FERGUSON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Regular Meeting Monday, June 6, 2011 7:00 pm

I. ATTENDANCE

The Board of Supervisors held its first regular meeting of the month on Monday, June 6, 2011 at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building. In attendance were:

Board: George Pytel, Chairman **Staff:** Mark Kunkle, Township Manager

Richard Killian Dave Modricker, Director of Public Works
Steve Miller Trisha Lang, Director of Planning and Zoning

Robert Heinsohn Bill Keough

Others in attendance included: Marsha Buchanan, Recording Secretary; Wayne, Donna, and Greg Focht; Tom Brown, 133 Washington Place; Elwin Stewart, 576 S. Foxpointe Drive; Dave Palmer, S&A Homes; Tom Songer; Tom Songer III; Steve Bair, Fire Director for Centre Region COG; Paul Kozlovsky, 941 Teaberry Lane; Galen Dreibelbis; Tim Madden, S&A Homes; Dan Wise, Harris Township; Trevor Chester; Don and Diane Chester; Pieter Ouwehand; Abbie Jensen; TJ and Kathie Mayo; Gary and Kathy Force; Chuck Farrell; Chip Crawford; Bob, Cathy, and Matt Prosek; Bellamarie Bregar; Jim Steff; and Deven Warner.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Pytel, Chairman, called the June 6, 2011 Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He said prior to this meeting the Board held an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

III. SPECIAL RECOGNITION – GREG FOCHT

Special recognition was given to Greg Focht, a Special Olympics Athlete and resident of Ferguson Township who will be traveling to Athens, Greece to participate in the World Special Olympics Games. He will represent the United States on Team USA in the sport of golf. He has been an active participant in the Centre County Special Olympics Program for many years, participating in softball, basketball, bocce, bowling, and golf. This year's World Special Olympics Games will occur between June 25th and July 4th, with nearly 7,500 athletes from 180 countries participating.

Mr. Keough, sponsor of the Special Recognition, invited Donna and Wayne Focht to the podium with their son Greg. He recognized Greg Focht for his selection to be on Team USA at the World Special Olympics Games in Athens, Greece. Mr. Keough read the Certificate of Special Recognition and it was presented to Greg Focht by George Pyytel on behalf of the citizens of Ferguson Township.

IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS – ORDINANCES

1. PUBLIC HEARING ON AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FERGUSON, CENTRE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 27, ZONING, PART 2, DISTRICT REGULATIONS, BY DELETING THE EXISTING SECTION 213, RIPARIAN BUFFER OVERLAY DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS, AND SUBSTITUTING THEREFORE A NEW SECTION 213, RIPARIAN BUFFER OVERLAY ZONING DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS

In April 2011, the Township Staff presented the revised text of the Riparian Buffer Overlay Zoning District Regulations to the Board. These changes were made in response to a challenge of the validity of the ordinance and to provide clarification to the application of the regulations. This challenge to the validity of the ordinance came as a result of an attempt to implement the Riparian Buffer Overlay

District Regulations for the Oakhill Townhomes parking lot expansion. After a substantial and critical review of the existing Riparian Buffer Overlay Regulations by the Director of Planning and Zoning, a revised copy of the draft ordinance was provided to the Planning Commission for review. Having completed a review and recommendation on April 11th, the Commission acted to recommend that the Board adopt the revised draft ordinance as presented. As a result of the extensive revisions to the current text, the Township Solicitor has recommended a repeal of the current riparian buffer ordinance text and replacement in its entirety with the new text.

Ms. Lang said upon review of the ordinance they found that it was a bit difficult to read. They made clarifications with regard to the text and the procedure, all of which resulted in the ordinance having the same intent and purpose.

