

The meeting of the Douglass Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:30 P.M. Attending were Chairman Fred Ziegler, Supervisor Tim Turner, Solicitor Charles Markofski, Robert Campbell, Cynthia O'Donnell, Pete Hiryak, Mike Heydt, Chief Templin, and 28 residents.

Mr. Ziegler asked Chief Templin to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Theil announced that he will be recording tonight's proceedings. The Manager stated that the meeting will be recorded tonight in absence of the Township Secretary.

Mr. Ziegler asked if there were any changes or corrections to the minutes, no one replied.

On motion by Mr. Ziegler, seconded by Mr. Tuner, the Board approved the minutes of the June 6, 2011 meeting. Ziegler-Aye, Turner-Aye. Motion passed.

### **Chief Templin presented the Police Report**

May 2011 Statistics: 382 incident reports, 7 vacation notices, 1,592 business checks, 3 reportable accidents, 19 non-reportable accidents, 22 criminal investigations, 9 criminal arrests, 159 traffic citations, 4 non-traffic citations, 6 parking tickets, 7,378 miles traveled, \$4,535.13 money received by the Township. Individual statistics were given to the Board. On May 17, 2011 (Friday) we had a DUI Checkpoint. Checkpoints are a tool used to deter drivers from operating their vehicles while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. A couple of arrests were made and the checkpoint was a success. I'd like to thank Gilbertsville Fire & Rescue, the Boyertown Salvation Army, and Gilbertsville Auto Body for their help as well. As I had informed the Board before, I narrowed our search for a part-time officer to one candidate and three alternates. I prepared packets for each Supervisor on April 19, 2011 to review. The addition of this part-time officer is greatly needed. I was looking to proceed. Mr. Ziegler asked Chief Templin to provide the Board with a copy of Officer Werner's schedule for the summer. We need to discuss hourly wage. It is my recommendation that all part-time officers be paid \$20.00 an hour. This was a budgeted item at \$41,600.00 or \$20.00 an hour for 52 weeks.

A motion was made by Mr. Ziegler, seconded by Mr. Turner to approve Chief Templin's recommendation that all part-time officers be paid \$20.00 an hour and to proceed to hire a part-time officer at \$20.00 per hour. Ziegler-Aye, Turner-Aye. Motion passed.

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

### **Garry Schmoltze presented the Ambulance Report**

Mr. Schmoltze is the Chief of Operations for the Gilbertsville Area Community Ambulance Service and stated that there have been many positive changes implemented at GACAS including hiring practices and equipment updates, he urged people to stop in and visit the ambulance service. Mr. Schmoltze stated that many times Township's get better pricing on diesel fuel costs and asked if the Board would allow GACAS to purchase diesel fuel from the Township at the price that the Township pays. Mr. Heydt stated that he researched the pricing that GACAS is paying with William R. Gift and they are paying the same price that the Township is paying which is tax exempt. Mr. Heydt stated that the Township also buys unleaded gas through the Costars Program and he heard that some time in the future Costars might be expanding to sell diesel fuel and there would be a reduced price pending on the quantity of diesel fuel purchased and this could be helpful to GACAS. The Board stated that if in the future the Township would receive beneficial pricing on diesel fuel we would contact Mr. Schmoltze with the information.

A motion to accept the Gilbertsville Ambulance Report was made by Mr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Ziegler. Ziegler-Aye, Turner-Aye. Motion passed.

**Ron Ebert presented the Gilbertsville Fire Co. No.1 Report**

Mr. Ebert stated that they finished the landscaping in front of the building a lot of people helped and it turned out pretty good. We had a Father's Day buffet that went over very well, we made a profit. There has been an increase in memberships; a lot of people are joining. We are trying to watch our spending because summer is coming and it is usually a slow time. Banquet Hall bookings are up from last year. We are having monthly meetings for the carnival and bike night, we need volunteers so if anyone is interested please let me know. The next projects are: concrete pads in front of the truck doors; Terry will be doing the pads as soon as we get some pricing on concrete, it is very expensive, the roof leaked and the roofer came out within a half hour after I called him and the next day he fixed the leaks, the storage room for bingo has been completed so the bingo equipment can be put away after bingo. Mr. Ebert stated that he is tired of hearing the rumors that the fire companies have a big problem getting along, the only people who made out in this mess was the past trustee who I was told was in it for his own profit and the past lawyer. The current lawyer is trying to get things settled right now. It's time to get things together, enough time and money has been put into this. The saying is that there are three groups of people; those who watch what is happening, those who wonder what is happening, and those who make things happen. I hope we are the ones, who make it happen, let's make it happen. Mr. Ziegler asked Mr. Ebert who is the current lawyer, Mr. Ebert replied Becker. Seriously, I'm not playing politician let's bring this thing back together, Mr. Ziegler agreed. No questions were asked.

