

**REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING
MARCH 1, 2010**

- MEMBERS PRESENT** Arthur Murphy, President
Paul Weiss, Vice President
Jerry Batcha, Commissioner
Michael Hudak, Commissioner
Thomas Nolan, Commissioner
- OTHERS PRESENT** James Broughal, Township Solicitor
Jon Hammer, Township Manager
Doug Bruce, Assistant Township Manager
- CALL TO ORDER** President Murphy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led those in attendance in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- COURTESY OF THE FLOOR** There were no comments or questions from those in attendance during courtesy of the floor.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES** Upon motion (Hudak-Weiss), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2010 regular public meeting as presented.
- RESOLUTION R024-10** **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN MUNICIPAL PUBLIC RECORDS PURSUANT TO THE SCHEDULES AND PROCEDURES APPROVED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS COMMITTEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPAL RECORDS ACT**
- Mr. Hammer explained that municipalities are allowed to dispose of certain records from time to time and a list of financial records to be destroyed has been provided to the Board of Commissioners.
- Upon motion (Nolan-Hudak), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to approve Resolution R024-10 as presented, authorizing the disposition of certain municipal public records in accordance with the Pennsylvania Municipal Records Act.
- MOTION** **A MOTION DESIGNATING A REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE ACT 167 WATERSHED PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE MONOCACY CREEK WATERSHED PLAN UPDATE**
- MOTION** **A MOTION DESIGNATING A REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE ACT 167 WATERSHED PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE BUSHKILL CREEK WATERSHED PLAN UPDATE**
- Mr. Hammer stated that the County is looking to set up 2 advisory committees, one for the Monocacy Creek Watershed and one for the Bushkill Creek Watershed and is looking for representation from each municipality. Mr. Hammer noted that the County does not specify whether that representative should be an elected official, a member of staff or someone from the public. Mr. Nolan stated that the usually prefer an elected official on these types of committees and suggested that a member of the Board of Commissioners volunteer to be the representative. Noting that the volunteer would need to have a flexible schedule since the meetings would be held during the day, Mr. Batcha stated that he would not be available. Mr. Hammer stated that he believes Mr. Kutzler would be a good representative. Mr. Batcha and Mr. Murphy agreed.

Upon motion (Batcha-Weiss), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to appoint Howard Kutzler, Director of Planning and Economic Development as Bethlehem Township's representative for the Act 157 Watershed Plan Advisory Committee for the Monocacy Creek Watershed Plan Update and the representative for the Act 167 Watershed Plan Advisory Committee for the Bushkill Creek Watershed Plan Update.

PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL

Mr. Nolan questioned whether it was early in the year to pay out the allocations to the athletic associations. Mr. Hammer responded that if Mr. Nolan's concern was cash flow, the Township does have the cash to pay them now, adding that since the allocations were paid as a flat fee, the Township has been paying the allocations this early in the year.

Upon motion (Nolan-Weiss), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to approve all purchase orders as presented.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

SOCCER FIELD IRRIGATION SYSTEM

Mr. Hammer stated that the Board of Commissioners received a memo from Steve Hunsberger regarding a total estimated cost for a portable irrigation system and equipment for the soccer fields in Municipal Park and is looking for direction from the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Hudak questioned whether an irrigation system is necessary and if an irrigation system were installed where would the funds come from? Mr. Weiss noted that there is no irrigation system at the North 40 and he is not in favor of spending any money on an irrigation system for the soccer fields. Mr. Hudak added that he does not want the soccer fields to turn into yearly maintenance costs. Mr. Hudak suggested that the Board of Commissioners wait to see if grass comes up without irrigation. Mr. Batcha commented that he is not opposed to putting the system out to bid to get the numbers and then see where the funds can come from. Mr. Batcha added that the Board invested a lot of money out there and suggested that the Board pursue the bids and ask staff to pinpoint where the funds would come from.

Mr. Hudak asked what the Township did in the past regarding watering the fields. Mr. Hammer responded that they would get a fire truck to spray the fields. Mr. Weiss stated he had no problem with going out to bid and once bids are received, the Board could evaluate the project.

Upon motion (Batcha-Hudak), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to authorize the Township Manager to bid the soccer field irrigation system.

RESIGNATION OF TREASURER

Mr. Hammer stated that Township Treasurer Robert Birk has submitted his resignation as Township Treasurer effective February 28, 2010. Mr. Hammer Explained that per the First Class Township Code the Board of Commissioners has 30 days to appoint someone as Treasurer and that person would serve as Treasurer until January 2012.

Mr. Batcha noted that the Board of Commissioners would have only one more public meeting until the 30 days are up and would hope the newspaper would write an article to get interest out there. Mr. Batcha added that he would hope to get good, qualified, educated applicants with some background in finance. Mr. Hudak inquired whether Mr. Hammer has heard of anyone being interested in filling the position. Mr. Hammer responded that the previous treasurer may be interested and stated that he will prepare a press release, put a notice on the website and electronic sign at the Municipal Building.

Mr. Batcha suggested that if any one shows interest in the position that an executive session be scheduled prior to the Board's March 15, 2010 meeting to meet with the candidates.

OTHER BUSINESS

**REPLY TO LETTER FROM
FREEMANSBURG**

Mr. Nolan commented regarding a letter received from Mayor Yob of Freemansburg regarding stormwater from the proposed Green Pond Golf Course development and asked if a response was sent to him.

Solicitor Broughal stated that responding now would be premature since the Township has not received stormwater studies associated with this project and believes it is prudent to wait until the studies are submitted and then send them to Freemansburg. Mr. Nolan then suggested that the Township respond to Mr. Yob as a courtesy, stating that stormwater studies have not yet been submitted.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion (Nolan-Weiss), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Todaro
Recording Secretary