

West Vincent Township
Board of Supervisors Meeting

November 10, 2014 7:30 PM

Attendance: Chairman Kenneth Miller, Jr., David Brown, John Jacobs, Stephen Siana of Siana, Bellwoar & McAndrew, LLP, Township Solicitor, James Wendelgass Township Manager, and Township Secretary Tammy Swavelly.

Chairman Miller called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Mr. Miller announced that the Board had an Executive Session on October 27, 2014 to discuss to discuss real estate, litigation and personnel.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

Michael Schneider, 230 Trego Road, commented on the Township bank accounts.

Frances Ellis, 2823 Flowing Springs Road, commented on a Budget Workshop for 2015.

Maria Jacobs, 2351 Beaver Hill Road, commented on the handicapped door that is not working, the thermostat in the hallway and the poll watchers being able to access the Township office area on Election Day.

Kit Troler, 16 Hunt Hill Road, commented on a budget workshop for 2105.

Derek Rodner, 338 Blackhorse Road, commented on the possibility of paving for dirt roads in the future.

Frances Ellis, 2823 Flowing Springs Road, commented on where New Jersey has their polling places.

Debbie Westfall, 1665 Hollow Road, commented that Owen J. Roberts School District is closed on Election Day.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of **October 27, 2014** were unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Brown and a second by Mr. Jacobs.

Reports (full copies are attached):

Township Manager Report: The Township Manager Report for the period ending 11/10/14 was acknowledged as submitted.

Road Master Report: Mr. Miller read the attached Road Master Report for the month of October which was acknowledged as received.

Active Subdivision List: There are no pending deadlines.

Bills List: Mr. Brown made the motion to approve the Bills List dated 11/10/14 in the total amount of \$782,335.91. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The Board answered some questions and the motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence:

A request was received from Adele Abe from the Airedale Terrier Club to use the Township Meeting Room on October 28, 2014 at 2:00 PM. Mr. Brown made the motion to permit the same. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Subdivision/Land Development:

Orleans Home Builders/Eagle Farms Subdivision: The Planning Module was revised for Phase II for this subdivision. This has been reviewed by Carroll Engineering and they approved the changes. It is now ready to send to DEP. Mr. Miller read the following into the record: "Now therefore, be it resolved that the Supervisors of the Township of West Vincent hereby adopt and submit to Department of Environmental Protection for its approval as a revision to the Official Sewage Facilities Plan of the municipality the above referenced Sewage Facilities Planning Module attached hereto." Mr. Jacobs made the motion to adopt Resolution 13-2014 as submitted. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Mrs. Trolier asked what type of sewage disposal it was. Mr. Miller stated that it was a spray system. Solicitor Stephen Siana added that all of the sewage is being handled by Upper Uwchlan Township Municipal Authority and this is recognizing the extension of the approved plan. There was no further comments and the motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

Ordinance 164-2014: An ordinance has been advertised and is ready for the Board's consideration. Mr. Jacobs asked if the Police Chief requested this. Residents have been requesting this and Chief Swinger has approved it. This is for stop signs at the intersection of S. Chester Springs Road and the gravel portion of St. Matthews Road and at the intersection of Powell Road and Eagle Farms Road. Mr. Brown made the motion to adopt Ordinance 164-2014 establishing certain stop sign intersections of the Township as submitted. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance 165-2014: Mr. Wendelgass stated that this ordinance has been advertised and is ready for the Boards consideration. This is so that the Township can participate with Delaware Valley Health Insurance Trust. This organization requires an Agreement with the Township along with a two year commitment and then decides if the Township is permitted to join. At that point it would provide medical insurance for the employees. Mr. Brown asked if there is a fee associated with this application. Mr. Wendelgass stated that it does not. Mr. Jacobs made the motion to adopt Ordinance 165-2014 authorizing the participation of West Vincent Township in the Delaware Valley Health Insurance Trust pursuant to the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Law. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried unanimously.

Stormwater Ordinance: Mr. Schneider asked to be on the agenda to discuss this ordinance. He asked the Board several questions that were on a document he provided to them. Mr. Brown stated that it would have been a good idea if the Board would have had this before the meeting so that they could have gotten answers for him. The first question was he would like to know what “Periodically” means. This refers to inspections and the Board has not decided on them at this time. Mr. Schneider quoted from the ordinance that the Stormwater facility shall be operated, maintained and inspected by the landowner. He also read where it states that the Municipality may inspect if it has reason to believe a violation exists. The ordinance requires homeowners to contribute to a Stormwater Control Fund to cover the costs for eighteen (18) months. Mr. Schneider also would like to know about the definition of “woods”. This needs to be in context to answer that question. After a discussion the Board stated that Michael Crotty, with the Solicitor’s office is currently coming up with a list of costs. Mr. Siana will forward Mr. Schneider’s questions to him so that they can be addressed. The Board has not determined how to move forward with the escrows and fees at this time. Once they hear from Mr. Crotty, they will be able to consider them again. It is hoped that Mr. Crotty will have the information for the next Board meeting.

