

**READING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 21, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Reading Township Board of Supervisors was held at the Township Building and called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Paul Bart, Chairman. Supervisor Donald Kauffman was present with Chairman Bart presiding. Bob Zangueneh, Vice-Chairman, was not in attendance.

Others in attendance included Victor Neubaum, Solicitor; Eric Mains, Engineer; Marcia Weaver, Administrator/Treasurer; Karen Eakin, Secretary; Gerald Shank, Planning Commission; Troy Reeve, Lake Meade Fire & Rescue; Emmert & Pat Hartzell; Sue Myers; Evelyn Howe; Pauline Brodbeck; Pastor Fontanez; Maggie Paulino; and George Wolf.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the June 16, 2014 regular meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Kauffman and seconded by Mr. Bart; motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Bart announced that the Board would like to welcome Secretary, Karen Eakin.

Chairman Bart announced that there would be a public meeting at the Township building on July 24th, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. to discuss the PennDOT Transportation Improvement Project. There will be a display of the improvement plans for the intersection of Routes 94 and 234.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Reeve inquired whether an Opticon System, which would stop traffic in the intersection for emergency vehicles, would be installed as part of the proposed improvements. The question will be posed at the upcoming PennDOT meeting on July 24th.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Hampton Heights Stormwater Management Policy

Mr. Mains stated that the Township needs a policy in place for stormwater management in Hampton Heights. There was a discussion of the drainage pipes in the development and the concern for homes overloading the pipes. Mr. Mains will draft a letter to Hampton Heights informing them of the policy for stormwater management in the development.

Brough Hill Road Phase 2

Mr. Mains stated that the project is underway.

SUBDIVISION & LAND DEVELOPMENT

Adams County Emergency Services Communications Tower

Final Land Development Plan #2013-02

- Request for Planning Waiver & Non-Building Declaration
Chairman Bart made the motion to approve the waiver, Mr. Kauffman seconded. The motion was passed.
- Tower Removal Agreement
Chairman Bart made the motion to approve the Tower Removal Agreement, Mr. Kauffman seconded. The motion was passed.
- Stormwater Management Agreement
The agreement was given to the Township Engineer to review. Chairman Bart made the motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Mr. Kauffman. The motion was passed.

Chairman Bart made the motion to approve the Final Land Development Plan #2013-02 for the Adams County Emergency Communications System, seconded by Mr. Kauffman. The motion was passed.

PROPERTY APPRAISALS

The commercial value of both lots is \$285,000 total. A one acre parcel is used for the Magistrate's office and appraised at \$130,000. A 1.5 acre parcel is used as the church property and appraised at \$155,000. ½ acre of the church property is used by the church and one acre is undeveloped. There was a discussion of whether the undeveloped acre could be sold as a separate lot with potential connection to sewer. The Supervisors do not want the Township to incur the expense of the connection. The Township Ordinances would be followed when developing the lot plan. There was a discussion of roadway access to the property. An estimate of 1/3 of the appraised value of the property would be \$50,000. Pastor Fontanez and Ms. Paulino will discuss whether they would like to proceed and will inform the Township Administrator of their decision.

TREASURER'S REPORT

General Fund Review for June

Ms. Weaver stated that net income for June was a negative amount. The cost of the tiger mower with boom was \$91,000. The balances of the general and state funds were given. She stated that the Emergency Management CD matured and was moved to ACNB to obtain a higher interest rate. The Board agreed not to contribute \$10,000 as originally budgeted. There was a discussion of portable radios and how there would be a cost savings to put them in the police cars.

Hampton Fall Fest

Approval was given for the Hampton Fire Co. to request safety signs from PennDOT to be used during Hampton's Annual Fall Fest on September 27.

January – June 2014 Budget Report

Ms. Weaver stated that the revenue received for the first 6 months of the year was more than budgeted. She also stated that there will be more expenses coming due in the second half, including the ordinance codification expense. The balance sheet assets are 18% less than this time last year. The Met-Ed electricity bill will be increasing by 16% in the near future. Chairman Bart stated that there are 200 fewer taxpayers than 5 years ago.

Chairman Bart made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report as presented, seconded by Mr. Kauffman. The motion was carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Bart called for an executive session at 6:50 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter. In attendance at the executive session were Paul Bart, Chairman, Donald Kauffman, Supervisor; Victor Neubaum, Solicitor, and Marcia Weaver, Administrator/Treasurer. Chairman Bart re-convened the regular meeting at 7:02 p.m. Chairman Bart discussed downsizing the police department from three full-time officers to two full-time officers due to cost reduction measures. Chairman Bart stated that concern was expressed to the Board during the 2013 Audit regarding an ongoing operating deficit in the General Fund. The Police Department costs about \$300,000.00 per year or \$100,000.00 per officer. Tax receipts from the Earned Income Tax are not expected to increase in the near future. The Notice of Lay-off Letter was read out loud to the public by Chairman Bart and he then opened the meeting for public comments. Mr. Wolf stated that he heard many people express concern for the expense of a police department having three officers and three police vehicles. Mr. Reeve inquired if there would be repercussions from the union. Chairman Bart said he spoke with Bill Ceravola, Officer-In-Charge, several weeks ago, however no other viable alternatives have been presented to date. Mr. Hartzell stated he was confident in the Board's ability to make the right fiscal decisions for the township. There was a brief discussion of whether the state police charged a fee for their services. All public comments having been made, Chairman Bart made a motion to eliminate one full-time police officer position, effective immediately, that was held by Officer Eric Beyer based on the seniority language in Article 7.1 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Kauffman. Both Chairman Bart and Supervisor Kauffman voted yes, and the motion passed two votes in favor and none against. Officer Beyer will continue to receive health care benefits through October, 2014.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Department Reports, for the month of June, submitted from the Police, Public Works, and Building Inspector were approved as submitted on a motion by Chairman Bart and seconded by Mr. Kauffman; the motion was carried.

MISCELLANEOUS

Proposed Addendum to Magistrate Lease Agreement

The county has the opportunity to provide bullet-proof glass to their district justice facilities with assistance from a Commonwealth grant. Chairman Bart made a motion to approve Addendum #1 to the Lease Agreement for Judge Little's office as submitted. Mr. Kauffman seconded the motion; the motion was carried.

County Per Capita Tax Change Income Level Exemption Criteria

The Consolidated Assessment law changed the per capita exemption criteria level, increasing it from less than \$5,000, the previous limit listed in the Fourth to Eighth Class Assessment Law, to less than \$12,000 in the new consolidated law. The Supervisors acknowledge that the notice was received but there are no comments. Any concern or comments must be presented by the end of August 2014.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Commercial Property Appraisals

The matter was discussed earlier in the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Myers expressed gratitude to the Road Crew for repairing potholes on Kuhn Fording Road.

Chairman Bart made a motion to approve the non-emergency use of the Fire Police during the Lake Meade yard sale on September 20. Mr. Kauffman seconded the motion; the motion was carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Bart made the motion to adjourn at 7:26 p.m., Mr. Kauffman seconded the motion; the motion was carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Eakin
Secretary