

**Halifax Township**  
**Board of Supervisors**  
**Monthly Business Meeting**  
**January 11, 2010**

**Call to Order:** Chairman Bechtel called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Roll Call:** Supervisors Bechtel, Stopfel, Eppley and Shultz were present. Supervisor Ken Hoover was absent. K&W Engineer Tom Wilson, Solicitor Bruce Warshawsky, Roadmaster Dale Shoop and Secretary Shanemarie Ferguson were also present.

Chairman Bechtel announced that an executive session was held earlier in the evening, from 6:04 PM to 6:50 PM to discuss personnel and litigation matters. Furthermore he noted that the session included outside Council, as well as the township's Engineer and Roadmaster.

Citizen audio taping the meeting was Carolyn Nye.  
Citizen video taping the meeting was Donna Rode.

**Public Comment Period:**

- A. **Flo Mallonee:** Welcomed everyone to the start of a new year and expressed her desire for the board and its citizens to come together as a united front in addressing township issues. She also expressed the need for the board to be more forthcoming in their communications surrounding issues of interest to the township such that the citizens are both informed and given the opportunity to provide input prior to the board taking actions on items that could potentially impact the community and its residents. Noting the amount of time required to be put forth by the BOS members to adequately address the varying township issues, Flo recommended that the BOS utilize the expertise of its residents and give consideration to their appointment to committees and meetings related to their areas of expertise so as to be useful to the township and to lessen the burden on the BOS. Flo also inquired as to why the township phone line no longer accepts blocked calls. Solicitor Warshawsky indicated that the BOS is not required to respond to items addressed during the public comment period, but nonetheless, may elect to do so. The BOS indicated that they were unaware of any changes to the township line and stated that no official action had been taken to reject blocked calls. Dale Shoop noted that the township line was still ringing out at Hoover Financial Services as well as at the Municipal Building location and that

- perhaps after the HFS line is disconnected the issue will be resolved. Finally, in light of the agenda addressing charitable contributions, Flo recommended that the board also consider making a donation to Halifax Area Volunteer Home Care in support of its efforts, as done in the past.
- B. Larry Michaels:** Stated that he had confronted the township two years ago with the drainage issues at Witmer Manor and Williams Street and was told that the township would be installing culverts and drainage pipes. He asked the board to give indication as to whether this project had been tabled or rescinded altogether. Moreover, he noted that the drainage problem was causing his foundation to crumble and that if culverts were not going to be installed he would have to pump the excess water out onto the road which would likely cause his neighbor's sand mound to fail. Tom Wilson of K&W Engineer stated that the project was rescinded after receiving complaint from Mr. Steve Sipe who lived down-stream. Mr. Sipe, who was present, responded noting that at the time the project was being initiated, he had the following concerns: (1) the nature of work to be done and the purpose for it as he had not been properly informed, (2) the potential to increase the volume of water coming down on to his own property without knowing where it would go and (3) the potential to exacerbate the smell of sewage as was the case when there were heavy amounts of rain. However, he noted that he made no formal complaint and stated that it was his understanding that the project was tabled because the excess water was viewed as having come from Lenker property and as such would be resolving a Lenker problem with township money, which the township did not want to do. Tom Wilson then indicated that Mr. Michaels had in fact submitted a report prepared by his own engineer and that there would not be a change in water volume to Mr. Sipe's down-stream location, noting that Mr. Michaels' property as situated only delayed it. Chairman Bechtel noted the problem was supposed to have been resolved previously and asked Tom Wilson to address it formally later in the meeting when he provides his Engineer's report.
  - C. Fred Ford:** Deferred his comments until the presentation of the Planning Commission Report
  - D. Donna Rode:** Declined to comment
  - E. Scott Corsnitz:** Thanked Ken Bechtel for running for Supervisor and congratulated him on being elected Chairman. He also welcomed the return of Solicitor Warshawsky and noted that Carolyn Nye would soon be returned to her former position with the township. He then criticized the efforts of Linda Stopfel noting that he felt she engaged only in self-serving endeavors that were costly to the township. In addition, he critiqued the use of land at Ft. Halifax Park stating that prime farming property had been done away with as a result of this purchase. Scott then went on to suggest improprieties had gone on between Linda Stopfel and Mr. Manning, the park tenant. Lastly, he stated that Linda had sent a former board member to have Ken Bechtel disqualified for residing in Jackson Township. Linda Stopfel noted that she had never been disrespectful to Scott and didn't appreciate the lack of respect that he was showing towards her. Furthermore, she stated that she would not tolerate remarks that could be damaging to her reputation and would take whatever measures necessary to ensure that they were