Mr. Heinsohn made a motion to adopt Ordinance 954, amending the Code of Ordinances by enacting a revised riparian buffer overlay district ordinance. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. With Mr. Heinsohn, Mr. Keough, Mr. Killian, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Pytel all voting yes, the motion passed unanimously.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS – RESOLUTIONS

1. A PUBLIC HEARING ON A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FERGUSON, CENTRE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, CERTIFYING PROVISION OF LOCAL MATCH FOR STATE OPERATING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO CENTRE AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

This resolution certifies to the Commonwealth the Township's intent to provide financial assistance to the Centre Area Transportation Authority for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. Local operating assistance funding amounts to \$77,502 and the Township's capital contribution amounts to \$10,449 bring the total municipal contribution to \$87,951 as compared to last year's contribution of \$86,128.

Tom Brown, 133 Washington Place, commented on placing advertising on CATA buses. He believes this would be beneficial for alleviating costs to taxpayers.

Mr. Miller made a motion to adopt Resolution 2011-9, approving Ferguson Township's local share contribution to the Centre Area Transportation Authority for fiscal year 2011-2012. Mr. Heinsohn seconded the motion. With Mr. Heinsohn, Mr. Keough, Mr. Killian, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Pytel all voting yes, the motion passed unanimously.

VI. GALLOWAY CONDITIONAL USE HEARING

This 66+ acre parcel was previously owned by Bennett. The applicant has submitted a land development plan to cure an existing zoning violation for operating a horse riding stable and academy in violation of the ordinance. Riding stables and/or academies are classified as a conditional use in the RA Zoning District. As such, conditional uses require a public hearing and are required to satisfy various conditions, which were listed for Board members. The Planning Commission has recommended that the Board approve this conditional use request and has not recommended any conditions to be attached to this action.

Ms. Lang said a land development plan has been submitted to acknowledge an existing riding facility on Nixon Road. As part of the approval of that land development plan, the land use requires

conditional use approval. A public hearing was advertised for June 6th. However, the consultant for the applicant is unable to be at this June 6th meeting. They requested that the Board delay action until the next Board meeting.

Mr. Heinsohn suggested tabling the Galloway Conditional Use hearing until the next Board meeting on June 20, 2011. The Board consented.

Elwin Stewart, 576 South Foxpointe Drive, said they have property west of the Galloway property. Prior to Galloway purchasing that property, they enjoyed a quiet, rural lifestyle. Since that time, the property has been used for motorcycle practice. He believes their quality of life has diminished. They are sometimes subjected to motorcycle noise for 5-6 hours straight. They have a vineyard, but they are unable to enjoy a tranquil environment with so much noise from motorcycles. He is not in favor of the motorcycle track, but expressed no opposition to the horse riding facility.

Mr. Kunkle clarified that the motorcycle training course is considered an accessory use in the RA zoning district based upon a Common Pleas court decision in Centre County. Mr. Stewart raised the issue of violation of the noise ordinance, and that could certainly be applied to this property. There are certain thresholds of decibel limits that would be measured at the property line to determine whether or not they were out of compliance with the noise ordinance. That is with the provision that there is not any compensation for anyone riding at the track to utilize this facility.

Without objection the conditional use hearing was continued until June 20, 2011 at 7 o'clock p.m.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Mr. Killian said at the upcoming PA League of Cities and Municipalities Conference the League is starting a fundraising endeavor in support of the Cancer Research Foundation. They are asking participating municipalities to donate a gift basket that would feature items that represent their area or municipality. The baskets would be donated and sold during a silent auction during the upcoming conference. Mr. Keough suggested that a Ferguson Township business could be the provider of the gift basket. Mr. Heinsohn made a motion to authorize the expense of a gift basket containing items that represent Ferguson Township. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Keough heard from a resident in Westfield Development asking about the status of seeding in the south stormwater basin. Mr. Modricker stated he will check on that and get a current update for the Board. He does not believe it has been completed at this point.

Mr. Pytel received communication from Overlook Heights. He believes there was simply a misunderstanding regarding the frequency of the Township's brush and leaf collection.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

1. SAYBROOK FINAL SUBDIVISION PLAN PHASE 9A

The Board previously approved the revised phasing schedule to Phase 9, allowing for the division of the remaining 22 lots into two phases.

