

TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HUNTINGDON, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING, WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2010, 7:00 P.M.
11279 Center Highway, North Huntingdon, PA 15642
Presiding Officer – Lee D. Moffatt, President, Board of Commissioners

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Haigis called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Herold	Present
Commissioner Haigis	Present
Commissioner West	Present
Commissioner Gray	Present
Commissioner Martino	Present
Commissioner Austin	Present
Commissioner Moffatt	Absent

Also Present:
John M. Shepherd
Craig Alexander
Michael M. Turley
Chief Daugherty
Richard G. Albert
Andy Blenko
Dan Miller

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CITIZENS' INPUT

Delores Teamann, 280 McDonald Drive: She is on the Recreation Committee and they had a meeting in January with the Board about the Public Works property for a recreation center. They haven't heard anything and want to know what is going on.

Bill Sarge, 9670 Laurel Avenue: He asked about the stop signs on Glenn Drive at Hillview about two months ago and there was to be a study done about arranging the sign. Also, Carradam Golf Course is just sitting there and he wants to know why the Township can't take it over. It would create jobs and it doesn't seem right to let it sit there and let another builder take over and put up overpriced housing. The Township could make it a money making venture in a couple years. Previous Boards have spent money crazily as they gave over \$90,000 to a secretary to quit. They gave over \$200,000 to a former Chief of Police with a good pension.

Loraine Knoch, 2324 Robert Street: With all the new houses going up, there is nothing in the Township for children or anyone to do. There is no golf course, movie theatre or swimming pool here. There is something in the works for the next three years, but that wouldn't be enough for all age groups. They are giving other communities all of our business. They need to take care of the residents in this Township. She asked if North Huntingdon was on a consumption base for sewage.

Mr. Gray said many sewage issues have been discussed in front of the Board, but as far as billing or consumption rates, they have no authority. The Sewage Authority has its own Board.

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Ms. Knoch said the traffic on Robert Street going to Sunset Valley School is a dangerous situation. The speed limit is not followed and she would like a speed bump there. At the top of Robert Street at the stop sign, there are cars parked on the left and it makes it hard to make a left turn onto Guffey Road. Traffic speeds on Guffey Road and she feels there should be a three-way stop sign at Guffey Road and Robert Street and a speed bump going to the school.

RESPONSE TO CITIZENS' INPUT

Delores Teamann

Mr. Haigis said the committee came to the Board for the first time and asked about the property. They are not sure if the committee wants that property and he needs more information.

Mr. Gray said this has not been talked about in Executive Session.

Mr. Martino said he on the Peer-to-Peer Group but not talked about the property.

Mrs. Teamann wants to know why they haven't talked about it. At the meeting, the Board said they would discuss it and get back to the committee. They have been working on this for six years and they need to stop dragging their feet. The residents of the Township want things but no one ever comes to any of their meetings.

Mr. Haigis said he needs more information as he doesn't know the plans for the property.

Mr. Gray said they aren't sure where the property fits into the committee's plan. The Board doesn't want to get stuck with a commitment that would change after it is made.

Mrs. Teamann said if the Township doesn't want to give them the property then they could lease it for 100 years. If it doesn't work out, it would go back to the Township.

Mr. Gray said there wasn't any plan from the committee if the Township said yes. He would like to see a plan that doesn't turn out bad later.

Mrs. Teamann said there is a meeting next Tuesday that everyone is invited to.

Mr. Martino said they are waiting for Peer-to-Peer to finish with the contract and the Solicitors are looking at this right now.

Mrs. Teamann said it has taken six years and why is it taking so long.

Mr. Martino said it is a contract and the wording had to be changed.

Bill Sarge

Chief Daugherty said they did a study and put signs on Laurel Avenue for the speeding. As far as the intersection of Glenn and Hillview, this was addressed 15 years ago when a petition was sent by a resident because the area was used as a cut through. With the stop sign, there haven't been

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any accidents and it hasn't been used as a cut through anymore. There have been no complaints there other than Mr. Sarge, so they plan on leaving it alone. The study was done by Sergeant Kucera and he still had copies of the petitions done before.

Mr. Gray said they discussed the Carradam property at length when Mr. Shuster was considering buying it and felt it was not a good financial investment for the Township. At that point it was being maintained as a golf course, but once it is let go, it becomes a big investment to get it operating again. They looked at it and passed on it.

Mr. Turley said a Feasibility Study was done in 2008 and the developer owned it at that time. The drainage system and the equipment were being taken out at that time and being sold. They would have had to purchase that and the property and it would not have been financially feasible. They just didn't feel it would work in this case.

Loraine Knoch

Mr. Albert asked if an electronic speed sign could be posted there.

