

WILLISTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES
40 Lloyd Avenue, Suite 208, Malvern, Pennsylvania
November 12, 2013 at 7:00 PM

The Regular Meeting of the Willistown Township Board of Supervisors came to order at 7:00 PM. Chairman Robert T. Lange, Vice Chairman William R. Shoemaker and Supervisor Norman S. MacQueen were present. Also present were Manager David R. Burman, Police Chief John M. Narcise and Finance Director Martin McKenzie.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Moment of Silence for Military Personnel

Mr. Lange led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, followed by a moment of silence for our troops.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Burman reported that he and Finance Director Martin McKenzie had nearly completed preparation of the 2014 Budget and it would be finalized very shortly. A more detailed report will be provided at an upcoming meeting.

Announcements

Mr. Lange announced that the Willistown Township Zoning Hearing Board will meet on Wednesday, November 20, 2013 at 7:30 PM to hold a hearing on Application Z-9-13 in which the owners of The Institutes at 720 Providence Road seek variance relief to permit the installation of a single identification sign at or near the intersection of Sugartown and Providence Roads in excess of the limitation imposed by the Zoning Ordinance, in lieu of two identifications signs, one on each road, having compliant and smaller dimensions.

Mr. Lange also announced that the Supervisors would meet briefly in Executive Session following this meeting to discuss a personnel matter.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Mr. Shoemaker moved to approve the minutes of the Supervisors' Work Session and Meeting held October 28, 2013. Mr. MacQueen seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Shoemaker moved to approve the List of Expenditures and Interfund Transfers dated November 12, 2013. Mr. MacQueen seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Shoemaker moved to approve the revised final land development application of 237 East King Partners for a Kimberton Whole Foods Store to be located on East King. Mr. MacQueen seconded

the motion. There were no further comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Shoemaker moved to approve the subdivision / lot line change for the Gansky property located at Goshen and Providence Roads. Mr. MacQueen seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Shoemaker moved to authorize advertising the proposed budget for 2014. Mr. MacQueen seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried unanimously.

Citizens' Comments

Betsy Allinson of 21 Wistar Road commented with regard to a rumor she had heard about the Daylesford Abbey property and revisions to the trail that had been required as part of earlier approvals. Mr. Shoemaker commented that, to his knowledge, nothing had been formally presented to the Township. Mr. Burman reported that a package marked Daylesford Abbey arrived at the Township today, unbeknownst to Mr. Shoemaker, but Mr. Burman had yet to review it.

Mr. Lange expressed appreciation to the residents of Willistown Township for reelecting him to another six-year term. Mr. Lange stated that he was proud of his positive and upbeat campaign with no animosity or bad feelings towards the opposition. He expressed hope for "political politeness" in future campaigns, encouraging his opponents to refrain from what he views as negative campaigning.

Mike Devine of 8 Quarterwood Road commented with regard to letters he had received during the recent election cycle, and asked the Supervisors to clarify some information, particularly with regard to the Township's bond rating and to the status of the police pension funding.

Mr. Shoemaker was clear that it would be inappropriate to discuss politics at this meeting. However, he did report that the Township has never been rated AAA, as this rating is typically reserved for larger municipalities which meet a number of other criteria. Mr. Shoemaker further reported that the Township's bond rating actually went up from AA2 in 2007 to AA1 in 2013.

Mr. Shoemaker also noted three important decisions the Supervisors have made in recent years with regard to the police pension plan. First: Mr. Shoemaker noted that the Supervisors have lowered the assumed rate of return on the pension plan to more closely reflect actual market conditions. This has resulted in the appearance of a larger unfunded liability. Second: Mr. Shoemaker noted that the Supervisors have always met their minimum municipal obligation for funding the police pension plan, even making excess contributions in at least one recent year. Third: Mr. Shoemaker noted that although the Township's general reserves exceed that which would be required to fully fund the pension liability, the Supervisors have consciously decided to maintain flexibility with those reserves. Once those reserves are placed into the pension fund, they are unavailable for any other purpose, which restricts the Township's ability to respond effectively to future challenges.

Mr. Shoemaker went on to clarify the net compensation of each Willistown Township Police Officer includes not just straight time, but also overtime, depending on the actual hours worked.

Chief Narcise commented that the Police Department's main goal is to protect the residents of Willistown Township. He stated that it is hard work and the officers of the Police Department lay it on the line every day. He expressed his disappointment that the compensation of the Police Department was brought into question during the recent election cycle.

Mr. Shoemaker also discussed recent criticisms of the decision to erect a new police building. Mr. Shoemaker reported that the Supervisors have gone through a comprehensive decision making process concerning the Township's facilities. He stated that there are legal / functional issues with which the Township must comply. He stated that the decision to construct a new police building makes good sense, since we would need to find a permanent home for the Township's administrative offices in any case. This decision eliminates the rental expense and transfer the new asset to the Township's balance sheet.

Next Meeting

Mr. Lange announced that the next meeting would take place on Monday, November 25, 2013 with a public work session at 6:30 PM and the regular business meeting at 7:00 PM. All meetings are open to the General Public.

Adjournment

Mr. Shoemaker moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. MacQueen seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



David R. Burman
Secretary