Ms. Lang said since the May meeting the applicant has submitted information to address remaining outstanding plan items. She provided an overview of items remaining to be addressed. The Planning Commission recommends conditional approval based on these items being addressed.

Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the Saybrook Final Subdivision Plan Phase 9A, subject to the completion of the outstanding conditions for approval as set forth in the Director of Planning and Zoning memorandum dated May 31, 2011. Mr. Keough seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. DISCUSSION OF LOCAL BUILDING CODE AMENDMENT RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLER REQUIREMENT

The COG Executive Committee has referred to the Centre Region Municipalities for discussion and comment the issue of participating municipalities considering whether a local amendment to require installation of sprinkler systems in new residential construction would be beneficial to the community. The Commonwealth enacted requirements for new residential construction to have sprinkler systems installed, beginning January 1, 2011. Early in 2011, the legislature proposed repeal of this requirement and Act 1 of 2011 was signed by the Governor in April, repealing the requirements to install residential sprinklers in all new, one and two family residential structures. Under the current Uniform Construction Code, municipalities can apply to the PA Department of Labor and Industry (L&I) to include more stringent building code regulations, subject to approval by L&I. The COG Public Safety Committee is seeking municipal input on whether or not this application should be pursued. Committee members express support for the residential sprinkler installation because of various benefits, which were listed for Board members.

Mr. Heinsohn endorses the idea of sprinkler systems, though there are costs involved, particularly in the west end of Ferguson Township where there is limited or no public water.

Mr. Killian asked if this is at the municipal or regional level. Mr. Kunkle said for the most part the building code is fairly uniform. There are no exceptions to it locally. It was his opinion that any changes to the Uniform Construction Code would be for the Centre Region. Mr. Killian expressed concern both short and long term regarding the safety of volunteer firefighters. Construction today is done differently, which causes more intense fires that spread more quickly. His long term concern is how they will the municipalities support fire services in this area, as well as the cost of maintaining fire service. Creating systems such as this to cause more efficient firefighting will keep taxpayer costs low overall. He does not believe sprinklers in and of themselves will solve a long term problem, but it is a factor. There may be other ways to mitigate the long term costs and maintain a volunteer force as long as possible. He is in support of this, with reservations caused by his long term concern of what other solutions may be available.

Mr. Miller supports sprinkler systems, but plans to vote against this. He received an email asking what the cost would be to go to a professional fire department compared to their current volunteer fire department. He believes the difference would be somewhere around \$100 per capita across the Centre Region.

Steve Bair, Fire Director for Centre Region COG, said the least expensive option would be something that keeps them in a supplemental, part-time arrangement. Ferguson Township's share is roughly 23% of the fire protection budget.

Mr. Miller expressed concern that anything they can do to keep the fire service as a volunteer service is positive. He plans to vote against this because of the current political climate. The region would be fighting an up hill battle and using COG staff time for something that will not prevail in the end.

Mr. Keough said for the most part he was not in favor of sprinklers in the beginning. Upon first joining the Public Safety Committee, he was still not in support of sprinkler systems due to the varying costs. Eventually, after being part of the committee, he came to believe there are some pros and cons for the western end of the Township – the response time is longer due to the farther distance, etc. He believes the COG staff's current plate at the regional level is full. Most of the work would fall on Codes staff who are in the process of implementing a new computer software program and hardware system for the codes office. Also, in review with the Public Safety Committee, in order to be successful at this endeavor, the region would have to show some uniqueness. He is hard-pressed to show that Ferguson Township has an environment that is unique enough to add this to the code. He expressed concern that staff time to advance this at the state level would be too great, so he will vote against this.

Mr. Pytel agreed and will vote against this. He said the region and county are talking about affordable housing, which will become expensive housing whether they like it or not if additional building requirements continue to be added. He does not believe the region can prove there is enough uniqueness.

Mr. Killian summarized their overall comments by saying that the economic and political environment are not right for approval of this at the present time.

