

UPPER MILFORD TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TOWNSHIP BUILDING, OLD ZIONSVILLE, PA 18068
FEBRUARY 18, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M.
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Supervisors; George DeVault, Daniel Mohr, Robert Sentner; Township Manager, Daniel DeLong; Asst. Township Manager, Timothy Haas; Solicitor, Marc Fisher

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 P.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

This meeting is being recorded principally to aid in the preparation of Minutes and for such other purposes as the Board sees fit. For that reason, will each person wanting to give any comments during this meeting, please state your name for the record and address the Board of Supervisors.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

OLD BUSINESS:

1.) Discussion on Open Space Referendum.

Manager DeLong summarized what is required to correctly establish an open space program.

Supervisor DeVault agrees with establishing an open space program, but he wants to look at adjusting the Zoning Ordinance to lessen certain regulations pertaining to farms and farming activities. He also believes that there is a lot to still be discussed regarding an open space program, such as: how much money does the Township need to procure, which parcels of land the Township should pursue, and what is the preferred timing for including the referendum question on a ballot. He'd also just as soon discuss a fire tax, because the fire departments of the Township are in need and he wants to meet those needs.

Supervisor Sentner agrees that the Board of Supervisors should look into adjusting the current Zoning Ordinance to be more "farmer friendly." He believes that the timing of the referendum should happen as soon as possible because available properties will only begin to increase in price, due to high purchase pricing by developers. He recommends timing the referendum question for the November 8, 2016 in a hope to take advantage of higher voter turnout.

Supervisor Mohr agrees with establishing an open space program. He would also like to see the Zoning Ordinance adjusted to lessen certain regulations pertaining to farms and farming activities.

Manager DeLong reminded the Board that before the Township can purchase a property that property must be identified on a plan, which is assembled by Township committees and public input. The current plan relies on someone donating their property to the Township.

Resident, Phil Casey suggests that the Township offer a lesser rental rate to Michael Crossley to farm the Fulmer Tract. He brought up a particular property within the Township, whose owners may be willing to give it to the Township. He also suggested that the Board sends out a mailer in lieu of a fall Township newsletter in an attempt to save the Township from spending additional money.

Supervisor Sentner mentioned that the owners of the particular property were approached and they are not interested in giving it away.

Resident, Francis Caputo brought up his concern that the average resident isn't educated on what is going on within the Township.

Supervisor Sentner is confident that the Open Space Committee will fully educate the residents of the Township of the pending referendum. It is up to the Board to decide on the fixed numbers which will be reflected within the referendum.

Discussions ensued regarding the necessity of a plan set in place to be the foundation of which the open space program is built upon.

Resident, Lynn Sallash asked if anyone ever looked into the transfer of development rights, and if so, would the Board consider incorporating that along with the pending referendum.

Supervisors Sentner mentioned that the transfer of development rights is very hard to utilize in the Township, due to the lack of available public sewer.

Discussions ensued regarding the pending mailer that will be sent out to aid in educating the public of the pending referendum.

Solicitor Fisher cautioned the Board that the mailer must remain factually neutral.

Supervisor Sentner suggests that the Board waits for additional feedback from the Open Space Committee, but in the meantime they should start working on the fixed numbers for the referendum.

Manager DeLong briefly advertised the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission's questionnaire for all of those in attendance.

NEW BUSINESS: None

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APPROVED MINUTES

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: 7:39 P.M.

George D. DeVault, Chairman

Date

Timothy A. Haas, Asst. Twp. Manager/Secretary