

The meeting of the Douglass Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:32 P.M. Attending were Chairman Fred Ziegler, Supervisor John Stasik, Solicitor Charles Markofski, Bob Campbell, Pete Hiryak, Mike Heydt, Chief Templin, and 16 residents.

Mr. Ziegler asked Mrs. Norton to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Ziegler noted that Mr. Turner was absent from the meeting, the Manager stated that Supervisor Turner was out of town and would not return until later this week.

Mr. Ziegler asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of February 22nd, 2011, no one replied.

On motion by Mr. Ziegler, seconded by Mr. Stasik, the Board approved the minutes of the February 22, 2011 Board of Supervisor's meeting. Stasik-Aye, Ziegler-Aye. Motion passed.

Chief Templin presented the Police Department Report

Statistics for January 2011 are: 302 incidents reported, 3 vacation notices, 1,750 business checks, 4 reportable accidents, 19 non-reportable accidents, 10 criminal investigations, 6 criminal arrests, 75 traffic citations, 9 non-traffic citations, 15 parking tickets, 6,322 miles traveled. Monies received by the Township \$5,851.95. The Chief stated that on March 16 & 23, 2011 we will be conducting our oral interviews for the part-time police officer position. Out of 27 applicants they have narrowed it down to 12. On March 23, 2011 our department will be presenting an Identity Theft seminar for the St. Luke Knoll community. The Drug Enforcement Agency will coordinate a collaborative effort with state and local law enforcement agencies focused on removing potentially dangerous controlled substances from our nation's medicine cabinets. A national take-back day will provide a unified opportunity for the public to surrender expired, unwanted, or unused pharmaceutical controlled substances and other medications to law enforcement officers for destruction. This one day effort will bring national focus to the issue of pharmaceutical controlled substance abuse. The program also provides an opportunity for law enforcement, prevention, treatment, and the business community to collaborate and establish a safe collection site for all Americans, regardless of where they reside. We are looking to partner with our local Giant Food Store as our collection site and have a tentative date and time scheduled for April 30, 2011 (Saturday) 10:00am-2:00pm. As soon as the date and time are confirmed, I will let the Board as well as the public know. Mr. Sell asked if this was going to be a onetime deal, the Chief replied yes. DEA will destroy the medications. On May 13, 2011 our department will be participating in Community Reader Day to be held at the Washington Elementary School. Mr. Ziegler asked if there were any other questions for Chief Templin, no one replied.

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

Mr. Bob Campbell presented the Engineer's Report

1. BUI/Jordan Drive Subdivision – Conditionally approved at the September 15, 2008 meeting. Resolution approved at October 6, 2008 meeting. Resubmission received October 21, 2008. Review letter dated November 3, 2008.
2. Hollenbach – Warehouse Expansion – Conditionally approved at the May 5, 2008 Supervisors meeting. Final plans and financial security request have not been received.
3. Hallowell (Danny Jake) – Received latest plan revision dated September 2008 along with the list of improvements. The list of Improvements has been finalized.
4. 400 Gilbertsville Road – Received Conditional Preliminary/Final approval from the Planning Commission. Outstanding items are administrative and permitting.
5. Windemere Subdivision – Need to complete final stabilization in the spring.
6. AAA – Dunkin Donuts – Met on Thursday, July 22, 2010 and discussed outstanding items including overall site clean-up, mulching, and guide rail.
7. Cobblestone Crossing-Phase 3- Project currently on hold during pending sale of development.

8. Smith Road Bridge – Shop drawings returned approved on February 28, 2011. Terre Hill has begun fabrication. Anticipate demolition to begin in early-mid April with construction in late April through July.
9. Market Street – Planning Agency has recommended that the Supervisors authorize the cost estimating for the proposed road. Pennoni has provided an anticipated fee for this work.

Mr. Ziegler asked who would be responsible for this cost; the Manager replied that at this time the Township would be responsible for the initial start up costs. Mr. Markofski asked the Engineer if the fee is to design Market Street, the Engineer replied that the intent is not to design but to pick the location, estimate costs to cut and fill culverts, and estimate intersection improvements. Mr. Ziegler stated that the fee will be \$3,000.00-\$3,500.00, and asked the Manager to put a note in the file to pass these costs along to the developers if possible. Mr. Markofski asked the Engineer if he is including in this fee how to assess developers for Market Street, the Engineer replied not in this estimate. This will be discussed further along in the process.

