

**WILLISTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES
688 SUGARTOWN ROAD, MALVERN, PA
JANUARY 22, 2018 AT 7:00 PM**

The Regular Meeting of the Willistown Township Board of Supervisors came to order at 7:00 PM. Supervisors Robert T. Lange, William R. Shoemaker and Barbara L. Handelin were present. Also present were Township Manager David R. Burman, Chief of Police John M. Narcise, and Zoning Officer Neil D. Vaughn.

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

Announcements

Mr. Lange reported that the Board of Supervisors will meet in Executive Session immediately following this meeting to discuss personnel and legal matters.

New Business

Mr. Shoemaker moved to approve the minutes of the Board of Supervisors organization meeting held December 11, 2017. Ms. Handelin 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 Disbursements and Interfund Transfers dated January 22, 2018. Ms. Handelin seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Shoemaker moved to adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 133 of the Code of Willistown Township reducing speed limits from 35 MPH to 25 MPH on Grubb Road in both directions from King Road to Devon Road, and by prohibiting left turns from Dutton Mill Road northbound and southbound onto West Chester Pike. Ms. Handelin seconded the motion. The Board of Supervisors and Chief Narcise engaged in a lengthy discussion with those in attendance about the Ordinance. Michael Brooks of Dutton Mill Road inquired as to what led to the decision to prohibit left hand turns from Dutton Mill Road onto West Chester Pike. Mr. Shoemaker indicated that there had been a series of accidents at this location and the Township had discussed with PennDOT various improvements that could be made to avoid the "t-bone" type of a collision, in particular. Mr. Shoemaker further indicated that the intersection did not meet PennDOT standards for a traffic signal, largely because of the lack of alignment with the two approaches of Dutton Mill Road to West Chester Pike. Chief Narcise reported that motorists traveling southbound on Dutton Mill Road and desiring to go east on West Chester Pike could utilize the signal at Stoneham Drive to perform a "u-turn". He reported that the Police Department had issued nearly 400 citations on West Chester Pike in 2017. He further reported that there had been 21 vehicle accidents, 9 reportable, at the intersection over the past three years. Chief Narcise noted that he and Mr. Burman had worked with PennDOT's Local Technical Assistance Program to explore alternatives, and this improvement is the result of that study. He indicated that the Police Department would monitor the situation to see if other measures are needed. Tracy Perzan of Dutton Mill Road asked whether they had examined a flashing yellow light at this location. Chief Narcise indicated that PennDOT expressed no interest in that option. Deborah Massey of Grubb Road asked whether the Township had explored the possibility of reducing the speed limit on Grubb Road, South of Devon Road, particularly in the area adjacent to the fields behind General Wayne Elementary School. Chief Narcise reported that none of the traffic studies in that area had alarmed him. Further, Chief Narcise indicated that the fields were set so far back from the road that, in terms of safety for the children, distance was our friend. Janice Hilly of Grubb Road commented that she

had just moved in and expressed concern about the location of the sign for the new speed limit. Murph Manuel of Grubb Road stated that, when he moved in quite a few years ago, he had asked for the speed limit to be reduced, but was denied. He asked why it is being approved now. Mr. Shoemaker indicated that circumstances change over time, in terms of the speed and volume of both vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Robert Schmoll asked whether the data was available to the public. Chief Narcise invited Mr. Schmoll to visit his office at Mr. Schmoll's convenience to review the studies. There were no further comments from the Board or the public and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Shoemaker moved to direct and authorize the Township Engineer to inspect improvements in the Applebrook Meadows Development, pursuant to Section 510(a) of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code. Mike Kerr of Stonehenge Lane and Mahala Renkey of Tulip Drive asked for clarification. Mr. Burman reported that this was in response Toll Brothers' request for the final release of financial security on this project, which the Board had previously rejected. Mr. Burman further reported that there would be an additional opportunity for public comment after the Township Engineer issued a final report and before the Board voted on the final release. There were no further comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Shoemaker moved to appoint Andrew L. Vaskas to fill the vacancy in the office of Tax Collector. In the absence of a second, Mr. Lange seconded the motion. Ms. Handelin commented that the Board is required to consider this action because one individual had been elected to serve as both Auditor and Tax Collector, two legally incompatible positions. As a result, the Board of Supervisors would be required to fill the vacancy within 30-days of the vacancy. When asked, Mr. Burman noted that the vacancy existed as of January 2, 2018, the day the individual took the Oath of Office for the position of elected Auditor. Therefore, the Supervisors would need to appoint a resident to fill the vacancy within 30-days of January 2, 2018. The Township published an announcement for the vacancy on the Township's website and circulated it via broadcast email and on social media. In response, the Township received four CV's or resumes from residents who were interested in filling the vacancy. Ms. Handelin noted that there are four excellent candidates, and suggested the matter be tabled until the candidates could be vetted further. Mahala Renkey of Tulip Drive asked whether the notice included all information about duties of the position. Mr. Burman stated that the notice sought candidates for the position and included a note that the Township has been utilizing the Chester County Treasurer's Office to insure the proper receipt and collection of all real estate taxes. Pat White of Grubb Road inquired about the duties of the position. Mr. Burman reported that the Township's Elected Tax Collector has deputized the Township's Staff to collect real estate taxes for as long as anyone could remember. There is no compensation associated with the position, and no work is required. There were no further comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried by a vote of 2-1, with Ms. Handelin voting no.

Police Report

Chief Narcise reported on recent Police Department activities. He reported on the Department's biggest call drivers in 2017: Devereux and Paoli Hospital. For 2017, Devereux's call volume remained relatively flat as compared to the prior year, while Paoli's call volume decreased slightly. The Chief also reported that the Police Department had notified residents of certain streets of the need to remove vehicles from the roads during winter storms to allow the Road Crew to perform snow removal and winter weather operations. In addition, the Chief reported that he had met with the residents of Applebrook Meadows recently and engaged in a Q&A session. Finally, the Chief reported on a recent investigation and arrest of several suspects associated with the "Felony Lane Gang", a group of criminals who allegedly break into vehicles, steal checks, identification, and credit cards, and then take money from the victims' accounts using the far drive-through lane of various banks.

Citizens' Comments

Rob Rosend of Boxwood Court commented that the roads in Applebrook Meadows do not appear on some commercial GPS applications. Mr. Vaughn, former Chief of Malvern Fire Company, reported that the roads do appear in the County's CAD System, so there are no issues with emergency response. Mr. Vaughn suggested that Mr. Rosend could contact Google, as a starting point, to inform them that the roads do not appear on commercial mapping systems.

Kate Endres of Third Avenue reported that the street sign at Third Avenue and Grubb Road had been knocked down and removed, but not replaced. Mr. Burman will inform Public Works.

Michael Brooks of Dutton Mill Road discussed the Township's Ordinance concerning fireworks. The Board discussed this matter with Mr. Brooks, and Chief Narcise confirmed that this is a police matter that is often difficult to address because folks that allegedly set off illegal fireworks can avoid detection fairly easily. However, residents should continue to report the use of illegal fireworks by calling the Police.

Michael Brooks of Dutton Mill Road reported a crumbling wall adjacent to the cartway of Dutton Mill Road. The Board asked Mr. Burman to review with Public Works.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be held on Monday, February 12, 2018 at 7:00 PM at 688 Sugartown Road.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



David R. Burman
Township Manager