

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING
DECEMBER 10, 2013

The monthly meeting of the Longswamp Township Board of Supervisors was held at the Longswamp Township Municipal Building, 1112 State Street, Longswamp Township, Mertztown, Pennsylvania, 7:00 p.m., prevailing time as previously advertised and posted.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG/ROLL CALL

Officials Present: Steve Wyka, Vice Chairman; Michael Sacks, Supervisor; Jill Smith, representing the Engineer; Jill Nagy, Esquire, representing the Solicitor; David Fatzinger, Treasurer; Maryann Lantz, Chairman and Jennifer Wassell-Bonser, Secretary were absent from the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Steve Wyka called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of November 12, 2013 would not take place. Draft copies of those minutes were available in the Meeting Hall.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Mike Sacks made a **motion** approving the Minutes of the regular meeting of November 12, 2013 as presented; Steve Wyka seconded the motion. All in favor.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

The Township Treasurer reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the month of November, 2013 as presented for the Board of Supervisor's further review. The Treasurer's Report for the month of November, 2013 indicated \$1,046,242.20 total Township General Funds for the period, \$707,252.29 total Township Additional Funds for the period for a total of \$1,753,494.49 in Account Funds for the period.

Mike Sacks made a **motion** accepting the Treasurer's Report for the month of November, 2013 subject to further audit; Steve Wyka seconded the motion. All in favor.

Formal Approval/Adoption of 2013 Township Budget

Mr. David Helwig addressed the Board of Supervisors regarding the expense incurred to the Township for hosting the annual fireworks display. Mr. Helwig expressed his concerns regarding the expense due to current economic conditions and suggested utilizing the money spent on the display in a different way as a means of giving back to the community.

Vice Chairman Wyka explained that a suggestion to cancel the fireworks display was made in the past and use the money to make a donation to a local food bank on behalf of the Township as a way of giving back to the community. Steve noted the suggestion was not executed at that time due to the over-all popularity of the fireworks display by the general public.

Mr. Helwig also addressed the Board regarding the budget in relationship to the Environmental

Advisory Council. Mr. Helwig questioned the fundraising efforts undertaken by the group as a means of self-sustaining the committee. Mike Sacks explained that the EAC has hosted rain barrel fund raisers as a means to generate funds for group's expenses.

Mike Sacks made a **motion** accepting and adopting the 2014 Township Budget as presented; Steve Wyka seconded the motion. All in favor.

Approval/Adoption of Tax Resolution for 2014

The Board noted the Township Tax Rate for the Year 2014 shall remain the same at 2.80 mils. Mike Sacks made a **motion** approving the adoption of Resolution No. 2013-12, Fixing the Tax Rate for the Year 2014; Steve Wyka seconded the motion. All in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice Chairman Wyka announced the Township Office will be closed on beginning Tuesday, December 24 and will re-open with regular business hours of 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 2, 2014 in observance of the Christmas and New Year's Holidays. Steve noted that the Township Staff will be checking in and out of the Office during the Holiday Office closing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None at this time.

ENGINEERING AND PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

The Township Engineer reviewed details regarding Hanover Engineering's Fee Schedule as submitted for the Board's consideration at the upcoming Re-Organization Meeting.

SEO REPORT

None at this time.

ZONING AND CODES ENFORCEMENT

LTL Consultants, Ltd. Report for October 28, 2013 to November 30, 2013

Vice Chairman Wyka reviewed the activities as noted in the Zoning and Codes Enforcement Report for the period of October 28, 2013 to November 30, 2013.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Blight Ordinance

The Township Solicitor reviewed details related to the Blight Ordinance as presented for the Board's consideration for adoption. Jill Nagy reviewed provisions of the Ordinance which includes enforcement actions and permit denials as a means to collect outstanding fees owed by delinquent property owners to municipalities.

Mike Sacks made a **motion** adopting the Blight Ordinance as presented for adoption; Steve Wyka seconded the motion. All in favor.

Act 537 Plan

The Township Solicitor reviewed details of the Consent Order and Agreement for execution between the Township and DEP as presented to the Board of Supervisors. Jill Nagy provided details related to the Township's Act 537 Plan submissions which have been rejected by DEP. Jill explained the purpose of the Agreement is an attempt to resolve the Township's appeal to the Environmental Hearing Board of DEP's recent disapproval of the Update Revision. Jill noted the Agreement includes an outline of the Township's attempt to provide an Act 537 Plan for the Township which is satisfactory to the DEP and the agreed upon provisions. Jill explained provisions of the Agreement include a requirement that the Township submit an adopted Official Plan Update Revision to DEP within 220 days of the date of the Consent Order which addresses the sewage disposal needs of the Township including the deficiencies identified by the DEP related to the High Needs areas. A discussion was held between the Board members and the Township Engineer and Solicitor regarding the High Needs area for submission to the DEP as it relates to the existing Study of Needs.

Mike Sacks made a **motion** authorizing the execution of the Consent Order and Agreement between the Township and the Department of Environmental Protection; Steve Wyka seconded the motion. All in favor.

RECREATION REPORT

Vice Chairman/Park and Recreation Director, Steve Wyka announced the December Park & Recreation Commission Meeting has been cancelled.

Steve Wyka also announced the Township Municipal Office was notified that the Township was awarded grant monies totaling \$75,308.00 for the development of soccer fields. The Township had applied to the Greenways, Trails & Recreation Grant Program earlier this Summer and was ultimately approved to receive the grant monies based upon the application submitted.

ROADMASTER REPORT

None at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve 2014 Township Meetings Schedule and 2014 Holiday/Office Closing Schedule for Advertising

Mike Sacks made a **motion** approving the 2014 Township Meeting Schedule and Holiday/Office Closings Schedule for advertising as presented; Steve Wyka seconded the motion. All in favor.

County of Berks GIS Data Sharing Agreement

Mike Sacks made a **motion** to approve the execution of the GIS Data Sharing Agreement between the Township and the County of Berks; Steve Wyka seconded the motion. All in favor.

Name Temporary Township Chairman and Secretary for 2014 Re-Organization Meeting

This item was tabled until the Board of Supervisors Re-Organization Meeting scheduled to be held on January 8, 2014.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Mike Sacks made a **motion** to approve processing for payment, bills totaling \$102,095.40 and transfers totaling \$28,528.60 for the period of November 13, 2013 through December 10, 2013; Steve Wyka seconded that motion. All in favor.

Vote: Mike Sacks, Yes; Steve Wyka, Yes

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Wyka acknowledged Maryann Lantz and offered words of thanks for her service to the Township as a member of the Board of Supervisors for the past six years. Steve also welcomed Randy Sicher as the new member of the Board of Supervisors beginning in 2014 and offered him best wishes in his role with the Township.

Mike Sacks made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.; Steve Wyka seconded the motion. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer A. Wassell-Bonser
Township Secretary