

The meeting of the Douglass Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:07 P.M. Attending were Chairman John Stasik, Supervisor Fred Ziegler, Solicitor Paul Bauer, Josh Hagadorn from Gilmore & Associates, Chief Templin, Mike Heydt, Cynthia O'Donnell, Andy Duncan, Pete Hiryak, Robert Dries, and approximately 20 residents/developers.

Mr. Stasik stated that Vice-Chairman Kuklinski would not be attending tonight's meeting because he was attending a commencement ceremony for new police officers. Mr. Stasik led us in the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Stasik asked for the public to put all cell phones on silent mode and no texting during the meeting.

Mr. Stasik asked if there were any changes, corrections, or comments on the minutes of December 7th, 2015 Board of Supervisors Meeting, no changes or comments were given. Mr. Stasik asked for a motion to approve the minutes of December 7th, 2015 as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Stasik, seconded by Mr. Ziegler to approve the minutes of the December 7th, 2015 Board of Supervisors Meeting. Stasik-Aye, Ziegler-Aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Stasik asked for a motion to approve the agenda for December 21st, 2015 as presented. A motion was made by Mr. Stasik, seconded by Mr. Ziegler to approve the agenda for December 21st, 2015 as presented. Stasik-Aye, Ziegler-Aye. Motion passed.

Gilbertsville Area Community Ambulance Report

Mr. Duncan read the GACAS Report for Chief Schmoltze. For the month of November 2015 GACAS handled 116 calls for service. The breakdown is as follows: Boyertown 8, Colebrookdale 7, Douglass Township 43, Earl 3, New Hanover 25, Pennsburg 4, Pottstown 3, Red Hill 1, Upper Frederick 4, Upper Pottsgrove 15, Washington Township 2, and West Pottsgrove 1. 74 transported, 18 refusals, 11 no patient found, 3 no treatment required, 8 canceled, 1 expired on scene. ALS-66, BLS-50. Hospitals: Grandview 1, Lehigh Valley 11, Medevac 1, Phoenixville 1, Pottstown 55, St. Lukes Quakertown 2, and Reading 4. Year to date calls for service (1,254). No questions were asked.

Fire & Rescue Report – Chief Rick Smith

For the month of November 2015: 1 brush/trash fire, 1 vehicle fire, 2 fire alarms/CO2 alarms, 2 vehicle accident, 1 vehicle rescue, 3 hazardous materials, 3 fire police, and 5 assist to other departments for a total of 18 calls. 3 assists to Boyertown, 1 New Hanover, and 1 Upper Pottsgrove. Received training for propane emergencies. Chief Smith stated that cold weather is coming so check your chimney heating units. Nine members of F&R brought Santa into Douglass Township for all the residents of Douglass. Chief Smith wished everyone a safe & happy Holiday. Mr. Sell asked Chief Smith what job he did that day, Chief Smith replied, I was the guy in the red suit. Mr. Bumwell commented that he was glad to hear that F&R helped bring Santa through Douglass Township. No other questions or comments were given.

A motion was made by Mr. Stasik, seconded by Mr. Ziegler to accept the Fire & Rescue Report as given. Stasik-Aye, Ziegler-Aye. Motion passed.

Gilbertsville Fire Company No. 1

No report given.

Police Department Report – Chief Templin

November 2015: 351 incidents reported, 6 reportable accidents, 15 non-reportable, 29 criminal investigations, 7 criminal arrests, 149 traffic citations, 15 non-traffic citations, 6 parking tickets, monies received \$4,699.53. We should be receiving our new radios and accessories sometime in March of 2016. Chief Templin also commented that the County is re-aligning radio zones again. Chief Templin wished everyone a happy and safe holiday season

and he is looking forward to working with everyone in 2016. The Chief will present his end of year report in January 2016. No questions or comments were given.

A motion was made by Mr. Stasik, seconded by Mr. Ziegler to accept the Police Report as presented. Stasik-Aye, Ziegler-Aye. Motion passed.

