

**TOWNSHIP OF FALLS  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

**ROLL CALL:**

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| <b>ROBERT HARVIE, JR., CHAIRMAN</b>      | <b>PRESENT</b> |
| <b>JONATHAN SNIPES, VICE-CHAIRMAN</b>    | <b>PRESENT</b> |
| <b>JEFFRY DENCE, SECRETARY-TREASURER</b> | <b>PRESENT</b> |
| <b>PHILIP SZUPKA, SUPERVISOR</b>         | <b>PRESENT</b> |
| <b>DOROTHY VISLOSKY, SUPERVISOR</b>      | <b>PRESENT</b> |

The meeting commenced at 7:00 p.m. with roll call and salute to the flag. All Board members were present with the exception of Member Szupka and Member Vislosky. Member Szupka joined the meeting at 7:01 p.m. Member Vislosky joined the meeting at 7:16 p.m. Also present were Township Manager Peter Gray, Township Solicitor Michael Clarke, and Township Engineer James Sullivan. Chairman Harvie asked for a moment of silence in memory of retired Falls Township Police Officer Edward Apgar.

**ITEM # 1 CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BILES ISLAND MASTER PLAN**

Chairman Harvie introduced this item. He said at the last meeting there was a presentation by ACT Engineers, Inc. on the Biles Island Master Plan. There have been numerous meetings in regard to this project and there was a meeting last week whereby the public could see the plan and ask questions. About thirty-six people showed up. What is being approved tonight is only a master plan; it is nothing that is set in stone. Member Szupka said the whole process is to preserve open space and to keep the riverfront heritage open. He hopes it stays to be just that - more open space. Member Szupka said he thinks to just let a great piece of real estate on the riverfront go by the wayside would be a shame. He is looking forward to seeing this as it matures over the years. Member Snipes said he is in favor of this project. This is a concept plan and a guide which can change as they move along. Member Snipes said he looks forward to working on the first stage to have the northern tip of the island perhaps come to the township as early as next year. There have been protections put in place for that. Member Dence said he agrees with Member Szupka and Member Snipes. He said this is a great way for the residents to access the river for fishing and boating and have some nice walking trails. Overall, it is a nice plan and although he does not agree with all of it, it is a great place to start. Chairman Harvie said the second phase for ACT Engineers is that they are now going to go look for public and private partners as well as grant funding. One thing they have to be able to show is that the township is in support of this plan. This will be a long-term project, but things can change as they move forward. Member Szupka moved to open public comment; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all were in favor. (4-0) Mr. Gallus Obert said he has been a river rat since back in the 1930's. The island he was on is now the Falls Township dump. Biles Island was an island, but is no longer an island since Waste Management put in a roadway and created five lakes on that property. For the people who happen to have Google Earth on



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your computer, take a look at that piece of property. Mr. Obert asked how much will be spent on the first phase. Chairman Harvie said the first stage is putting up a safety fence; it is not very much, but it has not yet been approved. Most of it has been used by Waste Management already. There really isn't much to do with it. Mr. Obert said he was at the boat ramp two times last week and it was being patrolled by our police department. There were two construction workers and two laborers tearing out the driftwood. There is also a sign saying that you can't fish. Mr. Obert asked how much the boat ramp has cost so far. Chairman Harvie said \$1.2M. Mr. Thomas Day said he came to the township building on July 5th to see the Manager. Mr. Day said you have 100 feet of boat ramp and you can't fish. He wants to know if some trees could be cleared so people can get to the water and fish. He asked if there would be open areas at Biles Island. Chairman Harvie said yes, there will be areas to fish. Chairman Harvie said he understands the issue with the boat ramp. They have to keep the docks clear for boats coming in and going out. Mr. Day said he doesn't think there are many boaters using the boat ramp. He also mentioned the condition of the road. Chairman Harvie said they are working on the roadway issue. No one wants to say they own the road. Mr. Day wants to know if there can be fishing for handicapped individuals. Chairman Harvie said Mr. Day has some good suggestions and they will definitely look at things like this. Member Dence said there will be fishing piers at Biles Island. Chairman Harvie said they can have the engineer take a look at it. He hopes the state doesn't get too involved in that. We have to look at tides and other things.

