
LIMERICK TOWNSHIP - BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 20, 2011
7:00 P.M.

A meeting of the Limerick Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, December 20, 2011, in the Public Meeting Room of the Limerick Township Municipal Building with Kara Shuler, Vice-Chairman, presiding over the opening of the meeting.

Members Present: Supervisors D. Elaine DeWan, Thomas J. Neafcy, Jr., Joseph St. Pedro, Kara Shuler, and Kenneth W. Sperring, Jr.

Others Present: Joseph J. McGrory, Jr., Esq., Township Solicitor; Khaled R. Hassan, P.E., Township Engineer; Daniel K. Kerr, Township Manager; and Beth F. DiPrete, Asst. Twp. Mgr./Treasurer.

Call To Order: Ms. Shuler called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M., and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Opening Comments/Announcements**THIS MEETING IS BEING RECORDED.**

An Executive Session will be held immediately following this meeting regarding Legal and Personnel issues. No action will be taken.

American Red Cross Blood Drive – Wednesday, December 28, 2011 from 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM in the Township Building.

Board of Supervisors Reorganization Meeting – Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at 7:00 PM.

Auditors Reorganization Meeting – Wednesday, January 4, 2012 at 6:00 PM.

Parks & Recreation Committee Reorganization Meeting – Thursday, January 5, 2012 at 7:00 PM.

Planning Commission Reorganization Meeting – Thursday, January 26, 2012 at 7:00 PM.

Yard and Leaf Waste Drop-Off – Monday, January 9, 2012 from 8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon at Limerick Community Park.

Christmas Tree Drop-off – Limerick Community Park until January 31, 2012.

Mr. Kerr announced that he received word on Friday that the Township did receive the \$25,000 DCNR Grant for the Greenways and Master Trail Plan.

From this point forward, Mr. Neafcy presided over the meeting.

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Consideration of Minutes: Upon motion made by Mr. Sperring and seconded by Ms. Shuler, the December 6, 2011 Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes were approved, 4-0-1 with Ms. DeWan abstaining.

Public Comments on Agenda Items: None.

Bills List: Upon motion made by Mr. St. Pedro and seconded by Ms. Shuler, Bills List #23 for the period of 12/03/11 through 12/16/11 in the amount of \$583,267.71 was unanimously approved.

Monthly Reports: Upon motion made by Mr. St. Pedro and seconded by Mr. Sperring, the November, 2011 reports of the Treasurer, Zoning/Code Enforcement Office, Public Works Department, Police Department, Parks & Recreation Department, and Sewer Department Superintendent, were unanimously accepted.

PUBLIC HEARING

Zoning Ordinance Amendments: Mr. McGrory suspended the Public Meeting and opened the Public Hearing for consideration of two (2) Zoning Ordinance Amendments. He presented seven (7) exhibits for incorporation into the record and proceeded with the Public Hearing. At the conclusion of the Hearing, Mr. McGrory opened the floor for any questions and/or Public comments. Seeing none, he closed the Public Hearing and moved back into the Public Meeting. With the Ordinance having been properly advertised and the Hearing properly conducted, the Ordinance is in position for Board consideration. **Motion was made** by Mr. Sperring and seconded by Ms. Shuler, to approve Ordinance No. 327 to Repeal and/or Amend Twenty-five Articles/Sections of Chapter 184 of the Limerick Township Zoning Code. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. McGrory again suspended the Public Meeting and opened the Public Hearing for consideration of proposed Ordinance No. 328. He presented seven (7) exhibits for incorporation into the record and proceeded with the Public Hearing. At the conclusion of the Hearing, Mr. McGrory opened the floor for any questions and/or Public comments. Seeing none, he closed the Public Hearing and moved back into the Public Meeting. With the Ordinance having been properly advertised and the Hearing properly conducted, the Ordinance is in position for Board consideration. **Motion was made** by Mr. Sperring and seconded by Ms. Shuler, to approve Ordinance No. 328 to Amend and Repeal Various Sections of Chapter 184 of the Limerick Township Zoning Code. Motion passed unanimously.

Subdivision and Land Development

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Extensions: **Upon motion made** by Mr. Sperring and seconded by Ms. DeWan, the following extensions to the 90-day review period were unanimously accepted:

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| a. Telvil-Landis | (#03-06): Extended to 4/16/2012 |
| b. Limerick Car Wash & Quick Lube | (#09-06): Extended to 3/29/2012 |
| c. Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC | (#11-03): Extended to 3/20/2012 |

Motion was made by Mr. Sperring and seconded by Ms. DeWan, to accept the development time review extensions. Motion passed unanimously.