A motion to authorize the Engineer to provide a cost estimate in the agreed amount of \$3,000.00 - \$3,500.00 for the proposed Market Street was made by Mr. Ziegler, seconded by Mr. Stasik. Stasik-Aye, Ziegler-Aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Ziegler asked if there were any questions for the Engineer, Mr. Brumwell stated what about properties that will be affected by Market Street, the Engineer replied that there would be a meeting with the property owners, the property most affected is the Long property, Mr. Brumwell asked if it would involve eminent domain, the Engineer replied that is not his decision but hopefully it can be worked out. The Engineer stated that Act 209 money should not be rolled into Market Street. Mrs. Norton asked what will happen to the plaque on Smith Road Bridge, the Manager stated that the plaque will be saved however there is no current plan to reuse it. Mr. Markofski stated that he read some e-mails between the Engineer and Bursich regarding that if the surface of the bridge is asphalt there should be new plans, the Engineer stated that a note will be added to the plans stating that if the traffic count is under 750 an asphalt surface would be fine. The Engineer stated that the difference between asphalt and concrete is that blacktop is easier to maintain whereas concrete has a longer life span. The Manager stated the deck cover on the bridge must be decided before the bridge fabrication process is completed.

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

Mr. Markofski presented the Solicitor's Report.

Compensation for Municipal Tax Collector – As for as a raise for the Tax Collector, according to 72 P.S. Sec 511.36a (2010), Increase or reduction of compensation: When any taxing district or taxing authorities propose to either raise or reduce the compensation or salary for the office of an elected tax collector, such action shall be by ordinance or resolution, finally passed or adopted prior to the fifteenth day of February of the year of the municipal election. Mr. Ziegler asked the Manager to write the tax collector a letter about raising her compensation rate and state that we are prohibited at this time by law.

Smith Road Bridge/Cobblestone Crossing – Joseph Pizonka, Esquire called my office regarding this matter on March 7, 2011 at 9:03am but did not return my call back later in the day.

Mr. Ziegler stated that on March 21, 2011 there will be a police contract negotiation meeting at 7:00pm, there are two candidates running for Board of Supervisor would it be proper for them to attend the meeting but not divulge any of the particulars. Mr. Markofski stated that he will send a letter to the Police Bargaining Unit to see if they have any objections. Mr. Ziegler stated that there will be an Executive Session regarding Jason Marshall at

6:30pm on March 21, 2011. Mr. Brumwell stated that if Marshall gets early retirement it would involve a considerable amount of money, Mr. Ziegler stated that he is fighting against it. Mr. Sell commented that he thought Mr. Marshall started as a part-time officer. Mr. Markofski stated that it is based on PMRS policy; it is a legal issue not a discretionary issue. Mr. Brumwell emphasized that the well being of the Township is at stake and the new police contract must take this kind of thing into consideration. Mr. Markofski stated that Mr. Marshall was at a home where people were playing with a paintball gun and got shot in the eye that has blinded him in one eye. Mr. Brumwell asked if the public will be made aware of the decision in this situation and how much will the public be made aware of with the new police contract, will the public be able to vote. Mr. Ziegler stated that when he was the Police Chief and hired these guys he thinks that certain documents were signed that takes care of these situations. Mr. Markofski commented that to his understanding Mr. Marshall was not shooting a paintball gun. Mr. Hunter asked what about the guy who shot Mr. Marshall, isn't there a lawsuit against him, a comment was made that there is a lawsuit in progress against that person. The Manager stated that Mr. Marshall is getting disability; the public asked for how long, the Manager replied 52 weeks of disability ending October of this year. Mr. Ziegler asked if we could collect from the guy who injured Mr. Marshall, Mr. Markofski commented that he will look into it. Mr. Hiryak commented that why should we invite candidates to the police contract meetings, it should at least be after the primary, Mr. Ziegler replied that the request was made to him and he wants transparency. Mr. Ziegler stated that we will wait for the reply from the Police Bargaining Unit. Mr. Theil questioned that on February 7th a motion was passed for a meeting to be scheduled with the conflict lawyer regarding the fire company situation, was there a meeting, Mr. Markofski stated yes there was a meeting and he informed the conflict lawyer of the problems and that he could not be involved. Mr. Schreiner inquired if there was any progress, Mr. Ziegler stated yes, when it is ready to be divulged we will be updated.

