

**HALIFAX TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING
JULY 11, 2011**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Bechtel called the meeting to order followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Supervisors Bechtel, Shultz, Stopfel, Eppley and Hoover are present. Roadmaster Corey Stazewski, Solicitor Bruce Warshawsky, Engineer Tom Wilson and Secretary/Treasurer Carolyn Nye are present.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES: Chairman Bechtel presented a certificate to Darren Mauser in appreciation for the benches he helped to build for the Ft. Halifax Park. Christopher Maichle is not present tonight to receive his certificate for his participation in building the new park picnic tables.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: **Ellyn Zaia** defers her comments to later on the agenda. **Lori Mauser** presented complaints regarding ruts on Shamos School Road, potholes and washed out area on Sycamore Avenue, bamboo trees hanging over the road at the Bitting property and the high grass at the vacant house in Triangle Manor up the street from Norma Shearer. She asked about the hiring process for the new Roadmaster and the Chairman explained the process that took place. Lori commented about the Township providing money to HARA and why not put money into the houses at the park and then rent them for income. She commented about the Secretary doing grants for the township. **Flo Mallonee** commented about renting the houses out at the park and cautioned the Board based on the experience they had with the one previous tenant who ended up costing the Township money. **Jerry Kissinger** commented about the need for mowing at the park and asks when are the trees to be planted at the park. Chairman Bechtel stated mowing has been started and some of the brush has been cleared out and now waiting for the removal of the trees. Supervisor Stopfel stated she asked for an extension of the grant for the sycamore trees and after the pin oak trees are removed the stumps will have to ground down and a fall planting is anticipated for the sycamore trees.

SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT: Paid Interim Bills – Supervisor Hoover made a motion to approve the paid interim bills, seconded by Supervisor Shultz, vote called, motion carried 5-0.

Current Unpaid Bills – Supervisor Hoover made a motion to approve the current bills, seconded by Supervisor Shultz, vote called, motion carried 5-0.

Minutes of June 13 and June 14, 2011 – Supervisor Hoover made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Supervisor Shultz, vote called, motion carried 5-0.

Financial Report – No comments.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT: Fred Ford read his report on the Planning Commission Meeting July 6.

ENGINEER REPORT: Tom Wilson read his report. Bruce and Tom Wilson went over with Dane Harman what is being required of him pertaining to his plan. That is complying with the

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Conservation District's requirement and the As-Built plan to be submitted to the township along with a letter requesting full release of financial security based on the revised plan.

SOLICITOR REPORT: Bruce Warshawsky proceeded with his report.

Matamoras Plan - Bruce and Tom Wilson met with Mr. Jorich and his counsel. Back in December 2009 there was a letter from DCCD and some changes to stormwater management that were required to comply with the NPDES permit. These changes although communicated to Mr. Dzurinan do not appear to have been communicated to Tom Wilson for his review. Therefore, the township file needs to be accessed to review this document.

Harn's bankruptcy case has been dismissed. This means that the judgment which the township obtained, which as of the date of the bankruptcy totaling \$11,177.30, is now back on track to be collected. The Solicitor suggests that the writs of execution should be recalculated and reissued now. **Motion** – Supervisor Shultz made a motion to proceed with the Writ of Execution, seconded by Supervisor Hoover, vote called, motion carried 5-0.

Masser Property Complaint – the building will be taken down in 60 days. Solicitor suggests that Dale provide a report regarding the vegetation so the Board knows the status of this issue and if action needs to be taken, it can be done at the August meeting.

Bistline Enforcement Action – After some discussion Supervisor Stopfel suggested a last call be made to Mike. Chairman Bechtel stated he will call Mike about the outstanding bills.

Manning - The Mannings did receive a discharge in bankruptcy. Because they have a lawsuit pending, the trustee in bankruptcy is pursuing that lawsuit and if in fact they do recover, the Township as a creditor may be able to recover all or a pro-rata share,

Attorney Fee Ordinance – Modification has been made as a resolution and will be back for adoption next month.

