

LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Minutes of Board Meeting held March 16, 2010

A business meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Lower Paxton Township was called to order at 7:37 p.m. by Chairman William B. Hawk on the above date in the Lower Paxton Township Municipal Center, 425 Prince Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Supervisors present in addition to Mr. Hawk were: William C. Seeds, Sr., and David B. Blain.

Also in attendance were George Wolfe, Township Manager; Steven Stine, Township Solicitor; and Ted Robertson and Watson Fisher, SWAN.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Hawk suspended the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance as it was recited during the Authority Meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Blain made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2010 workshop meeting, and the March 2, 2010 business meeting as presented. Mr. Seeds seconded the motion, and a unanimous vote followed.

**Public Comment**

Mr. John Trish, 600 Prince Street, reported that the Verizon broadcast has no sound, and Comcast is showing the PCN channel. Mr. Wolfe explained that for some reason the Township's equipment will not cut into the Comcast broadcast. He noted that the equipment was able to access the Verizon broadcast only, but apparently without sound. Mr. Trish noted that this meeting is the only program that he has viewed on Channel 22. Mr. Wolfe explained, for the

time being, this is the only program that the viewers will see on Channel 22. Mr. Wolfe noted that the issue with Comcast at this time is something to do with the splitter and staff would investigate why the connection did not work tomorrow. He noted that both providers's channels were working properly when they were tested, but for some reason the sound is not working for the Verizon broadcast, and the switch was not made for the Comcast broadcast.

### **Chairman & Board Members' Comments**

No comments were presented by Board members.

### **Manager's Report**

Mr. Wolfe noted that the Lower Paxton Township is broadcasting the Board of Supervisors meeting for the first time, as a live feed on Channel 22 for the Verizon franchise. He noted that this process was moved along as a result of a request made from Mr. Trish, a Township resident. He noted for reasons unknown, the live feed for tonight's meeting is not broadcasting over Channel 20 for the Comcast franchise. He noted that he would have staff determine why that is not occurring.

Mr. Wolfe noted that he has been told that some residents in the Township have already received their census forms in the mail. He noted that the timeline received from the U. S. Census Bureau shows that the forms would be mailed to households by mid-March. He noted that Census Day is Thursday, April 1, 2010. He explained that census enumerators will visit the homes of residents who have failed to return the forms during May through July. He noted that this is a very expensive process as the cost for an enumerator to visit one home is roughly \$57, whereas, the cost to return the census form in the mail is only \$.44, the cost of a stamp. He noted if the population is concerned about government spending it would behoove them to mail their forms to the U. S. Census Bureau as it would save the government over a billion dollars nation-

wide. He noted, by December 2010, the U.S. Census Bureau must deliver the population counts to the President which will begin the apportionment process. He noted by March 2011, the U.S. Census Bureau will complete the redistricting process and deliver the information to the individual states. He noted that it is the Township's desire that each resident complete their forms and mail them back. He noted that the census is important to the Federal and State government for apportionment purposes as the number of legislators per area is based upon population. He noted that the liquid fuels allocation for the maintenance of roads from the State Vehicle Fuel Tax Fund is, in part, based upon the Township's population. He noted that the Township receives approximately \$1 million per year from this fund. He noted that Federal grants are sometimes based upon population, and it is important to the Township to have everyone counted.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### Action on an agreement with the Humane Society of Harrisburg for animal collection services

Mr. Wolfe noted that the agreement with the Humane Society of Harrisburg provides for the collection of stray domestic animals within the community. He noted that the fee for the agreement is \$45,537.96. In addition, Public Safety Director David Johnson recommends that the Township include the alternate service for emergency pick up for injured animals at a cost of \$75 per pickup. He explained that the alternate services would be billed on a monthly basis. Mr. Wolfe noted that this is the only mechanism available to the Township for the collection of stray domesticated animals, and as such, it is staff's recommendation to approve the agreement with the alternate for emergency services.

