

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 17, 2015
7:00 pm

I. ATTENDANCE

The Board of Supervisors held its second regular meeting of the month on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building. In attendance were:

Board: Richard Mascolo, Chairman
Drew Clemson, Vice Chairman
Elliott Killian
Janet Whitaker

Staff: Mark Kunkle, Township Manager
David Modricker, Public Works Director
Maria Tranguch, Planning & Zoning Director
David Pribulka, Assistant Township Manager
Diane Conrad, Chief of Police

Others in attendance included: Heather Bird, Recording Secretary; Mike Twomley, resident

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mascolo called the Tuesday, February 17, 2015, regular meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

III. PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCES

1. A PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FERGUSON, CENTRE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE CENTRE REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS JOINT ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SCHLOW CENTRE REGION LIBRARY

Mr. Kunkle stated that in September 2014 the Board requested the Township Manager submit a letter to the Centre Region Council of Governments (COG) requesting COG to begin the process to amend the current Schlow Centre Region Articles of Agreement to allow for Township re-membership. At the January 26, 2015 meeting the COG General Forum referred the revised library Articles of Agreement to the participating municipalities for adoption by April 7, 2015. The amended Articles of Agreement accomplish the following three items: (1) Admission of Ferguson Township as a member of the Articles of Agreement for the Schlow Centre Region Library (2) Provide Ferguson Township with a second representative to the library Board of Trustees when the second member from Harris Township's term is up in 2017 (3) Update the library's name from the Schlow Memorial Library to the Schlow Centre Region Library. This year the Township is contributing nearly 28.5% of the libraries local share and the Township has continued to participate and been a major contributor during the period of time the Township was not a member of the Articles of Agreement. This will allow for the rejoining to the Articles of Agreement and subject the Township to the use of the COG Formula to determine municipal contribution. Mr. Mascolo asked what the 2015 Township contribution is. Mr. Kunkle stated the 2015 contribution is \$370,112 of a total of \$1,323,656 in total local share.

Mr. Killian made a motion to adopt Ordinance #999 approving and authorizing the Centre Region Council of Governments Joint Articles of Agreement for membership in the Schlow Centre Region Library. Ms. Whitaker seconded the motion.

ROLL-CALL VOTE: Mr. Clemson: YES; Mr. Killian: YES; Mr. Mascolo: YES; Ms. Whitaker: YES

IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS – RESOLUTIONS

1. A PUBLIC HEARING ON RESOLUTION ADOPTING A PARK NAMING POLICY

Mr. Kunkle stated this policy has been created to formalize the Park Naming Policy for the Township. Recently parkland has been located near two or more subdivisions making the

naming of a park more difficult. This policy will give the Board and residents criteria and guidelines for naming of parks located within the Township.

Mr. Killian made a motion to adopt Resolution #2015-06 establishing a park naming policy. Mr. Clemson seconded the motion.

ROLL-CALL VOTE: Mr. Clemson: YES; Mr. Killian: YES; Mr. Mascolo: YES; Ms. Whitaker: YES

2. A PUBLIC HEARING ON A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE TOWNSHIP'S COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ESSENTIALS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM OF THE PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE (PML)

Mr. Pribulka stated the sustainable community essentials certification program was created by sustainable Pittsburgh and picked up by the Pennsylvania Municipal League and offered to the entire state. The program looks at a number of categories all specifically related to sustainability and the municipal practices that are undertaken to enhance those categories and initiatives including governance, environmental stewardship, energy use and community health to name a few of the 131 items used for assessment. The designations run from the associate level to the platinum level. At this time no certified platinum communities exist.

Mr. Kunkle asked how frequently the assessment is updated. Mr. Pribulka stated that currently there are no required intervals for reassessment.

Mr. Kunkle noted that per a conversation with the coordinator of review, they have been in contact with the Department of Community and Economic Development and because this is a state endorsed initiative getting these designations will have some significance in award of grant funding. A number of communities in the western part of the state that have participated in this program while locally only the State College Borough has submitted an assessment.

