

WRIGHTSTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 20, 2010

The Wrightstown Township Board of Supervisors met on Monday, September 20, 2010 in the Meeting Room of the Wrightstown Township Municipal Building, 2203 Second Street Pike, Wrightstown, Pa. Vice Chair Jane B. Magne called the Meeting to order and announced that Chair Chester S. Pogonowski would be calling in from an out-of-state business location for the entire meeting, as well as watching it via the Township webcast. Members present were Treasurer Robert S. Lloyd, Solicitor Susan Piette, Engineer Mario Canales, Judith Stern Goldstein of Boucher & James, Inc., and Township Manager Joseph F. Pantano.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On motion of Member Lloyd, seconded by Member Magne, Minutes of Meetings held on August 16 and August 23, 2010 were approved as presented. All voted in favor.

On motion of Member Lloyd, seconded by Member Magne, Minutes of a Meeting held on September 13, 2010 were approved as presented. Member Pogonowski abstained due to absence.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: On motion of Member Lloyd, seconded by Member Magne, General Fund bills in the amount of \$23, 633.38, Cable Access bills in the amount of \$1,050., Escrow checks in the amount of \$4,315.22 and Transfers from General Fund to Payroll Fund of \$10,000. were authorized to be paid. All voted in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Member Magne announced the Scrabble Club, Rug Hooking Club and the Exercise Group which meet regularly at The Village Library, as well as the Fall Book Sale which is scheduled to begin on November 6. The annual Wrightstown Harvest Festival is scheduled for October 30, 2010 at the Middletown Grange property on Penns Park Road.

Member Magne announced the passing of two residents who contributed greatly to the Wrightstown Township community. Sid Bailey served as a Township Supervisor from 1970 – 1976 and Francis Gorski volunteered with the Lingohocken Fire Company for 51 years. She mentioned that the staff at Wrightstown Elementary School referred to Fran as “Mr. Wrightstown”. She expressed thanks to Township residents and the Fire Company for assisting the family during the days following each mans’ death.

Vice Chair Magne announced that an Executive Session to discuss matters of personnel would be held at the conclusion of this Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment at this time.

Stoopville Road/Route 413 Improvements: Member Magne updated the public and viewing audience on activities and discussions to date among Newtown, Upper Makefield and Wrightstown Township officials.

Gilmore and Associates Engineer, Eric Kaufman reviewed the sources of funding for the project. He displayed a diagram of Concept Plan-Alternate 5. He noted that in recent discussions with PaDOT regarding road realignment along Durham Road on frontage property owned by Council Rock School District, PaDOT would not allow it in the scope of this work. He also stated that installation of a traffic signal would not impact property along Stoopville Road owned by Ruth Brown, TMP #53-012-099, as opposed to the additional roadwork necessary if a traffic signal was not installed at the intersection.

Member Lloyd clarified that all widening of the road/shoulders would be required with or without a traffic signal and that Plan 5 shows signal installation which would minimally impact properties along Route 413. It would possibly entail replacement or relocation of the Lion's hedge. With approval of the Concept Plan there would be a survey taken which could include 11 foot lanes and 4 foot shoulders on both sides of Route 413.

Public Comment: Karl White, a Newtown Township resident from Twining Bridge Road who had sent an e-mail message to both Boards of Supervisors, addressed the Board proposing a 4-point plan: support a traffic light or return the funds, a traffic signal should include a left turn signal from Durham Road onto Stoopville Road, widen Durham Road on the east side and include a "no turn on red" signal from Stoopville Road.

Le Sheppard, 457 Durham Road, stated he had spoken to officials at PaDOT and begged the Board of Supervisors to deny the plans. Member Magne asked if Mr. Sheppard would identify the official at PaDOT to Gilmore and Associates Engineer, Eric Kaufman, to which he agreed.

David Dutko, 1016 Worthington Mill Road, thanked Wrightstown Township Supervisors for continuing to list the intersection of Stoopville and Durham Roads on the TIP list annually and include road improvements if and when the Council Rock School District submits building plans. He noted that the installation of traffic signals on several state-owned roads in the Township had been supported by Wrightstown Township but were paid for by the quarries and developers. He expressed his opposition to the Township being asked to financially support improvements to State roads.

He referenced an earlier announcement from Township officials that residents could submit personal e-mail addresses requesting meeting information. He reminded residents that advertisements and web site announcements include dates and times of all meetings, and that news articles refer to scheduled meetings.

Debbie Meyer, 22 Stoopville Road, urged the Board of Supervisors to "put in the light" as the safest and most successful way to slow motorists, and with the least impact to private property.

