

**TOWNSHIP OF FALLS  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

**ROLL CALL:**

<b>ROBERT HARVIE, JR., CHAIRMAN</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>
<b>JEFFRY DENCE, VICE-CHAIRMAN</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>
<b>JEFFREY ROCCO, SECRETARY</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>
<b>JONATHAN SNIPES, SUPERVISOR</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>
<b>BRIAN M. GALLOWAY, 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. Also present were Township Manager Peter Gray, Township Solicitor Michael Clarke, Township Solicitor Lauren Gallagher, and Township Engineer James Sullivan.

**PRESENTATION TO JOHN KERNER FROM LIBERTY USO**

Manager Gray said that at the Que for the Troops event, held several months ago, the township raised money for the Liberty USO. The total amount of the donation is \$6,000. Mr. John Kerner accepted the check. Member Dence said this is the fourth year having this event. A lot of work goes into this event and it is for a great cause. Mr. Kerner said the Liberty USO is very proud of the work that they do. They have been voted as the number one airport terminal in the United States. Mr. Kerner said they handle the Friends of the Fallen. It is the saddest mission they do, but the one they are most proud of. They provide meals for service personnel and their families in their terminal at Philadelphia Airport. Mr. Kerner thanked the township and the Board of Supervisors and was very appreciative for the support. Chairman Harvie thanked Member Dence as well as everyone else who helped make this a successful event.

**ITEM # 1 PUBLIC COMMENT – FIVE MINUTE LIMIT PER PERSON  
FORTY-FIVE MINUTE MAXIMUM**

Mr. Roland Kenney spoke about meeting Tim Pullen while he was out to breakfast. He said he is a nice young man and his parents should be very proud of him. Mr. Kenney said he has heard a lot of comments in regard to Biles Island, the fishing pier, and other township projects. People ask why consideration of these projects cannot be put on the ballot. Mr. Kenney said he thinks the township has enough funds to purchase a leaf vacuum. Member Rocco asked Mr. Clarke to comment about putting items on the ballot. Mr. Clarke said the issue comes up every so often about what can be put for a referendum. Under the Second Class Township Code, there are only four times when a referendum can be put to the voters of a Second Class Township. Those four times are: 1) to increase the debt for construction or purchase of hydro-electric generating facility; 2) prohibiting racetracks within the



## Board of Supervisors – October 1, 2013

township; 3) sale or lease of a township forest; and 4) for the levying of certain types of taxes which they refer to as special taxes, not just regular property taxes. Mr. Clarke said under our representative form of government, the five board members are elected and the five of you make the decisions for the township and it is only in these limited cases, that something can be put on the ballot. The issues such as Biles Island or a fishing pier, would not be appropriate for a referendum. Chairman Harvie said one example of the special taxes would be fire protection. They would have to take that to the public and vote on it. The library also fits into that category. There are restrictions on what they can do. Member Dence commented on the leaf pick up. He checked into Whitemarsh Township. They have fifty-two miles of township roads and twenty-eight miles of county roads. They use four machines, two men on each machine, and it takes five days to do the entire township. They do this every week. When it gets heavy in November, they use two more machines and hire seasonal help. They own a total of eight machines. Every year they buy a new machine and sell the oldest machine. Whitemarsh Township is not as big as Falls Township. Member Dence said Mr. Arnao's department is spread thin. He does not have the manpower to do something like this. There is a lot that is involved in buying machines and having the manpower to do this. That is the only information he has right now. Chairman Harvie said he has contacts from people who have been here before. One thing is that people rake all of their leaves and then on a windy day, they blow all over the place. When it snows, the leaves don't get picked up. It is much more intensive and much more expensive than what it sounds.

Mr. Guido Mariano said when the issue of a leaf vacuum was first brought up, there were several objections. He has heard excuses of cars parking in the street on top of leaves that could cause a fire; cars parked in the street so you can't get to the lawns; and there are eighty-seven miles of streets, then came the man hours which you brought up again tonight. Mr. Mariani said he thinks some of our summer part-time employees could be used in the fall and wintertime to provide this service. Mr. Mariani said as we have added our fishing pier and other projects, we had to expand the number of hours to support and maintain those services. He believes if township staff cannot do this, it could be contracted out. Mr. Mariani said he really thinks that considering the number of people who have difficulty raking leaves, it should still be considered. Chairman Harvie said the first thing they did was to go to our Public Works Foreman. Chairman Harvie said what Mr. Mariani calls excuses, we call facts and taking advice from the experts in this building. This is not something they are making up. We have to have trust in these people because they do a very good job.

