

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
December 5, 2012

The meeting of the Douglass Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:30 P.M.

Attending were Chairman Fred Ziegler, Supervisors Tim Turner and John Stasik, Solicitor Charles Markofski, Robert Campbell, Hannah Mazzaccaro, Mike Heydt, Pete Hiryak, Chief Templin, and approximately 16 residents.

Mr. Ziegler led us in the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Theil announced that he will be taping this evenings proceeding.

Janet Bauer announced that she will also be taping tonight's proceedings.

Mr. Ziegler asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of November 21st, 2011, Mr. Sell stated that in the minutes he wanted it noted that he did not agree with Mr. Theil's comments that the cost for the police contract arbitrator was a waste of money. No other changes were made.

On motion by Mr. Stasik, seconded by Mr. Turner, the Board approved the minutes of the November 21st, 2011 with the addition of Mr. Sell's statement that he did not agree with Mr. Theil's comments that the cost for the police contract arbitrator was a waste of money. Stasik-Aye, Ziegler-Aye, Turner-Aye. Motion passed.

Hannah Mazzaccaro from MCPC was present to give a report on the Douglass Township Revitalization Plan. The purpose of the plan is to provide the Township with a strategy to enhance and revitalize Gilbertsville main street, East Philadelphia Avenue. The plan satisfies the requirements of the Montgomery County Community Revitalization Programs through which the Township can apply for funding to archive the goals and objectives outlined in the plan. These include creating a Main Street Committee, establishing a property enhancement grant program, implementing a rental property inspection program, and streetscape improvements. The preliminary application is due January 15th, 2012 for review by the County Revitalization Board later that month. The Township will continue with the revitalization process with the help of the Montgomery County Planning Commission.

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

#### Engineer's Report – Mr. Robert Campbell

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)-Staff meeting on November 15, 2011 to review layout and discuss potential concerns prior to developer going ahead with engineered plans.

4. 400 Gilbertsville Road – Conditionally approved at the May 16, 2011 Supervisors meeting. Sewer Planning Module received. Expecting to receive plans showing a revision to storm water piping locations. Should not be necessary to be returned for another Board review.
5. Hoffman Subdivision – Received sketch plans for 114 lot subdivision, with 17 lots all or partially in Douglass and the remaining lots in Washington Township. Prepared review letter dated June 28, 2011, revised July 5, 2011. Planning Commission is evaluating zoning concerns and will offer an opinion to the Township at a future date.
6. Berwind II – Received preliminary plans for 71 residential units. Prepared review letter dated December 5, 2011.
7. Cobblestone Crossing-Phase 3- Beazer. Residential construction on-going.
8. Smith Road Bridge – Awaiting as-built drawings. Have been in touch with developer and the surveyor and we are hoping to get this finalized very soon. Mr. Ziegler asked if he had a date when this would be finished, Mr. Campbell replied that everyone’s review of the as-built could possibly be completed by the end of the year. Mr. Ziegler asked Mr. Campbell to contact Mr. Conti and please try to have everything completed by the end of the year. Mr. Campbell replied that he would contact Mr. Conti.

Mr. Ziegler asked if there were any questions for Mr. Campbell, no questions were asked.

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

#### Solicitor’s Report – Mr. Charles Markofski

Douglass Township Police Department Employment Contract 2012-2015– The tentative contract which is now before the Board for approval represents the culmination of many months of negotiations.

In order to avoid the expense and uncertainty of arbitration, each side made difficult concessions. Both sides were, at all times, mindful of our troubled economic times. The Bargaining Unit for our Police Department demonstrated reasonableness and restraint in their demands and, above all, conveyed the sincere desire that both sides reach a negotiated agreement. The Township would like to convey its deep appreciation to the Bargaining Unit. Both sides addressed the contract in its totality and ultimately hammered out a comprehensive and specific contract for the future. The Board, on behalf of the Douglass Township taxpayer, is most grateful to our Police Department for agreeing to the following concessions: Replacing the current health care plan with a more affordable alternative thereby saving the Township \$86,000 a year for a total savings of \$344,000 over the course of the contract; eliminating lifetime health care benefits for early retirees; converting health care coverage for retirees at age 65 to a Medicare Part B supplemental policy; eliminating unlimited paid sick leave; and, holding the line on pay raises to only 3%. Mr. Brumwell stated that he was under the impression that the public was to be able to see the contract and have a say in it, we have a right to see what the money is spent for. Mr. Markofski stated that this is a better contract than any other contract that Douglass Township ever had. This was going to go to arbitration but was ironed out before it went to arbitration. Mr. Ziegler stated that Act 111 prevents contract negotiations to be public, total Kaos would happen if the public would have gotten involved; it would have been too many disagreements or proposed changes. Mr. Markofski stated that the contract is not a public hearing requirement. Mr.