stopped. In addition, she noted her support for Chairman Bechtel and the interests of the township and its residents, stating that she had never done anything that would suggest otherwise.

- F. Bonnie Freeman:** President of Friends of Ft. Halifax Park (FFHP), a non-profit organization that supports the development of the park for passive recreation, provided an update on the upcoming 2010 park festival. Bonnie noted that the festival is scheduled to occur on April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup> of this year with April 30<sup>th</sup> being reserved for Halifax Elementary 5<sup>th</sup> graders, for which their time will serve as an educational supplement. In addition, Bonnie noted that the entertainment for May 1<sup>st</sup> had already been scheduled and that vendor letters had been sent out. In light of Scott Corsnitz's concerns with the use of the land, Bonnie noted that it was the intent of the Yeager family to have the farmland turned into a park in memory of their mother and father. Linda Stopfel noted that the involvement of the Pennsylvania Conservancy had been initiated by the Yeager's themselves and it was the Yeager's who dictated the use of the land. In addition, Linda noted her own frustrations with the limitations surrounding the use of the land, but stated that the township's hands were in effect tied. Bonnie then noted that FFHP had generated to date, over \$50,000 to go towards the development of the park.

**Office Status:**

Carol Eppley noted she wanted the opportunity to publicly state her disapproval of how the new Solicitor was brought on board, stating that she was neither aware of any dissatisfaction with the prior Solicitor nor with the intent to change Solicitors. In addition, she stated that she was concerned with the increase in both the retainer fee and the hourly rate associated with the appointment of the new Solicitor, in light of the township's limited budget. She then motioned to terminate the services of Bruce Warshawsky effective immediately and begin an immediate search for new council, with the prior Solicitor, Steve Dzurinin, to serve as legal council to the board in the interim. Linda Stopfel seconded the motion and discussion ensued. Linda Stopfel noted that it was offensive that her and Carol had been excluded from the discussions that had been taking place with respect to a change in Solicitors. Gary Shultz noted that he himself had initiated the change, stating the impetus as having been related to indications from Dave Hoover that Solicitor Dzurinin often failed to respond to his time-sensitive inquiries unless he copied the board on the email correspondence that he sent to him. Moreover, Gary stated that he felt that as a professional, Solicitor Dzurinin should be aware of his responsibilities to the township and respond accordingly without being prompted. Gary noted that he had spoken only briefly to Ken Hoover and Ken Bechtel with respect to his concerns about the former Solicitor and his desire to appoint Bruce Warshawsky in his place. Chairman Bechtel stated that there were never 3 people present in any discussion, and that the discussions had occurred prior to him being a township Supervisor. Accordingly, there was no violation of the Sunshine Law. Chairman Bechtel then called for the vote to terminate the services of the new Solicitor effective immediately, and begin a search for a new Solicitor with the prior Solicitor serving as legal council in the interim and the vote failed to carry with a 2:2 response.

### **Secretary Report**

Linda Stopfel motioned to approve the December 14, 2009 minutes as presented. Carol Eppley seconded the motion and the motion carried 4:0.