### **ITEM # 2 PRESENTATION BY PENNSYLVANIA ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL REGARDING SIGNS AT QUAKER PENN PARK**

Manager Gray said the township was contacted in regard to waterfront signage at the Quaker Penn Park Boat Ramp. Ten signs are considered to be installed along the Delaware River and the Schuylkill River. Through the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, a grant is available to design, fabricate, and install the signs. Part of the process includes a signed maintenance agreement. This has been prepared and the board is asked to consider this



**Board of Supervisors – October 1, 2013**

document. Mr. Paul Racette said the Pennsylvania Environmental Council is a non-profit group. They spend a lot of time on trails, greenways, and water trails. Mr. Racette spoke about the grant and the signs. The signs will identify all the boat launches in the area and provide information on safety. Installation of the signs will take place in October or early November. Board members were in favor of the signs and think they will be helpful. These signs will be located at the boat ramp. Member Galloway moved to enter into the signed maintenance agreement with the Pennsylvania Environmental Advisory Council; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)

**ITEM # 3 CONSIDER RESOLUTION FOR FALLS TOWNSHIP'S APPLICATION TO THE BUCKS COUNTY MUNICIPAL OPEN SPACE PROGRAM**

Manager Gray said part of the Bucks County Municipal Open Space application process is a requirement for a resolution to be approved by the township. The board is asked to consider the resolution this evening. Mr. Eric Rosina of ACT Engineering is here to discuss this further. Chairman Harvie said that \$945,000 is allocated to Falls Township. That will allow the township to do some of the work on phase 1 of Biles Island. We will lose this money if we don't spend it by the end of next year. One thing to remember is that if you use open space money to purchase open space, the property can never be developed. Mr. Rosina said this resolution is to file the application with the county to accept the money. It will probably take a couple of months to go through the process. Member Snipes moved to approve Resolution # 13-29 to file the application for the Bucks County Open Space Program; Member Galloway seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)

**ITEM # 4 CONSIDER RESOLUTION FOR PENNDOT APPLICATION FOR THE TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL AT THE INTERSECTION OF TYBURN ROAD AND NEW FALLS ROAD**

Manager Gray said Remington, Vernick, Beach is preparing an application to submit to PENNDOT for traffic signal improvements at the intersection of Tyburn Road and New Falls Road. Part of the application process requires a resolution. The board is asked to consider the resolution at this time. To discuss this further is Mr. Michael Angelasko from Remington, Vernick, and Beach. Mr. Angelasko said they were here about a month ago to provide information on the intersection improvements. Tonight they are looking to get a resolution passed so they can submit the application to PENNDOT. Mr. Angelasko spoke about the intersection improvements. Member Snipes moved to approve Resolution # 13-30 for the PENNDOT application for the traffic control signal at the intersection of Tyburn Road and New Falls Road; Member Rocco seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)



**ITEM # 5 CONSIDER PROPOSALS FROM THE BUCKS COUNTY CONSORTIUM REGARDING THE PURCHASE OF ROCK SALT FOR 2013-2014**

Manager Gray said the township received a letter on September 10, 2013 from the Bucks County Consortium regarding the purchase of rock salt for the 2013-2014 season. Bids were received as follows: International Salt Company, LLC in the amount of \$50.44 delivered, \$50 undelivered; Cargill, Inc.-Deicing Technology Business Unit in the amount of \$58.13 delivered, \$56 undelivered; American Rock Salt Co., LLC in the amount of \$66.25 delivered, \$50 undelivered; and Oceanport, LLC in the amount of \$69.75 delivered, \$65 undelivered. Eastern Salt Company, Inc., North American Salt Company, and Detroit Salt Company declined to bid. Mr. Arnao has reviewed these bids and it is recommended to award the bid to International Salt Company, LLC. Member Galloway moved to award the proposal for the purchase of rock salt for the 2013-2014 season to International Salt Company, LLC at the prices provided by the Bucks County Consortium; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)

**ITEM # 6 CONSIDER QUOTES FOR INSTALLATION OF MOTOROLA RADIOS FOR POLICE AND FIRE**

Lt. Henry Ward said they received quotes for the removal and installation of the new police and EMS radios. Quotes were as follows: All Systems Wireless in the amount of \$16,600; Havis in the amount of \$14,432; and Motorola Solutions in the amount of \$25,600. Since Havis cannot do the full scope of work that is required, it is recommended to award the bid to All Systems Wireless. Member Dence moved to award the quote from All Systems Wireless in the amount of \$16,000, for the installation of Motorola radios for police and EMS; Member Galloway seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)

Member Rocco asked Lt. Ward to comment on recent break ins around the township. Lt. Ward said in the past month or so, they have had about thirty-five thefts from vehicles. The vast majority of the thefts involved unlocked vehicles. The thieves seem to skip over houses where vehicles are locked. The thefts have been happening in Nottingham, on Sherwood Drive, Taylor Drive, along Lower Morrisville Road, and in the sections of Thornridge, Birch Valley, and Vermilion Hills. Lt. Ward said if people know of any thefts, they should contact police, even if the theft was for something minimal.

