

**Upper Paxton Township Board of Supervisors
Regular Monthly Meeting
January 14, 2015**

Those in attendance: Ron Hepner, John Orr, and Robert Stoner, Supervisors; Betty Warfel, Secretary/Treasurer; Peter Howland, Esquire; Luanna Zimmerman, Manager; Tom Shaffer, Brenda and Dennis Miller, Linda Baker, and Robin Stoner.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hepner at 7:00 p.m. All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Hepner welcomed attendees for their interest in providing valuable input for the Supervisors' consideration when amending the Township's kennel ordinance. Considerable time and effort has been expended in putting the amendment together to keep it simple and within the boundaries of existing state law.

Public Comments: Tom Shaffer inquired whether the Supervisors were planning to uphold their decision not to perform roadside pesticide spraying in the spring. No spray contract has been executed at this time. Shaffer also inquired why the Supervisors had included \$200,000 of the Special Reserve Fund for use in the 2015 budget. Ron Hepner explained that this money was budgeted for roadwork. One-half of the Special Reserve fund would be used in order to delay the need to re-impose a real estate tax on residents. One-half of the fund would be retained for emergency purposes. John Orr informed Shaffer that according to the road study the cost for just placing surface treatments on the current roadways, not including piping, etc., would be in excess of \$1.8 million. Shaffer voiced his opposition to this decision.

Approval of Minutes and Financial Report: Minutes of the December 10th monthly meeting and the December 22nd workshop meeting were reviewed by the Supervisors. Treasurer Warfel presented a monthly financial report and list of bills for payment. John Orr made a motion to approve the minutes of the December monthly and workshop meetings. Second by Robert Stoner. With all in favor, motion carried. Upon review of financial documents, Robert Stoner made a motion to pay the bills and accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Second by John Orr. With all in favor, motion carried

Old Business:

1. Supervisors proceeded review the Ordinance authorizing the participation of Upper Paxton Township in the PSATS Unemployment Compensation Group Trust pursuant to the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Law. The proposed Ordinance was duly advertised in the December 23, 2014 issue of the Upper Dauphin Sentinel. Following explanation of the need for the passage of this Ordinance, Ronald Hepner made a motion to adopt the Ordinance authorizing the Township's participation in the PSATS Unemployment Compensation Group Trust. Second by John Orr. With all in favor, motion carried.

2. An Ordinance authorizing the participation of Upper Paxton Township in the Pennsylvania Townships Health Insurance Cooperative pursuant to the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Law was duly advertised in the December 23, 2014 issue of the Upper Dauphin Sentinel. Robert Stoner made a motion to approve the Ordinance authorizing the Township's participation in the Pennsylvania Townships

Health Insurance Cooperative. John Orr seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

New Business

1. At the Reorganizational meeting, Ron Hepner was appointed to be the Township's voting delegate at the PSATS Conference in April. Following discussion, John Orr moved that Robert Stoner and John Orr, Supervisors, Luanna Zimmerman, Manager; and Steve Erdman, Roadmaster, be authorized to attend the PSATS Conference, if they choose to do so, with the registration fee to be paid by the Township. Second by Robert Stoner. With all in favor, motion carried.
2. Supervisors proceeded to discuss the CoStars salt contract for August 2015 to July 2016. The deadline to execute the contract is March 15th. A decision on the tonnage required will be decided in several weeks and was tabled for consideration at a future meeting.
3. Under the current contract, Ron Hepner and Betty Warfel are the only individuals authorized to make changes on the Township's website. Ron Hepner made a motion to authorize Luanna Zimmerman to contact the webmaster to make changes to the Township's website. Second by John Orr. With all in favor, motion carried.
4. Treasurer Warfel has requested that she be allowed to pay the township's bills on-line and have direct deposit of the township's payroll. John Orr made a motion to authorize Betty Warfel to set up direct deposit of the township's payroll and on-line payment of the township's bills. Robert Stoner seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.
5. Supervisors initiated planning for the township's Spring Cleanup Day. John Orr made a motion to hold the Spring Cleanup Day on Saturday, April 11th from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Second by Robert Stoner. With all in favor, motion carried.

Old Business (continued):

1. Chairman Hepner invited attendees to share their comments on the proposed dog kennel Ordinance Amendment. Comments were as follows:
 - (a) Tom Shaffer had a concern with the statement "1000 feet from any property line 'in' any residential zone" contained in 32 A. Following discussion, this language was amended to read "1000 feet from any property line 'of' any residential zone". Discussion of the zones in which a dog kennel would be permitted ensued.
 - (b) Linda Baker, a Millersburg Borough resident, stated that she was pleased to see changes being made to the current Ordinance and with the actions being taken by the Supervisors in limiting the number of breeding females in a kennel (32 C). Although it would take a great deal of time and energy, she would like to see current State laws amended to promote healthier dog breeding practices.
 - (c) Robin Stoner expressed her support of the Supervisors' efforts to prevent Dauphin County from becoming the next puppy mill county in Pennsylvania. She is pleased that this effort is getting started in Upper Paxton Township. As an owner of championship dogs, Stoner is a strong advocate for healthy and

humane breeding practices which provide for the safety and welfare of the adult dogs and their puppies.

- (d) Dennis Miller inquired how the Supervisors determined the 20-acre minimum lot area in set forth in 32 (B). Supervisors researched this acreage requirement and feel that it is fair and defensible.

At the present time, one new application for a dog kennel has been received. This request may be subject to the provisions of the amended Ordinance. A determination on this application will be made by the Zoning Hearing Board. The proposed Ordinance amending Chapter 27 (Relating to Zoning) Part 11 (General Regulations, Section 27-1102 (32) of the Township of Upper Paxton Code of Ordinances, amending standards for the grant of a Special Exception for Dog Kennels was duly advertised in the December 16, 2014, and December 23, 2014 issues of the Upper Dauphin Sentinel. Robert Stoner made a motion to adopt this Ordinance amending Chapter 27, Part 11, Section 27-1102 (32) of the Upper Paxton Township Code of Ordinances, with the provision of changing the word "in" to "of" in Section A, knowing that the Supervisors have the support of countless individuals in the community. Second by Ron Hepner. With all in favor, motion carried.

Supervisors and Attorney Howland discussed whether the new dog kennel Ordinance Amendment will be applicable to the new Special Exception Application. More information will need to be gathered with respect to whether the applicant will need to prepare a Land Development Plan and Stormwater Management Plan for the proposed kennel in order for the Zoning Hearing Board to make a decision on this question.

2. Attorney Howland provided the results of his research regarding removal of trees in the Township's right-of-way. Supervisors could request the property owner, at the owner's expense, remove trees which create a line of sight hazard at an intersection. An engineer's study or another type of traffic study/report may need to be conducted to justify requesting that the property owner remove the trees.

3. In response to the Board's inquiry, Attorney Howland stated that fees set forth in the Township's Code of Ordinances for Subdivision and Land Development Plan fees would need to be changed by amending the Ordinance. By September, Supervisors plan to make amendments to the Subdivision/Land Development and Zoning sections of the Code in order to remove conflicts currently contained in these ordinances.

Public Comments: Tom Shaffer stated that he believes that placement of a flashing light warning drivers of a dangerous intersection at the junction of Landis Drive and Route 209 would not effectively improve safety or prevent accidents. In response to Linda Baker's inquiry, Ron Hepner advised that State Police would be responsible for enforcing speed limits on Rising Sun Road.

With no further business to be discussed John Orr moved to adjourn. Second by Robert Stoner. All in favor, meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty A. Warfel, Secretary