

**Upper Paxton Township Board of Supervisors
Regular Monthly Meeting
January 8, 2014**

Those in attendance: Ron Hepner, John Orr and Joseph Snyder, Supervisors; Betty Warfel, Secretary/Treasurer; Peter Howland, Esquire; Gene Flanagan and Tom Shaffer.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hepner at 7:00 p.m. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Public Comments:

1. Tom Shaffer addressed the Board regarding several concerns he had regarding some of recent decisions that had been made.

(a) Shaffer's first concern was with respect to the Board's decision not to enter into an Agreement with the Humane Society of Greater Harrisburg for 2014. In Shaffer's opinion, the Supervisors are doing a big disservice to the public by not handling stray animals. In the past, stray dogs have been held at the Township's facility and efforts to locate the owner before the animal would be surrendered to the Humane Society. In many cases, the dog was returned to its owner. Chairman Hepner stated that there is no one at the Township facility to care for stray dogs. He also informed Shaffer that the State Police were turning stray dogs into the Humane Society and the Township was required to pay for these unauthorized surrenders under the Agreement.

(b) Shaffer's second concern was related to zoning. Shaffer stated the zoning had been enacted twenty years ago in order to provide a blueprint for growth in the Township in order for it to be a decent place to live now and in the future. In his opinion, at the current time, it seems like zoning is out of the picture. He has observed buildings, driveways and signs being installed without permits being issued. Shaffer feels that a Zoning Officer must be available to answer questions. After the Zoning Officer gives his opinion, only the Zoning Hearing Board can override it. Chairman Hepner advised Shaffer that this matter is being addressed. A discussion regarding "special exceptions" and "conditional use" powers which can be made by the Board were discussed. When placement of a sign is requested, typically the Zoning Officer would make a decision on the matter. The party who is requesting the sign placement may appeal the decision to the Zoning Hearing Board. At that time, Township officials may support either side during the hearing. Chairman Hepner stated that the Board will look into Shaffer's alleged violations of the Township Code and further clarification of the Board's powers.

2. Gene Flanagan, a resident of Wilt Boulevard, addressed the Board regarding the use of the anti-skid mix used on the Township's roadways. Flanagan, who formerly resided in Buffalo, New York, does not feel that the mix on the roadways is effective and that plowing and placing plain road salt would be more cost effective. He also stated that, in his opinion, the gravel on the roadway causes damage to vehicles and is dangerous for people riding bicycles. He feels that the gravel does not increase traction on the roadways and ends up in residents' yards. The gravel remains on his street for a prolonged period until the street sweeping occurs in April or May. Supervisors advised Flanagan of the reasons which they feel makes the anti-skid mix the best way of dealing with the slippery conditions that occur on the Township's roadways. Chairman Hepner

stated that he does not believe that the Township will not be making any changes to the way roadways are treated any time soon.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the December 11th monthly meeting and the December 23rd workshop meeting were reviewed by the Supervisors. Joe Snyder made a motion to approve the minutes of all of the November meetings. Second by John Orr. With all in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report: Treasurer Warfel presented a monthly financial report and list of bills for payment. Upon review of these documents, Joe Snyder made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report and pay the bills. Second by John Orr. All in favor, motion carried.

Old Business:

1. John Orr reported the findings of his research into the reasons why the Stormwater Management Ordinance could be amended. An example as to why the Ordinance could be amended would be a farmer who owns an area of land and desires to construct a building in the middle of the property would have to spend thousands of dollars in engineering fees to develop a stormwater management plan. Proposed amendment Option 2 would remove this mandate and provide more flexibility if this type of scenario should occur. Supervisors will contact engineers to determine whether amending the Ordinance would be the best option for the Township. DEP will accept the current Ordinance or any amendment option by May 22nd.
2. Attorney Howland has discussed with Kristen Ritchey the provision that the Township's legal fees be paid in the event of a dispute to be included in the proposed Comcast Franchise Agreement. Ritchey will discuss this request with her Supervisor.

New Business

1. Supervisors discussed the amount of road salt to be ordered under the August 2014-July 2015 CoStars Agreement. They will discuss with Roadmaster Erdman the amount of salt currently on hand and have him estimate the tonnage that will be used in the upcoming winter months. The agreement will be acted on by the March 15th deadline.
2. Following discussion, Ron Hepner moved that Christine Walter be approved to act as the Township's auditor for the 2013 financial records of the Millersburg Fire Company. Second by John Orr. With all in favor, motion carried.
3. At Tuesday evening's Zoning Hearing Board Reorganizational Meeting, Laura Phillips was appointed as Chairperson. David Fralick was appointed as Secretary.
4. Chairman Hepner attended a meeting hosted by Sue Helm to provide information on the new Transportation Act and the additional money that will be made available to municipalities for road projects. No clear answers were provided in response to Hepner's inquiries regarding how the prevailing wage relates to one project or a group of projects which are in excess of \$100,000. Attorney Howland will look into this and report back to the Board at a future meeting.

5. Supervisors reviewed and revised a newspaper advertisement requesting applications for the position of part-time Township Manager/Zoning/Codes Officer. This advertisement will be placed the Upper Dauphin Sentinel, The Citizen Standard and the Sunbury Daily Item. Ron Hepner made a motion to advertise for the part-time position starting next week. John Orr seconded the motion. With all in favor, motion carried.

6. Joe Snyder requested clarification of the term “family member” as it relates to employment in the Employee Personnel Manual. Interpretation of this term can be determined by the Board on an individual basis when hiring an employee. Legal discrimination is only applicable to “protected classes”.

7. There appears to be no progress in the cleanup of the DS Recycling site. A letter will be prepared to Owen Erdman and the landowner advising that the cleanup has not been completed in the timeframe provided to the Supervisors.

Public Comments: None

With no further business on the agenda, Ron Hepner moved to adjourn. John Orr seconded the motion. With all in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty A. Warfel,
Secretary