

WILLISTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES
688 SUGARTOWN ROAD, MALVERN, PA
MAY 8, 2017 AT 7:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Willistown Township Board of Supervisors came to order at 7:00 PM. Supervisors William R. Shoemaker, George J. McHugh IV and Robert T. Lange were present. Also present were Township Manager David R. Burman and Chief of Police John M. Narcise.

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

Announcements

Mr. Shoemaker announced that the Board of Supervisors would meet in Executive Session immediately following this meeting to discuss pending litigation matters .

New Business

Mr. McHugh moved to approve the minutes of the Board of Supervisors' regular meeting dated April 24, 2017. Mr. Lange seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. McHugh moved to approve the List of Expenditures and Interfund Transfers dated May 8, 2017. Mr. Lange seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. McHugh moved to approve the Proactive Managed Services Agreement with Stratix Systems. Mr. Lange seconded the motion. Mike Kerr of Stonehenge Lane inquired about the bid procedures. Mr. Burman reported that this procurement, with an estimated cost of roughly \$28,800 per year, was exempt from sealed bids under the professional services exclusion. Mr. Shoemaker noted that with the complexity of technology and cyber security concerns, organizations of all sizes need this type of service. There were no further questions from the Board or the public, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. McHugh moved to approve the Sewer Construction and Maintenance Agreement for 617 Sugartown Road. Mr. Lange seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion passed unanimously.

Police Report

Chief Narcise reported on recent activities of the Police Department, including an arrest for criminal mischief involving damage to vehicles and an arrest for DUI on Sugartown Road. The Chief also reported on the investigation into three recent accidents at the intersection of Delchester Road and West Chester Pike. In addition, the Chief reported that he has met with Devereux concerning an increasing number of calls for assistance, in the hopes that this can be addressed by Devereux staff. Chief Narcise announced that Officer Monroe recently earned his Master's Degree from Rosemont College, and this will be recognized at the annual awards night in March. The Chief also reported that Officer Bullock has been accepted as one of only five certified trainers at the Chester County Emergency Services Training Center. The Chief congratulated Officer Will and Mr. Burman for completing the 10-mile Broad Street Run yesterday. Chief Narcise reported that the Department would participate in a new program entitled "Chief for a Day", in which one lucky student would be selected to mirror the Chief during an upcoming work day.

Mahala Renkey of Tulip Drive asked when the awards night would take place. Mr. Shoemaker reported that it usually takes place at a Supervisors' meeting in March of each year. In addition, Mr. Shoemaker reported that our Zoning Officer, Neil Vaughn, recently received his Commercial Building Inspector certification, which also will be recognized in March.

Citizens' Comments

Jack McGinley of Second Avenue expressed concerns about the ongoing odor of natural gas near Grubb Road and Paoli Pike. Mr. Burman reported that PECO has been working in the area and apparently has not completed the project.

Elizabeth Jekot of Applewood Road commented about the recent traffic study by the Police Department. She reported that the speed sign was placed on her street for approximately three weeks, but she remains concerned about speed. Mr. Jekot indicated that there are new families with children in the neighborhood and she is concerned about their safety. She feels that motorists use her street as a cut through. She also complained that the sign was not working for part of the time. Mr. Shoemaker reported that just because it is not displaying the speed doesn't mean that it is not recording. Mr. Shoemaker also noted that Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has established two speed limits where signage does not exist: 25 MPH for residential areas and 55 MPH for highways. Chief Narcise reported the average speed on Applewood Road during the study period was just 19 MPH. He expressed concerns for the other residents who may not want a speed limit sign on their lawns. Mr. Shoemaker agreed, and asked Mrs. Jekot if she might come back with a petition to indicate that the majority of her neighbors feel the same way. Mr. Shoemaker also offered the use of the Township's meeting room, if needed.

Jodi Camp of Main Line Gardens asked Mr. Shoemaker if had any information about a government vehicle taking pictures of his business earlier in the day. Mr. Shoemaker said he did not have any knowledge of that.

Mr. Timothy Barnard, Esquire, approached the Board concerning Application S-2-16 / L-2-16, the Application of Willistown Conservation Trust for Subdivision Approval to consolidate five lots. The Application also seeks Land Development Approval for a new Conservation Center at 921 Delchester Road. The project includes Tax Parcels 54-6-79.7B, 54-6-79.7C, 54-6-79.11, 54-6-81, and 54-6-79.7, located in the RU Rural District of Willistown Township. Mr. Shoemaker asked whether Mr. Barnard had prepared an extension letter, to which Mr. Barnard indicated he was not sure one would be needed.

Mr. Barnard indicated that the Township had made two requests of the Applicant. The first was a request to place notes about grant restrictions affecting each of the original parcels. Mr. Barnard provided an updated Subdivision Plan, indicating that Notes 13, 14, 15, and 16 addressed these restrictions and contained a cross reference to the affected parcel numbers.

Mr. Barnard also reported that Bill Hartman, the Director of Stewardship at Willistown Conservation Trust, had worked with their forestry expert, Dave Hucker, to move the proposed road opening about 19 feet further south along Delchester Road. Although this resulted in 39 additional linear feet of impervious coverage, it would save some of the trees that were originally shown to be removed.

Mr. Shoemaker reported that he had visited the site and it is clear to him that Willistown Conservation Trust has made a significant effort to save a good number of the trees.

Mr. Barnard then presented letters from both the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Brandywine Conservancy, expressing each entity's agreement with the newly proposed

driveway alignment.

Mr. Barnard reported that PennDOT would not give an advisory opinion concerning the new alignment, reserving such a response for an application to include a fully engineered set of plans.

Mr. Shoemaker noted that the Board does not give conditional approvals. He expressed his disappointment with the Trust's opposition to an internal circulation drive which would save all the mature trees. Mr. Shoemaker acknowledged that there is no question about the value of the Trust's programs, but the removal of the mature trees seems inconsistent with the Trust's mission of conservation and preservation, as published on the Trust's website.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, Mr. Shoemaker announced that he would entertain a motion to suggest that the Trust moves forward with the process associated with obtaining the Highway Occupancy Permit from PennDOT for the revised driveway location, with the expectation that the Board of Supervisors would approve the Land Development Application upon receipt of the Highway Occupancy Permit and a complete resubmission showing the new driveway alignment. Mr. McHugh so moved, seconded by Mr. Shoemaker.

Mr. Shoemaker also publicly apologized to Mrs. Van Alen if he insulted her at the last meeting, indicating that was not his intent.

Mr. Lange announced that everything discussed at the previous meeting seems to have gone unheard. His opinion is that the intent of the gift of the land and trees to the Trust was that they were to be protected in perpetuity. Further, he indicated his understanding that this parcel was not to be part of any development whatsoever. Mr. Lange understands that some will view him as the "bad guy", but he feels compelled to stand up for something he believes in philosophically.

Mr. Shoemaker agreed with Mr. Lange, opposing the principle of destroying something that was to be protected in perpetuity. Mr. Shoemaker noted that compromise typically is the best way to resolve a disagreement and the best compromise often occurs when both parties leave the table not completely happy with neither party getting everything they want.

There were no further comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried by a vote of 2 to 1, with Mr. Lange voting no.

Mr. McHugh moved to approve the amended Lot Consolidation Plan for Willistown Conservation Trust, as described by Mr. Barnard. Mr. Lange seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be held on May 22, 2017 at 7:00 PM at 688 Sugartown Road.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Lange moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. McHugh seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

David R. Burman

David R. Burman
Secretary