Chief Daugherty said the School District has asked the Police to have a car in that area in the morning and afternoon. There is a large volume of cars taking their kids to the school and he has been requested by the principal to go there and show the people to slow it down. Since school is letting out for the summer now, in the Fall they could put the signs up for the speed indicators. They also got a request to put the signs up on Entry Road as vehicles are using that road for a cut through. The speed indicators give a read out on all vehicles that go through to let them know the speeds and the time of day.

Mrs. Knoch asked about stop signs at Robert Street.

Chief Daugherty said Guffey Road is a State Road and they have to approve that. She would have to contact PennDOT.

Mr. Shepherd said they could make a request to PennDOT if it is a reasonable request.

Chief Daugherty said he knows about those intersections and in order to contact PennDOT, there has to be criteria for any action and there haven't been any accidents there to generate it.

Mr. West asked about having a speed indicator at that spot.

Chief Daugherty said you can't use a Stop Sign to regulate speed. That's also for the Township.

Mr. Herold asked if they could help with traffic in the morning and the afternoon letting the buses out.

Chief Daugherty said there isn't a problem with the buses, but there is a large volume of traffic taking their kids and they are speeding.

Ms. Knoch asked what they can do about the speeding if you can't put up Stop Signs.

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Mr. Martino said they received a report on overtime and he is asking whether or not he needs another person in the parks.

Mr. Miller said he is saying anything but answering the request of a Commissioner in an effort to fulfill the position in the budget for a full time park position. The staff is doing an outstanding job even though they are shorthanded. They have summer help but are still behind in their work. It is up to the Board whether they want to fill the position which is in the budget. They are getting the work done, but are working long hours with overtime.

Mr. Herold asked if he needed another person.

Mr. Miller said he gave a memo to Mr. Shepherd to fill the position. Mr. Shepherd has talked to some of the Board whether it will be filled or not.

Mr. Gray said he has never met a department head that would say no to another position.

POLICE REPORT

There were no Board comments.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

There were no Board comments.

FIRE OFFICIAL'S REPORT

There were no Board comments.

Mr. Gray asked how long it had been since the Township took over Westminster Drive in Lincoln Hills.

Mr. Blenko said it was a little over a year ago.

Mr. Gray said there are at least 12 patches on it and 50% of those are failing and a half dozen new failures in the road surface. He asked who paid for those repairs.

Mr. Blenko said he hasn't looked at the recent failures but where the repairs were made were done by RWS Development. The failures he saw can be blamed on Superpave which they are mandated to use by the State. It is designed to have more stone than asphalt. On major roads where there are heavy vehicles, it was designed to reduce rutting. It doesn't work on the local roads. You can't get the old mix anymore.

Mr. Gray said that was the only road he has seen it on and it looks like the road is tearing apart and coming unbound from the base. He doesn't feel the failure can be blamed on Superpave when it is being used everywhere.

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Mr. Blenko said RWS Development did the repairs themselves. Norwin Construction who did the original paving felt the problem was because of Superpave.

Mr. Gray said the patches are not small and Superpave had to be put back in.

Mr. Herold said the Superpave is a big failure and they are repaving the parkways because of that.

Mr. Blenko said the Superpave should be put in patches where the failure was from the old mixture. He would look into Westminster Drive.

SUBDIVISION & LAND DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION REPORT

- 1) Action to adopt Resolution No. 116 of 2010, which approves S-5-2010, Jim Shorkey KIA Lot Consolidation, Route 30, C-1 Zoning.

Motion: Mr. Gray Motion to approve.
Second: Mr. Martino

Motion Carried 6 – 0 – 0

- 2) Action to adopt Resolution No. 117 of 2010, which approves SP-1-2010, Jim Shorkey KIA Site Plan, 12900 Route 30, C-1 Zoning.

Motion: Mr. Austin So move.
Second: Mr. Herold

Remarks

Mr. Martino said he would like to be updated on all the conditions before it is done.

Motion Carried 6 – 0 – 0

- 3) Action to adopt Resolution No. 118 of 2010, which approves SP-9-2009, Kirk Haight Auto Sales Site Plan, 12109 Route 30, C-1 Zoning.

Motion: Mr. Herold So move.
Second: Mr. Austin

Remarks

Mr. Martino said he would like to be updated on conditions for this plan and for the next plan.

Motion Carried 6 – 0 – 0

- 4) Action to adopt Resolution No. 119 of 2010, which approves S-8-2010, Keith Parry Plan, Ardara Road, R-4 Zoning.

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Motion: Mr. Herold
Second: Mr. Austin

I make a motion to adopt Resolution No. 119.

Motion Carried 6 – 0 – 0

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

- 1) Action to adopt Proposed Ordinance No. 5 of 2010, accept roads in Kerber Farm Estates Plan, Belgian Drive (Phase I), Percheron Circle (Phases I, II, & III), Quarterhorse Drive (Phase I), Appaloosa Court (Phase II), Saddlebred Court (Phase II), Palomino Court (Phase I) and Thoroughbred Drive (Phase III). If adopted, this would be Ordinance #2146.