A motion to accept Gilbertsville Fire Co. No. 1 report was made by Mr. Turner, seconded Mr. Ziegler. Ziegler-Aye, Turner-Aye. Motion passed.

**Chief Smith presented the Gilbertsville Fire & Rescue Report**

Chief Smith stated that since Mr. Schmoltze has come aboard the relationship between the firefighters and the ambulance service has really come together; they have had some training sessions together and visited each other's buildings & equipment so the tide is changing with the ambulance. We have learned a lot of things about some of the equipment on the trucks that should have been done and the ambulance service is keeping the trucks stocked and up to date and stays ready to go, it's a good working relationship. Fire report for May 2011: 1 fire, 3 fire alarms/CO2 alarms, 3 assists to other departments for a total of 7 calls. The Fire Company was in service for 5 hours and 41 minutes. The UTV that was purchased was put into service 3 times; once for a brush fire at the Gilbertsville Elementary School, we used it to get on the walking path, it was requested for the fireworks at Fun Days in the Boyertown Park to get into the woods to put out the fireworks fires, and it was used in the extreme heat at graduation for medical emergencies. Over a year and a half ago Joey Henninger constructed some flag drop-off boxes for the fire company and the residents of Douglass Township dropped off 4 huge bags of flags to be disposed of at the flag retirement ceremony in Pottstown all through his efforts. Mr. Henninger made a brief statement saying that the flag drop-off box has been a huge success, and he distributed pictures for the Board to view. No questions were asked.

A motion to accept the Gilbertsville Fire & Rescue report was made by Mr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Ziegler. Ziegler-Aye, Turner-Aye. Motion passed.

**Mr. Haddad presented the Trustee's Report**

The Manager read a brief statement from Mr. Haddad – To the residents Supervisors of Douglass Township I shall not be attending the Township meeting tonight Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011 I am on the agenda at Colebrookdale Township for a subdivision matter. There is nothing new for me to report and also I am happy to report that all matters between GFC and F&R are under control at this time.

**Mr. Robert 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) – Met with Developer on June 16, 2011 to review proposed revision to plan. Revision would incorporate clusters and an estate lot onto the property and provide 24 acres of usable open space to the Township. Mr. Campbell asked if the Board had any comments to the open space issue, Mr. Ziegler replied that he was in favor of the 24 acres of usable open space. Chief Smith stated that he saw the original plan but not the revised plan for hydrant placement, Mr. Campbell replied that it would still be serviced by public water and public sewer so hydrant placement would not change. Mr. Brumwell commented that we seem to be getting a lot of open space in exchange for increased building lots. Mr. Brumwell stated that we are getting the 24 acres of open space but lose the taxes from that property if it would be developed and then who will be responsible for developing the open space, Mr. Ziegler stated that the developer would be responsible to develop the open space acres with gazebos and related items. Mr. Ziegler asked what Montgomery County thought of this, Mr. Campbell replied that the County liked the idea of usable open space and that it is connected to the Townships existing open space. Mr. Brumwell stated that the only thing with public sewer is that the homes nearby would be forced to connect to public sewer, Mr. Campbell stated that it would be a pressure forced main and there would be only one property affected. Mr. Brumwell stated down the road they will extend this to Middlecreek Road and force everyone to hook up. Mr. Ziegler and the Engineer stated that you can't hookup to a pressure forced main. This revised plan needs to go through the Township traffic engineer and the Planning Agency as a new submission with the consideration of Act 209 fees.
4. 400 Gilbertsville Road – Conditionally approved at the May 16, 2011 Supervisors meeting. Final plans and financial security request have not been received.
5. Hoffman Subdivision – Received preliminary plans for 114 lot subdivision, with 17 lots in Douglass and the remaining lots in Washington Township. Plans currently under review.
6. Windemere Subdivision – Completed final stabilization.
7. Cobblestone Crossing-Phase 3- Purchased by Beazer. Residential construction on-going.
8. Smith Road Bridge – Diverted flow through new culvert to allow for installation of the other half of the bridge. Meeting with PADEP today to discuss gravel bar removal, stream stabilization and work outside the current permit area. DEP recommends widening creek to 40-50' wide, removing existing gravel bar stepping it up slightly a foot maybe two feet so that anything greater than a two year storm will overflow the lower bank first before it gets to the second higher bank and then installing rock beds to funnel the flow and reduce the amount of sediment going downstream.
9. Market Street – Planning Agency requested Supervisors' authorization to have the Traffic Engineer evaluate potential project phasing and financing options for the construction of Market Street.

