

**TOWNSHIP OF FALLS  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

**ROLL CALL:**

<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 7:30 p.m. with roll call and salute to the flag. All Board members were present with the exception of Member Vislosky. Member Vislosky joined the meeting at 8:03 p.m. Also present were Township Manager Peter Gray, Township Solicitor Michael Clarke, and Township Engineer Joe Jones.

Chairman Harvie welcomed Mr. Diner from Turkey. Mr. Diner is an elected official and is here visiting his daughter in the U.S. Manager Gray presented Mr. Diner with a gift from Falls Township.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES TO EAGLE SCOUTS**

Mr. Bill Reese and Mr. John Gillis presented a certificate to Eagle Scout Aaron Gross from Troop 102. Aaron's Eagle project consisted of refurbishing benches and picnic tables and landscaping Falls Township's New Pond Park.

Mr. Bill Reese and Mr. John Gillis presented a certificate to Eagle Scout Sam Bever from Troop 53. Sam's project consisted of work at the Falls Township Community Park. Sam installed five new park benches, three new picnic tables, planted a tree in the dog park, and installed dog-hitching posts at the restrooms in Phase I and Phase II.

**ITEM # 1     CONSIDER COST ESTIMATE PROPOSAL FOR YEAR 7 NPDES  
                  PHASE II PERMITTING**

Manager Gray introduced this item. CMX has presented a proposal for \$8,500 for this work. Mr. Greg Hufnagel from CMX presented information in regard to the NPDES permitting. Member Snipes spoke about the possibility of continuing to look at the aqua ferrous component. Mr. Hufnagel said they are looking for help from the Environmental Advisory Council for this. Member Snipes would like to look into water quality and water run off. Chairman Harvie spoke about differences between the water that goes into a storm sewer and the water that goes down the drains of a house. Member Snipes moved to open public comment; Member Szupka seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) Mr. Gallus Obert spoke about seepage and said there is something called intuit, which is a plastic sleeve that can be put inside existing pipes. It goes from manhole to manhole and seals the outside water from coming in. Mr. Obert thinks this is something that should be considered. Ms. Madeleine Jones announced that Earth Day is on April 25<sup>th</sup>. She is

## Board of Supervisors – February 2, 2010

looking to obtain some educational information regarding water and air pollution and have a table set up to distribute this information. Ms. Jones said she left a message with Mr. Reese about this as well. Mr. Ray Erickson asked if the township ever sent samples to a lab for analysis testing to determine if anything is being dumped. Manager Gray said any spillage of chemicals would involve Fire Marshal Rich Dippolito. Any kind of experiments would probably be outsourced to another company. Mr. Erickson also spoke about the black streaks that people get on their roof shingles and asked what might cause this. Chairman Harvie said he is not aware of any testing being done in regard to this and said it is possible that the shingles are made differently. Regarding the education component, Member Snipes suggested posting some information on the township website. Member Snipes moved to close public comment; Member Szupka seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) Member Szupka said following up on Mr. Erickson's comment about the shingles, in the 60's and 70's, there were a lot of emissions from U.S.X. and people with light-colored vinyl car roofs didn't take those cars to work. There were no air purifiers at that time. Member Szupka said he has been told that some of the black streaks on the roofs may be due to the type of nail that is used. Member Szupka also spoke about the geese problem. Member Snipes moved to award the NPDES Phase II Permitting year 7 proposal to CMX Engineering at the cost of \$8,500; Member Szupka seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

### **ITEM # 2 CONSIDER ENGINEERING PROPOSALS FOR BILES ISLAND**

Chairman Harvie introduced this item. He gave information on the timeline for Biles Island. He said they have had a lot of public discussion and presentation from several firms. Member Szupka said after reviewing the proposals, there are two firms that stand out as far as experience. He said we are probably two years ahead of knowing what they might have. His question is whether they are starting to do this too soon. Member Snipes said Biles Island is about 600 acres. When the township receives this property, it will be mostly lakes. He would like to explore both active and passive recreation for this area.  
(Member Vislosky joined the meeting at 8:03 p.m.)