### **Treasurer Report**

**Financial Report – December 2009:** Chairman Bechtel noted that the December 2009 financial report had been presented for review

**Bills – Paid Interim Bills & Unpaid Current Bills:** Gary Shultz motioned to approve the paid interim bills. Carol Eppley seconded the motion and the vote carried 4:0. Discussion ensued with respect to the unpaid bills. Chairman Bechtel asked for clarification surrounding the special billing from Wix, Wenger and Weidner, that pertained to the hiring of the Secretary. Specifically, he wanted to know who had assigned this work to the prior Solicitor and whether the board was aware that the charge would be as extensive as it was, noting that the township had been charged \$3126.50 for legal work surrounding the hiring of the Secretary. In addition, he expressed concern over the fact that the invoice had been mailed to the home of the former chairman, instead of to the township. The board did not give indication of who had assigned the work and noted that they had not seen the special billing until then. Chairman Bechtel stated that at the present time he was not comfortable approving the special billing invoices. Solicitor Warshawsky recommended that the board motion to approve the bills presented for approval less the 2 special billing items until the board has had the opportunity investigate them further. In addition, he noted that Solicitor Dzurani indicated that he would not make all of the township's files available to him until the outstanding items were paid in full which included January 8<sup>th</sup> billings which had not yet been presented to the board. Gary Shultz motioned to approve the unpaid bills as listed, with the exception of the line item for Wix, Wenger and Weidner, for which he motioned to reduce the amount of payment by \$3576.50 for the special billing items; thus the approved amount of payment to be sent to Wix, Wenger and Weidner was \$1689, with the total amount of bills approved for payment then equaling \$9932.03. Carol Eppley then seconded the motion. Discussion ensued with Linda Stopfel noting her concern with leaving these items unpaid. Chairman Bechtel reiterated his discomfort with approving these items for payment at this time. The vote then carried 3:1.

### **Planning Commission Report (Presented by Fred Ford – See Attached):**

Fred Ford noted that at the January 4, 2010 Planning Commission's Reorganization meeting, Jim Eppley was reappointed Chairman, Fred Ford himself was reappointed Vice Chairman and Bob Artman was reappointed Secretary.

Final Subdivision Plan for James P. & Doreni L. Tenaglia (2009-10-10-08-S-P-F): The Planning Commission recommended to the board that they grant a waiver of the curbing and sidewalk requirements, Sections 606 & 607 respectively of the SALDO. Linda Stopfel motioned to approve these waivers. Carol Eppley seconded the motion and the motion carried 4:0. In addition, the Planning Commission recommended that the BOS grant conditional approval of the Plan contingent upon the submission of the deed of dedication. Linda Stopfel motioned to grant a conditional approval of the Plan. Gary Shultz seconded the motion and the vote carried 4:0.

Fred Ford then welcomed both the new board and the new Solicitor. He stated that he would continue to work with the board and its Solicitor as he has done in the past. In addition, he noted the responsibility of the Planning Commission in managing growth in the township and the importance of having a Solicitor and Engineer available at the Planning Commission meetings to provide timely legal and engineering advice as planning and development issues have become more complex. Solicitor Warshawsky applauded the township on their decision to have a Solicitor present at the Planning Commission meetings, noting that this had not been the case during his last term of appointment with the township. He also stated that he felt that the board should give consideration to utilizing separate and independent council on the Planning Commission board, but indicated that he would serve in that capacity as well if the board so desired. Carol Eppley asked the Planning Commission members that were present to give indication of their preference. Bob Artman recommended tabling the issue until the entire Planning Commission had the opportunity to discuss it at their next meeting. Chairman Bechtel agreed to table it and stated that a formal decision would be made at a later date.