Steve Bair stated that he met with the fire company recently to discuss his personal view on this matter. He speaks on behalf of the Alpha Fire Company. The question here is not about the benefit of sprinklers or the cost. The question is whether or not it is likely that the region would prevail in a Labor and Industry ruling based on the law that stands today. His professional opinion as the Fire Director is that the region is not unique. At this time he does not believe it is in the best interest of staff time and taxpayer money to seek a local option.

Tom Brown appreciates that the Board will vote no on the ordinance. He believes that, while sprinklers are a great idea, it is already in the law that contractors are to educate new homeowners and builders on the availability of sprinklers in their homes, and it should be left up to the property owners themselves. In addition, installing sprinklers adds the problem of lines bursting, property being damaged, insurance costs rising, etc.

Paul Kozlovsky, 941 Teaberry Lane, said he is not in favor of amending the building code to require fire sprinkler systems. He believes property owners should be included in this discussion. According to the COG, the purpose of these discussions is to address the public safety concerns in a manner that does not adversely affect residential construction. He said with every addition to the building code, his liberty as a citizen as guaranteed by the constitutions of the United States and the Commonwealth of PA is eroded. He pointed out that the COG committee states various benefits. He quoted these. First, he believes that members of the volunteer fire and rescue services are dedicated to what they do. Volunteer fire departments exist because of the dedication of the members and the individual support from residents of the community. Second, if this case is truly about safety, he asked why dangerous, lightweight materials are allowed to be used in residential construction. Finally, as it stands, residents are not prohibited from installing fire sprinkler systems, and builders must educate

new homebuyers about these systems and provide the option for installation. This allows people to choose, and that is liberty.

Mr. Pytel said the state initially made it mandatoryfor sprinklers; it was not a local choice.

Galen Dreibelbis, Ferguson Township, spoke against the vote that may come. He believes they need to remember that the COG and Code office are enforcement agencies, not advocacy agencies. They do a good job with enforcement, but they should not be advocating for sprinklers or anything else. He asked how long the region can continue with volunteers in their fire company. The fact of having sprinklers in new buildings is such a small number that it would not have any effect on the Alpha Fire Company members being paid versus being volunteer for 20 years. Some sprinklers have an automatic alarm system to call the fire company. If that is the case, then they are not cutting down on the number of fires. In residential properties, a fire company would be called at any time. He expressed concern about the cost of installing sprinkler systems. His concern is that in his 23 years in the fire company he has seen as much damage from sprinklers as he has seen the saving of property. Multiple times lives were saved by smoke alarms, but not once by a sprinkler. Mr. Heinsohn understands that fire insurance premiums are lower when a property is protected by a sprinkler system. Mr. Dreibelbis said when he added sprinklers in 2 buildings out of 6, he got no savings. However, he called several insurance companies and asked about the 8% that was indicated as savings by the State Fire Marshall. They indicated that they did not believe there would be any savings, but under pressure they were forced as an industry to give an 8% discount.

Tom (Tommy) Songer III, Professional Engineer, is a resident of Ferguson Township and member of the Builders Association and Realtors Association. He believes there is a lot more discussion that needs to take place on this issue. There are other ideas as far as the real solution on all of the problems that exist. He said this community is very safe. No one wants to see their taxes increase significantly or see their families' lives in jeopardy.

Mr. Songer is not totally convinced that sprinklers are the answer. The amount of time or resources that are put to structure fires within homes is fairly minimal, about 10% of the calls that the Alphas make across most of the jurisdictions. About half of those fires start in the kitchen. He questions whether sprinklers in the entire house will solve that problem. There are a lot of experts and resources available. He does not believe this issue has been fully discussed from both sides. He suggested working together to come up with the best solution, and that might involve some compromise. He provided literature for Board members. The Builders Association, Realtors, and concerned citizens are willing to provide their time and knowledge for Board members in order to work toward an amicable solution for the long-term.

Mr. Pytel asked if the requirement for a separate ¾ inch water line is still in effect. Mr. Bair believes that is no longer the requirement. Under the new code, they would like residents to upgrade the water line on new construction coming into the house.