Member Dence said they took a tour of Biles Island. The part that is restored can start being used now. Member Vislosky said they will not have that land for a couple of years. She thinks there are things that are being mis-spent. Chairman Harvie said as Member Dence pointed out, they have talked about the northernmost part of that area which they are finished with. They are willing to open up that northernmost area to the public. He doesn't think they are rushing into this. They have had 9-10 months to review this topic. This is about the third meeting where this has been discussed. The first step in this process is hiring a professional firm who can help them with the development. Chairman Harvie said this would not be a quick process. It is one that will take several months to a year or more. Member Snipes moved to open public comment; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0) Mr. Gallus Obert said this is no longer an island since there is a road going through it. After Waste Management has removed the fill, they have created five lakes. Mr. Obert said if you take away the five lakes, the sanctuary, and the wetlands, there is not much left. Mr. Obert believes this may be a better place for a boat ramp, but he thinks they should delay this and not rush into it. Mr. Obert spoke about several boat ramps on the Delaware River. Ms. Madeleine Jones said we need to keep our

## Board of Supervisors – February 2, 2010

eye on this and see what kind of passive recreation might be available. Ms. Jones spoke about the history of the island and how she doesn't want anyone to lose sight of that history. She would like to have it on a plaque. Ms. Jones said the Lenape Indians gave the deed to this area to William Biles in the 1680's. There are three unknown gravesites in Falls Township and one of them is in that area. Ms. Jones said one of the Meetinghouses was at Biles Island. Member Snipes moved to close public comment; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0) Member Dence said the area that is available now has been restored. They are ready to turn that area over now as it is currently not being used. Member Dence said they need to find out what they can and cannot do and that is the first step with the engineering firm that they select. Chairman Harvie said they are not approving any plan. They are looking for a professional firm that can help them figure out a plan and it may take a couple of years to do. Chairman Harvie said Waste Management themselves approached him and another board member. They said if you can figure out what you want to do with this island, they would work with the township to leave it in as best condition as possible. Waste Management said they are offering to do that with the township. Chairman Harvie said the engineering firm would work at the pace they set for them. Member Snipes said he understands the arguments of being in favor of moving forward and he agrees with them. He is curious about a comment that there won't be anything left to do with this property. Chairman Harvie said Waste Management has to leave the area in a certain condition. There is also an area to the southwest that is wetlands and it cannot be touched. Another issue to understand is that this area is permitted to accept drainage material. Member Snipes moved to accept the proposal from ACT Engineers to do the master plan for Biles Island at the price of \$82,350; Member Dence seconded the motion. Member Szupka said while they are a firm that he would consider; right now his priority is the Challenger Field. He is not opposed to this, but he doesn't want to spend any money on the Biles Island project at this point. Member Vislosky would like to see them present one more time when this board starts this contract and she would like to have a dollar figure on it for the initial stage. Chairman Harvie said all of the information they have has the dollar figures from each of the firms and all five of the board members received this information. Member Vislosky moved to table this item; Member Szupka seconded the motion. A vote was taken. Member Szupka and Member Vislosky voted yes. Member Dence, Member Snipes, and Chairman Harvie voted no. The motion did not pass. (2-3) A vote was taken on Member Snipes' motion; all board members were in favor with the exception of Member Szupka and Member Vislosky who both voted no. (3-2)

### **ITEM # 3 PUBLIC COMMENT – FIVE MINUTE LIMIT PER PERSON – FORTY-FIVE MINUTE MAXIMUM**

Mr. Jeff Straw commented in regard to Mr. Obert's mention of all of the boat ramps in the area. Mr. Straw said most of those boat ramps are privately-owned clubs and cost \$500-\$600 to join, plus working a certain amount of hours. Mr. Straw said a lot of people cannot afford that. Mr. Straw asked about the land project at Penn Valley Road and Rt. 13. Chairman Harvie said what the Better Materials site is doing is still covered under the mining permit they have filed. The state runs that and the township is out of that process. Mr. Straw said he is interested in knowing what could be done with the land after this project is complete. Chairman Harvie said that no matter what they would want to do, they

## Board of Supervisors – February 2, 2010

would have to appeal before the township for a zoning change. Chairman Harvie said they can have CMX take a look at what is currently going on.

