

**TOWNSHIP OF FALLS
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

ROLL CALL:

ROBERT HARVIE, JR., CHAIRMAN	PRESENT
JEFFRY DENCE, VICE-CHAIRMAN	ABSENT
JEFFREY ROCCO, SECRETARY-TREASURER	PRESENT
BRIAN GALLOWAY, SUPERVISOR	PRESENT
JEFF BORASKI, SUPERVISOR	PRESENT

The meeting commenced at 7:08 p.m. with roll call and pledge to the flag. All Board members were present with the exception of Member Dence who was not feeling well. Also present were Township Manager Peter Gray, Township Solicitor Lauren Gallagher, and Township Engineer James Sullivan.

**PRESENTATION OF AWARDS FOR THE HOLIDAY HOUSE DECORATING
CONTEST WINNERS AND FALL PHOTO CONTEST**

Mr. Brian Andrews presented awards to the winners of the Fall photo contest. They were: Jill Tyrell - Miscellaneous category; Nina Bennett - Fall Foliage category; Natalie Grimmer - Quintessential category; and Kathy O'Donnell - Wildlife category. Chairman Harvie asked to have the winners' photos hung up in the township building. He thanked all of the participants, Mr. Andrews, and the Parks and Rec staff.

The winners for the 2016 Holiday House Decorating contest were:
2nd place to the Arnel family (78 North Park Drive)/Classic category; and 1st place to the Lynch family (77 New Pond Lane)/Classic category.
2nd place to the Worrall family (257 Elderberry Drive)/Extreme category; 1st place to the Weinberg family (5 Evergreen Lane)/Extreme category.

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

Mr. Guido Mariani asked what can be done to get the Falls Township meetings broadcast with some kind of consistency, on our government channel. It has been a long time since we've seen the meetings. Manager Gray said we have had some issues in the past, but he will check into this. Mr. Mariani said it is important for people who follow their government to see what is going on. You can get it at 8 a.m., but that is it. It is supposed to be aired at 8 a.m., 12 noon, 4 p.m., and 8 p.m. Chairman Harvie said it is the first time he is hearing of this. He appreciates Mr. Mariani bringing this to their attention.

ITEM # 2 CONSIDER PURCHASE OF VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Manager Gray said Mr. Jason Lawson has submitted a request for consideration for new purchases for the Public Works Department. The following items have been budgeted in the 2017 budget. They include: 1) 2017 Toro GM5900 192 inch mower (\$89,766.91); 2) Two, 2017 Xmark 60-inch mowers (\$16,579.24); 3) 2017 Ford F-450 4x4 with 12 ft. platform stake body and plow (\$54,476.00); 4) 2017 F-350 4x4 Extended Cab w/ Service Body and Plow (\$40,482.00); and 5) 2017 F-350 4x4 Regular Cab w/ plow (\$33,813.00). Mr. Lawson provided information on the proposed purchase of these items. All of the new trucks will have plows. Member Rocco moved to approve items 1, 3, 4, and 5 from the memo from Jason Lawson dated January 13, 2017; Member Galloway seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) Member Rocco moved to purchase two, 2017 Xmark 60-inch mowers in the amount of \$16,579.24, pending confirmation of the Co-Stars price; Member Boraski seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 3 CONSIDER PROPOSALS FOR GEESE MANAGEMENT SERVICES AT THE FALLS TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY PARK

