

West Vincent Township
Board of Supervisors Meeting

September 6, 2016

7:00 PM

Attendance: Chairman John Jacobs, Vice Chairman David Brown, Michael Schneider, Township Manager Erica Batdorf and Township Secretary Tammy Swavely.

Chairman Jacobs called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

The first item of business was to open the Bids for Snow and Ice Removal. There was one bid received from Birchrun Excavating LLC. Mr. Schneider opened the sealed bid and read the information. Out of the six items on the bid, two items were bid on. Item #3, 4x4 Pickup Truck with 8' plow 3/4 ton or larger: Hourly rate: \$85.00. Item #6, 4x4 Dump Truck – 17,500 GVW minimum with 9' plow and spreader: Hourly rate: \$85.00. Ms. Batdorf stated that this can be accepted tonight and have the staff and the solicitor review it for compliance. The Board agreed that it needs to be determined if it should be rebid or not and if Birchrun Excavating is a qualified bidder. Sara Shick, 1201 Davis Lane stated that if it is rebid that the work crews should be compatible. Brian Curry, 512 Blackhorse Road had many questions on the bid packet. Ms. Batdorf stated that Mark Hughes, the Road Foreman discussed this with Upper Uwchlan and staff instituted some of their best practices. If he has some questions he should email her and she could try to answer them. Mr. Jacobs stated the bid was made better, not worse. Frances Ellis, 2823 Flowing Springs Road asked if it would be better to have someone more familiar with the Township roads as a contractor. Mr. Schneider added that these trucks are only used if needed. There is no guarantee that the trucks get any use. David Pomanto, 289 Blackhorse Road asked if this bid was for a driver and truck and he was told yes. Mr. Jacobs stated that the Township does not have any extra equipment for snow removal.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Schneider made a motion to approve the August 16, 2016 minutes as submitted. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Mr. Curry had many questions on the past meeting. He asked about the Bills List and if Ms. Batdorf determined what certificate expired that was renewed by Apex. Ms. Batdorf will research it let him know. Mr. Curry asked about the speed limit determination on Red Bone Road from the previous meeting. Ms. Batdorf researched this question for Mr. Curry and discovered that both the Police Chief from Upper Uwchlan and our own Police Chief Swinger have agreed that the speed limit should be 25 mph since this road is in both townships. He asked about the taxes that West Vincent Township is paying for on the Saint Stephens Green Open Space. Ms. Batdorf stated that she has met with both Pam Brown from French and Pickering Conservation Trust and Zoe Perkins of the West Vincent Land Trust on this issue to get the history of this purchase. It is approximately 12 acres that was going up for Sheriff Sale in 2009. The WVLT has greater flexibility in purchasing land so they purchased it for the Township. At the time the Township stated that they would buy it for the purchase price, \$14,000 but it could not get clear title. Ms. Batdorf stated that she has asked the Township

solicitor to do some research and help the WVLT get clear title and get it resolved. Sometimes upset sales have mystery liens. Ms. Batdorf stated that the WVLT was well intended in the purchase for the Township. It is documented in the WVLT minutes. Mr. Schneider asked if it was legal for the Township to pay for these taxes. He added that the residents should not have to pay the taxes on property that they are not a part of. Mr. Brown stated that this was a purchase requested by the Township and all that is necessary is some paperwork. Mr. Jacobs stated that it is time for this to be finalized. Mr. Schneider feels that the WVLT should pay the Township back for the last six years of taxes. Ms. Batdorf stated that Ms. Perkins had the authority from the WVLT to speak for them and said that they are not going to ask for anything from the Township just the charges to get clear title. Mr. Jacobs called for a vote to approve the minutes and it carried unanimously.

Reports: Full copies are attached.

Township Manager Report: The Township Manager Report for the period ending 09/06/16 was acknowledged as submitted.

Bills List: Mr. Schneider made the motion that the Bills List dated 8/16/16 in the total amount of \$98,736.20 as submitted. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. The Board answered some questions and the motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