**Engineer Report:** (Presented by Tom Wilson – see attached)

Tom Wilson reviewed the services provided by K&W Engineers for the period 11/28/09-12/25/09. In addition, he requested that the board grant authorization for him to (1) proceed with a detailed assessment of the plan proposed by Mr. Tobias' engineer surrounding storm water run-off on his property and (2) develop and report upon potential alternatives to this plan that might prove to be more feasible. Gary Shultz motioned to grant such authorization. Linda Stopfel seconded the motion and the vote carried 4:0. Tom Wilson then readdressed Mr. Michaels' drainage concerns as presented earlier. Dale Shoop indicated that he felt that the township had a responsibility to address the water run-off onto Mr. Michaels' property that was coming from the township's road. Linda Stopfel then motioned to move forward with the initial project that had been previously rescinded in order to help alleviate some of Mr. Michaels' drainage problems. Carol Eppley seconded the motion and the vote carried 4:0. Dale Shoop inquired about the public drainage easement that Mr. Michaels would be required to provide to the township, noting that future Lenker development would call for additional water to be run through that easement and down to the township's drainage system. Mr. Michaels expressed concern over the potential future use of that easement by Lenker properties and stated that he would like to discuss it with further with his engineer before making a final decision. Per recommendation by Solicitor Warshawsky, Linda Stopfel motioned to defer implementation of work on this project until they hear back from Mr. Michaels and his Engineer. Carol Eppley seconded the motion and the vote carried 4:0.

**Roadmaster Report:** (Presented by Dale Shoop – see attached)

Dale Shoop noted the need for the township to purchase a new copier for the office. Linda Stopfel motioned for him to investigate the cost of purchasing a replacement copier. Carol Eppley seconded the motion and the vote carried 4:0. Dale Shoop then presented the board with an estimate of cost from FASTSIGNS for the manufacturing of park regulation signs. Gary Shultz motioned to approve the purchase of three 36x24 inch park regulation signs from FASTSIGNS for a total cost of \$231.91. Carol Eppley

seconded the motion and the vote carried 4:0. Lastly, Dale noted that Larry Moore, who is the Director of Dauphin County Recreation, would like the opportunity to address the board at a meeting regarding the upcoming concert at the Ft. Halifax Park on July 17<sup>th</sup>. Carol Eppley advised Dale to have Larry get in touch with the Secretary to be placed on the agenda.

### **Administrative**

**PSATS Annual Newsletter Subscription:** In addition to the township subscription to the annual newsletter, the board decided to limit subscriptions paid for by the township to the current Board of Supervisors, the Planning Commission members, and the township's Tax Collector at this time.

**PSATS Annual Convention:** Linda Stopfel noted as the voting delegate, she would like to attend the Annual Convention as budgeted and asked that the Secretary complete and submit her registration form. In addition, she motioned for the board to grant permission and provide for Secretary Ferguson to attend the Secretary's Training Session that is offered during the Annual Convention. Carol Eppley seconded the motion and the vote carried 4:0.

**PSATS Introductory Course for New Supervisors:** Chairman Bechtel noted that he would be attending the PSATS Introductory Course for New Supervisors. No action was required as such training had also been provided for in the approved budget.

**Approval of DCED E-filing of secretarial reports:** Chairman Bechtel noted that Secretary Ferguson had requested his approval to file DCED reports for the township electronically. Solicitor Warshawsky noted that official board action was not required since it was an administrative item. Chairman Bechtel then agreed to provide his written approval.

**Approved signatures for township banking:** Linda Stopfel motioned to (a) limit signature approval on all township banking to the current Board of Supervisors, the current Secretary and the current Treasurer and to (b) retain the current signature requirements which calls for two approved signatures on all banking transactions including check disbursements whereby at least one of the signatures must be that of a Supervisor. Carol Eppley seconded the motion and the vote carried 4:0.

**Municipal building sign-in sheet:** Chairman Bechtel and Supervisor Stopfel indicated their preference to continue the use of the sign-in sheet at the township's Municipal Building noting that it gives indication of the timing and nature of the foot traffic, which they find useful. No action was required for the continuance of its use.