Mr. Brian Andrews said here tonight is Mr. Rick Shadel (S&S Wildlife) and Mr. Scott Savoy (Geese Chasers). Their efforts are working very well. They have to constantly be on top of this or the geese will come back. Member Rocco asked Mr. Shadel about his proposal. Mr. Shadel said it is the same as last year. One proposal is for egg addling and the rest is for doing the hazing. It is necessary to be vigilant in order to keep the population down. Within the last couple of weeks the number of cases has climbed. Some lakes are frozen and since the township park lake is not frozen, they will go there. It is a weather issue. Member Rocco asked about the limited take. Mr. Shadel said they secured that permit last year from the U.S. Fishing and Wildlife Service. The U.S.D.A. is making it a requirement here in order to get a round up permit in the future. If you are not willing to use this additional tool, you will not get that permit. They can renew the permit at no cost to the township. Member Boraski asked about the resident geese. Mr. Shadel said we have a population that is local. If birds are usually near another body of water that is frozen, they will stop here. We had a reduction and then were in maintenance, but we can get spikes from time to time. They work those birds for a week and a half and then the population goes back down. Member Boraski said if we are at a reduction and you are in maintenance, he has trouble spending the same amount that we spent over the past few years (in order to be in a maintenance period). Member Boraski said he is not favor of the limited take. He is 100% against shooting a gun at our township park. Member Galloway said the program has been successful. In order to do the round up, at some point we have to do the limited take to get rid of the last of the resident geese. It is a necessary evil, but it has been working. The spikes are out of our control, but that is why we do this maintenance program. Mr. Shadel said in regard to the round up, the township has made a good faith effort to reduce this population. We have been making good effort, but this is what they want. Chairman Harvie thanked Mr. Shadel and Mr. Savoy for the work they do. He hears Member Boraski's point and we do worry about setting off a firearm. They would work in close supervision with our

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police department and set parameters. Chairman Harvie agrees that it is a lot of money, but wonders if they would get to a level where they could cut back a little. Then again you don't want to not do it one year and the next year you have 250 geese. Member Boraski moved to open public comment; Member Rocco seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) Mr. Guido Mariani wanted to see how other groups deal with this situation. Someone said to live in harmony with the geese. His view hasn't changed. The geese residing in suburban areas today has skyrocketed. Mr. Mariani said we not only have a geese problem, we have a waterfowl problem. The geese hiss at you, they eat crops, and leave piles of droppings for us to step on. These droppings pollute municipal water supplies and can cause health problems. Droppings can carry e-coli. What we are doing here is bird control at best, but it doesn't eliminate the geese. You have waterfowl that covers the ground at the park. He has over the years consistently recommended that the most efficient method to eliminate geese is to treat the areas with products that are infallible to the geese and waterfowl, but are safe for people. Mr. Mariani said the board voted to treat an area with these products, but it was never done. Member Boraski moved to close public comment; Member Rocco seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) Member Rocco moved to approve S&S Wildlife in the amount NTE \$30,225, contingent on the execution of an indemnity agreement; Member Galloway seconded the motion; all board members were in favor with the exception of Member Boraski who voted no. (3-1) Member Boraski said he is okay with the program, but we shouldn't approve the full amount; we should reduce the budget. Member Rocco moved to approve Geese Chasers in the amount NTE \$1,990, contingent on the execution of an indemnity agreement; Member Galloway seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) Chairman Harvie asked to look into trying one of the products and see what the efficiency of it would be. We have also had people complain about geese around Nottingham. He knows the residents there are looking for some solution. Mr. Shadel said with Flight Control, you are looking at about \$400 an acre for each application. It is a product that is mowed off and needs to be re-applied.

ITEM # 4 CONSIDER SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR THE POLICE CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

Member Boraski moved to appoint Mr. Dave Truelove from Hill Wallack to represent the township at the general rate of \$200 per hour for a partner/\$175 per hour for an associate and arbitration at \$225 per hour for a partner/\$200 per hour for an associate; Member Galloway seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 5 MINUTES – JANUARY 3, 2017

Member Galloway moved to approve the minutes for January 3, 2017; Member Boraski seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 6 ENGINEERS REPORT

Mr. Sullivan said the Vermilion Hills drainage project and the community park fishing pier should be out to bid in early March with construction beginning in late spring. The 2016 Road Program will start when the weather improves. The Mercer Court project had some construction going on and is getting close to completion. In regard to St. Joseph's Court, they are clearing away some trees and vegetation. Two samples model homes will be built. The old rectory will be used as a sales office. Member Boraski asked if they spoke about the demo. Mr. Sullivan said there is no schedule to demo any time soon. Member Galloway moved to approve the December, 2016 Engineers Report dated January 12, 2017; Member Boraski seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 7 BILL LIST

Member Rocco moved to approve the January 17, 2017 bill list in the amount of \$1,507,819.97; Member Galloway seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 8 EXECUTIVE SESSION – There was no Executive Session held.

