

**Halifax Township
Board of Supervisors
Monthly Business Meeting
February 9, 2009**

Call To Order: Chairman Shearer called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Roll Call: Supervisors Shearer, Ruff, Eppley, Hoover and Shultz were present. Roadmaster Dale Shoop, Secretary/Treasurer David Hoover, K&W Engineer Tom Wilson and Solicitor Steve Dzurani were also present.

Citizens taping the meeting are Dan Shearer and Carolyn Nye.

Public Comment Period:

- A. Gary Shultz: Asked for everyone's cooperation in community actions. He asked if we wish to do business by harassment and other similar tactics.
- B. Florence McGuire: Stated that Eileen Snyder collected 559 signatures to establish a library. She asked for HARA financial statements. She also asked if March 10, 2009 was available for the meeting room.
- C. Bob Burrell: Asked to be on the March agenda to discuss Fellowship Drive. He gave the Solicitor documents for review.
- D. Donna Rode: Said we enjoy free speech and it's a free country. She said the citizens of Halifax Township are angry with the board's actions.
- E. Bob Artman: Said he was hoping there would be investments made with some of the funds from the checking account. He asked if expense categories could be identified on the bills to be approved and for fixed assets to be included on the balance sheet.
- F. Deb Lebo: Said she is interested in what goes on in the township. She wonders why there wasn't more communication with decisions that have been made and asked the Supervisors to keep the citizens involved.
- G. Flo Mallonee: Asked that the public be given the opportunity to voice their opinion before the board makes decisions.
- H. Jerry Kissinger: He doesn't understand why questions aren't answered during the public comment period. He was unhappy that it took so long for him to get a response to the letter he wrote to the Supervisors and wondered if the response was a group effort.
- I. Colleen Smith: Asked if there would be information on the building permit issue. She also asked if Linda Ruff would be staying overnight at the PSATS convention at the cost of the citizens. She also voiced disapproval with moving the office.

Secretary/Treasurers Report

The paid interim bills and unpaid current bills were presented for approval. Carol Eppley moved to approve the bills as presented. Linda Ruff seconded the motion and the motion carried with all in favor except Ken Hoover who was opposed. Ken Hoover asked if the two street signs were the office signs at the Township Office.

The January 5 Reorganization Meeting, the January 12 Business Meeting and the January 12 Act 537 Planning Meeting minutes were presented for approval. Gary Shultz moved to approve all minutes as presented. Carol Eppley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

The January Financial Reports were presented and accepted.

Planning Commission

- A. The Planning Commission Report was deferred to the Engineers Report.
- B. Commissioners office keys – Keys to the back office will be issued upon request as the members feel they need access. Linda Ruff motioned to approve the key issuance. Carol Eppley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Engineers Report

The Engineer's Report dated February 5, 2009 was reviewed with the following actions being taken;

Harman Stove Company Land Development Plan – Currently there is \$158031.50 of financial security being held. It is recommended that \$ 140651.50 be released and \$17380.00 continues to be retained. Linda Ruff motioned to approve the recommendation. Carol Eppley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

River Ridge Mobile Home Park – A time extension request was presented and recommended for approval. Carol Eppley motioned to approve the recommendation. Ken Hoover seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

See the attached Report for the remainder of K&W Engineers information.

Solicitors Report

The Solicitor's Report dated February 5, 2009 was reviewed with the following actions being taken;

Solicitor Dzurainin updated the Donco Construction/Lenker item to include that a letter was received from Donco's Attorney to request a meeting.

Solicitor Dzurainin explained in detail his research into the Township building permit fees and structure. He believes further factual matters must be investigated before he can properly advise the Township on whether they violated the fee structure. He suggested sending the Home Builders Assn a letter and expressing that it is the Board's sincere wish to cooperate and hopes to resolve the matter short of litigation. Linda Ruff motioned to approve a letter being sent to the Home Builders Assn express the sentiments that Solicitor Dzurainin just outlined. Carol Eppley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

See the attached Report for the remainder of the Solicitors information.

Roadmasters Report

Dale Shoop reported that Penn Dot sent a letter asking if the Township wishes to install ADA curbing at the time of paving of N River Rd. The cost to the Township would be approximately \$20,000. The two streets affected are Green and Boyer. The ADA curbing is optional. The board chose not to have the ADA curbing installed.

Dale said a resident has requested a street light at Sycamore and S. River Road be removed. The medical center wishes the light to remain. Ken Hoover motioned to keep the street light in place. Carol Eppley seconded the motion and the motion carried with all in favor except Linda Ruff who was opposed. Gary Shultz asked about similar future requests and what the Township policy is on the issue. Discussion ensued. Linda Ruff suggested considering not having individuals pay for street lights. Discussion continued. Linda Ruff asked that the topic be put on the March Agenda for further consideration. A written policy will be developed at some time over the next several months.

SEO Report

No Report.

Old Business

HARA Budget Request: HARA has requested \$37004 from the Township in its 2009 budget. The Township has budgeted \$28500. Gary Shultz suggested increasing the amount on a matching funds basis. Linda Ruff suggested tabling the issue until Tracy Cox can report back to the Township at the March meeting.