Mr. Mascolo asked if the Township made any changes could they submit for reassessment. Mr. Pribulka stated that yes currently there is no limit to the number of reassessments on a community.

Ms. Whitaker asked if there are visits for follow up on the information or if it is all based on the survey submitted. Mr. Pribulka stated that it is all based on the information provided through the survey.

Mr. Killian made a motion to adopt Resolution #2015-07 affirming the Township's commitment to participate in the Sustainable Community Essentials Certification Program. Ms. Whitaker seconded the motion.

ROLL-CALL VOTE: Mr. Clemson: YES; Mr. Killian: YES; Mr. Mascolo: YES; Ms. Whitaker: YES

V. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Mr. Killian stated he received an email regarding a sidewalk on West College Avenue from Science Park Road to Bristol Avenue. He forwarded the email to Mr. Modricker. Mr. Modricker stated that West College Avenue is a state road and this is not the first request for this. A previous inquiry related to relocation of a bus stop and construction of sidewalk from Bristol Avenue and up to the bus stop. Installing a sidewalk along this full length would have many issues on would be a detention basin. The Board will need to consider what the next action for this may be. Mr. Kunkle showed the Board the area in question on a map and stated he also received an email regarding a portion of this area, Bristol Avenue to the bus stop. The Board

determined they would like to see a cost estimate to connect the sidewalk before the bus stop to the corner of Bristol Avenue.

Mr. Killian's second communication received regarded a retention basin located in the rear of a property. The residents stated that previously the property owners used the basin as an ice rink and have now been informed that they are not allowed to use the basin for these activities. Staff responded that they will need to look into this issue further.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

1. REFUND OF REAL ESTATE TAXES, TAX PARCEL 24-005-017-001

Mr. Kunkle stated on February 2nd he received a letter from the Centre County Assessment office indicating that they had double assessed tax parcel 24-005-017-001 in Township taxes for the years 2009 – 2014 on an annual basis of \$33.23 for a total of \$195.39 which Mr. Kellerman, Chief Assessor, requested the Township to refund those Township taxes.

Mr. Killian made a motion to AUTHORIZE a refund of real estate taxes on tax parcel 24-005-017-001 in the amount of \$195.39 for tax years 2009 – 2014. Ms. Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2015 VOUCHER REPORT

Mr. Killian made a motion to APPROVE the January 2015 voucher list. Mr. Clemson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Killian made a motion to APPROVE the consent agenda which included the January 2015 Treasurer's Report. Ms. Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. 2015 BUDGET AMENDMENT

Mr. Kunkle stated due to an oversight with the budget the revenues were included for the Westfield / Hillside Estates Park but the expenditures were not included. The money was included for the grant funding and the Township portion. According to the Home Rule Charter the Board would need to announce a budget amendment two weeks prior to the amendment.

Mr. Killian made a motion announcing that the Board will have a 2015 budget amendment at the March 2, 2015 Board of Supervisors meeting. Mr. Clemson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. REPORTS

1. Manager

Mr. Kunkle stated staff has been working with a MBA group of students on the Appex Project. The project is an evaluation of the West College Avenue Terraced Streetscape District between Corl Street and Buckhout Street. The team has been working on this for the last five to six weeks and will give a report to board on April 20th.

2. Public Works Director

Mr. Modricker began his report by discussing Green Light Go, a 50/50 source of funding for transportation improvements, specifically traffic signal improvements. In the past the Township has received grants from ARLEP. It has been discovered during the engineering scoping of the West College Avenue streetscape project that if the sidewalks are done all the way to Corl Street, improvements may need to be done to the traffic signal. An alternative would be to end the sidewalk at Hoy on the south side. On the north side sidewalk already exists. If the

sidewalk was brought to the curb radius the Township would need to comply with ADA requirements for ramps and this would require the other improvements on the signal. The Green Light Go Funding could be used for this project. If all of the work was completed the cost would be upwards of \$320,000. If the funding were applied for the portion of cost to the Township would be in 2017. The Board discussed the options for this area. Mr. Clemson made a suggestion to the Board to have staff apply for the grant.

