

WRIGHTSTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 20, 2010

The Wrightstown Township Board of Supervisors met on Monday, December 20, 2010 in the Meeting Room of the Township Municipal Building, 2203 Second Street Pike, Wrightstown, Pa. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Chair Chester S. Pogonowski. In attendance were Vice Chair Jane B. Magne, Treasurer Robert S. Lloyd, Susan Piette, Esq. and Joseph F. Pantano, Township Manager.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On motion of Member Lloyd, seconded by Vice Chair Magne, minutes of the November 15, 2010 Board Meeting and the Work Sessions of November 22, 2010 and December 13, 2010 were approved as presented. Chair Pogonowski abstained from voting on the December 13 meeting minutes due to being absent.

All voted in favor.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

On motion of Vice Chair Magne, seconded by Member Lloyd, General Fund bills in the amount of \$39,767.91, Cable Access bills in the amount of \$600.00, Special Reserve Fund bills in the amount of \$42.47, and the EMS Fund bills in the amount of \$1,703.23, for a total of \$42,113.61, were approved for payment. All voted in favor.

On a motion of Vice Chair Magne, seconded by Member Lloyd, Escrow bills in the amount of \$14,470.75 were approved for payment. All voted in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- (A) The Village Library will hold its fourth annual Rockin' New Years Eve event on December 31 from 7:00 PM until midnight in the Community Room. "Shrek 3, The Final Chapter" will be shown from 7:00 until 9:00, followed by board games, community socializing, the rock band Hero, video games on the large screen and the ball drop at Times Square at midnight.
- (B) The next topic in the Sixty + Series will be "Essential Documents: Powers of Attorney, Advanced Health Care Declarations and Wills". This free public service program, presented by Susan Piette, Esq., will be held on January 22 at 10:00 AM in the Community Room of the Library.
- (D) The Historical Commission is offering for sale a double weave coverlet that was first designed in 1996 which depicts historic buildings in the Township. These coverlets are indigo blue and off-white and are available for purchase at the Wrightstown Township Municipal Building for \$45.00.
- (E) Chair Pogonowski discussed the annual awards dinner and meeting hosted by the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute (PFESI). Wrightstown Township was the recipient of the 2010 Chandler Associates Municipal Cooperation Award which honors exemplary efforts of municipal cooperation between local government and emergency services. Wrightstown Township was acknowledged for over 25 years of work with Emergency Services in providing for installation of preemption devices on traffic signals and for installation of Knox boxes, in requiring

developers to provide water supply for firefighting purposes, for allowing Wrightstown Township's Public Works Department members and the Fire Marshall to respond during working hours, for providing space for a fire truck at the Township's Public Works site, and for being one of the first municipalities in Bucks County to require sprinkler systems in residential homes. The Township was nominated for the award by Lingohocken Fire Company's Chief Greg Jakubowski who attended the event with Chair Pogonowski.

(F) There were no changes to the Agenda.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

On a motion of Vice Chair Magne seconded by Member Lloyd, Resolution 2010-020 was approved honoring Adam LePine for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Adam successfully completed his project by undertaking a multi-purpose trail restoration at Tyler State Park. All voted in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Le Sheppard, 457 Durham Road, thanked Adam LePine for his efforts as well as those of local scouts who completed work on the Grange spring house project. Mr. Sheppard expressed his concern for possible Newtown Police cutbacks. He is worried that their staff is already stretched thin and hopes that the Newtown Board considers this before making cutback decisions.

POLICE REPORT:

Chief Pasqualini provided the Police Report for November 2010. He commented on the Newtown budget and its effects on service. Chair Pogonowski noted that he hopes there will be a positive resolution to the budget problem and Police services for Wrightstown Township will not be affected.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Chair Pogonowski accepted the Engineer's report. No questions or comments were made regarding the report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Piette provided an explanation regarding assessment appeals and addressed the present appeal for the Smith /Malloy property TP # 53-002-102-002. Member Lloyd made a motion to authorize the Township's Solicitor to enter an appearance and certificate of non-participation on the appeal. Vice Chair Magne seconded the motion.

John Rasiej, 1041 Cedar Lane, commented on his attendance at School Board meetings where he noticed a rise in assessments appeals. He questioned whether or not Wrightstown Township has implemented any policies with regard to picking and choosing which assessment appeals to challenge. Chair Pogonowski responded that the Township's policy is to rely on the School District to decide which appeals should be challenged. He explained that Wrightstown Township is one of the smallest taxing agencies so it is not cost effective to be the lead agency on an appeal.

After discussion, all voted in favor.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS:

Vice Chair Magne asked residents to make an effort to keep ditches adjacent to their properties clear of leaves. She explained that the filled ditches can push melting snow and rain onto the road causing icy roadways. Chair Pogonowski followed up by saying that residents should also avoid pushing leaves across the street on what appears to be vacant property, as this too can cause problems.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- (A) Code Department. Chair Pogonowski acknowledged and accepted the Code Department Report for the month of November.

- (B) Road Department. Chair Pogonowski acknowledged the Road Department Report for the month of November.

- (C) Fire Company Report. Chair Pogonowski reviewed and accepted the Lingohocken Fire Company's activity report for the month of November.