Zoning Hearing Board - Associated Truck Parts (E. Philadelphia Ave/Bartman Ave) is requesting a dimensional variance for relief from side yard setbacks and building coverage for the construction of a storage building, and relief from the height regulations for a 6 foot fence. Ken Picardi, CFO Linda Heimbach, and Surveyor John Aston were present to ask the Board for relief from the side yard setbacks from the required 25' to 21-1/2" to allow trucks to pull off of Bartman Ave and back into the storage building to unload and load parts, relief from the required 30% building coverage to allow 35% coverage, and relief of the required 4' fence height to allow a 6' fence. Mr. Picardi explained that these allowances will make the site safer for the residents and also help to store all parts inside the building leaving the site uncluttered. Mr. Picardi stated that the Planning Agency recommended the variance. The Board of Supervisors agreed that they had no problems with the variance request. No questions or comments were given.

A motion was made by Mr. Stasik, seconded by Mr. Ziegler to recommend to the Zoning Hearing Board, based on the recommendation of the P/A, a variance to allow Associated Trucks Parts a 21-1/2 foot side yard setback and 35% building coverage allowance for the construction of a storage building and also to allow a 6 foot fence to be installed at the site. Stasik-Aye, Ziegler-Aye. Motion passed.

Engineer's Report – Josh Hagadorn, Gilmore & Associates

Wawa Final Escrow Release - G&A reviewed the As-Built for the Wawa and recommends the final escrow release in the amount of \$79,647.80 as long as all outstanding invoices are paid. No questions were given.

A motion was made by Mr. Stasik, seconded by Mr. Ziegler to approve the Final Escrow Release for Wawa in the amount of \$79,647.80 based on the recommendation of Gilmore & Associates. Stasik-Aye, Ziegler-Aye. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Stasik, seconded by Mr. Ziegler to accept the Engineer's Report as given. Stasik-Aye, Ziegler-Aye. Motion passed.

Solicitor's Report – Paul Bauer

Mr. Bauer stated that in January we will be looking at repealing the Bio Solids Ordinance. He also stated that the Police Bargaining Unit will be naming an arbitrator. No questions were given.

Applications which are pending but inactive:

Danny Jake – Hallowell inactive 2 years

A motion was made by Mr. Stasik, seconded by Mr. Ziegler to accept the Solicitor's Report. Stasik-Aye, Ziegler-Aye. Motion passed.

Highway Department Report – Mike Heydt

Mr. Heydt stated that the road crew installed snow fence, cleaned out ditches, mounted snow plows, mixed salt and cinders in the salt bins, trimmed trees on West Branch Road, and repaired signs on Bartman Avenue. Mr. Ziegler told Mr. Heydt to repair Henry Road at his discretion. Mr. Ziegler told Mr. Heydt that there is an issue with the Texas Eastern underground pipeline on Henry Road and asked Mr. Heydt to have Texas Eastern take a look at it, the manager stated that they should take pictures and send them to Texas Eastern. Mr. Heydt stated that the road sign for Henry Road was found in Washington Township. Mr. Heydt stated that it was nice working with Mr. Stasik and wished him well.

A motion was made by Mr. Stasik, seconded by Mr. Ziegler to accept the Highway Department Report as given. Stasik-Aye, Ziegler-Aye. Motion passed.

Recycling Department Report – Andrew Duncan

November/December 2015: Mr. Duncan stated that the paving at the recycling center has been completed. Leaf collection is completed and 73 loads of leaves have been collected, there were no major breakdowns on any equipment. Within the 7 week collection period both leaf vacuums could have been running on any given day. This program does not come without a very costly expense: six men, two medium duty trucks, and two ODB leaf vacuums were on the streets for numerous hours collecting leaf piles, unclogging drains, cleaning drainage ditches, and making your communities clean for everyone to see and enjoy. 2,095 cubic yards of leaves were collected curbside by Township staff in 2015. The business reports and commercial recycling reports have been prepared for mailing. Mr. Ziegler asked what area has the most leaves collected, Mr. Duncan stated that the most leaves are from Hoffmansville Road north. No other questions were given.