(Member Vislosky joined the meeting at 7:16 p.m.)

Mr. Guido Mariani said he reviewed the highlights of this project many times. He said what is missing in this plan is a casino because every dollar spent is going to come from the private sector through taxes. He said you should include a casino to give us some of the revenue we need. Mr. Mariani said he agrees with Member Snipes who pointed out one time that we will reach an end point with host community fees. Mr. Mariani said he doesn't think we really understand what we are doing, why we are doing it, and why we should do it. He gets the feeling we are creating another recreational area without providing the funds to maintain it. Mr. Mariani said he is concerned with the financial support to maintain this project once you commit to it. He thinks it is reckless spending. Mr. Mariani thinks there may be large tax increases in the future. He asked the board to please consider this before you do it and think of the consequences of doing it. As much as Mr. Mariani said he is opposed to gambling, he doesn't know how this project will be supported in the future. Member Vislosky said she couldn't agree with Mr. Mariani more. She looks at all the countries that are having financial woes and said she sees us heading in that direction. What she has been able to discern from the information she received while being laid up in bed is troubling. Member Vislosky said at a certain date, there were sixty people registered for the boat ramp. She said between \$400 and \$500 is being spent just so we can have a telephone down there. Member Snipes moved to close public comment; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0) Chairman Harvie said they have had a very large number of meetings on this. One of the issues that was brought up by Mr. Mariani and other people is to look at ways of making this park self-sufficient. One of the ideas is to have an area that could be leased out to businesses that pay us for being able to do business on this island/park. They are looking at how we can get money coming in. There could be tournaments down there from organizations that would pay us for use of the



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fields. These are definitely things being thought of. This is a very rough plan. If the money is not there, it won't be spent. Chairman Harvie said a few weeks ago he went to the township park and as he pulled in, he realized there weren't any available parking spaces. The park was packed and there were games everywhere. He remembers in the 90's when people were saying that no one would be using the community park and they were wrong. He understands Mr. Mariani's concerns and said he and other board members have seriously thought about them. Member Snipes moved to approve the Biles Island Master Plan, dated September 20, 2011, as presented by ACT Engineers, Inc.; Member Dence seconded the motion. Member Vislosky spoke about the SEI account. She said 60% of the money they are managing is in the stock market. She said we are losing money and it is not invested in the right place. She said from what she has been able to determine, her household accounts are doing better than the township accounts. Member Vislosky wants to see the quarterly reports because they are an essential thing that is missing. She insists on getting those documents tonight and also wants to know the rates of return. She said she is talking millions of dollars that we are losing. Manager Gray asked Member Vislosky which SEI account she was referring to. Member Vislosky said if she were provided with the documents she would tell him. Manager Gray said that Member Vislosky was given the documents. Member Vislosky interrupted Manager Gray. Chairman Harvie asked for Member Vislosky to allow Manager Gray to respond. Member Vislosky asked Member Dence if he has financial information. Member Dence said he has documents from the beginning of the year. Chairman Harvie said Member Vislosky is getting advice from a businessman who wants to get access to these funds so that he can take money from this township and invest it in who knows where. Manager Gray said we have three accounts; the host community fees fund, the police pension money and the former water and sewer money. The pension money is in stocks. Chairman Harvie asked Member Vislosky to be quiet so that Manager Gray could speak. There was a break in the meeting at 7:29 p.m. and the meeting reconvened at 7:35 p.m. A vote was taken on the earlier motion by Member Snipes. All board members were in favor with the exception of Member Szupka who voted no and Member Vislosky who voted no. (3-2)

**ITEM # 2     CONSIDER FINALIZING AWARD FOR BID FOR NEW FALLS ROAD/SOUTH MAIN STREET & TYBURN ROAD TRAFFIC SIGNAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Mr. Dan Altman, from Traffic Planning and Design, was present for items #2 and #3. Member Dence moved to finalize the bid for New Falls Road/South Main Street & Tyburn Road Traffic Signal Improvement Project; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)