- (D) Central Bucks Ambulance Report. Chair Pogonowski acknowledged and accepted the call report and the financial report through the month of November.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- (A) Resolution 2010-21: 2011 Budget Adoption. Manager Pantano presented Resolution 2010-21 which adopts the Township Budget expenses for 2011 and Resolution 2010-22 establishing real estate millage rates for 2011. Manager Pantano noted that there were some typos corrected but no major changes in expenses from the preliminary budget. Chair Pogonowski commented on Police Services and associated costs.

Member Lloyd made a motion to pass Resolution 2010-21 adopting the General Fund Budget in the amount of \$1,644,704.00 and all other funds as listed in the Resolution as recited by Chair Pogonowski. This was seconded by Vice Chair Magne.

John Rasiej, of 1091 Cedar Lane, questioned the police expense line item. The police expense seemed to be higher than a 5 % increase. Chair Pogonowski responded that it was probably a typo and the actual payment will be in accordance with the police contract.

David Dutko expressed his feelings about the budgetary reserve account in that there should be a reasonable reserve amount. Regarding projects that were listed in the budget in previous years, he questioned whether or not the taxpayers are being taxed again, when the project has not been completed. Chair Pogonowski assured Mr. Dutko that the taxpayers are not paying again for projects that have been listed on previous years' budgets. Manager Pantano added that money that has been allocated for a certain project that has not been spent becomes part of the cash carry over to the next year. Chair Pogonowski explained that the unspent money allocated to specific projects can be reallocated to those specific projects the following year.

On the question, all voted in favor.

- (B) Resolution 2010-22. Member Lloyd made a motion to adopt Resolution 2010-22 fixing the Tax Levy Rates for 2011 at 6.58 mils, which was seconded by Vice Chair Magne.

John Rasiej, 1091 Cedar Lane, discussed 2011 taxes and last year's millage rate. He believes that the Township reserves are still too high. He urged the Board to reconsider the tax rate and provide a tax reduction for the residents.

On the question, all voted in favor.

- (C) Tax Refund: Guarrieri property, Tax Parcel Number 53-012-072-017. Member Lloyd made a motion to approve a tax refund in the amount of \$80.46. Vice Chair Magne seconded the motion. All voted in favor.
- (D) Tax Refund: Smith property, Tax Parcel Number 53-001-041. Member Lloyd made a motion to approve a tax refund totaling \$23.24. Vice Chair Magne seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- (A) Pineville Tavern Escrow Release. Solicitor Piette reported that the Pineville Tavern Land Development has been completed. They have requested release of their letter of credit and cash escrow. A resolution was prepared setting forth the conditions prior to the release of the letter of credit and cash escrow reduction. A motion was made by Vice Chair Magne, seconded by Member Lloyd, to approve Resolution 2010-023. All voted in favor.

An Inspection/Legal/Engineering Services Agreement for the Pineville Tavern project was also presented. Member Lloyd made a motion to approve the agreement. Vice Chair Magne seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Chair Pogonowski made a motion to process Pineville Tavern's escrow release per the agreement and to release the funds prior to the Board's next meeting. Member Lloyd seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

- (B) Public Works Building Expansion. Manager Pantano discussed the engineering agreement and bidding documents regarding the Public Works building expansion. Dumack Engineering agreed to the word revisions recommended by the Solicitor. The contract was presented as revised. Member Lloyd made a motion to approve the contract with Dumack Engineering for design of the Public Works building expansion in the amount of \$4,300.00. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Magne. All voted in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Hearing: Federal Cemetery Overlay Ordinance, JMZO 2010-03. Solicitor Piette provided a summary of the FCO amendment. Member Lloyd made a motion to approve JMZO Ordinance 2010-03, which was seconded by Vice Chair Magne.

Ed Murphy, representing Toll Brothers, spoke about their objection to the proposed amendment. He submitted the details in writing and asked that it be part of the record.

Le Sheppard, 457 Durham Rd, expressed his support of this Ordinance and asked the Board to approve it.

Pam Fitzpatrick, 331 Stoopville Road, spoke to the Board about her concerns and support of the Ordinance.

John Raisiej, 1091 Cedar Lane, commented that the Veterans Cemetery issue has been used too long by Toll. He asked the Board to pass the Ordinance.

On the question, all voted in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Chair Pogonowski announced there will be an executive session to discuss personnel reviews on December 27.

REORGANIZATION MEETING:

The next Board meeting will be on January 3, 2011 which is the 2011 Wrightstown Township Reorganization meeting. A regular Board of Supervisors meeting will be held immediately following reorganization.

Vice Chair Magne made a motion to appoint Chair Pogonowski as Temporary Chair for the Reorganization meeting. Member Lloyd seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Member Lloyd made a motion to appoint Manager Pantano as Temporary Secretary for the Reorganization meeting. Vice Chair Magne seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Manager Pantano announced that there will not be a Work Session on December 27.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

John Raisiej, 1091 Cedar Lane, expressed his disappointment that his comments regarding the budget and a tax reduction were not addressed. Chair Pogonowski responded that all of the budget items and fund balances were looked at seriously and that he feels it is not appropriate to reduce property taxes at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion of Member Lloyd, seconded by Vice Chair Magne, all voted to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph F. Pantano
Manager