### **Old Business**

**Approval of Fee Schedule for Solicitor:** Solicitor Warshawsky presented his fee schedule for approval noting the following changes to it: (1) in light of tonight's discussion, he stated that he would include attendance at the monthly Planning Commission meetings in lieu of regularly scheduled workshops in his retainer fee, (2) in the first sentence of the third paragraph, he noted that it should read "For all hours beyond *two* hours per month..." and (3) in the final paragraph he noted that

it should state that all in-house copies will be provided free of charge and any copying job that has to be sent out because of volume will be charged to the township at cost. Gary Shultz then motioned to accept the fee schedule in light of the changes as noted above. Chairman Bechtel seconded the motion and discussion ensued following the costs of the new Solicitor. Supervisors' Eppley and Stopfel reiterated their concerns surrounding the increase in the retainer fee and the hourly charge. Chairman Bechtel stated that he appreciated their concerns as he had his own concerns surrounding the increase in fees for the Secretary and the Treasurer, along with the actual fees billed by the prior Solicitor. Gary Shultz recommended that the board retain Solicitor Warshawsky under the terms mentioned above and review expenditures on legal fees after six months to determine if the township is better or worse off with this new appointment, stating that he anticipates the total costs to be lower. Chairman Bechtel then called for a vote in favor of these terms and the vote carried a 2:2 response. Solicitor Warshawsky then noted that the board could move to retain his services at an hourly rate of \$200, with fees for travel time and no retainer, or they could chose to not retain his services altogether. Chairman Bechtel indicated that under no certain terms would he reinstate the prior Solicitor. Linda Stopfel then reiterated her desire to generate a pool of potential Solicitors to interview and base an appointment decision on. Solicitor Warshawsky then proposed that he would work for the township at an hourly rate of \$180, with nothing embedded into a retainer with the expectation that his proposed fee schedule be acted upon at the next meeting. Gary Shultz motioned to accept this interim offer made by the Solicitor for a fee of \$180 per hour until the board could reach an agreement. Linda Stopfel asked Gary if this motion including any intention on his behalf to engage in a formal search as a group for a Solicitor. Gary indicated that the motion involved nothing other than to retain Bruce Warshawsky at a rate of \$180/hour in order to not be without legal representation. Chairman Bechtel then seconded the motion. Linda stated that the termination of the prior Solicitor was not handled in a professional manner. Chairman Bechtel indicated that the township was without consistency in how it handled appointments and termination of services, emphasizing that professionalism had not always been maintained in the past. Carol Eppley noted that by her willingness to engage in a search for an alternate Solicitor was indication that she was without agenda. She also noted that in the past the board had received significant criticism from residents for not being forthright and yet it did not appear to be an issue of concern to them now. Gary Shultz then stated that while everyone may not be comfortable with the way the change was brought about, it was done ethically, nonetheless. Stating her desire to move the meeting along, Carol Eppley then seconded the motion to retain Bruce Warshawsky at an hourly rate of \$180 in the interim until the board could reach further agreement. The motion then carried 3:1.

**Approval of Fee Schedule for Engineer:** Prior to board consideration, Tom Wilson noted that the fee schedule had not changed since the prior year. Linda Stopfel motioned to approve the 2010 fee schedule as provided by K&W

Engineers (see attached). Carol Eppley seconded the motion and the motion carried 4:0.

**Approval of 2010 Tax Resolution:** Carol Eppley motioned to approve the 2010 Tax Resolution as provided (see attached). Gary Shultz seconded the motion and the vote carried 4:0.

**Compensation for Roadmaster & Roadcrew:** Chairman Bechtel stated that no action could be taken at this time with respect to the compensation for the Roadmaster and Roadcrew as these items had yet to be addressed in an executive session.

**Advertisement of EMC/HAWASA/HARA Vacancies:** In light of prior discussion surrounding a potential stipend for the EMC position, Chairman Bechtel inquired as to whether the board wanted to establish such terms prior to advertising the position. Discussion ensued. The board decided to hold off on setting any kind of compensation for the EMC position at this time and directed the Secretary to advertise for the EMC, HAWASA and HARA vacancies for two weeks in the *Sentinel* and to note in the advertisement a February 1<sup>st</sup> application deadline.

