

**TOWNSHIP OF FALLS
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

ROLL CALL:

ROBERT HARVIE, JR., CHAIRMAN	PRESENT
JONATHAN SNIPES, VICE-CHAIRMAN	PRESENT
JEFFRY DENCE, SECRETARY-TREASURER	PRESENT
PHILIP SZUPKA, SUPERVISOR	PRESENT
DOROTHY VISLOSKY, SUPERVISOR	ABSENT

The meeting commenced at 7:34 p.m. with roll call and salute to the flag. All Board members were present with the exception of Member Vislosky. Also present were Township Finance Director Betsy Reukauf, Township Solicitor Michael Clarke, and Township Engineer James Sullivan. Chairman Harvie said that Manager Gray was ill and could not be at tonight's meeting. A moment of silence was observed in support for the safe return of township resident Diane Corado.

**ITEM # 1 CONSIDER PURCHASE OF TIRE CHANGER AND WHEEL
BALANCER FOR PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Mrs. Reukauf introduced this item. The Public Works Department has secured three quotes. The lowest quote is from Best Buy Auto Equipment in the amount of \$3,757 for the wheel balancer and \$4,695 for the tire changer. The total amount is \$8,452. Mr. Joe Arnao, Public Works Foreman, and Mr. Leon Thompson, Mechanic, were present to answer questions. Member Szupka spoke about the wheel balancer and gave some information on another way of balancing by tires using silicon beads inside the tires. Member Szupka moved to approve the purchase of the wheel balancer and tire changer in the total amount of \$8,452 from Best Buy Auto Equipment; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

**ITEM # 2 CONSIDER ADOPTING 2011 BUDGET AND RESOLUTION
ESTABLISHING MILLAGE RATE FOR 2011**

Mrs. Reukauf said the budget has been advertised and is ready for adoption. Member Szupka said he knows the staff has worked hard to come up with their wish list. There are some projects or items included in the budget that he does not support. As much as he wants to see our Public Works Department continue to do the fine service they do and support the different departments in the office who are very efficient, there are things that need upgrading. He wants to give the police department all of the tools they need to do their job. There are some projects in the budget that he does not believe we should get into at this time. Our economy is still fragile and we need to take care of the residents. Member

Board of Supervisors – December 21, 2010

Szupka said our building needs renovations and we will be looking at that next year. We should also be looking at alternative energy uses. Member Snipes said he is in support of the resolution establishing the millage rate. This is approximately the 15th year where they have not increased the millage rate. We are not pushing off debt to future generations. Member Snipes moved to open public comment; Member Szupka seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) Mr. Gallus Obert said he has spoken several times about the budget. He also spoke about spending \$1.2M for a senior center. Mr. Obert asked how many more years the township has for the contract for Waste Management. Chairman Harvie said the most recent agreement in 2005 covers a landfill which has not yet been built. It has a couple more years before it is actually permitted. That site will be somewhere around 250 acres. At this time we have a couple of landfills that are still operating. We are still looking at a good stretch of time. It depends on the economy and other factors. Mr. Obert said it is nice to know we have a steady income. Mr. Obert commented on the \$200,000 for handicap-accessible play equipment. He does not want to deny the children, but does not feel it will be used. He is also not in support of the streetlight program. Mr. Obert disagrees with the security equipment for the parks. There is an article in the newspaper about townships having to purchase new emergency radio equipment. Mr. Obert asked if this was in the budget. Mrs. Reukauf said that item was spoken about. Chairman Harvie said it is not in the 2011 budget. Mr. Obert asked if there has been any progress with the intersection around Pep Boys, and if not, could someone with a little muscle get PENNDOT moving. Chairman Harvie said they have been trying to get PENNDOT moving on that project, but it is slow moving. Mr. Guido Mariani thinks this township is well-managed and he has complete competence with our professionals. When it comes to the budget he will re-iterate how he feels about it. Mr. Mariani said it was mentioned the senior center renovations will cost around \$814,841 not \$1.2M. Mr. Mariani said the township should amend this budget to reflect the correct amount. Mr. Mariani said this could be a tax-free year. If we cannot have a tax-free year maybe we can have a tax rebate. Mr. Roland Kenney said every time he goes by the senior center it leads him to believe there are more seniors in his development than at the senior center. Mr. Kenney said there are two nice buildings at the senior center and he thinks the money would be better spent on the township building. Member Dence moved to close public comment; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) Chairman Harvie said his belief is that while we have money coming in we can spend some money now. After these projects are finished and the road program is done any additional money coming in can be spent on paying bills and they can be more selective. The senior center is approximately \$850,000. A couple of years ago they worked on a project and whatever money was not spent on that project went into the long-term savings. Chairman Harvie said he is okay with that. Mr. Sullivan is very good at budgeting, but it does not hurt to over-budget a little bit. We were not sure if we would have this money coming in from the county. Chairman Harvie said the handicap playground is not restricted to only handicap children. Any child can play on this equipment. In terms of the condition of the building, he agrees. There is some money in the budget to start looking at this building as to what they can do and how to make

