

# SALFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

## *Regular Business Meeting*

March 20, 2013

Chairman Barb Lynch called the meeting of the Board of Supervisors to order at 7:35 PM with a Pledge of Allegiance. Present were:

**Barb Lynch**, Chairman  
**James B. Styer**, Vice Chairman  
**Tom Neff**, Supervisor  
Robert Iannozzi, Solicitor

Karen Landis, Secretary  
Wayne Mensinger, Zoning Officer

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Chairman Lynch advised Executive Session was held with two (2) Supervisors at 7:10 PM on matters of Real Estate leases, Fire Company Personnel and Litigation.

Tom Neff thanked the Fire Company for the consistent hosting of Township Meetings and congratulated them on the successful recent fund raising event (Meat Wheel).

Jim Styer made the following comments:

1. Welcomed the First day of spring
2. Remember the reason why we're all here
3. Reminded the BOS signed an agreement on meeting participation guidelines
4. Clarified there was no intention to stop the Fire Company event but ensure insurance coverage was adequate.

Solicitor Iannozzi explained the legal implications of ensuring proper insurance coverage for the fund raising event.

Barb Lynch commented this event has been going on for three (3) years.

**HALTEMAN PROPERTY** – Erin Lee (Natural Lands Trust) and Barb McMonagle (Open Space Committee) explained the proposed conservation and trail easement on the Halteman property covering approximately 20 acres. An upcoming DCNR grant opportunity is available for funding; the application deadline is 4/10/2013. Open Space Committee recommends the BOS approve approximately \$6,000 to cover the costs of the appraisal and grant writing. Barb McMonagle explained the property is in an environmentally sensitive area, located in the “Ridge Valley Greenway” and sits between the Fulshaw Craeg preserve (300 acres) and the Souderton/Harleysville Gun Club. The DCNR grant is a 50% matching grant opportunity, and if awarded, the overall cost to the Township would be minimal because the Halteman’s have decided to donate the remaining 50% rather than have the Township cover the cost. Jim Styer commended all for the work, the generosity of the Halteman’s and inquired where this property fits into the overall larger plan of the Township. Barb Lynch also recognized and thanked the Open Space Committee for pulling this together in such a short time frame. **Motion 13-048** by Lynch, second by Styer authorizing approval of **Resolution 13-1656** to submit DCNR grant application and obtain appraisal for conservation and trail easement of 224 King Road. Motion carried 3 – 0.

**BID OPENING** – Sealed bids for the demolition of 145 Ridge Road property were opened by Doug Hedrick. **Motion 13-049** by Lynch, second by Styer authorized the opening of bids and award to the lowest qualified and compliant bidder. Motion carried 3 – 0.

**FIRE COMPANY AGREEMENTS** – Township currently covers the insurance for the Fire Company and has been advised by the carrier of a new law that requires the Worker's Compensation insurance be separated from Township. Rich Andrews (Finance Committee) is working with insurance carrier to affect changes. Discussion was also held on the need to review the existing relationship with the Fire Company so the Township did not have to monitor fund raising events for adequate coverage. Rich Andrews explained the new law (PA Firefighters Cancer Presumption Law) and how the workers compensation premiums are set for Fire Company coverage in surrounding townships. Tom Neff questioned obtaining quotes from the State. **Motion 13-050** by Lynch, second by Styer authorizing Solicitor and BOS Liaison to work with Fire Company for all agreements before the June 1<sup>st</sup> renewal. Marv McKown (Fire Company President) explained this same issue was proposed previously (15 years ago), in investigating further, the policy was actually written for municipal workers and not fire fighter coverage. At the time, the cost of coverage was more to purchase separate from the Township policy. Marv also expressed concern about greater burden falling on the fire company to perform fund raising activities which could affect membership and the overall protection of the township. Motion carried 2 – 0. Neff abstained.

**Action Item:** *Solicitor and BOS Liaison to complete by April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.*

**DETOURS – CLUMP ROAD:** The PA Turnpike has requested the Township approve the detour (Clump Road) that will be in affect when the Ridge Road bridge is replaced during March 2014 timeframe. The opinion of many is that even if not approved, Clump Road will be used as default. Jim Styer suggested a professional assessment of road condition prior to and following construction and negotiate reimbursement from the Turnpike Commission for any damage as a result of increased traffic. Comments and discussion was held on safety issues regarding the road width and bends on Clump Road. Curt Klingerman agreed Clump Road would be used as default and concerned the road is not wide enough to handle truck traffic. Marv McKown commented the Fire Company also has great concern with heavy traffic due to safety issues and response time. Proposed options for negotiation would be to a) leave one (1) lane open during construction, b) minimize traffic and 3) restrict truck traffic on Clump Road. **Motion 13-051** by Lynch, second by Styer authorizing Township Engineer, Road Superintendent and Curt Klingerman to work with Turnpike Commission on behalf of the Township to negotiate the best possible detour arrangement. Motion carried 2 – 1. Tom Neff voted against spending additional funds to engage Township Engineer and suggested Turnpike Engineer review with Road Superintendent.

