

# *New Garden Township*

*Board of Supervisors*

Special Work Session

Consideration of Location  
of Police Department

May 19, 2010

6:30 p.m.

## **Minutes**

Supervisors:

Bob Norris

Bob Perrotti

Barclay Hoopes

Betty Gordon

Warren Reynolds

Others:

Ed Hill, Interim Manager

Pam Willis, Secretary

Lewis Gay, Treasurer

Alan Andrade

Chairman Norris called the meeting to order and a pledge to the flag was recited.

Mr. Alan Andrade a resident of New Garden stated he did not think the police department should be moved and thinks serious consideration needs to be given to the safety of residents, township employees and people outside the township building use the fields and recreational space.

Chairman Norris charged the Board to try to keep an open mind, listen to all comments and objectively consider them before making any decisions.

The Board reconfirmed their primary objectives:

1. Have a force dedicated to the service of the residents of New Garden.
2. Participate in community events with a deliberate eye towards high visibility.
3. A force that is run and managed in a prudent economic fashion in accordance with budgetary guidelines.
4. Active in community outreach, i.e., D.A.R.E., truck inspection and enforcement (safety and law enforcement).

Norris stated that current Board is not bound by objective of former Board and polled the Board to see if they disagreed with any of these objectives.

Norris then asked the Board to list the benefits and drawbacks of the police department's current location. The benefits discussed included response time, public access, visibility, separation of base of operations for Township and police department, proximity to communications tower, lower cost to rebuild on current foundation and use of downstairs as a community center. The drawbacks discussed included cost of buildout, duplicate operating expenses, lack of energy efficiency, lack of community between police and township staff, cost to outfit space for police work, mixing criminal

element with children, office staff and visitors to the township building, no room for expansion of police department as needs arise, and limited use of prime land.

Norris asked the Board to provide the benefits and drawbacks of relocating the police department to the lower level of the Township building. The benefits included public access to other Township services in one location, elimination of duplicate operating expenses, space is used for intended purpose and profit from sale of current location. The drawbacks discussed included cost to finish existing space, and lack of a master plan.

Lew Gay gave a presentation and provided the costs to operate at the current location and the cost to upgrade the lower level space for relocation. Perrotti suggested several ways to finance the project, including drawing from the light & hydrant funds. Supervisors Perrotti and Hoopes agreed that no further funds should be spent on existing location. Perrotti suggested having a new building designed and put out for bid to get a true cost estimate.

Hoopes stated the importance of working with Avondale and Kennett Borough regarding police issues. Hill stated he contacted the new mayor of Kennett Borough, but to date, has not received a response.

Hill suggested obtaining a campus master plan that addresses the feasibility of the current location and the lower level of the township building and provides suggestions for possible use and design of each location. Hill stated that the plan should be prepared by someone with no affiliation to the Township or any of the Supervisors. Reynolds asked about effectiveness of plan if there is no input from Board. Hill said it would be helpful to have a neutral party look at the properties. All the Supervisors agreed that Hill should use his abilities to find a planner to obtain a proposal.

Norris asked for final comments from the Board.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Willis  
Township Secretary