**2010 Bonding for Secretary and Treasurer:** Chairman Bechtel noted that the amount of bonding for the secretary had previously been for \$250,000. He also noted that the current Secretary had received an approximate quote of \$525/yr to be bonded in that same amount from Keystone Insurance Group. Solicitor Warshawsky noted that there was no requirement to have the Secretary bonded, stating that the purpose of bonding was to limit the loss of township funds. He indicated that the Secretary's access to funds was rather limited and as a result thought that bonding in the amount of \$250,000 was not necessary. Carolyn Nye, the former Secretary, indicated that it would be unlikely that the Secretary would have more than \$1000 on hand on average. Melinda Warfel, the township's Tax Collector indicated that in her estimate, she would provide the Secretary with no more than \$75,000 at one time, which would be in check form. Gary Shultz then motioned to approve and provide for bonding of the Secretary in the amount of \$50,000. Carol Eppley seconded the motion. Discussion ensued with Linda Stopfel expressing concerns that the amount of bonding might not be sufficient. Carolyn Nye noted again that she felt a reasonable estimate of funds on hand at any given time would be \$1000 or less. Bruce Warshawsky mentioned as a side-note that a deductible could be written in to the policy to reduce the amount of the premium if desired. The vote then carried 4:0.

Discussion surrounding whether Dave Hoover or the Township presently pays for the Treasurer's bonding ensued. Secretary Ferguson stated that it was her understanding that the township pays an annual premium of \$839 to Keystone Insurance Group for the Treasurer's bond, which is currently set at \$500,000. Chairman Bechtel stated that he felt that Dave Hoover should be required to pay his own bonding in light of the amount that he is charging the township to perform the Treasury functions. Solicitor Warshawsky noted that while township code requires the Treasurer to be bonded, it is silent on the issue of who is to pay for that bonding. Gary Shultz motioned to have Dave Hoover be financially responsible for payment of his bonding. Chairman Bechtel seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued and Linda Stopfel asked that the issue be tabled until the next BOS meeting to ensure that the board had a proper understanding of the specifics surrounding the bonding of the Treasurer. Chairman Bechtel then called for a vote and the motion carried 3:1.

**Treasurer's Compensation for 2010:** Scott Corsnitz asked if the board was going to vote on the treasurer's compensation. Chairman Bechtel noted that it was voted on at the reorganization meeting and that the vote carried a 2:1 response. Solicitor Warshawsky noted that in light of Section 603 of township code, the terms were not solidified as a 3:0 vote would have been required of the participating quorum. Scott Corsnitz then went on to note the increase in Dave Hoover's pay overtime, stating that from 2003-2008 he earned a \$25/month increase or a 4% increase per year, a \$125/month increase from 2008-2009, and finally a \$150/month increase this year. Scott also inquired of the possibility of having the current Secretary perform the Treasury function as well, in light of her financial background and the added-value associated with the positions being combined as formerly proposed. Given the board's own concern with the increase in cost, Linda Stopfel motioned to accept Dave Hoover's proposed fees of \$12,000 annually for the next year alone, noting that it would allow the board time to consider other options. Carol Eppley seconded the motion and discussion ensued. Donna Rode noted the pay-cuts that are taking place across the board in government agencies and elsewhere and the need for the township to be practical in its own spending. Chairman Bechtel restated his concern surrounding the amount of the increase. The vote to retain Dave Hoover at a fee of \$12,000 annually then carried a 1:3 response. Solicitor Warshawsky noted that the township is required by law to have a Treasurer. Gary Shultz then motioned to retain Dave Hoover for the first quarter of 2010 at his \$1000 monthly rate, noting that discussions could be had with Dave Hoover to renegotiate his terms, and that in the event that a compromise could not be reached, the township would not be saddled with these terms for the entire year. Linda Stopfel seconded this motion and the vote carried 4:0. Solicitor Warshawsky noted that the board would need to act at its March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting or set a special meeting to occur prior to March 31<sup>st</sup> if Dave Hoover's appointment was not extended in some fashion beyond the first quarter. Chairman Bechtel stated that the board should have indication by next meeting as to whether or not Dave Hoover would be willing to perform the Treasury functions for a lesser fee. Todd Etzweiler then asked if Dave Hoover was still going to be required to pay his own bond. Chairman Bechtel noted that the board had voted to require Dave to pay his own bond.