Mr. Seeds questioned if the first installment was paid for this agreement. Mr. Wolfe answered that no payments have been made until the Board approves the agreement. Mr. Wolfe noted that a one-time payment would be made for this agreement if approved by the Board.

Mr. John Trish, 600 Prince Street, noted that he used the services a few days ago when a stray boxer dog wandered onto his neighbor's yard, and he called the police who took the animal away. He questioned what the Township is getting for the \$45,000 that it pays to the Humane Society. Mr. Wolfe noted that this agreement includes the collection of animals in the community and the amount is based upon last year's volume of animals collected. He noted that the Township receives a monthly report that lists all the animals that it collected during that month. He noted that the emergency service would include picking up an injured dog that the police could not transport. Mr. Seeds noted that the police lodge stray animals in a small pen that it maintains at the Public Works Building until the next business day when the animal is delivered to the Humane Society. Mr. Trish noted that the dog that came into his neighbor's yard was in poor shape and needed care. Mr. Seeds noted that the extra \$75 charge would be to have the Humane Society collect an injured dog as the Township does not have provisions to house a injured animal.

Mr. Seeds noted that Swatara Township is paying more for stray cats and other animals than the Township.

Mr. Trish questioned if the Township has last year's report. Mr. Wolfe answered that the Police Department maintains a copy of that report.

Mr. Seeds noted that the costs continue to escalate, but he did not know what other alternative there is for the Township. Mr. Trish noted that the average citizen who takes a dog to the Humane Society is charged, and this is in addition to what the Township is paying. Mr. Seeds

noted that many people abandon their pets because they don't want to pay the fee that the Humane Society levies if they want to surrender an animal off at their facility. Mr. Hawk noted that the Township's hands are tied as there is no other resource for stray animals.

Mr. Blain made a motion to approve the agreement with the Humane Society of Harrisburg in the amount of \$45,537.96, and to include the alternate services for emergency services at \$75 per animal pickup. Mr. Seeds seconded the motion. Mr. Hawk called for a voice vote, and a unanimous vote followed.

Resolution 10-12; Authorizing the Township Manager and Finance Director to forgive real estate tax penalty and interest in specific and limited situations.

Mr. Wolfe noted that this resolution will memorialize a staff practice and it is at the solicitor's recommendation that the Township should have a written policy in regard to this matter. He noted that there are instances when property owners received a delinquent tax notice through no fault of their own. He noted that bills are lost in the mail, and taxpayers have made honest attempts to obtain the bills, but are not successful and they are assessed penalties and interest. He noted that the resolution would permit staff to forgive the penalty and interest when the property owner can prove that the charges have been assessed through no fault of their own, and that the total amount of forgiveness is not more than \$250.00. He noted that this can only be done with the concurrence of both the Finance Director and the Township Manager.

Mr. Seeds made a motion to approve Resolution 10-12; Authorizing the Township Manager and Finance Director to forgive real estate tax penalty and interest in specific and limited situations. Mr. Blain seconded the motion. Mr. Hawk called for a voice vote, and a unanimous vote followed.

## **IMPROVEMENT GUARANTEES**

Mr. Hawk noted that there was one Improvement Guarantee.

### Country Inn & Suites

An extension and reduction in a letter of credit with Orrstown Bank, in the amount of \$2,850.00, with an expiration date of March 16, 2011.

Mr. Blain made a motion to approve the one listed Improvement Guarantee. Mr. Seeds seconded the motion. Mr. Hawk called for a voice vote, and a unanimous voice vote followed.

### **Payment of Bills**

Mr. Seeds made a motion to pay the bills of Lower Paxton Township and Lower Paxton Township Authority. Mr. Blain seconded the motion, and a unanimous vote followed.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mr. Blain made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and the meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Heberle  
Recording Secretary

Approved by,

Gary A. Crissman  
Township Secretary