

UPPER MILFORD TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TOWNSHIP BUILDING, OLD ZIONSVILLE, PA 18068
JULY 19, 2012 AT 7:00 P.M.
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Supervisors; Daniel Mohr, Robert Sentner, George DeVault; Manager, Daniel DeLong; Solicitor, Marc Fisher; Secretary/Treasurer, AnnaMarie Zeravsky

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 P.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Supervisor Mohr announced that the meeting was being recorded to principally aid in the preparation of Minutes and for such other purposes as the Board saw fit. For that reason, any person wanting to give any comments during the meeting should please state his or her name for the record and address the Board of Supervisors.

PUBLIC INPUT: - None

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Hanzlik Well Waiver

During the July 5th, 2012 Board of Supervisors meeting the Board approved Mrs. Hanzlik's request for a well isolation distance waiver to her water supply well contingent upon properly abandoning the irrigation well on her property and entering into a maintenance agreement for the proposed septic system. After doing some research, Mrs. Hanzlik now knows that what she thought was an irrigation well, is actually a geothermal well that was converted a few years ago. Mrs. Hanzlik requested The Board amend the waiver to include the geothermal well, so that the well can be left in place. The Board voted in favor of Mrs. Hanzlik's request to amend the previous approval not to abandon the irrigation well based on finding that the irrigation well was converted to a geothermal use.

MOTION:

Supervisor Sentner made the motion to amend the original waiver to allow the geothermal well distance waiver. Supervisor DeVault then seconded the motion. Any questions or comments, all in favor, and the motion carried.

2. Pension Services RFP Discussion, Resolution 2012-026 (On Regular Agenda)

Manager DeLong stated that that after following proper procedures listed in Pennsylvania Act 44 of 2009, the Pension Selection Committee has made a final selection for a new Pension Service Provider. All 3 proposals were rated which showed results for the highest ranking and most qualified candidate, Municipal Retirement Trust of The Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs. The Pension Selection Committee recommends that The Board of Supervisors award the Pension Management Service Contract to that organization, which is reflected in Resolution 2012-026. Supervisor Sentner stated that of the three committee members ranking the proposals, all three agreed on the highest ranking candidate, making the choice unanimous. Supervisor DeVault asked

how the selected candidate scored so much higher than the other two candidates. Supervisor Sentner stated that the chosen candidate only deals with municipal pensions making them the clear choice. Manager DeLong added that Municipal Retirement Trust is a non-profit organization that is sponsored by the Pennsylvania State Associate of Boroughs. Manager DeLong also pointed out the fact that Municipal Retirement Trust also specializes in smaller municipal pensions. Manager DeLong and Supervisor Mohr thanked John Hayes for being a part of the Pension Selection Committee and assisting with this process.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Fall Newsletter Discussion

Manager DeLong asked the Board if The Township should have a Fall Newsletter. Supervisor Sentner asked if the Newsletter would still be completed the same as in the past, where the advertising would pay for the cost of the newsletter minus the postage. Manager DeLong confirmed that the only cost would be for postage. Supervisor Mohr asked if the staff has time to do a newsletter. Manager DeLong stated that the staff will make the time, if needed. All supervisors were in agreement for staff to take necessary procedures to complete a Fall Newsletter. Manager DeLong stated that he will report, to the Board, the time schedule once he has it compiled.

2. Lehigh County Association of Township Officials: Summer Convention, Aug. 10th

Manager DeLong stated that Steve Ackerman, with the Board's acknowledgement, will chose 2 Public Works employees to attend the convention. The Board of Supervisors and Steve Ackerman would need to let the Secretary know by the end of July, who will be attending so that the proper actions can be taken to get them signed up for the convention. Supervisor DeVault asked where the convention is located and Manager DeLong told him it is held at the Schnecksville Fire Company. Manager DeLong stated that the Convention has concurrent sessions that are geared toward Public Works employees and Public Officials. All Board of Supervisors were in agreement that 2 Public Works Employees could be chosen to attend the convention.

3. Vera Cruz Area Sewer Connections Non-Responsive Owners (Discussion)

Supervisor Mohr stated that, along with Manager DeLong, he was at a meeting at Lehigh County Authority regarding the letters that LCA had sent out to non-compliant residents in the past. Supervisor Mohr also stated that at this time, most of the owners, living in The Vera Cruz Area Sewer Project area, have been responsive, with only 2 owners in milestone area 2 and 10 owners in milestone area 3 have not provided any response to previous notices to connect. Two letters will be mailed out by LCA. A letter will be mailed to the 2 owners in milestone area 2, granting responsive owners an extension to connect until September 1, 2012. Another letter will be sent to the ten nonresponsive owners in milestone area 3, requesting that they take positive action toward making their connection. Supervisor Mohr stated that everyone wants to move toward getting everyone hooked up and LCA is in agreement. Manager DeLong stated that the he anticipates the list to be cut down to next to nothing and that since earlier that afternoon, one owner was eliminated from the list already.

4. Budget (Discussion)

Supervisor Sentner stated that he is looking for discretionary budgeting. Manager DeLong stated that, with himself, Steve Ackerman has been working on the budget. Manager DeLong stated that it is a balancing act to determine what takes priority. He will have a draft form together by next meeting. He also mentioned that the Earned Income Tax collection has exceeded his expectations. Because of switching to Berkheimer as the EIT tax collector, the Township has received the EIT collections 23% ahead of schedule. Gail Lichtenwalner, the Township's former EIT tax collector, turned over all of her tax records to Berkheimer, the Townships' current EIT tax collector. He stressed that the collections of the EIT is working very well. Resident James Krippe asked how the new tax assessment will effect next year. Manager DeLong stated that the tax assessment is revenue neutral. The County will adjust the tax rate to generate the same amount expected. The total amount paid to the Township will still be the same, with older homes paying more and newer homes paying less. Manager DeLong stated that the millage rate has not been set yet by the county. After the official appeal process is complete, Lehigh County Assessment office will then determine the millage rate.

Mr. Krippe stated that he knows that compiling a budget can be very difficult; however, it is ridiculous to waste taxpayer's dollars by building a driveway into a Farmer's Field off of East Macungie Drive. He feels someone should monitor wasteful spending. Steve Ackerman stated that the work was done because of a recent washout which was starting to undermine the shoulder of the road. It was done to protect the Township's paved street and gutter, not to put a driveway in someone's field. Mr. Krippe asked what the cause of the washout is and Steve Ackerman stated that is it caused by the water coming from the homeowner's property. Mr. Krippe asked if Steve had repaired the problem 3 times and Steve Ackerman stated that it was 3 times. Supervisor Sentner stated that he feels it is time to correct the problem and he feels that it is tax payer's dollars being wasted. Manager DeLong stated that Steve's fix should correct the problem and there should not be any more washouts. Supervisor Sentner said the Township needs to see about getting in contact with the homeowner to determine a fix for the problem. Mr. Krippe stated that the point he was trying to make was that when planning a budget and something has to be fixed 3 times, the budget will never line up.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: - None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: - None

ADJOURNMENT: 7:37P.M.

Daniel J. Mohr, Chairman

Date

AnnaMarie L. Zeravsky, Secretary/Treasurer