Issue raised at Planning Commission Meeting: This issue has to do with ensuring compliance with the stormwater provisions of the SALDO where less than 1,000 sq. feet of impervious coverage is being added. No matter how much impervious coverage is added there are certain things which an individual has to provide to ensure compliance with new stormwater regulations which are mandated by Act 167 which was adopted in December 2010. The problem with the current building permit application is that there is nothing on it that suggest the applicant understands their obligation regarding stormwater and that they are complying with the regulations. The Board agreed for the Solicitor and the Engineer to move forward with the building permit application process.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Chairman Bechtel announced there was an executive session held June 28 from 7:10 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. regarding the Lenker Agreement.

ROADMASTER REPORT: Fellowship Drive Paving – Corey suggested the Township continue with the plan to pave Fellowship Drive since word from the Water Authority came in to inform the Township that they changed their mind about putting in pipes along Fellowship Drive. Fred Ford

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Chairman of the Sewer and Water Authority confirmed this. **Motion** – Supervisor Hoover made a motion to advertise for the milling of the approach and the paving on Fellowship Drive, seconded by Supervisor Shultz, vote called, motion carried 5-0.

Third and Maple Water Issue - This will be addressed and worked on as soon as possible.

Galli Road Property Issue – Trees are causing problem with drainage issue which are located in easement area. The Solicitor will review the easement to see if the homeowners are responsible for removal of the trees.

Pickup Truck Prices – Corey stated he solicited for quotes from various dealers who participate under the Co-Stars Program and received four. **Motion** – Supervisor Shultz made a motion to authorize the Roadmaster to purchase the 2012 Ford Truck for \$43,000.00 from New Holland Ford per the quote they supplied, seconded by Supervisor Stopfel, vote called, motion carried 5-0.

Volunteer Workers – Liability Status – Corey had a conversation with Tom Troutman regarding liability coverage and Tom suggested the Township have a policy in place for volunteers regarding qualification for operating equipment, limits etc. Corey will contact PSATS to see if they have a sample policy. Chairman Bechtel and Supervisor Shultz will be on the sub-committee and consult with Tom Troutman for any information.

ADMINISTRATIVE: No discussion.

SEO REPORT: No discussion.

OLD BUSINESS: Employee Use of Township Truck – Chairman Bechtel stated he received a publication from a certified public accountant. He read the definition of a qualified nonpersonal-use vehicle and it states as follows: “These are vehicles that by their nature are not likely to be used more than a minimal amount for personal purposes. They include trucks and vans that have been specially modified so that they are not likely to be used more than a minimal amount for personal purposes, such as by installation of permanent shelving and painting the vehicle to display advertising or the company’s name. Delivery trucks with seating only for a driver, or only for the driver plus a folding jump seat, are qualified nonpersonal-use vehicles”. The Solicitor suggested a No Personal Use Policy be put in place. It was agreed by the Board to have the Township Name put on all the Township trucks. Corey was instructed to get prices for putting the township name on the trucks.

Gas Reimbursement – Motion – Supervisor Stopfel made a motion to reimburse Raymond Maus at the current IRS rate, seconded by Supervisor Hoover, vote called, motion carried 5-0.

Grant Policy – Supervisor Stopfel contacted other townships and PSATS regarding this issue. She opposes a policy and stated if the township uses hired grant writers, the township can ask for any stipulation and if using volunteers it is important to share information. Her concern related to her experience a number of years ago pertaining to a heritage grant for \$250,000.00 whereby the grant was lost due to some undermining that took place in the community and due to this incident it took much longer to pay off the park. She feels that if the Board has to wait until a public meeting to approve the grant, it would deter the process due to time frames. She would suggest emailing the

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information to the Board in the interim. Flo Mallonee was called on and she made comments on the advantage of having a policy and brought up about some past practices by the Board which resulted in the lack of communication and openness on the grants Supervisor Hoover stated he will never sign for any matching funds on any grant. Chairman Bechtel stated in the interim the Board members should be contacted and given the pertinent information and at least a majority of the Board should give consent to move forward with the grant and this would not have to wait until a public meeting. The Solicitor stated this would have to be sunshined at a public meeting. Chairman Bechtel called the question of all those in favor of the grant policy as originally written give your consent by saying aye, Supervisor Hoover aye, Chairman Bechtel abstained, Supervisor Stopfel and Eppley nay, motion did not carry. **Motion** – Supervisor Eppley made a motion for the last sentence of the grant policy to read - at least a majority of the Board shall give consent via email or phone whether or not to pursue the grant and this concurrence would be sunshined at the following Board meeting, seconded by Supervisor Shultz, vote called, Supervisor Hoover voted nay, motion carried 4-1.