Motion: Mr. Herold
Second: Mr. Austin

So move.

Remarks

Mr. Gray asked if they were mandated to do these roads over and will they fail in a year.

Mr. Blenko said he didn't know, but there are transverse cracks that were sealed by the developer and they will have to keep up with them. It looks like a concrete road overlaid with asphalt.

Mr. West asked which street that was.

Mr. Blenko said it is most pronounced on Quarterhorse Drive which was the first road put in and they will have to do maintenance on it to keep the water out.

Motion Carried 6 – 0 – 0

- 2) Action to adopt Proposed Ordinance No. 6 of 2010, designating Kerber Farm Estates Phase III as an Ornamental Street Light District and to authorize street light installation and lighting assessments pursuant to the First Class Township Code. If adopted, this would be Ordinance #2147.

Motion: Mr. Herold
Second: Mr. Gray

So move.

Remarks

Mr. West asked if the lights were already in.

Mr. Blenko said the developer puts them in and pays the bill until the roads are adopted.

Motion Carried 6 – 0 – 0

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TOWNSHIP MANAGER'S REPORT

- 1) Action to approve the April check register.

Motion: Mr. Martino I'll make that motion.
Second: Mr. Austin

Remarks

Mr. West asked about the purchase of three lap top computers for the Police cars in the amount of \$14,000.

Chief Daugherty said these are not regular lap tops but are for outdoor services. Usually one lap top runs \$6,500, but they went with a different company under State Purchasing. They have 12 lap tops total.

Motion Carried 6 – 0 – 0

- 2) Budget Report – April 2010 Report.

There were no Board comments.

- 3) Action to approve a Professional Services Contract with Cohen Law Group to provide legal assistance for cable franchise renewal negotiations with Comcast. This is a lump sum in the amount of \$12,000.00.

Motion: Mr. Herold So move.
Second: Mr. Martino

Remarks

Mr. Gray stated he would be abstaining from voting because it affects Comcast who is a competitor of his employer, Verizon.

Motion Carried 5 – 0 – 1 (Mr. Gray)

- 4) Action to award the bid for the 2010 Road Paving Program.

Mr. Shepherd said the lowest bidder for the base bid is Victor Paving. Awarding the base bid with Alternate A and B is below the budgeted amount for this year by \$13,000.00. He recommends awarding the base and the alternates.

Motion: Mr. Gray I'll make a motion we award both the base bid plus both the
Second: Mr. Herold alternates.

Motion Carried 6 – 0 – 0

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- 5) Action to adopt Resolution No. 115 of 2010, supporting House Bill 2026, the Demi Brae Cuccia Law, requiring public schools to provide education on teen dating violence.

Motion: Mr. Herold So move.
Second: Mr. Martino

Remarks

Mr. Gray said they have the support of local governments, but were they any School Boards who endorsed it.

Mr. Cuccia said not yet, but the Department of Education is in support of it. It hasn't gone to the School Board yet and the School Board Association is neutral.

Mr. Gray asked why he approached local governments instead of School Boards.

Mr. Cuccia felt it would be a good idea to get public support of different communities behind what they are trying to do. He has spoken to schools that are receptive. The teachers and students are very receptive.

Mr. Alexander said the Penn Hills School District is considering a resolution at their next Board meeting.

Mr. Gray said he has sympathy for the loss of their daughter but he feels it would be a financial burden to the School Boards. The schools would be in charge of teaching characteristics of healthy relationships and he is concerned with that and he will not support the resolution.

Motion Carried 4 – 2 – 0 (Mr. Gray & Mr. Haigis)

- 6) Action to approve the request of Bob Plutto, 971 Abrams Drive, to install rip rap stone (or concrete headwall) at the box culvert on Abrams Drive.

Mr. Shepherd said Mr. Plutto attended last week's meeting about the stream he is working on and his request to the Board. Mr. Blenko spoke to Mr. Pillsbury from the Conservation District today about this.

Mr. Blenko said they got a copy of Mr. Plutto's permit from the Conservation District and the permit proposes to reinforce both banks of the stream 50 ft. upstream of the culvert with rock, rip rap on the bank. Mr. Pillsbury supplied the guide lines to Mr. Plutto. After observing the culvert, there is no erosion around the mouth of the culvert. He feels the culvert would benefit from a wing wall to channel the flow into the culvert. The proposed work was to armor the banks specifically to prevent damage to his driveway and remove deposits in the stream banks. There is curvature to the stream and is eroding at the bends and putting the material into the stream beds. There was a request for the Township to do the work that Mr. Plutto got a permit for.

