

**Minutes of the East Rockhill Township Board of Supervisors  
Work Session  
Tuesday, December 9, 2008**

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

**Item #1. Approval of Minutes:**

**On motion** by Mr. Cressman, **seconded** by Mr. Volovnik, to approve the November 11, 2008 Work Session Minutes. With no additional comment, **all voted in favor.**

**Item #2. Payment of Bills:**

**On motion** by Mr. Volovnik, **seconded** by Mr. Cressman, to approve the Bills List of December 09, 2008 totaling \$86,284.48. With no additional comment, **all voted in favor.**

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

**Item #3. Manager's Report:**

**Green Jackets**

Chris Long, President of the Green Jackets Football Association along with Joe Finlayson and Patti McVaugh were present to address the Board in regard to their proposal to develop two additional football fields and additional parking at the Township owned Willard H. Markey Centennial Park. Mr. Long thanked the Board for the opportunity and stated that they are very proud of their facility and have a good group of volunteers who take pride in taking care of the facility and its reputation.

Mr. Long stated that they currently have over 500 members and about 360 kids playing football and their membership is growing each year. They desire to expand the playing field options to offset some of the impact to the primary field. They propose two additional fields.

The Board of Supervisors stated that they are very supportive of the Green Jackets use of the Township's recreation facility but that any improvements to the park need to be done in accordance with the appropriate review process. Township Engineer Bob Wynn reviewed his Memo of December 5<sup>th</sup> regarding his review of the sketch plan provided by the Green Jackets.

The Green Jackets need to submit a stormwater management plan and application and escrow for continued review of their proposal by Mr. Wynn. They need to propose a stormwater management method for the new impervious surface they are proposing. The

contours and details for imported or excess material and stockpile areas need to be indicated. The parking lot construction specifications need to be detailed such as the depth of stone and whether or not lighting is proposed.

Mr. Wynn also questioned whether or not the additional use will create an additional need for parking or whether the proposed parking will only attempt to address the current parking shortfall. The club said that the proposed fields won't increase parking needs just redistribute it and they are willing to agree to restrictions on how many of the fields can be used at the same time. Mr. Wynn reminded them of their statement that their membership is increasing year to year. They re-iterated that their proposal is not membership driven, but a facility use/maintenance issue and the proposed additional parking should help alleviate current parking issues.

Mr. Wynn said that details such as edge treatment, landscaping, E&S need to be detailed and submitted for review, approval and verification. Mr. Wynn stated that he believes an NPDES permit is needed but if the Bucks County Conservation District issues a written review indicating that an NPDES permit is not needed, he will accept that, but it must be in writing from BCCD.

Mr. Cressman stated that he is concerned about parking and traffic flow. He asked Mr. Wynn if egress over to Schoolhouse Road is possible and if there is room for a basin? Mr. Wynn said that an underground infiltration/storage system, filled by gravity would probably work at the location. The land slopes downward and the infiltration system could be built into the hollow. Mr. Cressman asked Mr. Long if there is a car pooling program in place. Mr. Long said there is no program in place, as it is difficult when parents and spectators are coming from different locations and are balancing multiple children and their multiple activities. Mr. Long said the club is willing to be as pro-active as necessary to address the Board's concerns about parking and traffic flow and enforce reasonable restrictions in terms of coordinating field use.

Mr. Volovnik stated that he wants to see it work. However he stated emphatically that someone has to manage the facility to make sure trash, noise and parking issues don't become a public nuisance.

It was generally agreed that facility users upon exiting the park are frequently inconsiderate and don't care about anything other than exiting and that it can be chaotic. Mr. Volovnik stated that the Township cannot afford a single penny of burden from the Green Jacket use. Mr. Long responded by stating that the Green Jackets are willing to take on monetary control and leadership responsibility.

Mr. Nyman suggested that the Green Jackets proceed with having a plan professionally engineered and submitted to the Township along with a complete stormwater permit application and escrow. Mr. Wynn stated that he would be happy to meet with and work with the Green Jacket's engineer to ensure that the information he needs is provided. Mr. Nyman also suggested that the Green Jackets set up a 2-3 person committee to meet with Mrs. Klepfer and a Board of Supervisors member to clarify field use and lease issues.

**Planning Commission Applicants**

**Bert Daikeler** introduced himself to the Board. He has lived in East Rockhill Township for 10 years and has been involved in civic work for years. He served on the Montgomery Township Planning Commission, the Montgomery Township Board of Supervisors and was a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He said that he would like to get involved and be appointed to the Planning Commission but that if he is not appointed he would like to help in other ways.

**Charles G. Turley** introduced himself. He has lived in the Township for 12 years. He is a licensed professional engineer but is mostly retired. He still does consulting work for Pulte Home Builders. Mr. Turley said that he is offering his expertise to correct what he sees as communications short comings of the Board of Supervisors. He stated that he doesn't want to be involved in politics, but he has technical expertise and he's willing to offer it.

Supervisors John Cressman said that the Board views the Planning Commission as an important advisory board responsible for reviewing development plans, zoning and subdivision and land development ordinances and assisting in the Comprehensive Planning process.

