

FERGUSON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Regular Meeting
Monday, March 4, 2013
7:00pm

I. ATTENDANCE

The Board of Supervisors held its first regular meeting of the month on Monday, March 4, 2013 at the Ferguson Township Municipal Building. In attendance were:

Board: George Pytel, Chairman
Drew Clemson
William Keough

Staff: Mark Kunkle, Township Manager
Dave Modricker, Director of Public Works
David Pribulka, Assistant Manager

Others in attendance included: Kelsey Taylor, Recording Secretary; Michael Straw, Harris Twp; Richard Straw, Patton Twp.

II. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Pytel called the Monday, March 4, 2013 regular meeting to order at 7:01pm.

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS – RESOLUTIONS

1. A PUBLIC HEARING ON A RESOLUTION FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF FERGUSON, CENTRE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA TO RENAME THE CENTRE REGIONAL RECREATION AUTHORITY TO THE CENTRE REGION PARKS AND RECREATION AUTHORITY

Mr. Kunkle explained that this resolution would not affect the operation of the Authority but is a change in name only.

Mr. Clemson made a motion to adopt Resolution 2013-8 that renames the Centre Regional Recreation Authority to the Centre Region Parks and Recreation Authority and transfers the responsibilities of the Centre Region Parks and Recreation Board to the renamed Authority. Mr. Pytel seconded the motion. *The motion passed unanimously.*

2. A PUBLIC HEARING ON A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FERGUSON, CENTRE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA APPROVING A CONTRACT TO PROVIDE SOFTWARE AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES WITH SPRINGBROOK SOFTWARE COMPANY, PORTLAND, OREGON

Mr. Kunkle introduced the resolution that would authorize the Chairman and Secretary to execute a contract with Springbrook Software Company to replace 20-year-old financial software currently in use. The firm, based in Portland Oregon, stated that all the papers are in order and they are prepared to move forward with the \$125,700 contract.

Mr. Keough moved to adopt Resolution 2013-9 which would authorize executing a contract with Springbrook Software Company in the amount of \$125,700. Mr. Clemson seconded the motion. *The motion passed unanimously.*

IV. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

Mr. Pytel said that most of the calls received lately were from property owners regarding the Whitehall Road work scheduled for March 19th. He tried to explain to callers that the road will only be closed one way because they didn't seem to understand this and were concerned it would be fully closed at that

time. To help resolve this Mr. Pytel suggested to Mr. Modricker that he post graphics on the township website - and possibly the newspaper - depicting what this closing will look like. Mr. Pytel was concerned that residents did not understand what parts would be closed and which way the road would go. He also wanted to remind residents that other roads, such as Nixon and Plainfield, will still be open at that time.

V. ACTION ITEMS

1. PROPOSED GRASS COMPOSTING FACILITY

Mr. Kunkle read the action item regarding the proposed grass-only composting facility to the Board. Mr. Pytel said that, in conjunction with feedback from the community survey, he has seen a lot of interest from residents in the location of this composting facility. Residents want a location within the limits of Ferguson Township and there have been requests for it to be in the Foxpointe area and for there to be two facilities. Mr. Pytel said it would be best to have the facility at the Township Building so it can be serviced in a timely manner and so the types of materials dropped off can be more easily monitored.

This facility was not originally included in the 2013 budget. The Public Works Director has estimated the total material costs - including an asphalt pad, precast concrete walls and signage - to be approximately \$6000. This project would be announced in the spring newsletter. The Director has selected a site for the facility and has pictures of the location are available to the board members. Mr. Clemson said it is clear that this is an important issue to the community and that this facility should be much more convenient for residents than driving out to another facility located outside Ferguson Township. He asked where the funds would come from. Mr. Kunkle said it would come out of the unappropriated fund balance - undesignated funds put aside for instances like this. Mr. Kunkle had reviewed this account and said there are sufficient funds available for the new facility.

Mr. Clemson made a motion to **approve** the development of a grass composting facility at the Township building and appropriate up to \$7,000 to construct the facility. Mr. Keough seconded the motion.

Mr. Keough agreed that the Township building would be a good location. He said the Board should recognize that there's a larger demand from the community than this single site. Mr. Keough said the Board should consider planning for more locations over the next 5-7 years by identifying other sites for potential facilities.

Motion passes unanimously.

2. REPORT ON ANNUAL SCOTIA BARRENS CONTROLLED BURN

Mr. Kunkle said that the Pennsylvania Game Commission has successfully completed the Scotia Barrens burn for the last four years. This prescribed burn plan is done to assist the environment and to reduce the number of unwanted species in the barrens. This year's plan is to burn 778 acres, all within Patton Township, on the days that weather permits it. This burn area is divided into 4 sections and each would be done as an individual burn. All agencies involved will be meeting on Friday, March 15TH. He assured the Board that there will be adequate pre-notification and advertising to warn residents prior to the burn days. Mr. Kunkle showed a map of the four burn plots. The burns must be completed within a narrow window of opportunity between late March and early May since several specific weather conditions must be met. Mr. Kunkle explains that the low-intensity burns completed over the last four years have been well managed with no incidences of uncontrolled fire. Since the burn plots are all located in Patton Township this report was presented only to inform the Board. No action was necessary.

3. STREET LIGHT/FIRE HYDRANT EXONERATIONS 2013

Mr. Kunkle said that several of the parcels included in the street light and fire hydrant assessments last year were actually tax-exempt properties and should have been excluded. These properties included churches, cemeteries, Penn State property, homeowners' associations, and parks. Therefore the Board must take action to exonerate these properties from assessments. Mr. Kunkle said he suspects there are additional properties that may have been picked up in the GIS survey that should have been exempted as well. These would be parcels that did fall within the 250 foot assessment radius but did not have street frontage within that area and should not have been included as assessable properties. As a result there may be more exonerations coming, and revised bills would be sent to the appropriate property owners.

