

**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 7:33 p.m. with roll call and salute to the flag. All Board members were present with the exception of Mrs. Vislosky who was absent from the meeting. Also present were Township Manager Peter Gray, Township Solicitor Michele Mintz, and Township Engineer James Sullivan. A moment of silence was held in memory of Officer Elliott Bainbridge, and Lieutenant John Rendiero, two retired Falls Township Police Officers.

**ITEM # 1 PRESENTATION BY TRAFFIC PLANNING & DESIGN OF NEW
FALLS ROAD PEDESTRIAN PATH**

Mr. Tony Dougherty and Mr. Vince DeFlavia from Traffic Planning & Design spoke of the proposed pedestrian path along New Falls Road. Mr. DeFlavia presented information on four alternative proposals for the pedestrian path. Mr. DeFlavia said there will be issues with driveways, parking, utility poles, drainage, curbs, and easements. The price range of these options was \$273,000 to almost \$1,000,000. Member Szupka said he would like to hear from the residents. Member Snipes said he is concerned about the safety of individuals crossing the road, especially if they were to decide to only put a path along one side of the roadway. Member Snipes asked about pedestrian crossings and would like to know where most of the foot and bicycle traffic is coming and going. Mr. DeFlavia said there are several alternatives such as painted crosswalks or flashing pedestrian-type devices. Mr. DeFlavia said if there is a sidewalk, it is illegal for someone to walk on the side of the road. Member Snipes said people should slow down their driving speed wherever they drive. He thinks whatever they can do to slow down traffic is a good idea. Member Dence asked what kind of material would be used for the path. Mr. DeFlavia said it is bituminous 4-inch depth, with a 16-inch stone sub-base, the same as sidewalks. It is more costly to use concrete. Member Dence asked if the price included relocation of utilities. Mr. DeFlavia said it did not include the utility relocation which they estimate to cost between \$10,000-\$15,000 per pole. Chairman Harvie asked if there were any difficulties with this being a state road. Mr. DeFlavia said if they were to move forward, they would need to file a highway occupancy permit with PENNDOT. PENNDOT does not maintain paths. Chairman Harvie asked Mr. DeFlavia if he has worked on projects or roadways similar to this. Mr. DeFlavia spoke about a project in Lower Makefield. Chairman Harvie said he knows there are people who currently use this road. His feelings are that if they know there is an area that is not safe,

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they have the responsibility, as a township, to try to make it safe. Member Szupka moved to open public comment; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) Mr. Guido Mariani said this project is a proposed future tax increase. He said sidewalks should be built in areas where a need can be established. Mr. Mariani said the largest number of pedestrians he has seen on this roadway, at any given time, is three. He sees no worn paths along the side of the road which would substantiate use, there is no development in that area, and St. Joseph The Worker School is going to close. Mr. Mariani said to please watch the consequences and the cost after the initial outlay. This roadway has to be balanced with the needs of pedestrians and the sidewalks have to be compatible with ADA requirements. Any new building construction along that road will need to be accessible under Title 2 and 3 of the ADA. We will need crosswalk sections, corner cuts, new LED lights, there will be new maintenance costs, pedestrian signs, snow removal, difficulties with overhanging bushes, and there will need to be trash receptacles. Mr. Mariani said even though this is a state road, the future re-paving will require that it needs to be milled. Mr. Mariani said this is an un-necessary project and will not serve anyone. Mr. Gallus Obert said that St. Joseph The Worker School is closing. You have no need for a crossing in front of the school because there will be no students walking there. Mr. Obert said he wonders if anyone has done a history of pedestrian accidents over the last 45 years. Mr. Obert spoke of pedestrians not using the crosswalk near Burger King. Mr. Obert asked who would enforce illegal walking on shoulders. He can sit there at lunchtime and watch teenagers and students walk right across the street. Forty-five or fifty years ago this road was not designed for sidewalks or pedestrian traffic. Mr. Obert suggested having plans such as these on the overhead display to make it easier for them to view. He also suggested having the plans on display in the township building. Mrs. Dorothy Brown said she travels on New Falls Road and does not believe the traffic situation is any worse than it has ever been. She said people cannot be forced to use sidewalks. Mrs. Brown does not believe there are any problems here and this stretch of road should be left as is. Mrs. Melanie Dody-Snipes said when she first moved to this area six years ago, she was surprised at the amount of roadways with no sidewalks. She thinks the money should be spent on this project to correct a problem that was created fifty years ago. Mrs. Snipes said she thinks this project is connected to reconstruction with a community of people making physical contact on a bicycle or on their feet and not spending all of their time in their cars. Mrs. Snipes said she would love to see the township do the responsible thing of constructing a healthy and safe community for people of all mobilities. Ms. Regula Sheehan said she is European, but has lived here for 26 years. She said what we lack here is public transportation and sidewalks. Ms. Sheehan said she does not see any sidewalks along Lincoln Highway and has to travel by car to go a quarter of a mile to the grocery store. Ms. Sheehan said to go ahead and invent sidewalks. Member Dence moved to close public comment; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) Member Szupka said he has no real questions. He said there are more people walking in the streets and he doesn't think this project will put people on the sidewalks. He said people are going to do what they want to do and said they are trying to build something that people aren't going to use. Member Snipes spoke about having a buffer. Chairman Harvie said this is an area where a number of residents have come to them, said it is an issue, and asked what could be done about it. He said people have spoken to him quite a few times about