**ITEM # 3     CONSIDER FINALIZING AWARD FOR BID FOR 2011 STREET LIGHTING WORK AT THE VILLAGE OF NOTTINGHAM**

Member Snipes moved to finalize the award for the 2011 Street Lighting Work at the Village of Nottingham; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)



**ITEM # 4 CONSIDER AUTHORIZING TOWNSHIP MANAGER TO FINALIZE AWARD FOR BID FOR PARKING AREA EXPANSION AT THE FALLS COMMUNITY PARK**

Member Snipes moved to authorize the township manager to finalize the award for bid for the parking area expansion at the Falls Township Community Park; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)

**ITEM # 5 PUBLIC COMMENT - FIVE MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER PERSON FORTY-FIVE MINUTE MAXIMUM**

Mr. Roland Kenney said he thinks we need a casino in our area as well as a hotel. There is a place above Biles Island where a casino/hotel can go in. Mr. Kenney said everyone gets casino revenue but us. If we keep spending we won't continue to be the richest township anymore. He said he knows everyone means well, but we have to start thinking about bringing in money. Mr. Kenney wished everyone a good night.

Mrs. Dorothy Vislosky said the meeting was shut down for at least ten minutes when she was trying to alert the public about the financial trouble we are heading into and we are in right now. She said she has been trying to get records. She said that Chairman Harvie made a comment that she is trying to get someone in here to manage money. Mrs. Vislosky said she spoke with five different financial advisors and said any one of those five would suit her better than how money is being handled now. Mrs. Vislosky said she received a letter from the solicitor's office from a Melissa K. Fiala. Mrs. Vislosky said there was a paragraph which started, "After reviewing your written requests the township has determined that it is immediately able to provide a response to your request regarding the WMI agreements." Mrs. Vislosky said she already has those agreements, but wants to make sure they are the same agreements she has. Mrs. Vislosky said it is not just her right to see documents; it is the right for any citizen in Falls Township who is a taxpayer, to look at those financial documents. She not only has a right, but she has a responsibility because what happens up here, one fifth of that can be blamed on her. The letter continued saying, "With regard to the remainder of your request, the township is seeking legal review of your request." Mrs. Vislosky asks who has the right to review an elected official's request to see where money she is responsible for is going and how it is being handled? She wants to know right now from the manager or the solicitor who is going to review her right to see the legal documents that she asked for. Mr. Clarke said Michael Clarke, Esq. and Melissa K. Fiala, Esq. Mrs. Vislosky said everyone knows that Mr. Clarke is our solicitor and she does not know Melissa Fiala, but she is not going to allow those two people to tell her that she is not allowed to see financial documents. Member Vislosky said we are spending \$125,000 more in legal fees than we budgeted for this year. Mr. Clarke said they did complete their review and they mailed to Mrs. Vislosky, all of the documents she requested, to her Fallsington address and an address in Florida. Mrs. Vislosky told Mr. Clarke he was a liar. She said she received ninety-nine pages of nothing. If Mr. Clarke is an authorized representative of the township and she is an elected official, than that certainly usurps his right to dictate to



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her. She didn't authorize him to do that. Member Vislosky said everything is three to two around here and that is not how a government should be run, but we will get into that later.

Mr. Gallus Obert said he wanted to talk about the boat ramp. He also wants to talk about the rocky area around Biles Island. Mr. Obert said there are speed boats that go up to the Trenton Makes Bridge and they don't worry about their propellers. Mr. Obert said the other day when he went to the boat ramp, it was low tide and asked if the handicapped slope on the sidewalk is 3%. Mr. Sullivan said it depends. Mr. Obert said he thought it was almost 30 degrees. Mr. Obert said with no boats there he doesn't know why someone cannot sit and fish if they wanted to. Mr. Obert said he still thinks the boat ramp is a waste of money. He said the flood water brought in a lot of driftwood and you could have a great bonfire. Mr. Obert thinks they should build a fishing pier or clean 100 yards of shoreland so people can fish from the shore. Mr. Obert said he has become involved with the senior center. The senior center now has 285 members. The center is getting big and the people in charge are doing a fantastic job. It is turning out to be a good thing.

