

**East Pikeland Township
Board of Supervisors Meeting**

February 4, 2014

A public meeting of the Board of Supervisors of East Pikeland Township was held on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at the Township Building, 1158 Rapps Dam Road, Kimberton. Present were Chairman Ron Graham, Vice Chair Rusty Strauss, Supervisor Ben Campbell and Township Manager Kim Moretti.

Mr. Graham called the meeting to order at 7pm.

The meeting began with the swearing in of new Fire Police volunteers. Mr. Graham issued the Oath of Office to Elizabeth Stevens and Cory Hans and welcomed them as new Fire Police.

Minutes

Mr. Campbell made a MOTION to approve the January 6, 2014 Reorganization Meeting minutes. Mr. Strauss seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Strauss made a MOTION to approve the January 6, 2014 Board of Supervisors meeting minutes. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Correspondence

Mrs. Moretti reported that Representative Corbin had sent correspondence detailing the increased revenue East Pikeland Township will see from Liquid Fuels based on the new Transportation Act.

The township received a letter from resident Joanne Vontor of Hares Hill Road regarding dog laws and wild game and her concern about dogs off leash on the French Creek Trail. The Police Department is aware of Mrs. Vontor's concerns.

Department Reports

Township Manager's Report – Mrs. Moretti reported that January was spent completing required reports for various State agencies. She is working with elected auditors on the 2013 financial report; has completed reports for various grants and prepared budget analysis reports. She recently met with representative from the Kimberton Fire Co. who would like to meet with the Board to discuss finances. It was recommended that the fire company prepare a report on the issues they would like to discuss. She is also working with the Historical Commission on a location for the 2014 Town Tours.

Public Works – Posted

Police Department – Chief Franciscus provided a report on 2013 police activities. Officer Fegley was recognized for the most traffic citations (197). Officer Smith was recognized for the most DUI arrests (5). According to the Uniform Crime Reports, 75% of the crimes in the township were solved. Corp. Martin is responsible for investigating crimes and solved 97 of 131 reported crimes in 2013. 3,120 vacation checks were conducted and 3,650 business checks were made in 2013. One of the department vehicles was

converted to Compressed Natural Gas, saving the township in fuel costs. Officer Heyman, a 19 year veteran of the department, was voted Officer of the Year.

Zoning Officer's Annual Report – Posted

Planning Commission Report – Chairman John Schott was present to bring the Board up to date on their activities. Since land development applications over the past three years have decreased, it gave the Planning Commission time for other projects. The Comprehensive Plan was amended in 2012 to address economic development and open space/trails. In 2014 the Planning Commission will work on implementing the recommendations from the Comp Plan, including zoning amendments to encourage redevelopment of the 724 corridor. The township obtained a County Vision Partnership grant to hire a consultant to assist with the project.

Open Space Committee Report – Stock Illoway reported that although there were not a lot of accomplishments relative to open space preservation in 2013, the committee is at work on several projects. (1) Bryn Coed property (101 acres off of Chester Springs Road) is still a possibility for preservation. The acreage in East Pikeland Township is only a small portion of the overall estate (1500 acres). (2) Water World property – goal is to preserve the woodland section of the property since it is adjacent to the “Cutler Park” property. Water World is in foreclosure and the Open Space Committee is working with the bank that holds the mortgage. (3) Steimer property next to the Kimberton Fire Company, is on-hold. The Open Space Committee is focusing on the trail plan and creating interconnections. Nearly 20% of the township is already under some type of conservation program.

Historical Commission Report – Jim Garrison, Chairman, reported that despite changes in membership they have a very active Commission. He gave a summary of what the Commission does at their monthly meetings, i.e. reviewing applications for property alterations, reviewing applications for any changes in the Kimberton Historic District. They work with applicants to find a solution to fit their needs while complying with the historic preservation provisions in the zoning ordinance. Their goal is to educate property owners to encourage preservation. They also educate the public through the annual town tours and the interpretive signage project. For 2014 a new historic preservation consultant, Bob Wise, will be working with the Commission on getting the historic preservation ordinance amended. Bob Wise has a lot of experience in Chester County and with drafting ordinances. The ordinance revisions are geared towards making the review process easier for residents to work with. A public meeting will be held on April 16th to present the ordinance. In the long-term, the Historical Commission would like to complete the restoration of Snyders Mill and continue with archeological projects to determine the footprint of the Continental Powder Works – which is a really unique resource for this region.

Rusty Strauss asked about follow-up to the Heritage Action Plan. Mrs. Moretti responded that the HAP was used to leverage two grants for the interpretive signage project, which was listed as a goal in the plan.

Old Business

Mr. Strauss made a MOTION, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to authorize an appeal of Judge Bortner's decision granting conditional use approval for the Pikeland Glen land development application. Upon vote, it passed unanimously.

Mr. Strauss made a MOTION to award the contract for installation of pedestrian bridge #2 on the French Creek Trail to Melchiorre Construction Co. with a low bid of \$144,000. Motion was seconded by Mr. Campbell and passed unanimously.

Mr. Strauss made a MOTION to approve Escrow Release No. 4 for Telvil/Hunsberger Subdivision in the amount of \$15,850, with \$848.67 released directly to the township for inspection and administration, as recommended by the township engineer. Motion was seconded by Mr. Campbell and passed unanimously.

New Business

Mr. Campbell made a MOTION to regretfully accept the resignation of Tom Carnevale from the Historical Commission, effective immediately. Mr. Strauss seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Campbell made a MOTION to authorize advertisement of intent to amend the zoning and subdivision/land development ordinances and Chapters 9 and 22 of the codified ordinance and adopt a new stormwater ordinance in compliance with Act 167. Mr. Strauss seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

Longview Development - John Schott reported that Longview Development is working with the Planning Commission to develop a plan for redevelopment of the Gappa and Hrivnak properties at the intersection of Route 23 and Rapps Dam Road. Longview is working with the Planning Commission to develop an overlay ordinance for the project that is consistent with the Route 724 Corridor redevelopment plans. The plan will also include intersection improvements. They hope to present a draft of that ordinance to the Board of Supervisors at the March meeting. John Colarusso added that the overlay ordinance compliments the redevelopment provisions being considered by the Planning Commission, but there will be some provisions specific to this project.

Public Comment

None

Announcements

The township declared Snow Emergencies on January 21 and February 3, 2014. Mrs. Moretti explained that the declaration allows the police department to cite vehicles that are parked on posted emergency snow routes. During a snow emergency residents are encouraged to remain off the roads in order to allow the Public Works Department to do their job.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted by,
Kim Moretti, Township Manager