

LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Minutes of Board Meeting held January 3, 2011

The annual reorganization meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Lower Paxton Township was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Steven A. Stine, Chairman Pro Tem, on the above date, in the Lower Paxton Township Municipal Center, 425 Prince Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Supervisors present were William B. Hawk, William C. Seeds, Sr., William L. Hornung, Gary A. Crissman, and David B. Blain.

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Wolfe led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Election of the Chairman of the Board**

Mr. Crissman nominated William B. Hawk to serve as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Blain seconded the motion, and a unanimous vote followed.

**Election of the Vice-Chairman of the Board**

Mr. Blain nominated William C. Seeds, Sr., to serve as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Crissman seconded the motion, and a unanimous vote followed.

**Appointment of the Township Secretary, Vacancy Board Chairman, Township Treasurer and Assistant Treasurers, Township Manager, Township Solicitor, Township Engineer, Voting Delegate and Alternate to PSATS State Convention  
Establishment of Treasurer's Bond, Depository and Regular Board Meetings**

Mr. Hawk made the following appointments to the various positions, boards and committees:

*Township Secretary* – Gary A. Crissman

*Assistant Secretary* – David B. Blain

*Vacancy Board Chairman* – Lohman Henry

*Township Manager* – George S. Wolfe

*Treasurer* – David B. Blain

*Assistant Treasurers* – Gary A. Crissman and William Hornung

*Township Solicitor* – Steven A. Stine, Stine Law Offices

*Township Engineer* – Herbert, Rowland and Grubic, Inc.

*Representatives to the South Central Emergency Medical Services* – William C. Seeds, Sr., and William L. Hornung

*Alternates* – George Wolfe and David Johnson

*Representative to the Capital Region Council of Governments* – William C. Seeds, Sr.

*Alternate* - Matthew Miller

*Voting delegate to Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors State Convention* – William B. Hawk; *Alternate* - Gary A. Crissman

Mr. Crissman made a motion to approve the appointments as designated by the Chair.

Mr. Blain seconded the motion, and a unanimous vote followed.

Mr. Hawk noted the following items:

*Establishment of Treasurer's Bond* – \$1,000,000.00.

*Designation of Township Depository* – M & T Bank.

*Establishment of the Meeting Schedule for Board Meetings* – First three Tuesdays of each month, except for holidays or Election Days. The first and third Tuesday will start at 7:30 p.m., and the second Tuesday will start at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Blain made a motion to approve the Treasurer's bond, Township Depository, and establishment of the regular board meetings as stated by Mr. Hawk. Mr. Crissman seconded the motion, and a unanimous vote followed.

**Authorization to the Secretary or Treasurer to pay all Fixed Expenses which resulted from Prior Board Action**

Mr. Crissman made a motion to authorize the secretary or treasurer to pay all of the fixed expenses which resulted from prior Board action. Mr. Blain seconded the motion and a unanimous vote followed.

**Board, Commission & Committee Appointments**

Mr. Hawk made the appointments to the following boards and commissions:

*Sewer Authority Board* – William C. Seeds. Sr., for a five-year term

*Friendship Center Operating Board* – Gary A. Crissman, Sandy Prah, and Jann McNamara, for a three-year term.

*Planning Commission* – Denise Guise, for a four-year term.

*Shade Tree Commission* – Norman Lacasse, Ph. D., for a five-year term.

*Zoning Hearing Board* – David Dowling and Richard Freeburn, for a five-year term, and Watson Fisher and Alan Hansen as alternates for a three-year term.

*Arts Advisory Council* – Mary Grace Newsome, Sonia Murphy, Amy Gabriele, David Russell, and Stanley Smith, for a one-year term.

*Public Safety Committee* – Matthew Hunt, Christopher Judd, Janet Smith, Jack Harlacker, Doug Vene, Chief of Colonial Park Fire Company, Chief of Linglestown Fire Company, Chief of Paxtonia Fire Company, President of Colonial Park Fire Company, President of Linglestown Fire Company, President of Paxtonia Fire Company, Fire Marshall, Public Safety Director; and a Representative from South Central Emergency Medical Services, for a one-year term.

*Village of Linglestown Committee* – Eric Kessler, Andrew Christine, James Griffiths, Gary L. Hoffman, John Kepler, Stuart Knade, William E. Minsker, Paul M. Rowe, Joseph Mack, William Twilley, Jerry Miller, and Pastor G. Barry Stahl, for a one-year term.

*Audit Committee* – Gary A. Crissman, David B. Blain and George S. Wolfe, for a one-year term.

*Greenway Committee* – James Seidler (Parks and Recreation Board), Roy Newsome (Planning Commission), John Whaley (Shade Tree Commission), Betsy Sibert, Priscilla St. Jacques, Glusko, Michael Smith, and Rogette Harris, for a one-year term.

Mr. Crissman made a motion to approve the appointments to the various boards and commissions as stated by Mr. Hawk. Mr. Blain seconded the motion, and a unanimous vote followed.

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Crissman made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2010 administrative workshop meeting. Mr. Blain seconded the motion, and a unanimous vote followed.

