

New Garden Township

Board of Supervisors

General Meeting

May 3, 2010

Supervisors Present:

Bob Norris, Chairman
Bob Perrotti, Vice Chairman
Barclay Hoopes
Betty Gordon
Warren Reynolds

Others present:

Ed Hill, Interim Manager
Dr. Peg Jones
Mr. Jon Martin
Mr. Chuck Hammer
Pam Willis, Secretary

A. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

B. NEW GARDEN NEWS

New Garden Township is at a 79% response rate for the 2010 Census.

There will be a shredding and electronic recycling event in Honeybrook Township.

Interim Manager Hill gave his notice effective June 15th. Norris expressed his appreciation on behalf of the Board and Township.

C. OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Mr. Chuck Hammer of 127 Hillside Lane, Bancroft Woods came before the Board to express the following concerns:

1. Activity and legality of Modern Mushroom including concerns about hours of operation and noise generated on site.
2. Appropriateness of “for rent” signs in residential areas
3. Tractor trailer parking on an unpaved lot on Baltimore Pike
4. Lighting and horticultural screening on and around new Manfredi building
5. Broken and/or unused telephone pole removal
6. Pothole on Bancroft Road
7. Blacktop patch over new sewer tie-in.

Norris gave the following responses and/or directions:

1. Manager or Secretary will respond to Board as to whether Modern Mushroom is violating any existing ordinance(s). Provide formal response to Mr. Hammer.
2. Zoning Officer will look at “for rent” signs to see if they are in violation of any Township ordinance. Mr. Hammer will provide specific address.
3. Roadmaster will determine if parking at corner of Chambers Road and Baltimore Pike is legal.
4. Does Manfredi’s lighting plan include lights now installed? When will landscaping be completed?

5. Determine who is responsible for repair and/or removal of telephone poles.
6. Roadmaster will inspect pothole on Bancroft Road.
7. Roadmaster will inspect sewer patch on Bancroft Road.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of Minutes for April 5th, 12th, and 13th, 2010

Manager Hill asked that approval of the minutes be held until 5/10/10 meeting.

2. Approval of May 2010 Disbursements

Chairman Norris asked for comments, suggestions or concerns regarding the 4-23-10 disbursements. None were given. Chairman Norris asked for comments, suggestions or concerns regarding the 4-30-10 disbursements. None were given. *Vice Chairman Perrotti made a motion to approve the disbursements dated 4-23-10 and 4-30-10. Supervisor Hoopes seconded the motion. Carried by unanimous vote.*

E. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Report of Historical Commission

Dr. Peg Jones came before the Board with an update:

- a. All the pictures submitted for this book are in the files of the Historical Commission.
- b. Stated the Landenberg Bridge had been delisted. Believes that if we had started process earlier to keep it on the Register, the outcome may have been different.
- c. Manager Hill stated PennDOT contacted the Township about paying the costs to have the historic markers reset and will provide a cost at a later date.

2. Report of Parks & Recreation Committee

Vice Chairman Bob Perrotti reported on the success of the Spring Clean-up and Annual Yard Sale and noted upcoming events including, a 5/8 Nature Education program in Laurel Woods, opening of the Growers market on 5/8 and New garden Day on 5/16.

Vice Chairman Perrotti said efforts are well underway to have the Lyceum House moved.

Chairman Norris requested that Manager Hill send a letter to Mr. Schwing regarding his concerns about run-off from the new park. .

3. Soil Investigation Recommendation – Panell Property

Perrotti stated after review of soil testing results, it was determined property was not suited for spray fields.

Reynolds suggested that we purchase property and use portions that are suitable for spraying as such, and the rest designate as open space.

Item TABLED pending meeting between Perrotti and Andress. All details regarding property to be confidential until a final decision is made.

4. Sale of Street Lights – PECO

a. Hill is still evaluating information, including some comparative statements from another township, but believes purchasing the fixtures could be the first step in upgrading with an eye towards energy efficiency.

b. Norris requested that Manager Hill and Mr. Gay provide information regarding the benefits and detriments of purchasing the fixtures.

c. Norris and Perrotti concerned about buying outdated equipment; feels PECO should do upgrade before purchase.

d. Investigate available state and federal grant money.

TABLED UNTIL NEXT MONTH

F. OLD BUSINESS

1. Update on PREIT Payment

Reynolds said there is a meeting scheduled on May 18th with PREIT representatives and will update the Board after the meeting.

2. Discussion of Berkheimer Services

Hill stated the hydrant and light bills were going to be done in-house as this is the most cost effective way to do it. Hill asked that two resolutions be approved, which were submitted previously, exonerating light and hydrant bills less than \$10.00. Hill said entire process needs to be reviewed at budget time. The hydrant tax is sufficient to cover costs of Chester Water Authority but the street light tax only covers about 1/3 of the costs from PECO. *Supervisor Reynolds made a motion to adopt a resolution exonerating all residents of their obligation of any street light assessment under \$10.00. Supervisor Gordon seconded the motion. Motion passed 4 in favor; Perrotti recused himself. Vice Chairman Perrotti made a motion to adopt a resolution exonerating all residents of their obligation of any hydrant assessment under \$10.00. Supervisor Gordon seconded the motion. Carried by unanimous vote.*

3. Update on search for Township Manager

Norris stated that after a thorough review, our consultant submitted the top candidates. This shortlist of candidates will go through a formal interview process with the Board on 5/7. In-depth interviews will be held with candidates from the shortlist best suited for the position at a later date.

4. Update on search for Police Chief

Norris stated that the police chief search has been reinstated. The Pennsylvania Chief of Police Association is handling the search. Norris stated he would like new Manager to be part of interview process and hopes to see the position filled by fall.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Chairman Norris received a recommendation from Spence to approve St. Rocco's sewage planning module. *Vice Chairman Perrotti made a motion to adopt a resolution to send St. Rocco's Church Planning Module to the DEP for approval. Supervisor Hoopes seconded the motion. Carried by unanimous vote.*

Chairman Norris asked for verification of the date that the public hearing on the proposed Sign Ordinance.

Manager Hill submitted a resolution for FEMA/PEMA authorizing him to be appointed as the primary representative. Hill stated Mr. Gay would be the alternate representative. *Vice Chairman Perrotti made a motion to sign a resolution authorizing Ed Hill as the primary representative to work with FEMA/PEMA for snow removal reimbursement. Supervisor Gordon seconded the motion. Carried by unanimous vote.*

Manager Hill handed out Richard Dixon's sketch plan. Mr. Dixon is seeking a waiver from the land development process since the proposed structure will be built on ground already paved. The Planning Commission met with Mr. Dixon and expressed that the 8' wall was their biggest concern. Hill stated that only the Zoning Hearing Board could grant a special exception. Reynolds said a special exception would require vegetative screening. Richards said screening does not apply since there is a wall around the property. Norris said he would support waiver of land development process if the conditioned on approval from the Zoning Hearing Board. *Vice Chairman Perrotti made a motion to recommend the waiver of the land development process for Richard Dixon. Supervisor Hoopes seconded the motion. Carried by unanimous vote.*

Chairman Norris announced that an executive session was held before meeting regarding legal matters.

Supervisor Perrotti made a motion for adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Willis
Township Secretary