A motion was made by Mr. Stasik, seconded by Mr. Ziegler to accept the Recycling Report as given. Stasik-Aye, Ziegler-Aye. Motion passed.

Open Space/Recreation Committee – Randy Romig

Mr. Romig stated that limited hunting on open space property was discussed. Ron Davidheiser called the County inquiring on the rules for hunting on open space property. Mr. Romig stated that the residents in the Keller Woods area are upset with the idea of permitting hunting on the Keller Woods property, we are just kicking around some ideas right now. Mr. Romig recommended addressing their concerns with the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Ziegler commented that he has had conversations with those residents in that area and he feels that we should let it as is with no hunting because of the liability to the Township. Mr. Ziegler asked staff to check into the purchase information for Keller Woods, he thought it was bought outright with no County money used, the manager stated that he believes it was originally the Spadafora property. Mr. Romig said that the Donnelly Tract is donating some open space to the Township so there might be the possibility to allow hunting on that property. Mr. Bauer stated that if no County funds were used to purchase open space property then it could be a possibility. Mr. Stouch had concerns whether it be open space or private property because it is still a liability issue to the Township. Mr. Stasik commented that open space property should be used for the well-being of all, hunting is only a small portion and open space areas could be better utilized. Mr. Brumwell asked how you could limit hunting on these properties, Mr. Romig replied that you would have a lottery and pick names. Mr. Brumwell stated that he hunts but there is not enough space in the Township for deer to survive and he doesn't want to see deer in a zoo. Mr. Sell commented before this Keller Woods can of worms there was a handful of guys that hunted there for a long time until an incident happened, Mr. Sell stated that he never hunted Keller Woods. Mr. Stasik stated that we will table this for a future discussion. The manager stated that some municipalities became a part of the Penn State Deer Management Program where they see how many deer must be harvested to reduce crop, orchard, and nursery damage. The Supervisors agreed that the liability issue to the Township is a major concern. Mr. Yarnall commented, people that have property in Act 319 allow hunting on their property and then they have problems with people dumping trash all over. Mr. Yarnall felt that you could not control the hunting because people just do what they want and do not care about rules or regulations.

A motion was made by Mr. Stasik, seconded by Mr. Ziegler to accept the Open Space/Recreation Report as presented. Stasik-Aye, Ziegler-Aye. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Cynthia O'Donnell

Ms. O'Donnell stated that the amount of the unpaid bills for December 21st, 2015 is \$227,794.99 which includes paving at the recycling center, snowplow repairs, police car repairs, also included is the contribution to F&R in the amount of \$37,000. Ms. Norton asked what the payment to Larry's Home Design was for, Ms. O'Donnell replied that it was for design plans for the new highway building. Mr. Brumwell stated that the payment to

Gilmore & Associates seemed high at \$41,000, Ms. O'Donnell replied that the payment was for two months of engineering bills that is reflected on the last pages of her report, showing which invoices are forwarded to the developers and the State will reimburse 80% of the costs for the County Line Road Bridge replacement. Mr. Stasik added that G&A had to come up with three design plans for the bridge replacement per the State requirement. Mr. Brumwell asked about reimbursement for the costs for replacement of the Congo Road Bridge, Mr. Stasik stated that County funds are not forthcoming at this time. Mr. Stasik asked Mr. Hagadorn if there are more costs for the County Line Bridge replacement, Mr. Hagadorn replied that the design is basically completed but the bidding costs are coming and must be paid up front, the Township will be reimbursed 80% of the costs of the bridge after construction is completed. Mr. Yarnall commented that the old bridge designs are too narrow, trees need to be removed. Mr. Stasik replied the Congo Road Bridge will be wider so water will flow better and a walking path will be added, the bridge will be similar to the Smith Road Bridge.

A motion was made by Mr. Ziegler, seconded by Mr. Stasik to authorize the payment of the unpaid bills for December 21st, 2015 in the amount of \$227,794.99. Stasik-Aye, Ziegler-Aye. Motion passed.