A motion was made by Mr. Ziegler, seconded by Mr. Turner to authorize the Traffic Engineer to evaluate potential project phasing and financing options for the construction of Market Street. Ziegler-Aye, Turner-Aye. Motion passed.

Mr. Campbell stated that as far as the pole barn that BMMA wants to build at the wastewater treatment plant he does not have any issues with it; Mr. Ziegler asked if they don't need a permit, Mr. Campbell stated that BMMA is asking that the permit be waived. Mr. Ziegler stated don't we pay BMMA for our sewer, the Manager replied that our sewer fees were not waived, however we have waived fees for BMMA in the past because of the possibility of the permit fees being passed to the residents. Mr. Ziegler asked Mr. Turner for his thoughts, Mr. Turner stated that his feelings on BMMA are duly noted and he doesn't care one way or the other about waiving the building permit.

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

**Mr. Markofski presented the Solicitor's Report.**

**Hearing for Ordinance 2011-03** – The Township will consider the adoption of an ordinance approving the Resolution of the Berks-Montgomery Municipal Authority amending their Articles of Incorporation and extending the life of the Authority until December 31, 2060. If this is acceptable to the Board, a motion and vote will be required in order to approve Ordinance 2011-03. This extension is sought by BMMA for the several million dollars needed for financing in order to comply with DEP standards for major replacements to the sewer lines throughout Douglass Township. Mr. Ziegler stated is this agreement something that we could break, a commitment to 2060 is a long commitment, Mr. Markofski stated that in his opinion he did **not** believe it could be broken, they are very desperate to have this done because the financing is in place, they could lose the current financing so there would be consequences involved if we did not approve it this evening. Mr. Turner stated that as much as he has had issues with BMMA he understands that BMMA is up against it as far as acquiring financing to replace the sewer lines and if we don't approve the extension they could lose the present financing interest rate, also this will affect the residents with future sewer problems if BMMA can't fix the lines and we will be in deeper trouble. Mr. Markofski stated that DEP is citing them frequently for having inadequate piping and not upgrading the system. Mr. Brumwell stated that the sewer authority in Birdsboro didn't maintain anything and the government stepped in and the residents got a three-four hundred dollar increase, we are damned if we do, damned if we don't, in his opinion do it and get it over with. Mr. Turner stated that everyone complains about tax increases, when was the last time anybody, besides Mr. Hunter, went to a sewer authority meeting, they are directly in your pocketbooks if you don't go and see whats going on shame on all of us. Mr. Carl Hiryak stated that this just goes back to poor management, back in January when we had a chance to change management at BMMA it didn't happen. Mr. Markofski read the Ordinance 2011-03 for the public prior to a vote. Mr. Markofski stated the ordinance has been advertised at least seven days ago and a copy was available at the Township for review and as long as the citizenry have an opportunity to be heard in this matter the Board can make a motion.

A motion was made by Mr. Ziegler, seconded by Mr. Turner to approve Ordinance No. 2011-03 for the extension of the Berks-Mont Sewer Authority until December 31, 2060. Ziegler-Aye, Turner-Aye. Motion passed.

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. Turner. Ziegler-Aye, Turner-Aye. Motion passed.

**Mr. Duncan presented the Recycling Report**

Month of May-June: 1 load of cardboard was taken to Reading, 3 loads of light iron were taken to Pottstown and 1 load of aluminum to Pottstown. We are down to our last windrow of leaf mulch. Mr. Duncan received notification that Douglass Township will once again receive the Waste Watchers Award for recycling excellence for 2010; the presentation will take place at one of the next Township meetings. We finished pouring the concrete pads for the dumpsters at the recycling center at no cost to the Township because Berks Products donated leftover concrete stumps to us and he thanked the road crew for helping with that project. The chipper was out to 9 residences for curbside chipping this month. 8 residences were exempt from payment and he put a new curbside chipping guideline proposal together for the Boards review. Mr. Ziegler tabled the decision of the proposal for next meeting when Supervisor Stasik would be present. The Recycling information on the website has been updated. No questions were asked.

A motion to accept the recycling report was made by Mr. Ziegler, seconded by Mr. Turner. Ziegler-Aye, Turner-Aye. Motion passed.