Website Structure Proposal: Mr. Miller and Township Secretary, Tammy Swavely have been discussing the layout of the current website and how to make it better and easier for residents to get information. Blue Fox Creative has submitted a proposal addressing the needs requested. This includes better software called WordPress. The total cost to convert the Joomla website to WordPress is \$3,500. This new software is much easier to work with and handles content in a cleaner fashion. Mr. Rodner, a resident who works with web design, stated that this is a fair price and a good program which is in the lead in webpage design. He added that this has good content management and is easy to use. The website should be easier to use for the end user also. Mrs. Jacobs stated that it is not the money she is concerned with but the content of the website. She asked if the Board would consider other bidders. After a discussion, the Board determined that it will ask for other prices.

New Business:

Chester County SPCA: The contract with the Chester County SPCA is expiring at the end of the year. To obtain a discount, payments are due by December 15th. There are two options: Full Contract, \$1500 and Limited Contract, \$1000. In the past, West Vincent Township has chosen to purchase the limited contract. Mr. Jacobs suggested that the Township purchase the Full Contract because they will pursue animal abuse claims. Mr. Wendelgass stated that has not been a problem in West Vincent to date. Mr. Jacobs made the motion that West Vincent Township contract with the Chester County SPCA for the Full Contract in the total amount of \$1500. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Mr. Schneider asked if the Township had to contract with them at all. Mr. Wendelgass informed him that if any resident from West Vincent Township took an animal to the SPCA, they would not accept it if the Township did not have a contract. The motion carried unanimously.

Proposed 2015 Budget: Mr. Jacobs stated that Mr. Wendelgass answered most of his questions already but he is still having a problem with the carry forward number. He would like an accurate number with all expenses until the end of the year. Mr. Wendelgass stated that the carry forward has always been an estimated number from four (4) accounts: the Open Space Tax, the Escrows, the General Fund and the Liquid Fuel funds. All those accounts are in the carry forward and it is difficult to estimate it during the budget process since it is started in August. Mr. Jacobs is concerned that the Township has \$10 million of debt which will not be paid off until 2031. With the concern that the tax revenue will peak in 10-15 years, he does not want to take out any more loans. He was referring to the proposed purchase of a backhoe of approximately \$140,000. There are also costs for the Fellowship Trail and without a 5 year plan, he finds it difficult to use financing for something. Mr. Brown stated that if he was referring to the Open Space Bond, it is all being paid for with a designated tax. Mr. Wendelgass stated that the Bond is paid out of the Open Space revenues and there is a surplus in that account. \$8 million of the debt is the Open Space Bond. Mr. Jacobs understands that issue, but still feels that he would like to pay for things moving forward without financing. Mr. Brown was impressed by the fact that the debt is mostly open space and it is showing a surplus. We cannot repay this debt any sooner than we are currently. There is a prepayment penalty. Mr. Wendelgass listed all the pass through numbers in detail. There was a discussion on the purchase of a backhoe and if it would be better to pay for it all at once or to finance it. Audience members also suggested that the Township rent one. Mr. Miller is suggesting that one be purchased as Road Master, the Board needs to decide if it is the right decision. To rent one costs \$4000 a week. If a storm comes, then it may be difficult to find one to rent. The 1997 backhoe is not fit to use on the roads anymore. It will be sold which will defray part of the cost. This is a safety issue along with the fact that it is a 1997 model that has been in the salt most of its life. With the purchase of a wheel loader last year, a backhoe will not be used in the salt. The make-up of a wheel loader is such that the salt does not get on it like a backhoe. The Road Department has an extensive wash program. Also, with the new doors on the garage, there is no condensation on the equipment. Several comments were made and the Board took all of them under consideration. Mr. Wendelgass explained that the General Fund is unrestricted and can be used as the Board sees fit.

The sewer accounts are separate. Mrs. Jacobs asked if the Capital Reserves for the sewer plants are funded. Mr. Siana stated that they are funded over years of operation for the useful life of the equipment. There was a discussion of the surplus. Mr. Miller stated that it can be used for unforeseen expenses. The Board should consider just how much the Township needs in the surplus.

Meeting Adjourned 9:20 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Swavely
Township Secretary