Mr. Clemson moved to **approve** the exoneration of the street light and fire hydrant assessment for properties listed on the March 4, 2013 memorandum from the Finance Associate. Mr. Keough seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. **Surety Reduction – Dreibelbis Subdivision - \$90,683**
- b. **Surety Reduction – Saybrook Subdivision, Phase 6 - \$22,300**
- c. **Proposal to extend and place a gas line to Turnberry – Columbia Gas**

Mr. Pytel moved to **approve** the motions on the consent agenda. Mr. Keough seconded the motion.

Mr. Keough asked for more details regarding the extended gas line to the Turnberry development area. Mr. Kunkle explained that this would be an NPDES General Permit 5 gas line crossing an unknown tributary and crossing Circleville Road. Mr. Keough advised the Board that this item could be in conflict with the Home Rule Charter amendment but he was unsure since there had not yet been a ruling on this matter. He pointed to the Home Rule Charter amendment section J, Items 3 and 7 as potential conflicts, as well as the first section of Item D.

The motion passed unanimously.

VI. REPORTS

1. Manager Report

Mr. Kunkle said that the township has received 20 applications for the Director of Planning and Zoning position. The application window closed on February 15th and staff is now narrowing the field before proceeding to phone and face-to-face interviews.

2. Public Works Director

Mr. Modricker said he will verify the current status of the West Whitehall Road project mentioned previously and ensure that the detour is starting by March 18th. He will continue to keep the Board up to date on this issue. Mr. Pytel said he has also received many phone calls from residents regarding the PennDOT project.

Last week approximately 100 additional ash trees were marked to be taken down over the next week or two. Mr. Keough asked what would be done with the stumps and roots. Mr. Modricker responded that the trees will be cut even with the ground to prevent any tripping hazard. The contract states that

stumps less than 6 inches are to be removed at that time. Any stumps larger than 6 inches are to be removed by the township crew in advance of new trees being planted.

The section of Old Gatesburg Road running from Science Park to Nixon Road will be paved after the existing asphalt is recycled and replaced. Mr. Modricker explained that recycling asphalt is a more cost-effective way to rejuvenate and improve existing roadway although not all roads are qualified for this method. Certain projects, such as those in the west end, are not suitable because the asphalt was not thick enough. Mr. Modricker said that the depths of the roadways included in this project have already been sampled to ensure they are suitable for asphalt recycling.

3. COG Committee Reports

a. Transportation & Land Use

Mr. Pytel reported that the Transportation and Land Use meeting had been held previously that day at noon. At this meeting he received a report on the State College Borough's plan to revitalize a section of downtown along Beaver Avenue and on West College Ave from Atherton to the east end of town. This plan included converting Beaver Ave into a one-lane road on the far east end where it converges with another road. Mr. Pytel said he was concerned there would be too much traffic for this change and wondered if PennDOT would allow it. He said the Borough's plan, which includes moving roads, blocking parking, and changes on intersections, is not that different than those of Ferguson Township. Mr. Pytel expressed concern that diverting too much traffic from downtown would displease residents and possibly hurt downtown businesses. He said there is a conflict between the borough's push to minimize downtown traffic and its desire to encourage more people to shop downtown. Mr. Pytel suspected that residents would stop shopping downtown in favor of more convenient locations if driving and parking within the borough was made increasingly difficult.

Mr. Pytel said that the idea of a single point contact for economic development was discussed. There had been much discussion on how this would function. He said many smaller businesses that would potentially come into State College cannot afford to build in Centre Region or to pay employees amounts compatible with State College salaries. He said that Transportation and Land Use should try to entice businesses to move to the Centre Region. They are already three years into a program to assess the implications of different phases, and that each section seemed to indicate a single point contact approach would be best.

Mr. Keough said that the CBICC understands what businesses and industry are generally looking for, and that they don't want to have to deal with individual townships or municipalities when it comes to cost, location, zoning, etc. These businesses want one single point contact which would have collected all the relevant data in one place and would provide businesses with the resources they need in a more convenient manner. Mr. Pytel asked Mr. Keough if he thought all the municipalities would be willing to provide all the necessary resources. Mr. Keough said that the single point contact should not be requiring any sacrifices on each municipality's part.

Mr. Keough said that the other item that came up at the meeting was whether COG needs to have a committee (perhaps ad-hoc) to address the issues in moving forward with economic development. He said the staff has had interactions with these entities over the years, but that it is time for elected officials get involved with that process. Mr. Keough suggested that COG designate a committee solely devoted to this purpose instead of adding this function to an existing committee. He said the committee could have a three-year lifespan, for example, with the possibility of being renewed.

Mr. Clemson said he hates to create more committees but agreed that this was an issue important enough to warrant a new one. He suggested that Mr. Keough bring this up again at the next meeting. There was some discussion regarding who the contact person would be for such a committee since it

would not be practical to have a full-time position for that purpose. Mr. Clemson suggested that such specifics do not yet need to be addressed but agreed that such a committee would be beneficial.

4. Other Non-COG Regional Committees

Mr. Keough said that the Personnel meeting was cancelled for the month so there was nothing to report.

VII. MINUTES

Centre Region Comprehensive Plan Update Worksession Minutes for January 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th, and February 6th, 2013 were approved as submitted.

Mr. Keough moved to accept all the minutes in one motion. Mr. Clemson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Clemson made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Keough seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

With no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, Mr. Pytel adjourned the regular meeting at 8:02pm.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Mark Kunkle, Township Manager
For the Board of Supervisors

Date approved by the Board: 03/20/2013