

Upper Makefield Township Board of Supervisors
August 4, 2010 Meeting Minutes

The August 4, 2010 meeting of the Upper Makefield Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chair Bud Baldwin at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were the following members of the Board of Supervisors: Chair Bud Baldwin, Vice Chair Tom Cino, Treasurer John Silvers, Member Dan Rattigan and Member Mary Ryan. Also in attendance were Township Manager Stephanie Teoli, Township Solicitor John Rice, Esq. and Township Engineer Larry Young, P.E.

There were also members of the public and representatives of the press present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Mr. Baldwin led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance which was followed by a moment of silence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Baldwin announced that the Washington Crossing Bridge would be closing August 9th for approximately 60 days for scheduled work by the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission.

Mr. Baldwin announced that the Joint Zoning Council meeting would be held on Thursday, August 5th at 7:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ralph and Susan Kearney, 1072 Embarkation Drive, addressed the board regarding a storm drainage problem they are experiencing.

SPECIAL ITEMS

Presentation of Resolution No. 2010-06-16-01- Chief Mark Schmidt

Police Chief Mark Schmidt was presented with a Resolution of Appreciation in recognition of his 30 years of service to Upper Makefield Township. Mr. Baldwin and Ms. Teoli provided comments of recognition and presented a gift to Chief Schmidt.

Eccologix Presentation

Eric Schade and Joe Nitterour presented the Eccologix 2010 Deer Management Plan Annual Report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND BILLS PAYABLE:

A motion was made by Ms. Ryan and was seconded by Mr. Cino to approve the July 21, 2010 minutes. Motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Ms. Teoli directed attention to the bills list for August 4, 2010. A motion was made by Mr. Silvers and was seconded by Ms. Ryan to approve the August 4, 2010 Bills Payable list in the amount of \$151,483.75. Motion carried on a unanimous vote.

ACT 537 PLAN DISCUSSION

Mr. Baldwin entered into the record a letter from W. Stuart and Cynthia Maxel, of 811 Dolington Road. The Maxel's were unable to attend the meeting and wished to express their desire to have their property added to the Act 537 Plan.

Township Hydrogeologist Bruno Mercuri then provided a presentation on the Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Update, reviewing the alternatives and potential costs of the Dolington Area Sanitary Sewer Extension.

A lengthy discussion then ensued regarding the Dolington Road area and the number of failed on-lot disposal systems. Mr. Mercuri emphasized the need for a common collection and conveyance system and explained that this was truly the only option because of soil conditions and lot sizes in the area.

Ms. Ryan led discussion on the possibility of conducting additional testing to confirm the data that is presented as the basis of the recommendations in the Act 537 Plan. There was general consensus that this was a worthwhile endeavor and the Board requested that Mr. Mercuri provide a proposal for additional testing. Mr. Mercuri indicated that he would put together a proposal for a two-fold approach: sampling individual domestic wells and observation/investigation of individual septic systems.

The following members of the public then provided public comment:

Jim Barbera, 817 Dolington Road, thanked the Board for the public dialogue regarding this issue. He indicated his agreement with findings of the draft plan regarding compromised systems and challenged the board to take a proactive approach in solving this problem. He also questioned the allocation of costs to only the Dolington and Taylorsville areas when the preservation of Upper Makefield's current zoning would benefit the entire township.

George Pickering, 731 Washington Crossing Road, requested information about the maps in the plan and questioned their accuracy. He also expressed concern regarding the cost of the proposal.

Brian Puricelli, 691 Washington Crossing Road, pointed out that connection to the public system in Lower Makefield Township would provide a much less costly solution to the problem. He also commented that if a policy decision has been made to keep public sewer out of the township in order to preserve open space, then the board should make a policy decision that the cost of the 537 proposal be shared by the entire township.

Raymond Steward, 756 Washington Crossing Road, asked a number of specific questions regarding his property. He also reiterated that the issue is a township-wide problem.

Jim Galvason, 787 Washington Crossing Road, encouraged the Board to look into other high-tech solutions.

Mary Barbera, 817 Dolington Road, questioned the costs suggested by Mr. Mercuri for well testing.

Jane Johnson, 3 Mountview Court, provided comment regarding the proposal. She encouraged the board to determine a specific price for the residents rather than the current floating price.

PLANNING AND ZONING ISSUES:

Merrin Zoning Hearing Board Application, 14 Spring Court

Mr. Young provided an overview of the application to construct a garage in the floodplain. Ms. Ryan commented that the applicant is proposing a new garage that is four times the size of the existing garage and that a slightly smaller proposal would not have as significant an impact. Following discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Cino, and was seconded by Ms. Ryan, to authorize the Solicitor to attend the hearing to present the Board's position. The motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Heble Zoning Hearing Board Application, 919 River Road

Attorney Edward Murphy represented the applicant and provided an overview of the application to construct a driveway in a floodplain. Following discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Baldwin, seconded by Mr. Silvers, to authorize the Solicitor's attendance at the hearing in opposition of the application. Motion carried on a unanimous vote.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Ordinance No. 293 – Solar Energy Systems

Mr. Rice provided an overview of the ordinance establishing regulations for solar energy systems in the township, as recommended by the Planning Commission. A motion was made by Ms. Ryan and was seconded by Mr. Cino to authorize advertisement of Ordinance No. 293. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Ms. Teoli reported to the Board that a Joint meeting with the EAC and the Board of Supervisors needed to be scheduled. She suggested September 15th at 6:30 p.m. The Board agreed.

Joint Zoning Council Signature Authorization

A motion was made by Mr. Baldwin and was seconded by Mr. Silvers to authorize that Mr. Rattigan be added as a signatory for the Joint Zoning Council. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Bucks County Tax Collection Committee (BCTCC) Update

Ms. Teoli provided an update on the Bucks County Tax Collection Committee. In accordance with Pennsylvania Act 32 and after an extensive interview process, the BCTCC appointed Keystone Collections Group of Irwin, Pennsylvania to collect earned income tax for Bucks County school districts and municipalities beginning in January 2011.

Resolution No. 2010-08-04 – Opposition to Forced Local Government Mergers and Consolidations

Ms. Teoli introduced the resolution in opposition to forced local government mergers and consolidations. Following brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Ryan and was then seconded by Mr. Baldwin to approved Resolution No. 2010-08-04. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Ms. Teoli announced an upcoming concert by the Community Conservatory of Doylestown to be held at the Thompson Neely House on August 15th at 6:00 p.m. The event will be held at the Military Cemetery and is being sponsored by the Thompson Neely House Auxiliary and the Friends of Washington Crossing Historic Park.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Heritage Hills Financial Security

Mr. Young provided an overview and recommended release of the Heritage Hills Financial Security for improvements in the amount of \$52,665.62. A motion was made by Mr. Rattigan and was seconded by Mr. Silvers to authorize release of the Heritage Hills Financial Security in the amount of \$52,665.62. Motion approved by a 4-0 vote with Mr. Cino abstaining.

Engineer's Report

Mr. Young reviewed the highlights of the Engineer's Report.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Rice reported that the Board of Supervisors would need to authorize re-advertisement of Ordinance 2010-01. A motion was then made by Mr. Baldwin and was seconded by Ms. Ryan to re-advertise Ordinance 2010-01. Motion carried on a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND MEDIA QUESTIONS:

There were no additional public comments or media questions.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Silvers, seconded by Mr. Cino, to adjourn the meeting at 10:28 p.m. Motion carried on a unanimous vote.

Approved: September 1, 2010