

Minutes of the East Rockhill Township Board of Supervisors
Work Session
Tuesday, April 13, 2010
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman John Cressman at the Township Office, 1622 N. Ridge Road, Perkasie PA 18944. In attendance were Board of Supervisors Chairman John R. Cressman, Vice-Chairman Gary W. Volovnik and Supervisor James C. Nietupski. Also present were Solicitor John B. Rice, Esq., Township Engineer C. Robert Wynn, P.E., Township Manager Anne W. Klepfer and Public Works Director Jeffrey Scholl. Members of the press and public were also present.

Item #1. Approval of Minutes

On motion by Mr. Volovnik, **seconded** by Mr. Nietupski, the Work Session Minutes of March 9, 2010 were approved 3-0.

Item #2. Payment of Bills

On motion by Mr. Nietupski **seconded** by Mr. Volovnik, the Board **voted 3-0** to approve the Bills List totaling \$35,369.26 dated April 9, 2010.

Public Comment Period #1

David Nyman of Schwenkmill Road observed construction activity on the proposed Police Headquarters property and asked if West Rockhill Township is paying 100% of the cost of improvements that are required for West Rockhill Township to take title to the police headquarters property. The answer was yes.

Mr. Nyman shared his public comments, thoughts and suggestions regarding the proposed economic development committee. He thinks the committee adds an unnecessary level of government and is “placing the cart before the horse.” He stated that the proposed composition of the committee and scope and authority of it is a slap in the face to existing committees and volunteers. He believes that outside business interests will have personal agendas and he believes it would be more productive for the Township to partner with the County Economic Development initiative. He agreed to submit his comments in written form to the Township Manager.

Mr. Dan Ball of 2057 Buck Run Road was present to discuss the Township’s Economic Development initiative. Mr. Ball believes the upper end commercial district along Route 313 should be expanded and public utilities extended for economic development.

Item #3. Manager’s Report:

2009 Year End Audit Reports & First Quarter Performance: Mrs. Klepfer gave a brief report confirming that the Township ended 2009 in a -\$439,100 deficit for all Funds. General Fund ended the year \$-207,725 in the red. The primary reason is the sharp decline in tax revenue and building activity. Real Estate Transfer Tax, Local Services Tax and Earned Income Tax revenue levels all declined in 2009. Mrs. Klepfer said her analysis of First Quarter 2010 performance indicates that revenues are slightly above levels from First Quarter 2009 and that expenditures are fairly level. However, it is too early to know whether or not the Township will meet its revenue projections or experience additional decline.

Mowing Bids for 2010-2011: Mr. Nietupski **moved** to award a two year contract for specified mowing to Puppy Dog Landscape for an estimated \$9,875 per year contract subject to execution of an Agreement and conditioned upon satisfaction of the terms and conditions contained in the information to bidders. The motion was **seconded** by Mr. Volovnik and **approved 3-0**.

Act 32 Tax Committee: Mrs. Klepfer presented a draft Resolution authorizing and supporting a grant application from the Bucks County Act 32 Tax Committee to apply for a \$5,000 grant to offset the costs to member municipalities funding their budget. Mrs. Klepfer also shared with the Board the Tax Commission's Budget and the first invoice East Rockhill Township has received in the amount of \$622.50. This is an unbudgeted expense because the Committee had not yet formed at the time the budget was prepared and it was not clear what the Township's expense would be. The Resolution and the Invoice were tabled until the Regular Meeting of April 20, 2010.

Conservation District Agreement: Per the recommendation of Township Engineer C. Robert Wynn, this item was tabled.

PP&L Right-of-way Agreement: By **motion** of Mr. Volovnik and **second** by Mr. Nietupski, the Board of Supervisors **voted 3-0** to authorize the Township Manager to execute a Right-of-way Agreement with PP&L to provide them access to extend utilities to the cell phone tower on the Waste Water Treatment Plant property on Branch Road.

Engineering Services Agreement: The Board took no action on the proposed Master Services Agreement from Gannett Fleming and directed Mrs. Klepfer to move forward with the Pump Station design project pursuant to the Gannett Fleming Proposal they accepted.

Indian Valley Appraisal Company Proposal: By **motion** of Mr. Nietupski and **second** by Mr. Volovnik, the Board of Supervisors **voted 3-0** to ratify the proposal for professional services to provide an appraisal for a conservation easement at the cost of \$3,200.00.

Item #4. Public Works Report: Jeffrey Scholl, Public Works Director

Mr. Scholl reviewed repairs completed at the Sewer Treatment Plant. He reported that the Driving Range Opened April 12, 2010 and that the Township's Toro 455 mower

broke down and is in the process of being repaired. The Public Works Department will be starting repairs to foot bridges at Willard Markey Park and Covered Bridge Foot Bridge. He reviewed repairs made to the 1802 Rental Property that included a new hot water heater, drains in the bathroom fixed, leaking faucet replaced and septic tank pumped. He will undertake replacing a toilet and the dishwasher in the future. Mr. Scholl also reviewed storm damage from the March 14th storm, pot hole repairs, relocation of stockpiles and changing the equipment over from winter to summer. He and the Township Manager will work together to develop a priority list for 2010 projects.

Item #5. Solicitor's Report: John B. Rice, Esquire

Headquarters Land Agreement: Solicitor Rice stated that the agreement isn't quite ready yet. West Rockhill Township is still reviewing it and will propose some changes to it. This item was tabled until the Regular Meeting on April 20, 2010. Mr. Nietupski shared his comments with Mr. Rice, asking him to correct the numbering and clarifying that the Police Commission will pay for operating expenses.

Item #6. Engineer's Report: C. Robert Wynn, P.E. – No Report

Item #7. Other Business: None

Public Comment Period #2

Mr. Nyman of Schwenkmill Road asked that if the Township replaces the road signs for Schwenkmill Road that they be changed to "West Schwenkmill Road" consistent with the postal designation that was added some years back to differentiate Schwenkmill Road in East Rockhill Township with Schwenkmill Road in Hilltown Township. Mr. Nyman also suggested that the Township write letters to Senator Mensch and Representative Clymer voicing their concerns about Act 32.

Mr. Dan Ball suggested the Township look to the Federal Surplus purchasing program for a new bridge for Rockhill Road.

Item #9. Adjournment:

The next Work Session will be May 11, 2010 at 7:00 PM. Mr. Volovnik **moved** and Mr. Nietupski **seconded** the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 P.M and called an Executive Session to discuss the Real Estate matter. With no additional comment, **all voted in favor**.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne W. Klepfer
Secretary / Manager

Approved: _____