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building more sidewalks. It is not really an issue along the business section of New Falls Road and there is a sidewalk on the bridge. There is a wide shoulder on the Thornridge side. Chairman Harvie said when he sees people walking or riding bicycles, it is every day. Chairman Harvie said it is not safe for them to walk on the shoulder and asked if there were a way they could dissuade people from walking on the shoulder. Member Szupka asked about guard rails. Mr. Dougherty said guard rails are usually looked at where there is a slope change. It is not really looked at in these areas as it is normally not needed. Chairman Harvie suggested doing something modest or using some type of barrier to shield pedestrians from cars. Mr. Dougherty said PENNDOT is pretty stringent. The most likely option would be a guard rail and that becomes another maintenance issue for the township. Member Snipes said when they built the trails to the public park it was really a ten-year process. He asked how long this project might take. Mr. Dougherty said if you follow the highway occupancy permit route or if you introduce any state or federal money, it could take a year to eighteen months just for the approvals. Chairman Harvie thanked Mr. DeFlavia, Mr. Dougherty, and the rest of the team for the work that went into these plans. The board will take this under advisement. There is no action at this time.

**ITEM # 2 CONSIDER AWARDING INSURANCE CONTRACT
(PROPERTY/GENERAL LIABILITY/PUBLIC LIABILITY)**

Manager Gray said they received four quotes for the property, general liability, and public liability insurance. The lowest quote was from Travelers Zurich Insurance in the amount of \$267,083. This is a \$62,000 reduction in premium since the 2006-2007 year. Member Szupka moved to award the property/general liability/public liability insurance contract to Travelers Zurich Insurance for the period of June 18, 2010 to June 18, 2011, in the amount of \$267,083; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

**ITEM # 3 CONSIDER AUTHORIZING ADVERTISEMENT OF CODE
AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 209, ZONING, SECTION 7 REZONING
TPM 13-17-210-001 FROM AQ (AGE QUALIFIED) TO NC
(NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL)**

The Trenton Road Citgo Service Station was changed to Age Qualified (AQ) some time ago. There is no reason for the service station to be qualified as AQ. Member Szupka moved to authorize advertisement of code amendment to Chapter 209, Zoning, Section 7 Rezoning TPM 13-17-210-001 from Age Qualified (AQ) to Neighborhood Commercial (NC); Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

**ITEM # 4 CONSIDER AUTHORIZING ADVERTISEMENT OF CODE
AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 168, PARKS, SUBSECTION 15-A
(MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS)**

Manager Gray introduced this item. It is intended to have people use leashes for their dogs no greater than ten feet in length while at township parks. Mr. Bill Reese spoke about the request to limit the length of the leashes. Over the past year or so, the park security staff reported that they need some kind of leash law due to traffic at the park. It would cut down on some problems with pedestrians and people riding bicycles. They would recommend a