Board of Supervisors – December 21, 2010

it more efficient. This year they are looking at the planning process. Chairman Harvie said he appreciates the comments from the public. He said we are providing for our police department, and laying off employees is not an issue here as it is in other townships. Member Snipes moved to approve the 2011 Budget for Falls Township as presented; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor with the exception of Member Szupka who voted no. (3-1) Member Snipes moved to approve Resolution # 2010-25; setting the millage rate for 2011; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 3 CONSIDER AWARDING WORKERS COMPENSATION CONTRACT FOR YEAR 2011

Mrs. Reukauf said the Delaware Valley Workers Compensation Trust submitted a quote in the amount of \$388,434. Mrs. Reukauf reported on the costs for the surrounding municipalities. Member Snipes said other quotes we received were substantially higher. Member Snipes moved to open public comment; Member Szupka seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) Mr. Roland Kenney said he heard how high the figures are for other areas. He does not think it would cost that much for a new roof for this building. Member Dence moved to close public comment; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) Member Snipes moved to award the workers compensation insurance to Delaware Valley Workers Compensation Trust in the amount of \$388,434; Member Szupka seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 4 CONSIDER APPROVAL OF COMPUTER MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT FOR DYNAMATRIX FOR YEAR 2011

Mrs. Reukauf said the township has received an agreement for computer maintenance for 2011. The contract covers both the police and administration. The amount of the contract for 2011 is \$44,451.00 from Dynamatrix. This is the same fee charged in 2010. Mr. John Strazzeri, President of Dynamatrix, gave information on what is covered in the contract. Mrs. Reukauf said it is very convenient having an IT person here in the building. Member Snipes moved to award the computer maintenance agreement for 2011 to Dynamatrix in the amount of \$44,451.00; Member Szupka seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 5 CONSIDER ORDINANCE AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 209, ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 65 - NOTICE OF HEARING

Mrs. Reukauf said this item was approved for advertisement at the December 7, 2010 Board of Supervisors meeting. This amendment gives the Zoning Officer the responsibility of mailing notices and providing proof of notices for residential dwellings. Member Dence gave an explanation for this Ordinance amendment. This is something that would apply

Board of Supervisors – December 21, 2010

only to residential mailings. This would not apply for a business or corporation or factory. Member Dence moved to open public comment; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) Mr. Brian Binney asked if the notification would be certified or left in the mailbox. Mr. Clarke said as long as the township employees can verify that the letter was delivered to the home that is sufficient. Mr. Gallus Obert said legality has always been an issue. He said you cannot put anything in the mailbox; you have to give it to someone or say you put it in the door. Member Dence moved to close public comment; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) Member Szupka moved to approve Ordinance # 2010-07, amendment to Chapter 209, Article VIII, Section 65 - Notice of Hearing; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 6 CONSIDER ORDINANCE AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 138 - HOUSING STANDARDS

Mrs. Reukauf said this item was approved for advertisement at the December 7, 2010 Board of Supervisors Meeting. This deals with complaints that Board Members as well as Zoning Officers receive. This has to do with unregistered, unlicensed vehicles. Member Szupka had asked about other things such as boats and trailers. Mr. Clarke said the International Maintenance Code does not allow you to have any inoperable or unlicensed vehicles on your property. The township had allowed one unlicensed, unregistered vehicle. This proposed Ordinance is limiting that, saying you can have one unlicensed, unregistered vehicle for a period of up to six months. The question was raised about other things in driveways and why they aren't addressing those things. For this Ordinance amendment, they were specifically addressing vehicles. They looked at the Property Maintenance Code and Sections 302.1 and 308.1 deal with sanitation and rubbish/garbage. The way both of these sections are written would give the Code Department the power where items left on the property would fall under the category of rubbish and/or garbage. Mr. Clarke said he does not think that anyone is suggesting that they are trying to prevent someone from having a boat on a trailer. They are trying to prevent the boat that has flat tires on the trailer and has weeds growing all over it or has been sitting there forever. These two sections give the Code Enforcement Department the power to cite those individuals and have those items removed. It also applies to old refrigerators or old washers and dryers. These are the two sections that apply to keeping a property clean. Member Szupka said while he is still not 100% sure about the wording, he will support this because we have to give our staff the tools to do their job properly for the residents. Member Snipes thinks this is the right thing to do. Hopefully we are helping to keep things orderly and clean. Member Dence said Mr. Clarke covered this well. This will allow Mr. Bennett and his staff to help clean up the township. Member Snipes moved to approve Ordinance # 2010-08, amending Chapter 138 - Housing Standards; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

Board of Supervisors – December 21, 2010

ITEM # 7 CONSIDER APPROVAL OF TOWNSHIP TENANT LEASES (VAUGHN INSURANCE MANAGERS, T&M ENGINEERS)

Member Dence moved to approve the tenant lease agreement for Vaughn Insurance Managers for the period of January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011 at the rate of \$15.71 per sq. ft.; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)
Member Szupka moved to approve the tenant lease agreement for T&M Associates for the period of January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011 at the rate of \$16.18 per sq. ft.; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 8 PUBLIC COMMENT – FIVE MINUTE LIMIT PER PERSON FORTY-FIVE MINUTE MAXIMUM

Mr. Roland Kenney wished everyone in the township a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Mr. Kenney spoke in support of firefighters. In addition to the police officers, these are people who save lives. When they leave their homes they have no idea of what they will face. Member Szupka said you probably don't know, but in reading up on a lot of the history with fire departments you used to have to subscribe to a fire department with a yearly donation. There were many times where you could be closer to another station and if you did not subscribe they may watch your house burn. Member Szupka said what is going on right now with the first responders in Washington is a travesty. They should take care of them.