Theil asked that if this was a culmination of months of negotiations, how many sit down discussions were there actually. Mr. Markofski replied that the negotiations were a combination of sit down discussions, letters back and forth, e-mails, and phone conversations.

A motion to approve and sign the Police Contract was made by Mr. Stasik, seconded by Mr. Turner. Stasik-Aye, Ziegler-Abstain, Turner-Aye. Motion passed.

Members of the Police Bargaining Unit were present and signed the Police Contract. The Board thanked the Bargaining Unit for their involvement in settling the contract. The members of the Police Bargaining Unit also thanked the Board of Supervisors and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Mill Street – I was able to inspect the Mill Street property of Barry Adams with our Township Manager Hiryak on December 5, 2011. Our manager agrees that approximately ten percent of the trash has been removed. Although this 10% reduction now permits physical access to Mr. Adams' backyard, it is hard to describe this reduction as real progress considering the extent of the remaining junk. We may, in fact, be witnessing only a seasonal reduction of the junkyard, typical prior to the economic dictates of the holiday season. I would like the Board to review the photograph which I am presenting at this time. I recommend that the Board require that the junkyard be cleaned to the far end of the red barn shown in the photograph, prior to the end of March 2012. In the event this rather conservative deadline cannot be met, I would like the Board to approve the issuance of a citation at that time.

Mr. Markofski was hoping to put a deadline on this to give the code enforcement officer the ability to cite the owner. The Board was in agreement to give Mr. Adams a deadline date of May 1st, 2012 to have no less than 50% of the trash removed from the property and if this is not accomplished or he will be cited.

A motion was made by Mr. Ziegler, seconded by Mr. Stasik to give Mr. Adams a deadline date of May 1st, 2012 to remove no less than 50% of the trash from his property and if this is not achieved by this date he will be cited by the Code Enforcement Officer. Stasik-Aye, Ziegler-Aye, Turner-Aye. Motion passed.

Beaver Tract – We have been advised by the Montgomery County Planning Commission that a resolution providing for the inclusion of the Charles and Deborah Beaver farm into the Douglass Township Agricultural Security Area District was not filed and recorded when it was passed in 2004.

I was just provided this information and will draft a new resolution for the Board at our next meeting in December. The Manager stated that the records show the resolution had never been recorded at the County in 2004. Mr. Sell asked who dropped the ball on this issue. The manager replied that it could have been whoever was responsible for recording resolutions at the time, either the manager or solicitor. No other questions were asked.

Applications which are pending but inactive:

Danny Jake – Hallowell                      inactive 2 years

Cobblestone Commons                      inactive 1 year

Bui Jordan Drive                              inactive 1-1/2 years

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

Mike Heydt presented the Highway Report – (November 22, 2011 December 5, 2011) Helped finish leaf collection for the season. Repaired potholes. Installed new signs and replaced some damaged signs. Hung up the Holiday banners. Cleaned leaves out of the ditches. Trimmed at the signs throughout the Township. Mr. Ziegler told Mr. Heydt that since the police contract has been settled you can go ahead with your building at the highway department, the money has been put back in the budget. Mr. Ziegler asked if anyone had questions for Mr. Heydt, no one replied.

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

Pete Hiryak presented the Manager's Report.

1. The Manager reviewed the upcoming meetings as follows: P/A Workshop Thursday, December 8th @6pm, P/A Meeting on Thursday, December 8th @ 7pm. Board of Supervisors Meeting Monday, December 19th @ 7:30pm. Reorganization Meeting Tuesday, January 3rd @ 7:30pm. Elected Board of Auditors Meeting Wednesday, January 4th @7pm.
2. Volunteers for various Committees, Boards, or Agencies – Anyone interested on serving on any of these Committees, Boards, or Agencies should submit a letter stating their interest to the attention of the Manager for review by the Supervisors before the Reorganization Meeting on January 3rd, 2012.
3. The agenda for the next meeting will include the 2012 Budget adoption, 2012 Tax Resolution adoption, 2012 Meeting Dates, the non-uniform Holidays, and the non-uniform wage sheet for the Boards approval.
4. Copies of the Montgomery County 2012 Budget information are available in the lobby. The County has a 40 million dollar deficit. The County has proposed major cutbacks that will affect many people, including the Planning Commission, libraries, zoos, and parks and recreation, there are contact numbers for the public if they have questions or wish to make comments to the Montgomery County Commissioner.

No other questions were asked.

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

#### Public Comment

There was no public comment.

#### Old Business or New Business

No old business or new business was discussed.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm was made by Mr. Stasik, seconded by Mr. Turner. Stasik-Aye, Ziegler-Aye, Turner-Aye. Motion passed

The next Board of Supervisor's meeting will be held on Monday, December 19th, 2011 @ 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Marcy Meitzler