Confirmed Appointments

Phoenixville Federal Bank, 473 West Ridge Pike - Joe Giunta, VP, was present on behalf of Phoenixville Federal Bank in response to an Enforcement Notice they received regarding a violation of the Sign Ordinance. He emphasized that this violation was not a willful act by the bank, and that he is present this evening acting in good faith. He was under the impression that the bank would be "grandfathered" and as such, permitted to display electronic messages in addition to time and temperature on their current sign. It is the Township's position that the current Phoenixville Bank sign does not comply with the new standards which require any electronic sign to be no more than 6 feet in height with a base of 1 to 3 feet maximum. Therefore, the Bank is not entitled to anything other than time and temperature, and would be required to apply for a Variance from the Zoning Board. A discussion ensued. It was the consensus of the Board that they would remain neutral on the matter if the bank decides to apply for a Variance. No action was taken.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution – Adoption of 2012 Budget – Mr. Kerr explained two (2) minor changes to the Preliminary Budget that was presented for consideration. 1) The Administration computer server increase of \$17,000 from the General Capital Fund as detailed during the December 6th discussion with the Board. 2) A last minute request from Ed at the Sewer Plant to roll the \$40,000 allocated in the current Budget to fix the roof on the office building to next year. The roof to be replaced is metal, and after obtaining prices it may be better to change the roof to a standard asphalt shingle roof. Seeing the Budget allows for a new roof on the Public Works building, then we may be able to save some money by bundling both projects. **Motion was made** by Ms. DeWan and seconded by Ms. Shuler, to approve Resolution No. 2011-40 Adopting the 2012 Budget. Motion passed 3-2-0, with Mr. Neafcy and Mr. Sperring casting the negative votes.

Resolution – Setting the 2012 Tax Millage Rates – Mr. Kerr noted that with the passing of the Budget, the new Real Estate Tax Millage Rates will be 1.516. **Motion was made** by Ms. Shuler

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and seconded by Ms. DeWan, to approve Resolution No. 2011-41 Setting the 2012 Tax Millage Rates. Motion passed 3-2-0, with Mr. Neafcy and Mr. Sperring casting the negative votes.

Resolution – Police Pension Plan Contribution – Mr. Kerr explained that this is an annual action item which will set the rate of contribution from the base 5%. The Budget provides for a 1% contribution by the Police Officers to their Pension Fund, representing a reduction from the 5% that the law allows. **Motion was made** by Ms. Shuler and seconded by Ms. DeWan, to approve Resolution No. 2011-42 Reducing Employee Contributions to the Police Pension Plan for 2011. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution – Amending Sewer Rentals, Fees and Charges – Mr. Kerr explained that as noted within the approved Budget, sewer rental rates will be increasing by 4% beginning in 2012. **Motion was made** by Ms. DeWan and seconded by Ms. Shuler, to approve Resolution No. 2011-43 Amending its Sewer Rentals, Fees and Charges. Motion passed 3-2-0, with Mr. Neafcy and Mr. Sperring casting the negative votes.

PWD Annual Quantities Bid – Award 2012 Annual Quantities Bid for Fuels – Mr. Kerr noted that the bids were opened on December 13, 2011, and the Administration and Public Works Department recommend approval for Penn Petroleum to be awarded the contract for various fuels at the bid price of \$155,782.00. **Motion was made** by Mr. Sperring and seconded by Ms. Shuler, to award the 2012 Annual Quantities Contract for Various Fuels to Penn Petroleum at the bid price of \$155,782.00. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval – Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation Grant – Mr. Kerr explained that the Township applied for \$50,000 to finish the playground equipment at the Manderach Memorial Playground. The Parks and Recreation Committee worked on obtaining the \$30,000 Grant. The 2012 Budget allocates the \$20,000 matching funds. With the approval of the Budget, the Grant letter can be signed by the Board Chairman if the Board is in agreement with the project. **Motion was made** by Mr. St. Pedro and seconded by Ms. Shuler, to approve the Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation Grant. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion – Long Term Softball Field Lease Proposal – Limerick Community Park – Mr. Kerr opened a discussion regarding the possibility of a long-term lease agreement with some of the youth sports organizations. He explained that they have been studying the usage/demand for the fields, and how to reduce the costs at the Community Park with regard to maintenance of the fields. Administration has recently met with the Lacrosse League and the Softball League. Scott, from Spring-Ford Youth Softball League was in attendance, and has submitted a proposal which would remove the responsibility for maintenance of three (3) softball fields from the Township. Their proposal is for three (3) years, and includes building batting cages and dugouts, possibly with fencing, and a storage shed. Because of their capital investment they would put into the fields, they want to forgo paying the rental fees. This proposal would save the Township.

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approximately \$6,000 to \$8,000 per year out of Public Works time by not having to maintain the fields. They would retain exclusive use of these fields, but they have agreed to allow anyone who has been currently renting the fields to keep using them. They also wish to take over the concession stand, and we are in the process of working on a cost sharing agreement that would benefit the Township and the Sports League. A discussion ensued. The Board requested that the Sports League present a Plan for consideration at a future meeting. No action was taken.

Public Comments – None.

Supervisor Comments – Mr. Neafcy noted an article from the PSATS Magazine regarding Senate Bill #1147 which would require municipalities to allow heavy trucking of cryogenic liquid with a gross weight not to exceed 102,000 lbs. to move upon highways within their jurisdiction. He would like the Township to send a letter to Senator Rafferty opposing Senate Bill #1147. In his opinion it would be a detriment to our roads, especially in light of the conversations during Budget discussions regarding Longview Road and damage being done by the trucks coming out of the quarry. **Motion was made** by Ms. DeWan and seconded by Mr. St. Pedro, to authorize the Township Manager to send a letter to Senator Rafferty opposing Senate Bill #1147. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Neafcy announced that the Board will adjourn into Executive Session to discuss Legal and Personnel issues. No action will be taken.

Ms. Shuler thanked everyone on behalf of the Limerick Fire Company for depleting their Christmas tree supply this year.

On behalf of the Board, Mr. Neafcy wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Adjournment: There being no further business, **motion was made** by Mr. Sperring and seconded by Mr. St. Pedro to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel K. Kerr
Township Manager