

Upper Makefield Township Board of Supervisors
February 17, 2010 Meeting Minutes

The February 17, 2010 public meeting of the Upper Makefield Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chair Dave Kulig at 7:40 p.m. In attendance were the following members of the Board of Supervisors: Chair Dave Kulig, Vice Chair Bud Baldwin, Treasurer John Silvers, Member Tom Cino and Member Dan Rattigan. Also in attendance were Township Manager Stephanie Teoli, Township Solicitor John Rice, Esq., Township Engineer Larry Young, P.E., Director of Planning & Zoning Dave Kuhns and Chief Mark Schmidt.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Kulig announced that an executive session was held prior to the meeting to discuss litigation, and acquisition of real estate.

Mr. Kulig thanked the township consultants for underwriting the cost of the Upper Makefield Township Volunteer and Employee Dinner.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ellen Petri of 1293 Eagle Road applauded the community for rallying around the Washington Crossing Park. She also appealed to the PHMC representatives present to request the relocation of the construction trailers that have been placed in front of the McConkey Ferry Inn.

SPECIAL ITEMS

Washington Crossing Visitor's Center Project

Representative Scott Petri and Barbara Franco, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, updated the Board on the Washington Crossing Visitors Center Project. Representative Petri reported that the project would follow an aggressive schedule with bids being released this summer. He emphasized the importance of keeping open lines of communication with the township during the process and asked the Board of Supervisors to consider a dialogue with PHMC regarding the various outstanding issues with the park.

Ms. Franco explained that she was encouraged by the hard work of the newly-formed Friends of Washington Crossing group and also emphasized the need to keep communication open. She reported that the goal of PHMC was to have the new Visitor's Center open as soon as possible.

Discussion then ensued between the Board of Supervisors and Ms. Franco regarding transfer of parkland to the Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve and other entities. Ms. Franco emphasized the desire to develop a long-term strategy for the success of the park.

After discussion, it was agreed that it would be important for the Board of Supervisors to receive updates from PHMC during the construction process.

Guy Polhemus of Washington Crossing Road expressed his concern regarding the project and PHMC's stewardship of the park.

Carol Stuckley of Washington Crossing Road urged the PHMC to hold fast to its mission to preserve and protect this historic resource.

Peggy Kennedy of Jericho Run expressed concern regarding the transfer of land to the Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve.

Pam Fitzpatrick of Stoopville Road in Newtown Township also expressed concern regarding the transfer of land to the Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve.

Storm Update

Emergency Management Coordinator Rob Kay provided an update on the recent snow storms and encouraged residents to register for the emergency notification system ReadyNotify PA. Information can be found on the Emergency Management page of the Township website.

Members of the Board commended the public works, police and emergency management staff for their diligent efforts during the two snow storms.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND BILLS PAYABLE:

A motion was made by Mr. Baldwin and was seconded by Mr. Silvers to approve the February 3, 2010 minutes. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Kulig read into the record the bills for February 17, 2010. A motion was made by Mr. Baldwin and was seconded by Mr. Rattigan to approve the February 17, 2010 Bills Payable list in the amount of \$115,238.35. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Gray Tract Extension Request

Mr. Rice provided an overview of the request to extend the five year period of protection from ordinance changes for the Gray Tract Preliminary Plan. Attorney John Van Luvinee was present on behalf of the applicant to present the request. After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Rattigan and was seconded by Mr. Cino to deny the request. Motion carried on a unanimous vote.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Fund Balance Report

Ms. Teoli provided highlights of the Fund Balance Report. Mr. Cino requested that Ms. Teoli continue to work on cost-cutting strategies.

Approval of Labor Attorney Consultant Rate – Reed Smith

Ms. Teoli reported on the interview process for Labor Counsel. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Silvers and was seconded by Mr. Baldwin to appoint Ryan Cassidy of Reed Smith as Labor Attorney at the 2010 rate submitted in board packets. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

WordWork Website Maintenance Proposal

Ms. Teoli reported on the proposal to continually update the website and to launch a bi-monthly e-news to township residents. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Baldwin and was seconded by Mr. Cino to approve the website maintenance and electronic newsletter proposal submitted by WordWork for an estimated cost of \$650 per month. Motion approved by a unanimous vote.

Newtown Skate Park

Ms. Teoli provided an overview of the request of the Park and Recreation Board to donate \$500 to the Newtown Skate Park Committee, which is raising \$15,000 and will be matched by the Newtown Township Board of Supervisors at a ratio of 4-1. The skate park would be open free of charge and would provide a recreational opportunity to Upper Makefield residents that is not available in the township. Following discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Baldwin and seconded by Mr. Silvers to donate \$500 to the Newtown Skate Park Committee. Motion carried on a unanimous vote.

PennBid Discussion

Ms. Teoli provided an overview of PennBid, which is a collaborative electronic procurement program for posting and retrieving bid information. Following discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Rattigan and was seconded by Mr. Baldwin to approve the PennBid Service and License Agreement. Motion carried on a unanimous vote.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Engineer's Report

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

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS:

Mr. Kulig announced that the following reports were included in the Board packets:

- Environmental Advisory Council – November 10, 2009
- Historical Advisory Commission – January 11, 2010 and February 1, 2010
- Park and Recreation Board – January 11, 2010
- Planning Commission – January 11, 2010

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Planning & Zoning Department

Mr. Kuhns highlighted the monthly Planning & Zoning Department Report.

Police Department

Chief Mark Schmidt highlighted the Police Department Report.

Mr. Kulig announced that the following reports were included in the Board packets:

- Fire Department Report
- Fire Marshal Report
- Public Works Department Report

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Rescheduling the March 17, 2010 Board of Supervisor's Meeting was discussed, and it was agreed to reschedule it to March 24, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Mr. Baldwin and was seconded by Mr. Silvers to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. Motion carried.

Approved: March 3, 2010