Mrs. Melanie Douty-Snipes said she represents Snipes Farm and Education Center. Their mission is to teach sustainable agriculture to build components to connect people to the land. Mrs. Douty-Snipes said they began a Community-Supported Agriculture program, CSA, and she spoke about how this program works. They have even been able to donate to the Red Cross Shelter. The non-profit has made it possible to apply for grants to fund farm-to-school programs. On February 20<sup>th</sup>, there will be a seminar on sustainable agriculture. For more information, please go to: [www.snipesfarm.org](http://www.snipesfarm.org). They also offer five weeks of farm camps for children ages 6-14. Mrs. Douty-Snipes spoke about how some volunteer groups have helped Farmers Against Hunger. If you would like to make a reservation for any of their programs or would like to find out more information, call 215-295-1139, X105 or send an e-mail to [melanie@farmschoolatsnipes.org](mailto:melanie@farmschoolatsnipes.org).

Mr. Guido Mariani said he has previously spoken about energy sources such as clean coal, natural gas, oil, and nuclear power. Mr. Mariani spoke about increasing production of these energy sources. Mr. Mariani spoke about geo-thermal heating and cooling. He would like the township to consider this as part of their energy-efficiency study and cost this out and see whether or not they should be part of it. Mr. Mariani said the President signed a bill that allows for 30% tax credit, which is good until December 31, 2016. There are also state and local grants available. Chairman Harvie told Mr. Mariani that the township has a few openings on their Environmental Advisory Council if he is interested in joining.

Mr. Gallus Obert said at the last meeting he asked people to consider attending the next school board meeting being held on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Obert said there were only a few residents who attended the meeting, but there were 110 teachers present because they wanted to make sure they received a raise in pay. Mr. Obert said things would get worse when the pension ball falls in 2011, 2012, and 2013. Mr. Obert said in 2013, taxes will fall through the roof. Mr. Obert gave an example of the number of people from each municipality who requested property tax re-assessments. Mr. Obert said there is less money going into the school district.

Ms. Madeleine Jones said as she understands, school taxes will be 30-50% higher in 2011 than they were in 2009. Ms. Jones said if the township wants to go after geese, ducks, and seagulls, please find a way to do so without using violence or noise. Ms. Jones welcomed Mr. Dence to the board and thanked Mr. Prokopiak for all the times he has listened to her. Ms. Jones said the new paint in this meeting room looks fresh and clean. She would like to see some of the history of Falls Township on display. Ms. Jones said being on the Parks and Rec Board over the course of time, they get into the discussion of a community center. Some of them were looking at the old drive-in on Rt. 1 and they spoke about the old Pathmark building. Plus, two schools in Falls Township are closing. Chairman Harvie said Mr. Reese is looking into the goose management situation and they should look at this issue at the first meeting in March. Chairman Harvie said Manager Gray is looking into displaying some of the township's history in this room. Chairman Harvie said he does not know what will happen with the old school buildings.

## **Board of Supervisors – February 2, 2010**

Mr. Roland Kenney said he likes the color of the room and said the painters did a wonderful job. He said some people asked him why he did not speak at recent meetings. Mr. Kenney wished everyone a good night.

Mrs. Dorothy Vislosky said she has typed six pages about how these meetings are run and will take them to higher authorities. Mrs. Vislosky said the minutes are not accurate. She said the solicitor made some rulings that made no sense. Mrs. Vislosky spoke about a motion to table. She said she agrees the minutes are the only legal record of a meeting. Mrs. Vislosky said Mr. Matthias made a plea for them to do something about the Challenger Field and added that she found out this issue had been out there for a couple of years. A few days later, Member Vislosky said she received a call from Senator McIlhinney who promised her \$40,000 in funds to spend on any charity or charities in Falls Township. Member Vislosky said they managed to get that \$40,000 promise, they had a pledge from State Representative Galloway, and then this board voted to pick up the remainder of the cost for the field.

### **ITEM # 4 MINUTES – JANUARY 19, 2010**

Chairman Harvie had a revision to a sentence on page two of the minutes, 12<sup>th</sup> line up from the bottom. The sentence should read as follows. "To clarify, Chairman Harvie said his feeling is that when appointing people to boards and commissions, allowing public comment is a way to get into some ugly things and allowing people to say what they don't like about a person, because the only thing they can comment on is the person's character." Member Snipes moved to approve the amended minutes from January 19, 2010; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor with the exception of Member Szupka and Member Vislosky who both voted no. (3-2)

### **ITEM # 5 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The board went into Executive Session at 9:11 p.m. and the meeting reconvened at 9:55 p.m. Mr. Clarke said that while in Executive Session, the board discussed a matter involving contract negotiations.

