Mrs. Klepfer reported to the Board that Tax Collector Kathleen Percetti discovered an error with the County Interim Tax Bills that affected approximately seven property owners and resulted in a loss of \$60.00 in income. The error has been corrected, but new bills will not be sent out unless so directed by the Township.

Off-site backup service proposal for computer data: The Board is not interested in pursuing this proposal at this time.

America Responds With Love: This not-for-profit organization is looking for 5-10 acres of land to lease for the growing and transplantation for sale of flowers. Bulbs no longer desired for sale to the public are donated to the organization and are planted, grown, and transplanted for sale using department of corrections labor and community service participants. The Board said they would be willing to an area near the Sewer Treatment Plant or near the walking path by the Community College and suggested Mrs. Klepfer offer a lease arrangement for one of these two properties.

Street Lighting at Schoolhouse Road and Ridge Road: Mr. Volovnik indicated that he was contacted by residents who complained that it is difficult to see Schoolhouse at night and he agrees that a street light would be appropriate in that location. Mrs. Klepfer and Mr. Funk advised that installation of a 70 watt Cobra Head styled street light would cost

approximately \$1,500. By **motion** of Mr. Volovnik and **seconded** by Mr. Cressman, the Board voted **3-0** to authorize the expenditure of approximately \$1,500 for the installation of a street light at Schoolhouse Road and Ridge Road in East Rockhill Township.

Blooming Glen Road Right-of-Way Plan per Perkasio Borough and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation: The Board reviewed a plan prepared by Transportation Planning and Design Engineers for the widening of Blooming Glen Road the addition of turning lanes at 5th Street. Engineer Bob Wynn suggested that the road widening might be able to be shifted to the shopping center side of Blooming Glen to accommodate the widening thereby lessening the impact on the East Rockhill Township residents along the eastern side of Blooming Glen Road. The Board suggested that the Township Engineer and Manager meet with Perkasio Borough to discuss possible design changes before the Board considers PennDot's request to meet with the affected property owners and intervene in the negotiations between CVS and the residents for acquisition of right-of-way.

Mercuri & Associates, Inc. 2008 Fee Schedule: By **motion** of Mr. Volovnik and **seconded** by Mr. Cressman, the Board **unanimously** accepted the 2008 Mercury & Associates Fee Schedule to be held on file for public information and for use in conjunction with the Township's 2008 Fee Schedule.

Heckler Zoning Change Request: Mrs. Klepfer confirmed receipt of the application for consideration of a Zoning Amendment Request. She confirmed the desired procedure is to have C. Robert Wynn review the ordinance, our comprehensive plan and current standards, issue the review letter and then have a staff meeting with Mr. Heckler to discuss the Ordinance and changes. A final draft would eventually get presented to the Supervisors would then need to authorize it to be submitted to the County and Township Planning Commissions for further review.

Ordinance Amendments: Mrs. Klepfer indicated that there are a number of ordinance amendments that the Board has talked about preparing but have not yet moved forward. The Board suggested that Mrs. Klepfer work with the Township's consultants to prepare the Ordinances by the end of July for review at the August Work Session.

Item #4. Public Works Report: Steve Funk reported that the oil and chip projects have been completed, he also reported the need for some significant repairs at the Sewer Treatment Plant, specifically the accommodator and some pump work. He reported that the street light at 5th Street and Campus Drive should be installed within two weeks.

Item #5. PWTA Report: John R. Cressman – No report

Item #6. Solicitor's Report:

Solid Waste Ordinance Amendment: Solicitor Rice summarized **Ordinance No. 239** Amending Ordinance No. 234 Regulating Solid Waste in the Township. The amendment was necessitated after a review of Ordinance No. 234 by the Department of Environmental Protection determined the Ordinance to not be in compliance with Act

101 of 1988 and Act 140 of 2005. A Public hearing was conducted at 8:10 but there were no public comments. By **motion** of Mr. Cressman and **seconded** by Mr. Volovnik, the Ordinance was adopted by a **vote of 3-0**.

Resolution No. 2008-12: A Resolution Authorizing the transfer of five acres to the Pennridge Regional Police Commission was adopted by **motion** of Mr. Volovnik, **seconded** by Mr. Cressman and a **vote of 3-0**.

Pennridge School District's Zoning Hearing: Solicitor Rice's office has been previously authorized to intervene at the Zoning Hearing for a variance for the proposed height of light standards at the proposed artificial turf practice field located behind the high school at 5th street. Solicitor Armstrong reviewed with the Board their concerns and their desires regarding conditions that the Zoning Hearing Board should consider imposing if they are inclined to grant the variance.

Real Estate Matters will be discussed in Executive Session at the conclusion of the Work Session.

Item #7. Engineer's Report: There was no report given.

Item #8 PACC Report – Mr. Nyman summarized recent PACC activity.

Item #9. Other Business:

Mrs. Klepfer was asked to remind PBA of their responsibility to mow their property and to remove the silt fence along Three Mile Run Road.

Public Comment Period #2 – Mrs. Jane Underkoffler of Ridge Road was present. She had hoped to hear the Board discuss the implication of the public survey regarding the status of the golf course project. She would like to stay current with the status of this project. She previously addressed the Board in November of 2007 on her feelings about the project. She also noted that flag pole area of Markey Park needs to be weeded.

Members of the press asked questions about the Yardwaste and Recycling Survey.

Item #9. Adjournment:

Mr. Cressman **moved** and Mr. Nyman **seconded** the motion to adjourn the meeting into a Real Estate Executive Session at 8:35 P.M. With no additional comment, **all voted in favor**.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne W. Klepfer
Secretary / Manager

Approved: _____