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Mr. Gray said Mr. Plutto said based on the recommendation of Mr. Pillsbury after the gravel bar removal that certain stones be placed on his property. Mr. Pillsbury felt the Township would be willing to help within the right-of-way. The Township would not do work on private property. If his project impacted the Township right-of-way, that would be the time for the Township to do any work. He recommended a Township employee who does excavating also to do the work. Based on Mr. Blenko's report, a wing wall would be better than stone.

Mr. Blenko said he is not sure what the right-of-way width is on Abrams Drive as it could be 50 ft., 40 ft. or 33 ft. He will need to look at it but feels most of it is outside the right-of-way.

Mr. Gray asked if he could look at the right-of-way and mark it and decide if the Township needs to do anything.

Mr. Blenko said in looking at the sketch that is part of the permit, water is eroding at the bank and missing the mouth of the culvert. An objective is to re-align the channel and have the water head towards the culvert.

Mr. West asked what the Township could do to protect our property.

Mr. Herold said until they get more information, it should be tabled until the next meeting.

Mr. Gray asked if they would have an answer for next month as Mr. Plutto would like to get this work done.

Mr. Shepherd said depending on the scope of the Township work, they would need a permit.

Mr. Blenko said after the storm last June, D.E.P. said upon notification, the Township can do maintenance work 50 ft. upstream and downstream of a culvert owned by the Township.

Mr. Herold asked what the maintenance work entailed.

Mr. Blenko said installation of a concrete wing wall is not maintenance work. Mr. Plutto wants to remove a sand bar that was deposited there and armor the one side of the bank that is eroding and take out what was deposited.

Mr. Herold said he wouldn't be dredging the whole stream but divert the flow of the water.

Mr. Gray said he wants it to go smoothly and is looking for a recommendation for stone or a wing wall. He doesn't want the families to waste money and have the Township do nothing. He would hope that property owners downstream would follow suit if this runs smoothly.

Mr. Blenko said at that culvert, wing walls without the stone would be pointless. There has to be upstream work.

Mr. Gray said Mr. Plutto would work with the Township, but they want something to happen.

Mr. Gray said Mr. Plutto would work with the Township, but they want something to happen.

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Mr. Blenko said these are two independent projects. The wing wall would improve the capacity of the culvert, but without the bank stabilization upstream would be a waste of money.

Mr. Herold asked how much rip rap they would need and a price on it.

Mr. Blenko said he is not sure what Mr. Plutto got from the Conservation District and will find out how much stone they need.

Motion: Mr. Martino Motion to table.
Second: Mr. Gray

Motion Carried 6 – 0 – 0

7) Action to approve the policy for Nixle Messaging System.

Mr. Shepherd said he did some research on other communities that have a Nixle policy but has not had the opportunity to finalize a policy but will have it for next month's meeting.

Motion: Mr. Gray I would like to make a motion that any message that goes out over the Nixle system originate from North Huntingdon Township.

Mr. Gray said they put another message out and asked if they have the Police approval.

Chief Daugherty said the message was sent out by him and he gives approval on all the messages that go out. Everything will go through him all the time.

Withdraw

Motion: Mr. Gray I'll withdraw my motion.

Mr. Shepherd said he will have the policy for next month.

FURTHER BOARD COMMENTS

There were no Board comments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Discount Amusement Park tickets will be available in the near future for sale at the Town House. For more information, please check out our web site at: www.nhtpa.us or contact the Administration Office.

- 2) Wildflower Tours at Braddock's Trail Park will be taking place this spring on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 10:30 A.M. through May 22, 2010. Participants will learn interesting facts about the flowers and foliage throughout the park. The tour will begin from Braddock's Trail parking lot and is presented by Dr. John Boylan, Superintendent of the Norwin School District and Warren Gardner.

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- 3) The last week for the Spring Yard Waste Collection is scheduled for curbside pick-up by Waste Management on the regular day of trash service during the week of May 25, 2010. Leaves and yard waste need to be placed in special **biodegradable** bags that are available at most retail stores such as Home Depot and Lowe's. Please have bags out at curb by 6:00 A.M. during those weeks.
- 4) North Huntingdon Rescue 8 in conjunction with North Huntingdon Parks & Recreation Department will be hosting a Kids Safety Fair at Oak Hollow Park on Saturday, May 22, 2010 from 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Lunch and refreshments are provided free.
- 5) A Tagged Fish Contest will run from Monday, May 17, 2010 through October 1, 2010 at Indian Lake Park and Oak Hollow Park. Catch a tagged fish and bring the tag to the Town House for a prize.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mr. Gray

Motion to adjourn.

Second: Mr. Martino

Motion Carried 6 – 0 – 0

- Regular Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2010 were approved by the Board of Commissioners on _____.

Lee D. Moffatt, President

John M. Shepherd, Township Secretary

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