## **Public Comment**

Mr. John Trish, 600 Prince Street, explained during the last Board business meeting he was unable to go through all the numbers provided by Mr. Wolfe in reference to the adopted budget and tax increase. He noted that Mr. Wolfe referenced the millage rate for the Township and when you look at the millage increase it was very little, but when you look at the overall numbers from 1996 when the millage rate generated \$1.824 million; however, in 2011 it will generate \$2.87 million. He suggested that it is a 33% increase in income to the Township. He noted that it makes no sense to him to say that it is a minimum increase when the income being generated from it is 33% from the 1996 figures to the 2011 figures. He noted that this was just for the General Fund. He noted that it was stated that the real estate tax has been increased three times and decreased one time, but that was for the Emergency Municipal Services Tax. He noted for some people living in the Township it was also an increase. He noted if you go by the millage rate for a 10% increase it has gone from a homes assessed at \$200,000, a payment of \$175 and with the increase it will now be \$192. He noted that the EMST was \$52 or \$56. He noted that those who had a higher income that year got a tax decrease and those who had homes valued under \$200,000 got a tax increase. He questioned if that made sense. He noted that he is watching the tax situation and he wants to be the best resident the Board ever knew. He suggested that he may be the only one watching and paying attention, and everyone else is doing great.

Mr. Trish wanted to thank Mr. Seeds for voting no for the tax increase. He noted that none of the senior citizens on social security in the Township got a raise this year, except for a 10% raise in their millage rate, and a \$4 per quarter raise in their sewer rate, and whatever the School Board is going to increase. He noted that he wanted the Board to know that he is watching, and he requested the Board to do a little better this year.

Mr. Hornung requested Mr. Wolfe to respond to Mr. Trish's comments.

Mr. Wolfe explained, in regards to the two issues that Mr. Trish raised, he noted that his power point presentation showed that in 1996 the Township real estate tax generated \$1.8 million or about \$43.71 per person at that time. He noted in 2010, the real estate tax was expected to generate a little less than \$2.6 million or about \$54.00 per person in the Township. He noted that real estate tax revenues increased a total of 24% over the last 15 years or 1.6% per year. He noted that the Consumer Price Index has increased 41.48% over that same period of time or 2.77% per year. He noted that Township real estate taxes have not kept pace with inflation, and they have increased only due to the fact that new taxables have been added to the system. He noted that the increase in taxation has not kept pace with inflation over the past 15 years.

Mr. Trish noted that the income that the Township generates is far more significant than what it appears. Mr. Blain noted when you put new homes on the tax rolls, there is a cost to the Township to service those homes. He noted if you are looking at it from the real dollar perspective, Mr. Trish is correct, noting that the tax dollars have increased from \$1.8 million to \$2.5 million but the question is, is it increase enough to cover the new houses that were put on the tax rolls and what they are costing the Township in regards to Public Works, Police, Fire, Administration, and anything you can think of in regards to the Township's activities. He noted that the question is if that dollar increase is enough to cover the Township's costs. Mr. Trish noted that is what needs to be presented to the people. He noted that saying it is minimal, yeah, it is minimal, but you are still talking real dollars; from his recollection the Board recently approved three more planning developments that are going to continue to build in Lower Paxton. He noted it is a good place to live and it used to be when we talked about taxes we talked about per resident, now we are talking about per person. He noted that he is just looking at the General Fund for 1996 at \$1.8 million and now it is \$2.8 million. He noted that it is a 33% increase in generated revenues coming into the Township. He noted, in addition to that, the Township raised

all the other fees, and the sewer rate. He noted that he understands that the Township can't live on nothing. He noted that there is a reason that Mr. Seeds voted no, he thought there was a better way to do it. He noted that maybe he is wrong, but deep in his heart, he thinks there was a better way to do it. He noted that the Board should mention the dollar amounts and not just the millage rate.

Mr. Wolfe noted that he did mention the dollar amounts and there was a detailed presentation and it began with the dollar amounts. Mr. Trish noted that it did not say the percentage of increase... Mr. Wolfe noted that it most certainly did. Mr. Trish noted that he does not want to argue with the Board but he thinks the people need to know. He noted that he does not know all the nuts and bolts, and he does not know what it takes to run the Township, but he does know when he sees numbers and you look at them one way, it's .3 mills, no big deal, but if you look the other way, it is almost a million dollar increase in one section of the budget. He suggested that maybe he doesn't understand it, maybe it's rocket science. He thanked Mr. Wolfe for trying to clarify the issue.

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

Mr. Hornung explained to Mr. Trish that the so called 33% was over 15 years, and he assumed that Mr. Trish got a raise in his job over the past 15 years, and the people who work for the Township got raises, and that is where most of the increase went to. He noted that he would not begrudge any of the staff getting raises because everyone fits into the average salary range, and they tow the line.

### **Manager's Report**

Mr. Wolfe noted that the Friendship Center would be celebrating its 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Sunday, January 23, 2011, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. He explained that there would be featured

entertainment, refreshments, games, and activities for the entire family and the community is invited to attend.