ITEM # 9 POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Wilcox was not feeling well so Lt. Ward is here this evening. Lt. Ward reported on the final 2016 numbers on the heroin epidemic. For Bucks County, there were 106 overdose deaths. Falls Township had 25 deaths. There were 77 non-fatal overdoses. These are only the ones that were reported to the police department. Last year they tried a trial program and went in two different directions. They targeted certain areas in uniform and last week they re-assigned three officers to handle drug complaints and investigations. They made nine arrests. This is very time-consuming work. They did see a decrease in one of our problem areas in the township and most of the people vacated that area. They are working on a new ordinance for the local hotels and motels to mandate them to take photo identification for those who rent the rooms. Bensalem has been doing this for a few years and it has been very successful. Lt. Ward said last week, they had some information from the FBI reporting that this is the place to come to get heroin and we want to stop that from happening as quickly as possible. Lt. Whitney has set up an outreach program which has been very successful. Usually if someone who needs help calls a treatment center, they are on a list for 30-40 days. We are trying to attack it so that they can get people into treatment in a matter of hours. Chairman Harvie said we appreciate you bringing this to our attention and they have been talking with the solicitor.

ITEM # 10 MANAGER COMMENT

A. Member Galloway moved to approve the indemnification and hold harmless agreement between New Falls Road LLC, St. Joseph's Court, and Falls Township; Member Rocco seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

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- B. Member Galloway moved to approve the indemnification and hold harmless agreement with Morrisville Commons LP; Member Boraski seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)
- C. Member Rocco moved to approve escrow release # 4 to Mar-Mar Builders in the amount of \$8,468.10; Member Galloway seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)
- D. Member Rocco moved to approve escrow release # 1 to Waste Gas Fabricating in the amount of \$451,769.85; Member Galloway seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)
- E. Member Rocco moved to approve the Extra Space Storage release of all remaining funds in the amount of \$327,231.14; Member Galloway seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)
- F. Member Rocco moved to approve the extension of time for the Morrisville Dollar General until March 21, 2017; Member Galloway seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)
- G. Member Rocco moved to approve the extension of time for 1381 South Pennsylvania Avenue until May 31, 2017; Member Boraski seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)
- H. Manager Gray announced new township businesses. They are: Spirit Financial located at 8636 New Falls Road, The Barber Shop by the Bearded Soldier located at 8616 New Falls Road, and SC Furniture LLC, located at 332 West Trenton Avenue.
- I. Manager Gray said in 2015, the township conducted a street light conversion program, changing older lighting to LED street lighting. Since November 2015, the township has received a lower rate. Since that time, the township has saved over \$140,000.

ITEM # 11 BOARD COMMENT

Member Galloway said for the St. Patrick's Day Parade, over the years they have staged the parade at St. Joseph The Worker. The people at Conwell-Egan have been very cooperative and they allowed us to provide parking. This year we will stage the parade at Conwell-Egan. We will march in reverse down New Falls Road and we hope to have the grandstand around the Levittown American parking lot. More information will be available next month.

Member Boraski – no comment.

Member Rocco – no comment.

Chairman Harvie

Chairman Harvie said periodically, we take a look at the salary of the tax collector. It has been four years since we have increased the amount of money and we are looking at her compensation. It is proposed to raise the compensation by \$0.10 per bill that is sent to each property owner. Chairman Harvie moved to approve Resolution # 17-5 to increase the Tax Collector paid rate compensation to \$2.10 per tax parcel bill; Member Galloway seconded

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the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) Chairman Harvie moved to approve Resolution # 17-06, appointing Mr. Bill Kiernan to the alternate position on the Zoning Hearing Board; Member Galloway seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) Chairman Harvie sends condolences to the Dence family on the loss of Member Dence's mother. His thoughts and prayers are with them. Chairman Harvie thanked the staff for the work they put in and he hopes all those who are sick are feeling better soon.

Member Rocco moved to adjourn the meeting; Member Galloway seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.



Jeffrey Rocco, Secretary