The Treasurer stated in the Budget vs. Actual, the real estate transfer tax payments have increased and also building permit fee payments have increased. There will be one more payroll payment for 2015.

The Treasurer asked the Board to adopt the 2016 Budget.

A motion was made by Mr. Stasik, seconded by Mr. Ziegler to adopt the 2016 Budget as presented and displayed. Stasik-Aye, Ziegler-Aye. Motion passed.

The Treasurer asked for the Board's adoption of the 2016 Tax Resolution with the Property Tax Rate remaining at 1.8mills.

A motion was made by Mr. Stasik, seconded by Mr. Ziegler to adopt the 2016 Tax Resolution with the Property Tax Rate remaining at 1.8mills. Stasik-Aye, Ziegler-Aye. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Stasik, seconded by Mr. Ziegler to accept the Treasurer's Report as given. Stasik-Aye, Ziegler-Aye. Motion passed.

Manager's Report - Pete Hiryak

1. The Manager reviewed the upcoming meetings as follows: Reorganization Meeting Monday, January 4th, 2016 – BOS Agenda Meeting @ 6:30pm, Reorganization Meeting @ 7pm. Board of Auditors Meeting Tuesday January 5th @ 6:00pm, P/A Reorganization Meeting January 14th @ 7:00pm.
2. The manager asked if anyone is interested in serving on various Committees, Agencies, or Boards please contact him.
3. Adopt 2016 Fee Resolution, last revision January 2013 – The manager asked for approval for adoption of the 2016 Fee Resolution which includes the approved changes for the trash/recycling program.

A motion was made by Mr. Ziegler, seconded by Mr. Stasik to adopt the 2016 Fee Resolution. Stasik-Aye, Ziegler-Aye. Motion passed.

4. Josh Stouch resignation letter from ESB, P/A Committee, and Open Space positions. The manager stated that he received a resignation letter from Mr. Stouch stating that he has scheduling conflicts with the meetings involving the ESB Board, the Open Space Committee, and P/A Committee however Mr. Stouch would like to be reconsidered to remain on the P/A Committee to fulfill the remainder of his term with authorization from the BOS.

A motion was made by Mr. Ziegler, seconded by Mr. Stasik to accept Mr. Stouch's resignation from the ESB Board and the Open Space Committee, and to remain on the Planning Agency Committee to fulfill his current term. Stasik-Aye, Ziegler-Aye. Motion passed.

No questions or comments were given on the Manager's Report.

A motion was made by Mr. Ziegler, seconded by Mr. Stasik to accept the Manager's Report as given. Stasik-Aye, Ziegler-Aye. Motion passed.

Public Comment

Mr. Ziegler commented that tonight would be Mr. Stasik's last meeting, Mr. Stasik stated that he is working on adding more homes in the St. Luke Knolls Retirement Community so he will be very busy. Mr. Brumwell commented that he is sorry to see Mr. Stasik go. Mr. Ziegler announced that Dr. Alan Keiser will be the new Supervisor and he is here tonight in the audience. No other public comment was given.

Old Business/New Business

The manager commented that being a Supervisor is a tough demanding job and Mr. Stasik always made himself very accessible to staff when we needed him and presented him with a small token of our appreciation (a clock with Mr. Stasik's years of service engraved on it). Mr. Stasik stated that he was reluctant to seek a Supervisor position, however he had some goals. I spent a lot of time being the peacemaker. Mr. Keiser likes calm and I am looking forward to seeing Alan sitting here. Mr. Stasik thanked everyone for their support, it was an honor to serve the Township. Mr. Stasik wished everyone a safe, happy holiday and please think about volunteering for a committee or board, there are a lot of good people here.

A motion was made by Mr. Ziegler, seconded by Mr. Stasik adjourn the meeting at 8:17pm. Stasik-Aye, Ziegler-Aye. Motion passed.

The next Board of Supervisor's meeting will be held on Monday, January 4th, 2016 @ 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Marcy Meitzler