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six-foot leash law. People would have a lot more control over their dogs. Member Szupka suggested making it a six-foot leash law because people tend to push it to a longer length anyway. Member Dence moved to open public comment; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) Ms. Terri Stirling said she rides a bicycle and finds that it is congested near the dog park. She thinks a leash law would help those who ride bicycles and try to ride around the dogs. Member Snipes said he would be interested in hearing what rules other municipalities have in their parks. Member Snipes moved to close public comment; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) Member Snipes moved to table this item; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 5 CONSIDER AUTHORIZING TOWNSHIP MANAGER TO FINALIZE AWARD FOR THE 2010 ROAD PROGRAM (MILL AND OVERLAY) TO GENERAL ASPHALT PAVING CO.

Manager Gray said the 30-day review period will be completed prior to the next Board of Supervisor's meeting in July. Member Snipes moved to authorize the township manager to finalize the award for the 2010 Road Program to General Asphalt Paving Co., contingent upon a successful outcome of the township engineer's review; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 6 CONSIDER AUTHORIZING ADVERTISEMENT OF BIDS FOR 2010 ROAD PROGRAM (RECONSTRUCTION)

Member Szupka moved to authorize advertisement of bids for the 2010 Road Program (Reconstruction); Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

There was a break in the meeting at 8:57 p.m. and the meeting reconvened at 9:06 p.m.

ITEM # 7 PUBLIC COMMENT – FIVE MINUTE LIMIT PER PERSON FORTY-FIVE MINUTE MAXIMUM

Mr. Roland Kenney thanked Chief Wilcox and Fire Marshal Rich Dippolito for keeping the township safe last year. Mr. Kenney said he volunteers at Pennsbury Manor and on June 3rd, they had volunteers from Long & Foster Real Estate. They came with rakes and shovels to help them do work. Mr. Kenney thanked them for their help. Mr. Kenney said these meetings were scheduled for 7:30 p.m. to accommodate one person. He thinks they should go back to having them at 7 p.m.

Ms. Kay Martin (retired solicitor) & Ms. Dixie Rhodes (retired school teacher) spoke about the Aging in Place program in Lower Bucks County. It is geared toward providing resources to help seniors continue to live independently with freedom and safety. They have been meeting on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at the Falls Township Senior Center at 8:30 a.m. They have been working with Mr. Brian Duke who is the Director of Aging in Doylestown. They have been meeting and making progress on this issue of seniors staying in their homes and dealing with various issues. Ms. Martin gave an example of an issue of something that needed to be fixed in her home. Ms. Rhoads said they are a volunteer first organization.

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The second tier of their organization is that they will provide names of people who will work at reasonable prices. The third tier is social such as trips, book lectures, and seminars. They are working with the Falls Township Senior Center and they would like to have a similar relationship with Falls Township as well.

Ms. Terri Stirling said she has a petition from residents of and near Alden Avenue and Winding Way. They are concerned with the speeders and school buses that travel these roads. They also have motorists who do not stop at stop signs. Ms. Stirling said Chief Wilcox has worked with them during the past three years using the devices and slow down signs. Ms. Stirling read some comments from residents. For Makefield and Winding Way they would like a traffic light. This area is very congested. They would like a stop sign at Winding Way and Alden Avenue, and/or speed bumps like in Middletown Township. Ms. Stirling said anything the township can do to help with this situation would be greatly appreciated.

Mrs. Dorothy Brown said she is a resident on Winding Way. She said cars turn off of Makefield Road and they treat Winding Way as a speedway. She said some of these people don't realize what they are doing and the speed machine and signs do not help. Mrs. Brown said she would like to see more visibility from the police department and to have them write more tickets. Chairman Harvie said one of the things they have done is to purchase speed monitoring devices for the police department. They plan on having a public meeting to discuss this issue. Chairman Harvie said to please keep in mind that Makefield Road is a township road, but there are still limits as to what they can do. PENNDOT does not allow you to put stop signs out just to slow down drivers. Mrs. Brown said the road is also used as a cut through.