Mr. Andy Dell asked what they approved on the Biles Island Master Plan. Chairman Harvie said what they approved is the concept that they have on the master plan. It is not rock solid. This will allow ACT Engineers to go out to look for private and public partnerships as well as to look for grants. If they want to spend money, they have to come to us first. Mr. Dell said if you read the Bucks County Courier Times article regarding the Biles Island meeting, it made it sound like the entire township was here and everyone wants this. Mr. Dell suggested putting a question on the ballot asking whether township residents want another park. He doesn't believe we have enough of a need to justify building a second park. He said you have to live within your means and he doesn't think we should be spending money on this project at the present time. Mr. Dell asked when they would have a financial review of this project. Chairman Harvie said Waste Management has told us we can have phase 1 as soon as we can work out an entrance way and exit way system as well as security. As soon as the fence is done they can utilize nature trails, biking paths, and walking paths. Chairman Harvie said there is no known time when the remainder of the park might become available. Mr. Dell asked if the township would need to hire more park security. Chairman Harvie said that is something they still need to discuss as they move forward. Member Vislosky said she challenges Mr. Dell as a citizen to go to the township tomorrow and ask for the quarterly reports and the rate of return that we are getting on our investments.

### **ITEM # 6 MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 6, 2011 MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 20, 2011**

Member Snipes moved to approve the minutes from September 6, 2011; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor with the exception of Member Szupka who voted no and Member Vislosky who abstained from the vote. (3-1-1)  
The September 20, 2011 minutes were not discussed.

### **ITEM # 7 EXECUTIVE SESSION - There was no Executive Session held.**



**ITEM # 8 MANAGER COMMENT**

1. Manager Gray said the Election Day polling location at St. Paul's Episcopal Church will need to be temporarily moved due to a conflict at the church. They requested that the county select another location. The Pinewood Pool is available and the Bucks County Board of Elections has approved that site and we are approving the Pinewood Pool for use on Election Day. Member Snipes moved to approve the use of the Pinewood Pool for Election Day; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)
2. Member Snipes moved to approve the 90-day time extension for The Learning Experience; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)
3. Manager Gray said there will be a Halloween Craft program on Saturday, October 15th from 10 - 10:45 a.m. for ages 3 to 6 and 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. for ages 7 to 12. Advance registration is required. This event will be held in the Parks & Rec Department in room 201 in the township building.
4. There will be a boating safety course on Saturday, October 15th from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. in the public meeting room of the township building. Advance registration is required.
5. The Annual Children's Halloween Party will be held on Saturday, October 22nd on the grounds of the Three Arches. The time is 1-3 p.m.
6. For a complete listing of all Parks and Rec events, please visit the township website.

**ITEM # 9 BOARD COMMENT**

Member Dence: No comment.

Member Snipes said he was glad to see them approve the Biles Island Master Plan. He was encouraged to hear from ACT Engineers that there are private and public sources of money. He hopes they can move forward with the wildlife refuge at the top of the island, coming to the township next year. As they move into budget planning, they need to think about that next year. Member Snipes said there were some conversations during the board meeting tonight about finances being in trouble. Member Snipes said that Manager Gray didn't get a chance to say what he needed to say, but from all the information he has seen, our financial situation is safe. We are one of the three wealthiest townships in Pennsylvania. Since he has been on the board, our long-term savings have gone from \$15M to about \$30M. Instead of any money disappearing, money has increased. Manager Gray said we are now up to about \$32M. Member Snipes said we have a contract with Waste Management for over a quarter of a billion dollars. He also wants to point out that we are only allowed to keep our monies in certain places. Manager Gray said the bonds that we have are short term. The stocks that Member Vislosky may be referring to are in the police pension fund and they do not have the same restrictions that the township funds have. They are all with SEI-PLGIT. There are two other institutions as well - First National Bank and First Service, and they are all secured.