Gypsy Moth Spraying: Norma Shearer recommended the Township pay the entire cost of the spraying and not invoice the residents who receive the spraying. Carol Eppley motioned to approve the recommendation to not invoice the residents. Gary Shultz seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

UDITO: The Advisory Board discovered that UDITO has overpaid municipalities which need to be paid back. There also will be a special distribution which will offset most of the overpayment. The balance is to be deducted from the February EIT check that the Township receives. Norma Shearer recommended the per capita delinquent taxes be collected by JP Harris rather than UDITO for various reasons. Ken Hoover motioned to have JP Harris collect the per capita delinquent taxes. Carol Eppley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Norma Shearer will advise the UDITO.

Fort Halifax Park Use: Salyn Stover of DCNR told Norma Shearer the Township is responsible for safety issues for use of the Park. Norma Shearer doesn't feel the park is ready for use because safety issues have not been identified and addressed. The property can no longer be farmed according to Salyn Stover of DCNR. Grasses can be planted. Discussion ensued. David Kieffer will be informed that he can no longer farm the property. Melinda Warfel suggested a farmer be contacted to see what grasses or techniques could be used. Larson Design Group has been selected as the Master Site Plan consultants.

Planning- Act 537 Meeting: Norma Shearer suggested Rudi Erb of Twin Valley Conservation Assn be requested to attend the March 24 Act 537 meeting as a guest speaker not a panelist. Bob Artman added that the Twin Valley Conservation Assn has done a watershed comprehensive plan. Linda Ruff voiced concern over the length of the meeting. The Board discussed pros and cons of having her as a guest speaker. The Board decided not to include her as a speaker.

Donna Rode: Donna requested that the Agenda be posted to the website earlier. The agenda will be posted by the end of the day on the Thursday before the meeting. She applauds the Boards decision not to charge residents for the gypsy moth spraying. She also asked who decides the spray areas. The Boards reply was that residents request and Dauphin County decides. Donna Rode then deferred additional agenda items to Carolyn Nye, Flo Mallonne and Melinda Warfel.

Carolyn Nye: Carolyn said that one building permit application was over \$13,000 and there were others that were substantial. She hopes that future charges will be set at reasonable rates. Carolyn was reminded by Chairman Shearer that she is not a Halifax Township resident.

Flo Mallonee – she thanked the Board for the decision not to charge the residents for the Gypsy Moth spraying. She also feels the building permit fees are unfair. Discussion ensued.

Melinda Warfel - Melinda commented that she thinks the Act 537 newsletter was a great decision. She respected Norma's comments at the Act 537 planning meeting about deferral of public comment however the meeting ended early and there would have been time for the citizens to comment. Melinda also said that the information Justin Kuhn from K&W Engineers provided is not accurate in regard to other municipality's Act 537 actions. Melinda was told that Justin got the information from the DEP website. Norma Shearer responded to Melinda's comments by saying that it was a planning meeting only. Melinda then brought up questions about binding and nonbinding referendums. She asked if it was possible in PA to have binding referendums. Solicitor Dzurain said he wasn't sure either.

Florence McGuire: Florence voiced her concerns over traffic speed and children playing at on Rutter Rd and Route 225. She asked to have Children at Play signs posted. Dale Shoop was asked to install two signs. Florence also asked when the Park electric service changes were going to be made. Dale said he is waiting on Dave Biting to do the installation. Discussion ensued about the timing of the installation. Linda Ruff will call Dave Biting and get a date.

Todd Etzweiler: Todd said he is opposed to giving HARA the additional requested money. He suggested HARA sell the "North Park" if they can't afford to operate it. Florence McGuire said she would attend the next HARA meeting. Todd voiced concern over the Fire Company contract with the Township. Todd noted that the contract to collect fire taxes expired 12/31/06. Todd cited various items in the contract that the Fire Company has not abided by. Discussion ensued. The subject was tabled for research and will be reported on next month. Linda Ruff motioned to authorize Solicitor Dzurain to research the matter. Carol Eppley seconded and the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Appalachian Trail Act 24 Workshop: Municipalities are invited to attend a workshop to take action to preserve the Trail. The meeting is at the Wayne Township Building on 2/18/09 at 6:00 pm. The email address is www.apptrailpa.org.

PSATS Convention: Lodging for Norma Shearer and Linda Ruff was requested for the entire convention. She explained that to get the full benefit of the Convention one should be there early and stays late, therefore lodging is beneficial. Norma Shearer motioned to approve the request. Carol Eppley seconded the motion. Before voting Gary Shultz asked for a cost comparison between staying and commuting. Discussion ensued. The vote was taken on the duly seconded motion and was unanimous.

UD Human Services: UD Human services requested a donation. Gary Shultz motioned to donate \$250. Carol Eppley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Tax Collector Compensation: The Tax Collector is currently being paid \$2 per bill for Real Estate tax and 25 cents per bill for Per Capita tax. Linda Ruff motioned to leave the rates unchanged. Ken Hoover seconded the motion. Melinda Warfel shared the amount that can be paid according to PSATS and what she has been paid since 2002. Discussion ensued. The motion was then voted upon and approved with Gary Shultz and Ken Hoover opposed.

Ken Hoover asked if the Township Office is required to have a handicap parking space and entrance. David Hoover said a ramp has been installed and the parking space will be designated in the future.

Adjournment

Linda Ruff motioned to adjourn at 9:25 PM. Carol Eppley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

David W Hoover
Secretary