ITEM # 8 MINUTES – JUNE 1, 2010

Member Snipes moved to approve the minutes from June 1, 2010; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor with the exception of Member Szupka who abstained since he was absent from the June 1, 2010 meeting. (3-0-1)

ITEM # 9 ENGINEER'S REPORT

Member Snipes moved to accept the May, 2010 Engineer's Report dated June 4, 2010; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 10 BILL LIST – JUNE 15, 2010

Member Snipes moved to approve the bill list for June 15, 2010, in the amount of \$1,401,894.35; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor with the exception of Member Szupka who voted no. (3-1)

ITEM # 11 EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board went into Executive Session at 9:30 p.m. and the meeting reconvened at 10:12 p.m. Ms. Mintz said that while in Executive Session, the board discussed a pending matter that is in litigation and a possible resolution to that litigation.

ITEM # 12 MANAGER COMMENT

1. Manager Gray and Mr. Bill Reese discussed discounted rates for the Pinewood Pool for those who join after July 15th. Member Dence moved to approve the discounted rates for the Pinewood Pool; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)
2. Member Snipes moved to approve the time extension for The Learning Experience until September 30, 2010; Member Szupka seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)
3. Manager Gray said there has been a time extension request for the Viking land development project. Ms. Mintz said nothing can occur on a land development project while it is on appeal. Once the appeal period is over, the 90-day period would start again and then they would need to ask for an extension as needed. Member Snipes moved to approve the indefinite time extension for the Viking land development project; Member Szupka seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)
4. Manager Gray gave announced information from the Parks & Rec Department. The Summer Concert Series will be held at Phase I of the Falls Township Community Park from 6-8 p.m. on Sunday evenings from June 27th through August 29th. There will be special events held at the Pinewood Pool. These include family movie night, teen dances, senior citizen breakfast, picnic days, grandparent's day, and the availability to rent the pool for special events. The Falls Township Family Festival will be held on Saturday, September 11th from 3-9:15 p.m. at the community park. For more information on any of the Parks and Rec programs, please call 215-949-9000, X220, X221, or X222.

ITEM # 13 BOARD COMMENT

Member Snipes said the Falls Township Police Department will sponsor a shredder event on Saturday, July 10th at the Falls Township Municipal Building. This is open to Falls Township residents only, no businesses.

Member Dence said Ms. Stirling spoke about traffic concerns. He agreed this is a problem throughout the township. Member Dence said a few months ago, the township paid Traffic Planning and Design to do a traffic study. He would like to see this on a future agenda.

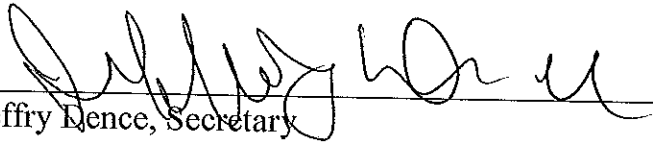
Member Szupka said in the next few days schools will be letting out for the summer. He asks to please be aware of the youngsters who are outside playing and to watch your speed when driving. Member Szupka wished everyone a Happy 4th of July.

Chairman Harvie said along with the shredder event on July 10th, there will be a bicycle auction starting at 9 a.m. The public can view the bicycles starting at 8:30 a.m. It was decided to hold the next Board of Supervisor meeting on Tuesday, July 20th. There will also be one meeting in August. Chairman Harvie said they are looking to hold a town hall meeting that would allow the police department and the traffic engineer to discuss traffic issues, walking on roadways, or any other issues of this nature. They will see what dates work best for everyone involved, but it will probably be held in late June or early July.

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Chairman Harvie thanked the Delaware Valley Vietnam Veterans as well as the employees in the Parks and Rec Department for their help with the annual Donald W. Jones Annual Flag Memorial.

Member Snipes moved to adjourn the meeting; Member Szupka seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) The meeting adjourned at 10:27 p.m.



Jeffrey Pence, Secretary