Mr. Modricker stated the MS4 partners will be making a presentation at the COG General Forum. The Rosemont Drive / Selders Circle has been rebid with bids due on February 24th. The Westfield / Hillside Park is in design by staff. An open house has been scheduled for March 2nd from 4:30 to 6:30 pm in the main meeting room for the Circleville Road Paving Project and Park Lane Paving and ADA Improvements. The asphalt, fuel and street tree planting contracts area all currently out to bid. The site plan for the fire safety building is currently being received. Staff continues to work on the Teener Field updates.

Mr. Mascolo asked Mr. Modricker what he thought of the regional brush and leaf collection. Mr. Modricker stated that out of the two, leaf collection will be more difficult on a regional basis. Because brush collection is more spread out he thinks this is an option to outsource to a third party.

3. Planning and Zoning Director

Ms. Tranguch stated the Planning Commission did not meet because the only item on the agenda was the Toll Brothers plan and they submitted a time extension. The tentative PRD plan will be heard by the commission on Monday, February 23rd. Currently staff has nine plans under review with eight of those still to be heard by the Board. The permit activity was included in the packet and indicated 18 permits were issued.

4. Chief of Police

Chief Conrad stated the Part I crimes are down by two with 11 in 2015 and 13 in 2014. Part II crimes were close with 44 this year 41 last year. The total crimes were up to 55 in 2015 and 54 in 2014. The other calls for service were up a little at 344 from 332 in 2014 including an increase in EMS Assist and a decrease in Fire Assist. Traffic citations, traffic stops and hearings were all down while parking tickets, criminal arrest were up. Chief noted that the annual in-service training began, one day with other county police departments and one day in house in January and February every year. These include topics of current interest as well as re-certifications and officers take several hours of state mandated training which is completed on line. Chief attended a meeting of the *Community & Campus in Unity* group which discussed racism in the community. County wide protocols, some of which are ten or more years old, are being updated including domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault and stalking.

5. COG Committee Reports

a. Executive

Mr. Mascolo attended the meeting today, February 17th. The committee primarily discussed the regional brush and leaf collection.

b. Finance

Mr. Mascolo stated the committee began review of the preliminary fund balance policy which would establish a percentage of expenses for contingency funds at an established amount. Centre Area Transportation Authority gave a preliminary review of their 2015-2016 budget. The March date of the Finance Committee was moved to March 19th.

c. Human Resources

Ms. Whitaker attended the meeting on February 4th. The committee received and discussed the Schlow Centre Regional Library staff organizational chart for 2015. The library employs 41 full and part time employees. The Director of Philanthropy position was scheduled to begin in January but at this time there are no suitable candidates. Under Codes recruitment has begun for the Commercial Plans Examiner Inspector position. This will entail an extensive hire process with a tentative start date around April 1st. In Parks recruitment began to replace Chad Kauffman, Parks Caretaker One with an expected hire date in March.

d. Parks Capital

Mr. Mascolo stated the committee basically held an executive session on current litigation.

e. Public Safety

Mr. Clemson attended the meeting on Thursday, February 5th. The main area of conversation was the Centre Region Code Administration (CRCA) customer satisfaction survey that will be going out. Last year 1,454 permits were issued for code inspections. Looking at a range between 600 to 800 surveys will be going out. The surveys will be watermarked.

f. Public Services and Environmental

Mr. Killian stated he attended the meeting on February 3rd. The committee discussed volumetric billing for sewer service. Mr. Tom Songer brought up the topic for discussion. Currently only the State College Borough uses volumetric billing for sewage, when you get charged on the water usage. Ferguson Township charges residents/businesses based on EDU's based on the type of usage. The committee received a report from City Green, their unofficial advisory committee. The committee discussed the code sewage management program and the regional brush collection.

VIII. MINUTES

Mr. Killian made a motion to APPROVE the February 2, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes. Ms. Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Killian made a motion to ADJOURN the meeting. Ms. Whitaker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

With no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, Mr. Mascolo adjourned the regular meeting at 8:14 pm to an executive session.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Kunkle, Township Manager
For the Board of Supervisors
Date approved by the Board: 03/02/2015