Township Refinancing: Michael Wolf, Boenning and Scattergood, Inc. along with the Townships Bond Attorney, Tim O'Neil, Lamb McErlane, came to discuss the Township's refinancing its current bonds and the procedures that it entails. He presented a Preliminary Official Statement that will be used to market the Bonds to potential buyers. He suggested that the refinancing be done soon to lock in the low rates. Mr. O'Neil discussed the Municipal Bonds and the State and Federal regulations. He represents the Township with regards to the refinancing. He stated that the Township has a good rating and he will work with the Township Solicitor during this process. The Board must pass an ordinance which is dictated by law. Mr. Schneider asked if it was possible to pay down the debt before the bonds are reissued. Mr. Wolf stated that there are not any bonds to call until 2017. Mr. Schneider stated that we have an excess of Open Space funds which could be applied to the debt. Mr. Brown stated that would cripple the Open Space program. Harriet Stone, 1645 Birchrun Road asked if it was legal to use open space tax revenue on anything other than protecting open space. Sara Shick, 1201 Davis Lane stated that it was the Townships goal to save open space and the goal was to preserve 35% of the Township. She asked if this was completed. Mr. O'Neil stated that the Township has an EIT for Open Space. The taxes can purchase land, protect land or be used to pay the Open Space Bond. Mr. Wolf explained the ordinance. Assuming that it is passed on September 19th, this would approve parameters. The Board will vote and the savings will not be locked in and the savings will not begin until the interest rates are appropriate. The ordinance will be approved without knowing exactly the Townships savings, but it will be at least a 3% savings. Mr. Wolf will be processing the bonds. Mr. Schneider made the motion that the Township authorize the advertisement of the ordinance to refinance the Township bonds. The Preliminary Official

Statement will be placed on the Township website. The Township will not be obtaining any new money at this refinancing. Mr. Curry asked if the public can be notified when the bonds are purchased. Mr. O'Neil stated that a press release can be made if the Board desires. There was no further comment and the motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance 173-2016: Mr. Schneider made the motion that the Board adopt Ordinance 173-2016 setting the speed limit on Red Bone Road at 25 mph. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

Windows in Township Manager's Office: Ms. Batdorf stated that the windows in her office are rotting and currently there is duct tape closing off a hole in one of them. Three bids were received. Mr. Schneider made the motion to purchase three windows from Window Nation in the total amount of \$1,901. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Mrs. Stone stated that there was a lot of discussion around the Benner farmhouse windows and was wondering if the Historic Resource Committee should consider the windows in the Townships property. Mr. Jacobs stated that the new windows would look period type. Mr. Brown stated that the Township must consider this if the building is a historic structure. Mr. Schneider feels that requiring any developer to do this is not appropriate, so it would not matter for the Township building. Mr. Jacobs stated that he feels the Board should consider what the HRC has to say about the windows. More research will be done before new windows are purchased. The motion was tabled.

Township Property Insurance: It is time to renew the Townships insurance policy on Workmen's Compensation, Public Law 477 and the Property/Casualty Insurance. This policy is yearly running from September 11, 2016 – September 11, 2017. Mr. Jacobs discussed insurance on volunteers doing a project in the Township. Ms. Batdorf stated that the Township would need a specific rider for specific projects. Most of the events are all covered, Movie Night, etc., depending on the scope of work. If volunteers would like to blaze trails, they would have to sign a waiver. In the event that it would involve a larger scale with animals, or for example, BMX training, that gets much more involved and a rider could be purchased. This would be a temporary rider on a case by case basis. Mr. Schneider asked if the rider recently discussed for clearing trails would be \$600 for the year or on the project. Ms. Batdorf stated that it depends on the event if it would take 1 day, 3 days or a few weeks, but it would be per project. Clearing trails and using Township equipment that would require a rider. Ms. Shick stated that the Park and Recreation Commission wanted to blaze the trails. Ms. Batdorf stated that this activity does not require a rider, but a waiver should be signed by all those participating. It is when using Township equipment that brings into question of a rider. Mr. Schneider made the motion that West Vincent Township goes with the recommended carrier, Selective Insurance providing insurance for Workmen's Compensation Insurance, Public Law 477 and the Property/Casualty insurance in the total amount of \$150,979. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Maria Jacobs, 2351 Beaver Hill Road asked about the increase. Mr. Jacobs stated that it was approximately 10% higher all due to the increase in Workman's Compensation Insurance. Many factors play into

that including payroll and there is a calculation that the insurance companies use on municipalities. There was no further comment and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

Mrs. Ellis, asked if School House Lane would be able to be made one-way. She was informed by the Board that the Police Department will have to get involved.

Suzanne Roth, 1360 School House Lane commented on the condition of School House Lane and her preference for a one-way road. She also thanked the Township staff for having the grass mowed after she called even though it is along a Penn DOT right-of-way at the corner of Flowing Springs Road and School House Lane. Mr. Brown added that he also was able to get our Public Works Department to mow a Penn DOT right-of-way along St. Matthews and Beaver Hill Road which he was grateful for.

Mrs. Jacobs asked if there was a warranty on the Township meeting room windows since she feels that the seals have been broken. This will have to be researched.

Ms. Shick commented on the installation of the Fox Hollow Subdivision trail and on complications of turning School House Lane into a one-way road.

Meeting adjourned 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Swavely
Township Secretary