

**West Vincent Township
Board of Supervisors Meeting**

November 16, 2009

Attendance: Chairman Kenneth Miller, Vice Chairperson Zoë Perkins, Steve Siana of Siana, Bellwoar & McAndrew, LLP Township Solicitor, Township Manager Jim Wendelgass, Zoning Officer Sandra Cantrell-Edwards and Township Secretary Tammy Swavely.

Chairman Miller called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM.

Perkins made the motion to approve the minutes from **September 14, 2009** as submitted. Miller seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Township Building: No Report.

Township Manager Report: The Township Manager Report for the week ending 11/14/09 was acknowledged as submitted

Active Subdivision List: There are no pending deadlines.

Bills List: The Bills List was reviewed. Perkins made the motion to approve the Bills List dated 11/13/09 in the total amount \$5,305.96. Miller seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Old Business:

The **bids for Snow and Ice Removal** were reviewed by the Township Manager and Road Master. Mr. Miller made the motion that the bid be awarded to D.L. Fleck since he was the only bidder to meet the requirements by bidding on all vehicles as requested in the Bid Package. Mrs. Perkins stated that she found it interesting that 2 bids were received that did not meet the requirements that were so clearly stated in the bid package and she did not know why they did not follow the rules. Perkins seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Christine McNeill, Supervisor of East Vincent Township was present to discuss **French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust's** funding request for 2010 and Mrs. Perkins asked her if she would share some detail as to why East Vincent Township has stated its intention to pull out of the Phoenixville Regional Planning Commission (PRPC) since she is currently a Board Supervisor. She stated that there were several reasons. Supervisor John Funk feels that the Continuing Care Retirement Center would bring a financial benefit to East Vincent since it brings 750 residents to a 70 acre parcel and therefore would increase tax revenues. He feels that over \$4 million will be brought to the Township and the school district would not be impacted. The PRPC submitted a review

stating it felt this was not appropriate for the area. Supervisor Mark Dunphy believes that East Vincent Township is better suited to belong to the Pottstown Area Regional Planning Commission. The vote to leave the PRPC was 2-1, with Mrs. McNeill voting against leaving. There will be a public hearing on December 2, 2009 at 7:30 PM to hear testimony both pro and con as to whether they should withdraw from the plan. Mrs. McNeill stated that East Vincent Township has had over a 10 year relationship with the PRPC and a lot of consideration was given to East Vincent Township's initial decision to join the PRPC. The Board of East Vincent Township has not yet considered the cost of withdrawing from the PRPC and the costs to join the Pottstown Area Regional Planning Commission. Mrs. McNeill further noted that it was unclear as to whether East Vincent Township would be accepted into the Pottstown Area Regional Planning Commission. Mrs. McNeill feels that a trust has been lost between East Vincent Township and the PRPC. Mrs. Perkins stated that she along with others from West Vincent will encourage Mr. Funk and Mr. Dunphy to reconsider and stay in the PRPC.

The proposed **2010 Budget** was discussed. The line item of \$25,000 to engineer a rectangular field at the Weatherstone Open Space was reconsidered since the timeframe to actually construct the field is at least two (2) years away and the engineering study could be outdated by that time. The underlying issue is the field cost which is \$600-900,000 which would be a good portion of the Township Budget. The Township will try to obtain grants, but many of those require a Township match. A Planning Grant could be applied for to cover the engineering costs. At this time public consensus must be taken into consideration. A separate tax may be necessary and a committee formed to plan for a referendum. Mrs. McNeil added that the Northern Federation Study will soon be completed and it may be a good idea to go to the County for a block grant which can be easier to obtain.

Maria Holderness, 958 Jaine Lane Tax Parcel 25-3-143.6 requested clarification with respect to several line items of the proposed budget which she found confusing. Township Manager Wendelgass informed her that some of the line items dealt with contracted services which were placed in the wrong category and therefore the numbers do not match up, however, the issue can be addressed. Another issue with contracted services is that this is an item that it is hard to budget for as the needs are often dependent upon unanticipated issues which arise during the course of a year. When a line item runs out of funds in the budget, another category may be used to make up for it. Ultimately, the budget is balanced at year-end. Overtime was discussed and Mr. Miller stated that the road crew did most of the road repairs themselves rather than use an outside contractor. When close to the end of a job on a particular work day, Mr. Miller allowed the road crew to stay and complete the job. The current expenditure will be more inline with the budget by the end of the year. There was also a lot of rain this summer which called for a lot of emergency maintenance.

Mrs. Perkins stated that the Budget will be finalized and ready for the meeting next week.

Christine McNeil, representing **French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust**, presented the Board with information on the Trust asked them to consider it when

preparing the 2010 Budget. She explained that the Trust is community based and has preserved a lot of ground and protected many watersheds. In 2007 even more land was preserved and trail programs were introduced. Mrs. McNeil stated that preserving land also helps the tax base. It is a challenge to fund this non-profit and she is presenting this to all neighboring Townships. Mrs. Perkins informed her that there was a line item in the budget, which has been for several years, for the French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust in the total amount of \$1000.

New Business:

Chairman Miller stated that the Board needs to **appoint a Supervisor** to fill the vacancy created by Judge Riley's decision which ruled that Barry DiLiberio cannot serve as a Supervisor in West Vincent Township. This must be done within 30 days of the Judge's decision and it will be a 2 year term until the next municipal election. Mrs. Perkins stated that they will take expressions of interest by letter, phone calls and e-mails from anyone interested in the position. She further noted that when considering who to appoint, other responsibilities beyond Board meetings must be considered. The ideal candidate should have a working knowledge of the Township and have some knowledge of the ordinances. Mrs. Perkins added that being a Supervisor is not something that you do without prior experience with the Township.

Pam Brown, 1070 Jaine Lane Tax Parcel 25-3-122 came to Board because the Park and Recreation Commission has a trail subcommittee who is looking into the connection of the Weatherstone Trail to the Township Park. They are currently looking at existing trails in subdivisions including Wetherill, Weatherstone, The Township Park and the Horseshoe Trail. The effort to connect Matthews Meadows to the Horseshoe Trail, it seems large, but it is something that they will be working on.

Mrs. Holderness brought up the **Zoning Ordinance** stating she talked to the Chester County Fire Marshall and reviewed the international and residential building code. The Board asked her to forward the information to Mrs. Swavely. **Susan Miller, 2573 Horseshoe Trail Tax Parcel 25-7-32** asked if there had previously been an issue about storage tanks for fuel. She explained to Mrs. Holderness that the Board is trying to make existing conditions legal since that section of the current Zoning Ordinance is unenforceable. The Planning Commission feels that the state and federal regulations should take care of any issues with fuel storage. Chairman Miller agrees with this and approves of the new language referring to the state and federal regulations.

Chairman Miller asked **Art Ewell, 972 Fellowship Road Tax Parcel 25-7-31** when he planned to start the drainage work on the stormwater swale near his driveway. Mr. Miller stated that the Township is out of pocket \$3500.00 and no work has been performed. He stated that he is concerned that this may be a waste of Township money unless the work is promptly commenced. Mr. Ewell noted that the work is to be done by Mr. Ewell's contractor, Dave Monteith and he was going to start it in August. Mr. Miller stated that the Township has proceeded in good faith and would like to see the job done promptly. He could get another contractor if necessary but he should get it done in a timely manner.

Chairman Miller stated that there would be an **Executive Session** immediately following the regular meeting to discuss personnel and real estate.
Meeting adjourned 10:15 AM.