**Action Item:** *Engineer, Road Superintendent and Curt Klingerman to negotiate with PA Turnpike Commission on behalf of BOS.*

**N. DIETZ MILL ROAD BRIDGE:** The second detour is the unexpected closure of N. Dietz Mill Road Bridge. Montgomery County best estimate on timing is 3 – 6 months or perhaps total bridge replacement which could be six (6) years. **Motion 13-052** by Styer, second by Lynch authorizing Road Superintendent to contact Montgomery County with Solicitor assistance if needed to negotiate detour options and reimbursement in exchange for repair of roads being used as a detour that were not anticipated to handle additional traffic. Motion carried 3 – 0.

**Action Item:** *Solicitor to draft letter to County representing BOS position on this situation.*

**CONSENT AGENDA** – Chairman Lynch reviewed items 7a through 7d and asked for comment. **Motion 13-053** by Lynch, second by Styer approved Consent Agenda. Motion carried 3 – 0.

**TOWNSHIP MANAGER** – Target deadline proposed for May timeframe. Jim Styer submitted a rationale of why a Township Manager would be needed; Finance Committee recommendation to contact an architect to draw up a floor plan of the Township Office for better space management. Tom Neff commented moving forward with a Township Manager is premature until the building infrastructure is evaluated.

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:**

**ANNUAL CHAPTER 94 SANITARY SEWER QUESTIONNAIRE** – This item is administrative nature, required on an annual basis and does not require BOS action.

### **COMMITTEE RELATED ITEMS:**

**OPEN SPACE** – Recommendation to appoint Peter Muir as a new member of Open Space committee to a three (3) year term. **Motion 13-054** Lynch, second by Styer approving this recommendation. Motion carried 2 – 1. Tom Neff abstained because he has no knowledge of Mr. Muir.

**SEWER ISSUES** – Following up on notification from Montgomery County Health Department regarding a violation of a septic system on N. Allentown Road. The Township is in receipt of correspondence from the resident detailing timelines for corrective action. **Motion 13-055** by Lynch, second by Styer authorizing response to resident with BOS position and understanding confirming receipt of correspondence, connection and implementation timeline. Motion carried 3 – 0.

Discussion was held on enforcing Ordinance 159 for the property owners who have not connected to public sewer. Meetings to be scheduled in the next several weeks with the 10 residents who requested extensions and 12 residents who did not respond to the 6/22/2012 reminder notice to connect.

**FINANCE** – **Motion 13-056** by Styer, second by Lynch approving Finance Committee recommendation to loan \$200,000 from General Fund to Sewer Capital Fund to pay down loan principal. Tom Neff encouraged BOS to be vigilant on how the money is being used and diligent in pursuing connections. Motion carried 3 – 0.

The two (2) versions of Employee Personnel Policy are being combined into one version for review of Finance Committee at April meeting.

**JOINT PARK BOARD** – As follow up to previous discussion regarding dissolving the Joint Park Board Agreement with Franconia Township, both Barb Lynch and Bob Iannozzi spoke with Kevin Bayer, Township Manager (Franconia) who agreed to forgive outstanding invoices for 2H2011 and FY2012 in exchange for the accumulation of the existing funds in Capital Reserve which will be used capital improvements only. Both Township BOS respectively need to repeal the agreement that established the Joint Park Board. **Motion 13-057** by Lynch, second by Styer authorizing Solicitor to prepare repeal Ordinance, advertise for final approval at April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Motion carried 3 – 0.

**Action Item:** *Solicitor to prepare repeal Ordinance for advertisement and adoption.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Tim Clemmer commented on pursuing herbicidal treatment for Lily Pads at Whites Mill.

Frank Jarrett confirmed Tim Clemmer's comment on validity of firm and suggested herbicidal treatment.

Eric Smith concerned about BOS dysfunction and suggested seeking team building activities.

Tom Neff advised the Township is registered again for the annual Great PA Cleanup – supplies will be provided at the Municipal Building.

Robert Curley inquired how the septic tank cleanup would be handled next to his property.

**ADJOURNMENT** – There being no further business, **Motion 13-058** by Lynch, second by Styer adjourned the meeting at 10:00 PM. Motion carried 3 – 0.

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**APPROVED: APRIL 3, 2013**

**MOTION: 13-059 BY: STYER SECOND BY: LYNCH VOTE: 3 - 0**

**(TOWNSHIP SEAL)**