1994 Pickup – Motion – Supervisor Stopfel made a motion to advertise the truck, plow and cinder spreader for the 1994 pickup, seconded by Supervisor Eppley, vote called, motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS: Scheduling of Executive Session – Executive session is scheduled for July 19 at 7 p.m. The executive session with Mr. Lenker will start at 7 p.m. followed with a separate executive session attended by only the Board.

Ellyn Zaia – Township issues – Ellyn raised issue about the blind curves on Lehman Road and asks if the Township would put up speed signs of 20 mph. Ellyn also asked if some consideration could be given by not mowing some of the flowers on the bank. Corey will check the posted signs along this road and check to see if there is a record that indicates where the signs were to be placed. Chairman Bechtel suggested Ellyn submit a letter regarding her concern about speeders on Lehman Road and then the Township will submit this to the State Police. Brad Bruner stated a State Police car travels on Lehman Road every day. Ellyn agreed to submit her letter of concern regarding speeding traffic.

Reimbursement to Roadmaster for Insurance – The Board agreed that Corey's check will be for \$5,000 gross.

Grant Application – This has to do with correspondence from Alice Trowbridge from Larson Design regarding grants that may be of interest to the Township and they are as follows: 1. Daughters of the American Revolution, 2. Pa. Historic Museum Commission which is tourism funding for interpretive sign, northern entrance/5 parking stalls off 147 for Sycamore Alee interpretation, funding for archaeological survey/Phase 1, and potential funding for barn restoration. 3. County Gaming Funds for material for fish habitat structures and northern entrance off 147, parking lot, match for Treevitalize trees, wildflower seeding, warm grass seeding of meadow. A letter of intent is required by August 1 for gaming grants. 4. County Treevitalize for trees. Per Alice these grants can be used as a match for DCNR funds. The DCNR grants are due in April and require a letter of commitment from other funding sources before application to DCNR. Everything has to be tied together with the TAP application being approved and knowing what the project is going to cost. Supervisor Stopfel stated Carl Dickson is strongly urging Halifax Township to request \$250,000.00 from the County. Chairman Bechtel asked for what purpose is the \$250,000.00 to be used. Supervisor Stopfel understands County money can be used as matching money for DCNR money. Chairman Bechtel asks for clarification on the source of the \$250,000.00 whether it is from the County itself or specifically from gaming money. Supervisor Stopfel will check to get more information on the specifics of the \$250,000.00 by

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contacting Carl Dickson and will gather information on the other grants pertaining to deadlines etc. and present this at the next Board meeting. Fred Ford asks to address what happens if these grant monies do not materialize. Supervisor Stopfel stated the Township in the past got \$1,000,000.00 for the park and she has since put in a request for \$5,000,000.00 thru Sue Helm.

Stewart Nuisance Complaint – Motion – Supervisor Stopfel made a motion to send a nuisance letter to the Stewarts on Dunkle School Road for violation of high grass and garbage, seconded by Supervisor Eppley, vote called, motion carried 5-0.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: Resolution for Attorney Fees, Harman Stove Plan, Jorich – Matamoras Plan, Masser-Smeltz Nuisance, Galli Road – Trees and Vehicle Use Policy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ft. Halifax Music Fest July 16, 5 p.m. – 10 p.m.
Planning Commission Meeting August 1 at 7 p.m.
Township Meeting August 8 at 7 p.m.
Planning Commission Workshop July 18 at 7 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Supervisor Hoover made a motion to adjourn at 9:57 p.m., seconded by Supervisor Shultz, vote called, motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Carolyn Nye
Secretary