Member Vislosky said Member Snipes came on the board and didn't bring one dime and didn't negotiate any of the Waste Management contracts. Member Vislosky said we are still



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treading water in our long-term savings. Our police pension fund is under-funded and she is going to make it a point to talk with the police officers so they will know it was under-funded when we had no money and it is still under-funded. Member Vislosky said we have \$7M we have given to an outfit called PLGIT and our police pension fund has not earned any money. We are paying PLGIT more than they earned for us on the police pension fund. Other municipalities have shuffled their money wisely and they are making money. We have \$15M not making one percent of interest. Other municipalities use outside brokers who shuffle money because the stock market is not doing anything. Member Vislosky said 68% of our money at SEI is in the stock market. The citizens and taxpayers of this township need to know we are losing money and that will be evident when she gets the rest of the reports. We are in deep trouble and we are still spending money like it is not going to go out of style. Member Vislosky said she wants people to write the date of October 4, 2011 on their calendars and write on them, "Member Vislosky predicts that we are losing millions of dollars by the way we are handling our money." Member Vislosky said she has a lot more work to do when she sees the quarterly reports and then do the percentage on the rate of returns. Member Vislosky told police officers to make inquiries, ask questions, and demand to see the numbers.

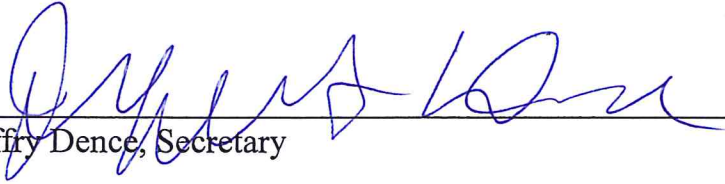
Member Szupka: No comment.

Chairman Harvie said it is the lowest common denominator for politicians to scare people with things they may not understand, especially when someone sits up here. Member Vislosky interrupted Chairman Harvie. Member Snipes asked for the chairman to continue speaking. Member Vislosky said she still hasn't gotten the documents for Member Snipes to use the public access channel. Member Snipes said this is Chairman Harvie's time to speak. Chairman Harvie said the long-term savings account has been going up since he has been here. The accounts are managed very well not only by Manager Gray when he was finance director, but also by Mrs. Reukauf. It is an insult to her because she manages our finances. When Member Vislosky criticizes how the township finances are handled, she is also criticizing the finance director. She is the one who handles the finances and puts the finances where they best belong. Member Vislosky interrupted Chairman Harvie again. Chairman Harvie told Member Vislosky he is rebutting her comments. Chairman Harvie said PLGIT stands for Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust. Mrs. Reukauf is a member of PLGIT so she takes part in some of the decision making. If you criticize where the money is being spent and where the money is being invested, you are criticizing the person who does the investing. Chairman Harvie said Mrs. Reukauf does an outstanding job in this township. He gives credit to Manager Gray for bringing her here. Manager Gray knows finances inside and out, better than anyone in this room. For eight years in a row, he received awards for excellence in government accounting, which Mrs. Reukauf continues to receive. The township finances are extremely stable, in spite of all of the problems we have had with the economy and even with all the problems with Waste Management. Chairman Harvie said there have been times when we have paved lots of roads because we had a lot of money and there have been times were we have paved only a couple of roads because we haven't had the money. Member Vislosky continued to interrupt Chairman Harvie. Chairman Harvie said Manager Gray mentioned the Parks and Rec programs, the fall

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programs offered by the Parks and Rec Department, and various classes. The township put together a pamphlet that lists what is offered, how much it costs, and where these programs will be held. Chairman Harvie said they spoke earlier and had a moment of silence for a retired police officer who passed away. At 5:30 p.m. this evening at the township park, we had a combination memorial service and dedication for Dante, the township's first K-9 dog who passed away a few months ago. The dog park was renamed in his honor. There is a beautiful sign that was unveiled today and was made by one of our Parks and Rec staff members. Chairman Harvie said our condolences go out to Lt. Ward for losing his partner and Lt. Ward's family for losing a family pet. Dante was a valuable member of the police department. Chief Wilcox put together a wonderful tribute this evening. There were police dogs and also K-9 units from Lower Makefield, Bristol Township, and other officers who worked with Dante. Lt. Ward used the word ambassador when speaking about Dante because they use to visit schools and Dante helped people start to realize that the police officers are there for us. Chairman Harvie thanked Chief Wilcox and all of the members of the police department who put together today's program.

Member Snipes moved to adjourn the meeting; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0) The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

  
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Jeffrey Dence, Secretary