**Secretary's Terms of Employment:** Scott Corsnitz noted that at 1:26PM on 12/31/09 the township office, then located at Hoover Financial Services, was closed without notification. He also inquired of the current office hours with Chairman Bechtel noting that they were presently set for 9AM-3PM. Scott then asked what would be done if those hours were not convenient and Secretary Ferguson noted that she had posted a sign adjacent to the door that indicates that if those hours were not convenient, she would make herself available at a time that is as requested.

**Tenant Ordinance:** Carol Eppley inquired of the potential measures that could be taken to help ensure the enforcement of the 1991 tenant ordinance. It was determined that the following be done:

- Posting of the ordinance on the township's website
- Placing an informational article in the *Sentinel*
- Sending a mailer to landlords reminding them of the need to adhere to the ordinance along with 1 copy of the Landlord Report Form (Melinda Warfel offered to provide the Secretary with a listing of the landlords)

Linda Stopfel motioned to pre-approve the postage costs associated with the mailer; Carol Eppley seconded the motion and the motion carried 4:0.

### **New Business**

**Fort Halifax Park:** Scott Corsnitz inquired about the amount of rent collected by the township from the park tenants. Chairman Bechtel noted that the township was receiving \$400/month from Mr. Manning and \$200/month from Bill Yeager, whose rent was negotiated with the PA Conservancy as part of his life estate at the time of purchase. Flo Mallonee inquired as to how long Mr. Manning had been paying rent in that amount, noting a prior tenant had been paying \$500/month prior to any of the repairs having been made to the home. Linda Stopfel noted that Mr. Manning himself had made many of those repairs. Chairman Bechtel noted that the issue could be revisited at a later date if so desired, but that the board would have to move on to the next topic in light of the time. Flo then asked Secretary Ferguson to include her on next month's agenda to continue discussion on this topic. Scott Corsnitz then asked about the legality of the use of snowmobiles on park property and the potential liability to the township surrounding their use. The board noted that the park rules and regulations prohibit the use of motorized vehicles. Solicitor Warshawsky noted that absent dangerous conditions on park property the township could not be held liable for injuries sustained while joy riding on park property.

**Auditors' 2010 Reorganization Minutes:** Gary Shultz motioned to approve the auditors' reorganization minutes for 2010 given correction to the spelling of Deborah Meyers last name. Linda Stopfel seconded the motion and the vote carried 4:0.

**On Demand Energy:** Chairman Bechtel noted his involvement in looking into the potential benefits to the township in changing energy providers. Furthermore, he stated that Northern Dauphin Revitalization had done an in-house assessment on potential providers and had found On Demand Energy to be the best alternative for businesses presently. The township will be providing actual PPL cost and usage information to organizations like On Demand Energy who in turn will provide a free, no-obligation cost estimate to consider.

**Windmills/Wind Turbines:** Donna Rode noted that Janet Greene had come to the board asking that consideration be given to the development of a wind ordinance. Donna stated that Janet was not initially aware of the costs that the township would incur in researching and implementing this type of ordinance and had no desire for the township to incur such an expense on her behalf; thus she

asked that the work on the wind ordinance be stopped. K&W Engineer Tom Wilson noted that his work on the ordinance was complete. Planning Commission member Fred Ford noted that 95% of the work had been done by the Planning Commission and he felt it to be an unwise investment of time and monies to scrap the ordinance at this late date given that it's near completion. Chairman Bechtel noted his support for continuing to move forward on it in light of all that had been done to date. Solicitor Warshawsky noted that the prior Solicitor had made no notation of work done on the wind ordinance in his January 8<sup>th</sup> billings, suggesting that he had yet to complete his review. Chairman Bechtel stated that with the change of Solicitor's, the legal review of the ordinance would likely have to be suspended, assuming it had not been completed by the prior Solicitor, at least until the township was certain of the final direction that it would be taking with the appointment of a new Solicitor.