Mr. Keough said the Public Safety Committee also had a fair amount of discussion about the fact that they need to engage a larger audience in the process. It was left unanswered as to how that would occur, but there was general agreement that this issue needs to go to a larger forum. Public safety Committee members need to understand the construction industry's side of this question. He believes the Public Safety Committee, even if they do not follow a recommendation to go to the COG General Forum to move forward on the question, still plans to move forward on engaging a wider audience to

discuss this issue. There may be some other solutions out there that may get them to where they want to be.

Dan Wise, Harris Township, past president of the Builders Association, chairs the Construction Code Task Force for the Builders Association and was recently appointed to the National Codes and Standards Council at the NAHB. He verified that in Act 1, property owners have not sacrificed any option. There is no lost opportunity if they do not act immediately. While the Legislature was moving through the process, there was concern that they might jeopardize federal grant money by taking away the energy efficiency status. The only change the code made to the energy efficiency was a small amendment to rescue the log home industry. Also, the Legislature pulled forward the safety provision for lightweight construction, making that part of the Act.

Tom Songer, Patton Township, said his family experienced a fire in their home about 30 years ago. They built a new home in 1992. Code regulations have gotten substantially better since that time. Most fires occur in older homes since many older structures are not built to the standards of today. He noted the importance of smoke detectors in the home. He believes it is important to educate the public on smoke detectors. He suggested finding a way to work together with the Public Safety Committee and the Alpha Fire Department to educate people to find a solution, offer free smoke detectors, etc.

Mr. Keough said his own preference is to have the private sector organize and develop an initiative to begin this discussion. The public issues forum was one opportunity discussed, but they recognized this as a starting point. Mr. Songer believes a public issues forum format is something that would benefit the entire community. Mr. Kozlovsky said there is an upcoming breakfast at Celebration Hall, which is an effort to take steps toward community involvement on this issue.

3. DRAFT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES RESOLUTION

On May 16th the Board discussed a request by Centre LifeLink to adopt a resolution designating Centre LifeLink as the primary Emergency Medical Services (EMS) provider for the Township. After discussion by the Board, it was determined that two other EMS providers, Port Matilda EMS and Penn State University Ambulance Service, have response obligations and responsibilities to portions of the Township. Contact with both Port Matilda and Penn State, along with Centre County Emergency Communication Centre Director Dan Tanzibok, indicated that a service area map has already been established and utilized by the Communication Centre to dispatch the primary EMS provider to specific areas of the Township. The Board is asked to review the draft resolution and determine whether it meets the Board's intent for designation of primary EMS providers.

Mr. Kunkle said he has tried to fashion the draft resolution so it recognizes the three providers in the Township rather than designating only one.

The Board agreed that the draft resolution reflects their concerns and intent and asked that it be placed on the June 20th Board agenda for action.

4. CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA 4TH FEST CONTRIBUTION

For the past several years, the Township has been contributing \$600 in support of the 4th Fest activities. The fundraising committee has indicated in its letter a request for the Board to consider increasing its contribution for the 2011 Central Pennsylvania 4th Fest.

Mr. Heinsohn made a motion to continue supporting 4th Fest at \$600. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Mr. Keough expressed concern that, given the economy, ultimately somewhere someone will have to make up some of the differences. He does not believe a Township should be making up all of the differences, but believes there is probably some room for a Township to make up some of them. He senses that they have programs that will suffer financially, and services will be removed in this area because of financial cuts. He does not personally have a problem with increasing the 4th Fest contribution, specifying that \$600 would go toward the general fund, and an additional \$400 would go toward capital expenditures.

Mr. Miller is in favor of staying with the \$600. Mr. Heinsohn agreed. Mr. Killian said the Township has increased its contribution in small increments in the past due to inflation.