Mr. Wolfe noted that Waste Management will pick up Christmas Trees the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January as part of their curbside program. He noted that the trees will be picked up the day following the normal trash day. He noted that residents can take their trees to Koons Park or the Pubic Works Department on Locust Lane until the 28<sup>th</sup> of January. He noted that all trees must be free of decorations and can not be in a plastic bag.

Mr. Seeds questioned if the Compost Facility was closed. Mr. Wolfe answered that it is closed until April.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### Resolution 11-01; Appointing a certified public accountant to audit the funds and accounts of the Township for the 2010 fiscal year

Mr. Wolfe noted that the Board authorized the advertisement of this resolution which allows the replace of the Elected Auditors by a Certified Public Accountant. He noted that the Board obtained and accepted a proposal from Zelenkofske Axelrod, LLC, to audit Lower Paxton, Lower Paxton Authority, and the Friendship Center, in the amount of \$33,075.00. He noted that it is an amount less than what was paid in previous years. He noted that it is staff's recommendation that the Board act affirmatively on Resolution 11-01.

Mr. Blain made a motion to appoint, through Resolution 11-01, the accounting firm of Zelenkofske Axelrod, LLC, to audit the funds and accounts of the Township, Friendship Center and Sewer Authority for the 2010 Fiscal Year in the amounts of \$33,075.00. Mr. Crissman seconded the motion. Mr. Hawk called for a voice vote, and a unanimous vote followed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Hutch's Junk Yard License renewal

Mr. Hawk noted that Francis R. Hutchinson has submitted an application for a Junk Yard business located at 6861 Blue Ridge Avenue. He noted that the Board must approve the Junk Yard License annually. He explained that the facility was inspected by staff and found to be in compliance with all Township regulations.

Mr. Crissman made a motion to approve the Junk Yard License Renewal for the year 2011 for Hutch's Junk Yard located at 6861 Blue Ridge Avenue. Mr. Blain seconded the motion. Mr. Hornung questioned if the fee was raised for this activity. Mr. Wolfe answered no. Mr. Hawk called for a voice vote, and a unanimous vote followed.

### Action on proposal from Sun Life Financial to provide group term life and long-term disability insurances

Mr. Wolfe explained, at this time last year, the Township changed its life and disability carriers receiving a significant reduction in cost for services. He noted that it provided a 14% reduction in costs, saving \$6,600. He explained that the Standard Life Insurance Company provided for a three-year guaranteed rate. He noted that the Township is a member of the Pennsylvania Intermunicipal Health Insurance Cooperative (PIMHIC), and in the past year, the organization bid and awarded a contract for services for life and disability services and the contract provided a 22% savings over any existing contract in place. He explained he received another proposal from Sun Life Financial providing an improved life and disability insurance coverage at a savings of 25% over last year's current rate. He noted that this provides for an additional savings of \$12,000. He noted that the PIMHIC group could not match the savings, and the Standard Life Insurance Company could not match the 25% savings. He noted that it is staff's recommendation that the Board authorize an agreement with Sun Life Financial Insurance

Company to provide life and disability insurance coverages for Township employees for a three-year fixed price contract.

Mr. Seeds noted that the Township signed a contract in November 2009, and he questioned if it was a three year contract. Mr. Wolfe explained that it was a three-year price guarantee only and that the Township has the ability to end it with a 30-day notice.

Mr. Hornung made a motion to approve the contract with Sun Life Financial Insurance for life and disability insurance coverage for three years, providing a 25% reduction in rates. Mr. Crissman seconded the motion. Mr. Hawk called for a voice vote, and a unanimous vote followed.

Change Order #2 to the contract with Rogele, Inc. for road paving  
and stormsewer improvements

Mr. Wolfe noted that the change order is for emergency work that was required to be done on Hunters Run Road for stormsewer and road berm restoration. He explained that the road washed out and it was becoming a hazard. He noted that the change order amount under the existing contract with Rogele, Inc. is \$17,528. He explained further that the change order includes the removal of work that was originally in the contract for Continental and Toftree Drives. He noted that Mr. Robbins chose not to do this work at this time and it resulted in a deduction of \$184,697.00; bringing the total of the change order to a decrease of \$167,169.00.

Mr. Hornung questioned if this was due to the Board removing a project from the budget as it had insufficient funds to complete the project. Mr. Wolfe explained that it is work that has been discussed for several years, but will be delayed for another year.

Mr. Crissman made a motion to approve Change Order #2 to the contract with Rogele, Inc., with a net decrease of \$167,169.00. Mr. Blain seconded the motion, and a unanimous vote followed.

Preliminary/final subdivision and land development plan  
for BA Properties 1, LLC

Mr. Wolfe noted that this plan was deleted from the agenda at the request of the developer.

**IMPROVEMENT GUARANTEES**

Mr. Hawk noted that there were no Improvement Guarantees.

**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.

**Announcement**

Mr. Hawk noted that next week starts the Farm Show on Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mr. Crissman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Blain seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Heberle

Approved by,

Gary A. Crissman  
Township Secretary