Engineer Kaufman stated there are statutory speed limits and that PaDOT might be requested to conduct a speed study. He agreed that traffic signals do slow traffic.

John Rasiej, 1091 Cedar Lane, requested aerial photos not be considered, as trees hide the viewscape and driveways are obscured, which might be important to consider. He expressed displeasure with both Upper Makefield and Newtown Townships dictating action which might be taken by Wrightstown Township. He prefers leaving the intersection “as is” with a consideration being given to lowering the speed limit.

The daughter of Mrs. Darr, whose property is in Newtown Township at the intersection of Stoopville and Durham Roads, spoke for the family owners. They regret the loss of property should any plan be approved. She requested consideration of reduced speed and warning signs along the roadway.

Member Magne reiterated that Plan #5 is only a concept plan, is not a final plan and funding for the entire project has a time frame.

Ruth Brown, 4 Stoopville Road, traced the history of her property and others at the intersection and implored that Chair Pogonowski be in attendance ‘in person’.

Member Lloyd noted that there now are further comments in favor of installing a traffic signal which would provide additional safety and is the best way to provide safety for all travelers.

Member Pogonowski expressed agreement with comments of Member Lloyd, was shocked at the proposal which would include a “pork chop” on Stoopville Road and has moved in the direction of a traffic signal installation. He hopes to secure reduced speed limits on Durham and Stoopville Roads and improve the entire intersection.

Member Magne had vehemently opposed a traffic signal but agrees that installation indicates less property loss to residents and provides optimum safety for all travelers on the highways. She requested of Engineer Kaufman that the stop bar on Stoopville Road be designed far enough back from the intersection in the interest of safety and site distance.

On motion of Member Lloyd, seconded by Member Pogonowski, it was moved to approve authorization for Gilmore and Associates to submit Concept Plan #5 to PaDOT. Member Magne asked to include minimizing the taper and turning lane on Durham Road so that there would be the least impact on private properties. All voted in favor.

There was no further comment from the public prior to the vote.

EIT Collection: Member Pogonowski reported that after December 31, 2010 there would be no Earned Income Tax Collection at the local level. The Bucks County Tax Collection Committee (TCC) reviewed proposals and recommended Keystone

Collections Group as Tax Collector for the Earned Income Tax beginning on January 1, 2011.

On motion of Member Pogonowski, seconded by Member Lloyd and approved by all Members, Solicitor Clemons was authorized to notify Berkheimer Associates that the EIT Agreement with Wrightstown Township would be terminated effective December 31, 2010, except that they would be responsible for collections to be reported to Wrightstown Township through April 15, 2011. Any new taxes and/or delinquent taxes will be the responsibility of Keystone Collections Group beginning January 1, 2011 following approval of Resolution #2010-017 to be approved and signed at the Board of Supervisors meeting to be held on September 27, 2010.

MSA District: Consultant Stern Goldstein reviewed the purpose and intent of the proposed MSA Ordinance which will rezone about a twelve acre portion of Chippewa Farm owned by Wrightstown Township. On motion of Member Lloyd, seconded by Member Pogonowski and approved by all Members present, Wrightstown Ordinance #287 (Newtown Area Joint Zoning Council #2010-02) was adopted.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Solicitor Piette reviewed Resolution #2010-016, Plan Approval and Septic O & M Agreement for the Trivellini property, TMP #53-002-108 and TMP #53-2-109. Documents will be signed at the close of this Meeting.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: Police Lieutenant Glenn Forsyth distributed copies of the August, 2010 Police Department reports and activities. He noted that the Department has issued 619 citations during the year compared to 471 issued in 2009. He emphasized the "Got Drugs" program scheduled for Saturday, September 25th at the CVS Pharmacy parking lot and encouraged residents to bring old, unused drugs to the site for safe disposal. This avoids the practice of flushing unused drugs which could contaminate water sources and also prevents unintended use.

Member Magne acknowledged the reports from the Code/Building Department, the Road Department, the Lingohocken Fire Company and the CB Ambulance Squad. The minutes of the recent meeting of the Historical Commission were received and will be filed.

MANAGER'S REPORT: There were no items at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Resident John Rasiej, 1091 Cedar Lane, suggested that Department Reports be scheduled at the beginning of meetings so that representatives would be free to report to the Board and leave the Meeting.

He inquired about the status of 2010 Budget matters. Manager Pantano reported that a presentation and review of 2010 Budget items had been presented at an August meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Member Magne stated that an Executive Session would be held following Adjournment for matters of personnel. The Board would not be reconvening.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion of Member Lloyd, seconded by Member Magne, the meeting was adjourned. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph F. Pantano
Township Secretary