With Mr. Keough voting no, and all other Board members voting yes to contribute \$600 to the Central PA 4th Fest, the motion passed.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Pay Estimate
 - 1. HRI, Inc. Old Gatesburg Road \$163,249.63
- B. Surety Reduction
 - 1. The Landings Bristol Avenue Surety Reduction \$ 109,573

Mr. Killian made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Heinsohn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. REPORTS

Manager

The May COG General Forum meeting was cancelled by the Executive Committee. The COG Administration staff is asking if the Township wants to host another date that would typically be held in the COG General Forum room. *The Board's consensus was to pass on this.*

- Staff has prepared a response to the request of Halfmoon Township to provide a cost estimate to provide police services in anticipation of the state legislature adopting legislation that would require municipalities without local police services to pay for State Police services. The Board should consider approval of the letter and the proposed cost to provide said services. Mr. Keough made a motion to support the letter and the staff proposal for police services to Halfmoon Township. Mr. Heinsohn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Keough clarified that they have only approved the moving of a proposal; they are not currently contracting with Halfmoon Township.
- Mr. Kunkle provided a handout regarding a rather significant request for an opportunity of HRI, Inc. to complete construction activities outside of their normal timeline. HRI is requesting that they be allowed to work on the Old Gatesburg Road Extension from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm Monday through Saturday. They have also requested that they be allowed to work on two other projects during times that are outside the Township's normal construction hours. Mr. Heinsohn recommended approving HRI's request. It will speed the process and will be a

benefit to Ferguson Township. Mr. Killian agreed. Mr. Keough said the process slowed down during the rainy season, so he favors granting this request. Mr. Miller agreed.

Public Works Director

Mr. Modricker provided detailed information about various 2011 Contracts regarding bids, proposals, and Open House projects, highlighting the following:

Whitehall Road Widening: Right of way plans were recorded at the Centre County Courthouse on May 20th. Notices of intent to construct the transportation improvement were sent to all affected property owners on May 23rd. Chris Aumiller has been given notice to proceed with appraisals.

Old Gatesburg Road Extension: Planned work for the next two weeks by HRI includes roadway grading and excavation of sedimentation basins.

Contract 2011-C5: Work is in progress. Frontier Construction has poured concrete sidewalk, installed the pavilion and arbor, and is paving the shared use path.

Director of Planning and Zoning

TRAFFIC CALMING POLICY: The Commission continued its discussion on the development of a traffic calming program for the Township. Final adjustments are being made to the text as a result of the discussion at this meeting. Staff anticipates that a final recommendation on the DRAFT will be made at the Commission's first meeting in June.

• COG Committee Reports

- a. Transportation and Land Use Mr. Pytel said they reviewed the Draft Comprehensive Plan Residential Survey, amending the draft as necessary. The questionnaire should be completed and sent out in the near future.
- b. *Executive* Mr. Miller said he will be out of town for next Tuesday's meeting. Mr. Killian will attend the meeting in his place.
- c. Parks Capital Mr. Keough said they will look at the capital campaign with regard to regional parks. A work session will be held to pull together a strategy in terms of an ultimate public campaign. Hess Field is operational. Leagues have started playing there. As of June 5th, they still did not have power at the facility. The relocation of power lines had not yet been made by Allegheny Power. They are now ready for that transfer. He understands that at least one vendor for food has been contracted for events at the field.

I. MINUTES

1. May 9, 2011 BOS/PC Joint Meeting Minutes

Mr. Killian made a motion to approve the May 9, 2011 BOS/PC Joint Meeting minutes. Mr. Heinsohn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. May 16, 2011 BOS Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Heinsohn made a motion to approve the May 16, 2011 BOS Regular Meeting minutes. Mr. Killian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

II. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Keough reported to the Board that in terms of the Ferguson Township questionnaire they contracted with someone from Penn State University. A staff assistant intern is beginning to formulate questions for the questionnaire.

Mr. Killian made a motion to adjourn the June 6, 2011 BOS Regular Meeting. Mr. Heinsohn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

With no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, Mr. Pytel adjourned the June 6, 2011 Regular Meeting at 8:56 pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Mark Kunkle, Township Manager For the Board of Supervisors

Date approved by the Board: 06/20/2011