Member Vislosky did not feel well and left the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

### **ITEM # 6 MANAGER COMMENT**

1. Member Szupka moved to approve the time extension for The Learning Experience until March 31, 2010; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)
2. Member Snipes moved to approve the time extension for the Mill Creek Inn until April 12, 2010; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)
3. Member Snipes moved to approve the time extension for 957 Lincoln Highway for an indefinite amount of time; Member Szupka seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

## Board of Supervisors – February 2, 2010

4. Member Szupka moved to approve a \$6,500 donation to the Delaware Valley Vietnam Veterans; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)
5. Manager Gray announced some upcoming Parks and Rec events. There is a Blue Mountain Ski Resort bus trip on Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. There is a Pasta Dinner scheduled for Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 3-7 p.m. at the Falls Township Senior Center. For more information on any Parks and Rec events, please call 215-949-9000, x221 or x222.
6. Manager Gray thanked Mr. Scott Gowton and Mr. John Logue from the Public Works Department for their hard work in painting this meeting room.

### ITEM # 7 BOARD COMMENT

Member Dence said the reason he voted in favor of appointing an engineering firm for Biles Island is because they can start using some of this area now.

Member Szupka said earlier this evening they honored two Eagle Scouts. He thinks this is like a rite of passage. Member Szupka said the project he wants to stay focused on is the Challenger Field. He has a friend in Florida who started the Miami Project. This group donates about a dozen motorized wheelchairs each year to children who are severely handicapped. Member Szupka said he wants to see the area children be able to go out and enjoy themselves at the Challenger Field. Member Szupka said Valentine's Day is coming up as well as Fat Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. Member Szupka said to remember your sweetheart, wife, husband, and friends. Remember to tell them how much you care for them and how much they mean to you. Member Szupka wished everyone a good evening.

Member Snipes said he would be attending the Shade Tree Commission meeting next Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. He said statistics show that tree coverage in Falls Township is about 10-20% and the recommended target is 40%.

Chairman Harvie agrees with Member Szupka about the Challenger Field. He said there isn't anyone in this room who is against investing money in a worthy project that goes to help children with disabilities play baseball. Chairman Harvie said whenever you have some kind of situation or cause it is very common for everyone to jump up and take credit. There have been many people involved in this at both the government level and the local level. Chairman Harvie wants to make it clear not to slight any one individual in terms of the effort they put into this. He said Member Vislosky gave credit to an individual and he does not doubt that person's drive to get the project done, but the project was first brought to their attention a couple of years ago by Steve DiSangro. Levittown Continental has recognized Mr. DiSangro as the point person for this project. He came to one meeting to make sure the project was understood. Chairman Harvie asked Mr. Jones to make sure Mr. Sullivan is aware of the fact that he would like to see this go out to bid by the next meeting. The sooner they start the sooner they can get this moving. Chairman Harvie said the township has a link on the website to the township memorial program where people can purchase trees or a park bench. This is a good way to get more trees added to the township. Mr. Obert brought up the issue of school funding. Chairman Harvie said several of our schools have PTO's who do a lot of projects and some of them have paper-recycling bins.

**Board of Supervisors – February 2, 2010**

Anyone can go and put newspapers in them. The more paper that is in there the more money that is passed onto the PTO's. This would help out the school system and the environment. Chairman Harvie again recognized Mr. Diner for attending tonight's meeting. Mr. Diner made reference to the idea of the possibility of establishing a sister-city relationship with his city and Falls Township. Chairman Harvie received several complaints about the Fuddrucker property. Last Monday with the windstorm, there were whole chunks of the façade of the building that flew onto Oxford Valley Road. Unfortunately, it is becoming a nuisance and a hazard. Chairman Harvie asked the solicitor to make contact with the owner of that building, as it needs to come down. Chairman Harvie moved to appoint Mr. Andy Dell to a 4-yr. term on the Planning Commission; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

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 10:12 p.m.

  
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Jeffrey Dence, Secretary