

West Vincent Township
Board of Supervisors Meeting

December 22, 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 Swavely.

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

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

Harriet Stone, 1645 Birchrun Road, wished everyone a happy and safe holiday.

Maria Jacobs, 2351 Beaver Hill Road, commented on the automatic door locking system the Township uses for the front door.

Brian Curry, 512 Blackhorse Road, commented on Bills Lists from November 28, 2014 and December 11, 2014 and line items in the 2015 Budget.

Frances Ellis, 2823 Flowing Springs Road, thanked the Road Department for the repairs to the corner of Jaine Lane and Flowing Springs Road and commented on the Trash Task Force and how Pennsylvania is the number one importer of trash.

James Farnham, 2665 S. Chester Springs Road, commented on possible paving of the dirt part of St. Matthews Road.

Artie Ewell, 972 Fellowship Road, commented on possible repairs to Jaine Lane and Birchrun Road.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of **December 8, 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 12/22/14 was acknowledged as submitted.

Treasurer Report: Mr. Wendelgass read the attached Treasurer Report for the period ending November 30, 2014 which was acknowledged as received.

Active Subdivision List: An extension was submitted by Dave Gibbons for the Batchelor Subdivision. Mr. Jacobs made the motion to grant the Extension for the **Batchelor Subdivision** until February 28, 2015. Mr. Brown seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Police Report: The Police Report for the month of November 2014 was presented by Sergeant Russell and was acknowledged as received.

Bills List: Mr. Brown made the motion to approve the Bills List dated 12/08/14 in the total amount of \$30,697.73. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. The Board answered some questions and the motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence:

A request to use the meeting room was received from Davida Waters for the Ludwig's Corner Riding and Driving Club on January 27th from 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM. Mr. Brown made the motion to permit the same. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried unanimously.

A request to use the meeting room from the Wetherill HOA on January 28th and February 10th as a snow date was received. Mr. Brown made the motion to permit the same. Mr. Jacobs seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

2015 Budget: The **West Vincent Township Budget for 2015** has been advertised for review and has been available for review in the Township Office. Mr. Jacobs made the motion that the proposed Budget for 2015 be adopted in the form presented to the Board of Supervisors, consisting of Revenue sections entitled Taxes, Other Income, Building Department, Public Safety, Culture/Recreation, Water Systems, Sewer Systems, Borrowing, Liquid Fuel Funds, and Carry Forward from Prior Year totaling \$8,106,095.00 and Expenditure sections entitled Governing Body, Administration, Treasurer, Tax Collection, Solicitor/Legal Services, Secretary/Clerk, Other General Government Administration, Data Processing, Engineering Services, General Government Buildings and Plant, Public Safety, Fire, Ambulance/Rescue, Code Enforcement, Planning & Zoning, Emergency Management, Public Works, Sewer Systems, Winter Maintenance, Water Systems, Culture/Recreation, Libraries, Community Day, Community Development, Debt Service, Miscellaneous Expenditures and Carry Over from Previous Year with a total of 14 pages in the amount of \$8,106,095.00. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. There was no public comment and the motion carried unanimously.

Community Garden Update: Bill Dietrich, member of the Park and Recreation Commission and organizer of the new Community Garden came to the Board with an update on what has been done to date. He has met with the EAC and the Sustainability Committees to discuss it with them and has support from both of these committees. He is working with Jim McQuillan, Sustainability

Committee, to lay out the garden and it is now staked out. It is ready to be turned over and a cover crop be put in, even though it is late in the season. It is close to an acre, approximately 300' x 125'. Parking will most likely be along the interior fence. There is an equestrian easement along Fellowship Road and the garden will be set back approximately 50' from the road. At this time 16 people have signed up. A newsletter will be going out this spring to get more gardeners, but with the arrangement and size, it could hold from 50-60 plots, depending on the size. Mr. Dietrich answered questions from the audience. Mrs. Ellis asked where the water supply would be. Mr. Dietrich said this is the most expensive part of the project. The first year he is suggesting holding tanks. If the garden goes well then a well can be dug later. Sue Miller, 2573 Horseshoe Trail commended Mr. Dietrich for bringing this project to the Board. It is a good for the community and it will bring people together. Mr. Dietrich stated that he has to pass that on to Chairman Miller since it was his idea. Michael Schneider, 230 Trego Road asked if there would be a charge to join. Mr. Dietrich stated that in his research, most gardens charge anywhere from \$25-\$50 but the Township can charge as it sees fit. He recommends for discipline sake, to charge a fee. This makes the person more committed to his garden. Mr. Schneider asked why wouldn't there be more than a nominal fee. If all of the spaces were taken, it may financially take care of itself. There was a discussion on how much to charge and if there should be any charge. Solicitor Stephen Siana stated that this should be thought of as a park. There is no charge to use a Township park. Mr. Schneider disagreed and feels that if people want to garden, then they should pay for it. Mr. Jacobs stated that it is too much to ask for a new project to have people pay a lot for a garden spot. The Township is never going to make money on a Community Garden. Debbie Westfall, 1665 Hollow Road stated that this is a benefit to the Township and its residents and feels that it is a good project. Mrs. Stone agreed saying this would build the community. Mrs. Miller stated that it is important to build up the community and she is not surprised that Mr. Schneider does not want a community garden since he did not want the sidewalk to the school or the farmer's market on the Township grounds. Mr. Siana stated that the Township must be careful that it does not turn into a commercial business also. This is an amenity for Township residents and it is a policy that the Board can consider. Larry Westfall, 1665 Hollow Road also feels that it is a good idea and that maybe a deposit would work to get the commitment and then refund it at the end of the season. Mr. Curry stated that the Township has Community Day and Movie Night and the Township sponsors those community events and that this could be considered like one of those. The next step would be to get prices for fencing and report back with that figure. This would keep deer and smaller animals out.

New Business:

Tax Rate 2015: Mr. Jacobs read the following Resolution 14-2014 and made the motion that the Board adopt Resolution 14-2014: The Second Class Township Code of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania provides at Section 3205(a)(1) that the Board of Supervisors may, by resolution, levy taxes upon all real property for general township purposes not exceeding fourteen mills (.014) per dollar of assessed value, and the Supervisors of West Vincent Township have heretofore adopted a budget for 2015 which assumes a tax on real property within the Township for general township purposes taxable at the rate of two and nine one-hundredths mills (.00209) per dollar of

assessed value, and WHEREAS, It is appropriate for the Board of Supervisors to adopt this resolution establishing the official 2015 tax rates on real property within the Township made taxable for general township purposes at the rate of two and nine one-hundredths mills (.00209) per dollar of assessed value for a total rate of two and nine one-hundredths mill (.00209) per dollar of assessed value. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, and it is hereby resolved by the Board of Supervisors of West Vincent Township that a tax for calendar year 2015 on real property within the Township made taxable for general township purposes be and hereby is levied at the rate of two and nine one-hundredths mills (.00209) or, in other words, at the rate of no dollars and twenty and nine-tenths cents (20.9¢) upon each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of assessed valuation of taxable property or a total rate of two and nine one-hundredths mills (.00209) or, in other words, at the rate of no dollars and twenty and nine-tenth cents (20.9¢) upon each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of assessed valuation of taxable property.

There is no tax increase. Ms. Shick, 1201 Davis Lane thanked the Board and its management team for not raising the taxes again in 2015. There was no further comment and the motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned 8:17 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Swavely
Township Secretary