Applications which are pending but inactive:
Danny Jake – Hallowell inactive 2 years
Cobblestone Commons inactive 1 year
Weis Markets inactive 6 months
Bui Jordan Drive inactive 1-1/2 years

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

Mike Heydt presented the Highway Department Report

From February 23, 2011 – March 7, 2011 the highway department straightened some stop signs and street signs from wind damage, repaired grader turntable, fixed potholes, trimmed Cleaver Road, trimmed Mill Street, cleaned up tree limbs from windstorm, called in to repair traffic lights, fixed dirt roads, and cleaned the ditch on Congo Niantic Road. Mr. Ziegler read a letter from Nina Orner praising the roadcrew for a job well done in all the storms this winter. Mr. Ziegler asked if there were any questions for Mr. Heydt, no one replied.

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

Pete Hiryak reviewed the Manager's Report.

1. The Manager reviewed the upcoming meetings as follows: **Planning Agency Meeting Thursday, March 10th @ 7pm, Open Space Meeting Monday, March 21 @ 6:30pm – Police Contract Meeting/Personnel Issues Monday, March 21 @ 6:30pm, Board of Supervisor Meeting Monday, March 21 @ 7:30pm.**
2. Representative Marcy Toepel – Community Outreach at Douglass Township Tuesday, March 15th from 10:00am-12:00noon.
3. Reports to BOS regarding fire police and part-time recycling employees – the Manager reported that the fire police is a budgeted item at \$750.00 a year under the police budget. Last year out of \$750.00 the fire police were paid \$396.00. Several years ago part-time police were paid \$15.85 an hour, there is a note filed referencing fire police to receive \$15.85/hr. Our part-time officer Joe Werner was given an increase several years ago

increasing his rate to \$17.00/hr. As far as the part-time recycling workers, they receive \$13.50/hr. for approximately 5-8 hrs per work, during the leaf collection time the younger part-time workers have more hours. At this point in time the fire police are making more than some of our full time roadcrew workers. Mr. Ziegler inquired if Gary Griesemer was bumped up since he has been employed here, the Manager replied in 2010 there was a wage freeze on non-uniform fulltime employees but Mr. Griesemer has received the 2011 increase. Mr. Ziegler asked if he was a good worker, the Manager replied yes he is a good worker based on his evaluation. Mr. Ziegler stated that he would leave the increases up to the Manager; the Manager replied that he would recommend everything remaining the same until the discussion process for the 2012 Budget. It was agreed to discuss these issues during the 2012 Budget process.

4. Recycling Performance Grant -\$44,482.00 Update – the Manager read a letter congratulating Douglass Township on their performance grant of \$44,482.00 and to expect receipt of grant in 9 to 12 weeks.

Mr. Ziegler asked if there were any questions or comments for the Manager, no one replied.

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

Public Comment

Mr. Renninger complained about the shed that still hasn't been moved off of Municipal Drive, Mr. Ziegler commented that he has heard enough about this shed and directed Mr. Heydt to write a letter to the owner giving him until March 2011 to move the shed and if he doesn't move it fine him for every day that it is in violation, Mr. Heydt replied that he would take care of it. Mr. Brumwell asked that regarding the increase for the tax collector, how much does she make, Mr. Markofski stated that Mrs. Zern makes \$26,000 from the Township, \$15,406 from the County, \$17,156 from the School District which is a total of \$58,562.00. The Manager stated that the Street Light Assessments are printed out of our administration office. Mr. Ziegler commented that he wasn't aware that it was that much, someone questioned why is the Township's share higher than the school districts share; no one could answer that question. Several residents were surprised at the salary. Mr. Markofski commented that Mrs. Zern has done a fine job and is a wonderful and honest person; you would be surprised to find out how hard it is to find an honest tax collector these days. Mr. Link added that there are more aspects to the job other than collecting money; she has to research a lot of things that takes a lot of her time. Mr. Theil commented that he can appreciate that and does not begrudge the tax collector her wages because he takes up a lot of time with the Manager and the Secretary. Mr. Sell stated that wasn't there a problem with the tax collector that was found by the auditors during the other Board's tenure, the Manager stated that it was an overage found by the auditors, research was done and some properties were overtaxed due to the resale of properties during the year and the money was reallocated. No other questions were asked.

Old Business or New Business

There was no old business or new business.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40pm was made by Mr. Ziegler, seconded by Mr. Stasik. Stasik-Aye, Ziegler-Aye. Motion passed.

The next Board of Supervisor's meeting will be held on Monday, March 21st, 2011 @ 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Marcy Meitzler