Mr. Gallus Obert said he heard Member Snipes say that Falls Township has not raised taxes in 15 years. Tullytown gives their residents a tax rebate each year to pay for school taxes. In Monday's Philadelphia Inquirer there was an article on the front page about teachers' pay. He said it was quite an article. Mr. Obert said Neshaminy teachers make in excess of \$100,000 and Pennsbury teachers receive quite a good pay as well. Mr. Obert said this is where your money goes. He suggests talking to your school board and telling them this has to stop.

ITEM # 9 MINUTES – DECEMBER 7, 2010

Member Snipes moved to approve the minutes from December 7, 2010; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 10 ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Sullivan spoke about the 2010 Road Program. The relocation of gas services is ongoing on Stevens and Berwyn Roads. The Fallsington Library project is almost complete. Member Dence said the contractor left Alden Avenue a mess. Mr. Sullivan said he understood they cleaned it up and will check on it. Member Szupka asked Mr. Sullivan to look into an idea from a few years back about putting in an additional traffic light on Oxford Valley Road, coming down the hill toward Trenton Road, to allow residents the ability to get

Board of Supervisors – December 21, 2010

in and out. Chairman Harvie said he visited the boat ramp. They had cleared the trees and made their way down to the water. Mr. Sullivan said they have done a lot of work on the land and will begin work in the water. Member Snipes moved to approve the November Engineer's Report; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 11 BILL LIST – DECEMBER 21, 2010

Member Snipes moved to open public comment; Member Szupka seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) Mr. Roland Kenney spoke about the chances and raffle tickets that firefighters sell and said the public should support these fund-raising efforts. Member Dence moved to close public comment; Member Szupka seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) Member Snipes moved to approve the bill list dated December 21, 2010 in the amount of \$1,860,672.43; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor with the exception of Member Szupka who voted no. (3-1)

ITEM # 12 EXECUTIVE SESSION – There was no Executive Session held.

ITEM # 13 MANAGER COMMENT

1. Member Szupka moved to approve the time extension request for CVA, Inc. to March 17, 2011; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)
2. Member Dence moved to approve the waiver of permit fees in the amount of \$329 for installation of a heating system at the Fairless Hills Fire Company; Member Szupka seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)
3. Member Snipes moved to appoint Mr. Phil McAloon to the Delaware Estuary Coastal Zone Committee; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)
4. The Parks & Rec Department will have winter recreation program brochures ready on Tuesday, January 4, 2011. Registration begins on January 4th and programs begin the week of January 24th.
5. There will be a Teen Advisory Meeting on Monday, January 10, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. in the Public Meeting Hall. All teens in grades 7-12 are welcome to attend.
6. There will be a Park Board Meeting on Monday, January 10, 2011 at 7 p.m. in the Public Meeting Hall. There are currently two openings on the Park Board. If anyone is interested in applying for these positions, they should send in a letter of interest to Manager Gray.

ITEM # 14 BOARD COMMENT

Member Snipes said this is the last meeting of 2010. He thanked the Board members for the productive work they have done this year and also for the township staff for preparing them in such a good way for them to have the materials and the information they need to do the

Board of Supervisors – December 21, 2010

work. Member Snipes said they have a good relationship between the residents, employees of the township, and the elected officials in the township. He said it has been a pleasure to serve and he looks forward to next year.

Member Dence said all Phillies fans received an early Christmas present with Cliff Lee coming back to the team. The Eagles fans also received a present when they beat the Giants. Member Dence said he made it through his first year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone.

Member Szupka said Manager Gray is still celebrating Cliff Lee coming to the Phillies. Listening to how excited Merrill Reese was in the closing seconds of the Miracle in the Meadowlands was great. Member Szupka wished everyone a joyous holiday, Merry Christmas, and a healthy and Happy New Year.

Chairman Harvie echoed comments for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He said everyone in this township building works very hard. As a reminder the first meeting in January will be a re-organization meeting and will be held on Monday, January 3, 2011 at 7 p.m. There are some Boards that have openings and sometimes the Board of Supervisors will take some action on that night. If you are a Falls Township resident and you are interested in serving, please send in a letter or resume. Over the past month they have had eleven or so houses that were nominated for the Annual House Decorating Contest. There have been some members of the township staff who went out to look at the houses and they selected five winners. The winners will be present at a future meeting. The winning houses are 257 Elderberry Drive, 206 Devon Road, 5 Evergreen Lane, 429 Austin Circle, and 27 Lower Morrisville Road. Chairman Harvie thanked the residents for making the holidays a little brighter.

Member Dence moved to adjourn the meeting; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Jeffry Dence, Secretary