**New Funding Opportunities:** In light of the length of the meeting, Gary Shultz opted to table this item until the February meeting.

**Snow Event/Emergency:** In light of the length of the meeting, Gary Shultz opted to table this item until the February meeting.

**Backhoe:** Todd Etzweiler indicated that he had spoken with a representative from Plasterer's regarding the purchase of a John Deere backhoe for the township. He presented a quote to the board of supervisors for a backhoe built to specifications that he provided in the amount of \$82,327 and asked that they give consideration to it. Gary Shultz then noted that the backhoe frequently comes out of gear and poses a huge safety concern. As such, he indicated the need for the township to start looking into the purchase of a backhoe. Linda Stopfel noted that grant money was available if the township would be willing to engage in a shared purchase with another municipality. Roadmaster Shoop indicated that he did not support a shared purchase as shared use could present itself to be problematic for the township. Linda Stopfel then asked if any of the liquid fuel funds could be used towards this purchase and Roadmaster Shoop stated that they could.

**Charitable Contributions:** In light of the length of the meeting and the fact that the board has ample time to consider charitable contributions to be made in 2010, the board moved to table to discussion until next meeting. Flo Mallonee asked that the board give consideration to making a charitable contribution to Volunteer Home Care as well at the next meeting to which the board agreed.

**PSATS Survey – Due: January 15, 2010:** Chairman Bechtel noted that PSATS had solicited township participation in a survey regarding 537 Plan Reimbursement. Roadmaster Dale Shoop indicated that he could have it completed by the January 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.

**Maturing Certificate of Deposit:** Chairman Bechtel noted that on January 16, 2010 the township's CD with Halifax Bank in the amount of \$203,627.62 will be maturing and that a decision had to be made with respect to where to reinvest the funds. Discussion ensued with respect to potential investing options. Solicitor Warshawsky recommended that the board move to not renew the maturing CD and to have Halifax Bank invest the funds in an interest bearing account that has complete liquidity until the Treasurer has had time to look into and inform the

board on viable investing options. Gary Shultz made a motion to that effect and Carol Eppley seconded it. The vote then carried 4:0.

**Attendee Appointment for Halifax Fire Audit – February 28<sup>th</sup> @ 1PM:** Linda Stopfel noted that the Fire Company Agreement stipulated that the township Treasurer attend along with one other individual that is board appointed. Chairman Bechtel noted that Melinda Warfel had volunteered to attend the audit. Gary Shultz then motioned to appoint her as the additional attendee for the Halifax Fire Audit on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Linda Stopfel seconded the motion and the motion carried 4:0.

**MEDEX:** Chairman Bechtel noted that MEDEX had recently sent correspondence to the township asking them to give consideration to including them on the call list for emergency services. Chairman Bechtel noted that he had spoken with individuals from the Halifax Ambulance Association and that they stated their preference to retain the emergency response providers presently in use. In addition, Robb Wentzel of Medic 6 was present and stated that they have a positive working relationship with the current emergency response providers and see no need for change. Chairman Bechtel stated that the township respects the wishes of the current emergency personnel and sees no need to take action at this time to make any additions or changes. He then directed the Secretary to send correspondence to MEDEX with a like response.

**Announcements:** Chairman Bechtel announced the following upcoming meetings:

Valley's Regional Comprehensive Plan Meeting	January 12, 2010 7PM
Friends of Ft. Halifax Meeting	January 14, 2010 6PM
UDTO Meeting	January 25, 2010 7PM
Planning Commission Meeting	February 1, 2010 7PM
Township BOS Monthly Meeting	February 8, 2010 7PM

**Adjournment:** The board motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:39 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shanemarie Ferguson  
Secretary