**Mr. Heydt presented the Highway Report**

Mr. Heydt stated that they are working on the list from last month. Finished roadside mowing and they are catching up on filling potholes. Next week they will be working on fixing some dirt roads (Henry and Stone).

A motion to accept the Highway Report was made by Mr. Ziegler, seconded Mr. Turner. Ziegler-Aye, Turner-Aye. Motion passed.

**Mr. Heydt presented the Zoning Report**

Mr. Heydt stated that 2 large permits for \$610.90 and 17 small permits were issued for \$1,211.60 for a total of \$1,822.50. Mr. Ebert asked Mr. Heydt to take care of a tree limb problem; Mr. Heydt stated he would take care of it in the morning. Mr. Theil asked if he took care of the problem that Mr. Ziegler asked him to take care of at Jackson and Third Avenue, Mr. Heydt stated that the problem is resolved; Mr. Ziegler asked how it was resolved. Mr. Heydt stated that they went out and looked at it and she was happy with what was done there. Mr. Sell asked if he heard correctly that he was going to use millings on Henry Road, Mr. Heydt stated that is correct we have approximately 1000 tons of millings that we are going to see how it holds up on Henry Road, and hopefully it will not wash. Mr. Ziegler asked if Mr. Heydt how he enforces the sewer systems in the Township, Mr. Heydt replied that the Montgomery County Health Department is our sewage enforcement officer, however there are certain areas of the Township that are required to pump out their systems every five years. The Manager stated that the office sends letters to the residents involved in these areas and they must provide the Township with a copy of the pumping receipt. This is done throughout the year. The Chairman asked if there are any questions for Mr. Heydt, Mr. Turner stated thank you for getting those people to cut their lawns. Mr. Heydt stated that if there is a problem just let him know and we will try to take care of it as soon as we can. No other questions were asked.

A motion to approve the Zoning Report was made by Mr. Ziegler, seconded by Mr. Turner. Ziegler-Aye, Turner-Aye. Motion passed.

**Cynthia O'Donnell presented the Treasurer's Report.**

1. Authorization to pay the bills. The unpaid bills totaled \$247,756.30. The unusual bills were the annual donations to nonprofits such as: Bally Ambulance, GACAS, Multi Service, Boyertown Library, Norristown Public Library and the Visiting Nurses of Pottstown. Other bills included Boyertown YMCA Summer Program, Brown & Brown, Bursich Assoc., Upbeat, Inc., Waste Zero, Inc, and EMC Insurance Companies.

A motion for authorization to pay the bills was made by Mr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Ziegler. Ziegler-Aye, Turner-Aye. Motion passed.

Our insurance was renewed through Brown & Brown Insurance. We received two quotes for our policies. Accepting the lower quote saved the Township \$11,614.00 for the 2011-2012 year policy. The General Fund income for 2011 to date is 2.1% (\$38,181) ahead of last year's income to date. The majority of the increase is from Real Estate Transfer Taxes. From the sale of Cobblestone Crossing to Beazer Homes, the Township received \$29,340 in transfer tax. Our total Real Estate Transfer Taxes for the month of May are \$40,848. The sale of the remaining lots in Cobblestone Crossing for \$5,868,151 does not change the assessment for real estate taxes. The assessment value for real estate taxes is not changed until the construction of homes occurs on the lots, unless an appeal is made by a taxing authority. The lots are currently assessed at \$210 individually. Two additional escrows were opened for the Hoffman Subdivision and the Sterner Annexation. There will be several budget amendments and I will put together a schedule of them several weeks before the next meeting so you will be able to review them such as heating oil for the building, diesel fuel for the highway vehicles.

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

**Pete Hiryak reviewed the Manager's Report.**

1. The Manager reviewed the upcoming meetings as follows: Two Advertised Zoning Hearing Board Appeals Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011 @7pm consisting of Tom Lorah Auctions, 429 Hoffmansville Road and East Coast Ammo, 1542 E. Philadelphia Ammo. Planning Agency Meeting Thursday, July 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm/Revitalization or Rt. 100 Corridor @ 6pm., Board of Supervisors Meeting Monday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011 @ 7:30pm.

The Board of Supervisors stated that they did not have a problem with East Coast Ammo moving in to 1542 E. Philadelphia Avenue.

A motion was made by Mr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Ziegler to have Mr. Markofski attend the Tom Lorah Auctions zoning hearing board meeting and express concerns on the availability of parking at 429 Hoffmansville Road and unless it can be resolved he would like the Township to object to this zoning variance. Ziegler-Aye, Turner-Aye. Motion passed.