**Mr. Kevin W. Kochanski** introduced himself. Mr. Kochanski has lived in the Township for 9 years. He is a planner/landscape architect for Boucher and James, Inc. Consulting Engineers. He currently serves as the Assistant Municipal Planner to Richland Township. While working on the Richland Township Comprehensive Plan he reviewed East Rockhill's Comprehensive Plan. He is familiar with the requirements of the Municipalities Planning Code and understands the role and responsibilities of a planning commission. While serving on the Planning Commission is his first preference, he is willing to help out in other areas as well.

Chairman Dave Nyman thanked all three of the candidates and commented that East Rockhill Township is very fortunate to have three qualified candidates all interested in serving their community. He said that the Board will be in touch before the end of the year and expects to make an appointment at the annual organization meeting.

**2009 Budget** – Mrs. Klepfer advised the Board that the twenty day public comment period is over the next day and that so far she has not received any public comments on the draft budget. Mr. Nyman suggested that in addition to the proposed \$10 sewer rental rate increase for residential customers in 2009 he would like to raise the non-residential rate \$5.00, noting that it increased by \$5.00 in 2008 as well. Mr. Cressman and Mr. Volovnik were in agreement. Mrs. Klepfer said that she will apply those increases to the 2009 Fee Schedule Resolution for their considerations in January. The 2009 Residential Sewer Rate will be \$95.00 per quarter and the Non-residential Rate will be \$105.00 per quarter. Mr. Nyman also indicated that he feels that given the state of the economy and the impact it is having on the township and residents alike that he feels it is important to

strike the right balance between maintaining enough cash reserves to operate safely and minimizing the tax increase to residents. He proposed limiting the proposed tax increase to 0.95 mill and offsetting the difference in revenue with cash reserves. Mr. Volovnik and Mr. Cressman agreed that neither of them like to raise taxes, but that this coming year it appears to be necessary. Mr. Volovnik challenged the Board to find other methods of generating revenue, and indicated that he is fearful that they are going to be faced with the same dilemma in years to come. They agreed to limit the tax increase to 0.95 mill and directed Mrs. Klepfer to prepare the final budget resolution and tax rate resolution accordingly for their consideration at the Regular Meeting next week.

**Resolution No. 2008-17:** A Resolution Supporting the Highlands Conservation Act and Protection of the Highlands Region in Pennsylvania. By **motion** of Mr. Cressman and **second** by Mr. Volovnik, the Board adopted Resolution No. 2008-17 by a vote of **3-0**.

**Resolution No. 2008-18:** A Resolution for Compliance with the Pennsylvania Right-to-Know Act effective January 1, 2009 and naming the Township Manager as the Open Records Officer for East Rockhill Township. By **motion** of Mr. Volovnik and **second** by Mr. Cressman, the Board adopted Resolution No. 2008-18 by a vote of **3-0**.

**Item #4. Public Works Report:** Steve Funk said that he and his crew completed the fall leaf collection. He estimated that they collected over 700 yards, approximately 55 truck loads of leaves. The program was extended longer than anticipated because leaves had not completely fallen from the trees. He believes most of the residents were very grateful for the service. The Board congratulated him on a good job.

**Item #5. PWTA Report:** Mr. Cressman reviewed the minutes from the November meeting but had nothing specific to discuss.

**Item #6. Solicitor's Report:** John Rice, Esq.  
There are no business items on the Solicitor's Report. Mr. Rice indicated that he is still working with the Solicitor for PBA on an agreement for the Cedar View Water Extension Project and that the DVHIT Ordinance and Agreement are advertised for adoption at the Regular Meeting. His office is also preparing the Tax Anticipation Note Resolution and paper work for the Regular Meeting.

**Item #7. Engineer's Report:** C. Robert Wynn, P.E.  
The Board discussed the need to review the Blooming Glen Road traffic pattern a little earlier than the March anniversary date due to the planned road improvements that the Bucks County Community College will soon be making as part of their expansion project. The Board directed Mrs. Klepfer to put a notice up on the website that they will be reviewing the issue at their January 5<sup>th</sup> Work Session following the Organization Meeting.

Mr. Wynn indicated he will have a couple of vouchers for the Regular Meeting and the Township is waiting for two extensions for review of subdivision applications.

**Item #8. Other Business:** Chairman Nyman announced that an Executive Session for Real Estate was conducted on Monday, November 24, 2008, and that an Executive Session for Personnel and Real Estate will be conducted at the end of this meeting.

Mr. Nyman stated that while the four-way stop at Callowhill Road and Branch Road has improved the safety of the intersection and reduced the complaints, he does not think it is a long term solution. Since the Township received a contribution for the purpose of traffic improvements to that intersection and since it is likely that additional “public works” dollars may be part of the economic stimulus package of the next President, he would like the Township to ask Perkasio Borough if they are interested in moving forward with a design for a more permanent traffic management system for that intersection. Mrs. Klepfer will communicate with the Perkasio Borough Manager.

Mrs. Klepfer asked for direction regarding the Hough Associates proposals for 2008 Recycling Grant preparation. Mr. Nyman suggested that the proposal be clarified as to whether it is a proposal for a single application or a joint application. He suggested Mrs. Klepfer speak with Hilltown Township and Dublin Borough about their plans for this service.

*Public Comment Period #2* – None

**Item #9. Adjournment:**

**On motion** by Mr. Volovnik, **seconded** by Mr. Cressman, the Board adjourned at 8:55 PM into Executive Session to discuss personnel and real estate. With no additional comment, **all voted in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne W. Klepfer  
Secretary / Manager

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_