**ITEM # 7 CONSIDER ADOPTING PARKS AND RECREATION SECURITY GUARDS MANUAL**

Manager Gray said the township has prepared a Park Security Manual. This outlines the rules and regulations and has been reviewed by counsel and park security staff. Mr. Bill Reese, Security Chief Ralph Connor, and Guard Doug Miller were present to answer any questions. Member Dence moved to adopt the Park Security Manual (September 2013); Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)



**Board of Supervisors – October 1, 2013**

**ITEM # 8 CONSIDER QUOTES FOR YATSKO FIELD LIGHTING**

Manager Gray said T&M Engineers has reviewed proposals which include providing new poles and lighting fixtures around the parking lot at Yatsko Field. Bids were opened on September 24, 2013 as follows: Mirarchi Brothers Inc. in the amount of \$17,150.50; Armour & Sons Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$17,195; and AJM Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$28,200. Mirarchi Brothers Inc. is the lowest responsible bidder and it is recommended to award the bid to them. Mr. Sullivan said the project consists of six new poles and will include LED lights. Member Snipes asked if the lighting would affect the neighbors. Member Dence said the lights are in the parking lot, away from the neighbors. Member Rocco asked about the timeframe for installation. Mr. Sullivan said he is sure they can start right away. Member Dence moved to award the bid for Yatsko Field lighting to Mirarchi Brothers Inc. in the amount of \$17,150.50; Member Rocco seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0) Member Dence moved to authorize Manager Gray to award this contract to Mirarchi Brothers Inc., once they meet the Responsible Contractor Ordinance; Member Rocco seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)

**ITEM # 9 MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 17, 2013**

Member Snipes moved to approve the minutes from September 17, 2013; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)

**ITEM # 10 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Executive Session will be held after adjournment of the meeting.

**ITEM # 11 MANAGER COMMENT**

- A. Manager Gray said leaf pick up will be held on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, as well as December 7<sup>th</sup>. Christmas tree pick up will take place on January 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.
- B. The 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at Three Arches will take place on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- C. The Children's Annual Halloween Party will be held on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> from 1-3 p.m. at the Three Arches.

**ITEM # 12 BOARD COMMENT**

Member Dence said he received an e-mail and something was mis-understood. The police told us about Austin Drive being one of the worst roads for speeding vehicles and the only feedback we received was negative feedback from residents. It wasn't that they didn't want to do anything on Austin Drive. Member Dence said he still thinks they should form a traffic calming committee. Chairman Harvie said it would probably be beneficial to have someone from Public Works included on the committee.



**Board of Supervisors – October 1, 2013**

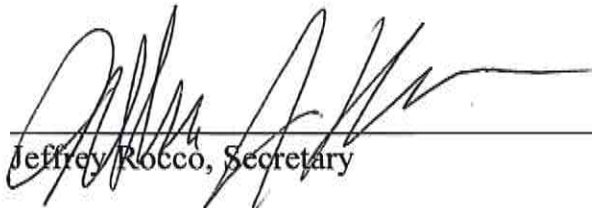
Member Snipes said the traffic signal improvements on Tyburn and New Falls Roads is long overdue. Member Snipes said he recently saw a serious accident at the post office. The divider posts that were put up at the exit really do make a huge difference. It slows people down and makes you think about the turn you are going to make.

Member Rocco said he agrees with Member Dence in regard to traffic calming. He thinks public awareness and public participation as well as participation from Public Works, the police, and the traffic engineer is a good idea.

Member Galloway – no comment.

Chairman Harvie thanked the professionals and staff for their input in making these meetings happen. Chairman Harvie said that Manager Gray and Mr. Sullivan met last week with a representative from FEMA in regard to the residents who live near the creek, especially in North Park. They have to buy flood insurance when they may not necessarily be in a flood zone. They have had various arguments and have had meetings in this room with residents, representatives from FEMA, a representative from Congressman Murphy's office, and a representative from the National Flood Insurance Program. They were trying to get them to change and update the maps and look to see if these homes are really in a flood plain. Most homes which are considered to be in a flood plain, are really not in a flood plain. They are paying enormous amounts of money for flood insurance. They had a meeting last week and unfortunately they haven't had a lot of success. There were some residents who hired their own surveyors, and if they can show that their properties are not in a flood plain, they can look into possibly not having to pay for the flood insurance. This surveying may cost about \$500. Chairman Harvie provided statistics in regard to flooding. There is \$78M worth of property insured in Falls Township and, since 1980, FEMA has only had to pay out about \$900,000 for flooding. That is mostly due to the flooding that occurred at the apartments across from St. Joseph the Worker Church. Chairman Harvie said there will be a change in the parks during the next few months. New recycling cans will be added. There will be a special dumpster just for recyclable items. Chairman Harvie said John Gillis had been talking about this for a while and it is a good step in the right direction.

Member Dence moved to adjourn the meeting; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0) The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. and the board went into Executive Session.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey Rocco, Secretary