2. BMMA pre-construction meeting regarding some of the sewer projects, the work will start on Gilbertsville Road on July 11, 2011 from Diehl Drive back up toward the Post Office from 9am – 3pm Monday through Friday and it will take approximately 3 weeks to complete the work, they had to get PennDot to approve the hours and the days of the week for work since Gilbertsville Road is a State road. Virmay Drive will be next and working hours will be 7am-5pm Monday through Friday, then onto Moore Drive and then Werstler Avenue. They hope to have the whole project completed by October-November 2011.

At the last meeting a gentleman brought in a history book that he found in his building and donated it to the Township, the Manager has written him a letter thanking him for his generous donation. We ordered the Open Space signs they will be similar but smaller than the sign at the Libor Open Space Property on Congo Road. Mr. Ebert stated that as far as BMMA he doesn't want any construction equipment or stone put onto the fire company property because the last time it was done they didn't clean it up and mowing the grass is terrible we have to use weedwackers. The Manager stated that most likely it would be a different contractor for this project. Mr. Turner suggested that Mr. Moser to talk to the contractor and ask him if he has two or three inches of left over topsoil if he could spread it on the fire company lot and then Mr. Ebert could put grass seed on it and fix the problem. The Manager stated that some people came in to look at a possible sound system for the meeting room and they will be giving us a proposal with some microphones at the table and one for the podium, the speakers will be in the ceiling at strategic points so the sound won't be bouncing all around. Also as far as the plaque for former Supervisor Walter Hiriak we are getting a quote from Graber Letterin, the problem is getting a color picture of Mr. Hiriak, and Mr. Ziegler stated that he has a picture. Mr. Turner stated that he did not care what it cost he would take care of it, the Manager stated that the brass picture itself would be approximately \$1800.00, Mr. Turner stated that the cost is fine with him. The picture would help us move on with this project. No other questions were asked.

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

**Public Comment**

Mr. Renninger was inquiring about the well water on Municipal Drive are you guys in the process of trying to get that \$4200 back, Mr. Ziegler stated no he is not doing anything, Mr. Turner stated that they made a decision based on the best available information that was given to us and the decision stands. Mr. Renninger stated that the taxpayers are out \$4,200, Mr. Turner stated that we paid for the Diachynskys to have a water purifier, Mr. Renninger said they also got bottled water, Mr. Turner stated that the bottled was not that much money it is what it is and the decision included a previous Board Member. The Manager stated that bottled water was also given to affected residences along E.

Philadelphia Avenue; it was not just the Diachynsky's. Mr. Turner stated are you going to bring up to shed while you are at it, it is always something enough is enough let's move on. Mr. Ziegler stated that he would just like him escorted out, this is all old news. Mr. Markofski stated that you couldn't collect the money even if you wanted to, it is legally impossible, he didn't sign a contract. Mr. Renninger continued his comments until Mr. Ziegler stated you are out of order and repeatedly banged the gavel as he was ordered to be escorted out of the building. Ms. Norton commented that over the weekend they were in need of the assistance of a police officer and she complimented Chief Templin for the professionalism and helpfulness of the officer, while he was with them he received two more calls so she was pleased that the Chief got the authorization to hire the part time police officer because she could see they needed more help. She also commented that Mr. Theil told her that the reason he tapes the minutes is because the minutes that are taken at the meeting are incomplete and she would like this recorded in the minutes. The Manager stated that we do the best that we can do with the minutes, it is not supposed to be verbatim and we are taping tonight because Marcy could not be here. If it was word for word we would have to get a court stenographer to do it. No other comments were made.

**Old Business or New Business**

Mr. Dodge stated that the installation of the new open space signs will take two more items off the list for open space requirements from the County. They are now working on what is considered the urgent requirements, some of which involved a playground on the Moyer Open Space, and working together with Berks County and New Hanover Township on various projects. Mr. Turner suggested that with \$9600.00 left in the schoolhouse fund let the open space committee come up with a plan to use the money on the schoolhouse let's get it done. Mr. Ziegler stated that someone told him that there is another schoolhouse on Swamp Pike near the Township line that may be donated to the Township in the future. No other comments were made.

A motion was made by Mr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Ziegler to approve the Open Space Report. Ziegler-Aye, Turner-Aye. Motion passed.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Turner, seconded by Mr. Ziegler. Ziegler-Aye, Turner-Aye. Motion passed.

The next Board of Supervisor's meeting will be held on Monday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011 @ 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Marcy Meitzler