

**EAST FALLOWFIELD TOWNSHIP**  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORKSHOP MEETING  
February 9, 2016 Approved minutes  
6:30 PM

**Members Present**

Steve Herzog, Chairman  
Ed Porter, Vice Chairman  
Joe Pomorski, Member  
Carol Kulp, Member

**Township Staff Present**

Lisa Valaitis, Township Secretary  
Pani Martin, Township Treasurer

**Township Solicitor**

Mike Crotty

1. CALL TO ORDER, SILENT MEDITATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Chairman Steve Herzog called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. Discussion

A. Sirpa Cossaboon – Water Fluoridation Presentation.

Sirpa Cossaboon, East Fallowfield Township resident, gave a presentation on water fluoridation. Ms. Cossaboon asked the Board to stop PA American Water Company's fluoridation of the public water supply. She also made a few announcements. Bucks County Water and Sewer Utility has stopped fluoridating their public water supply. She said she has the chemical composition of fluoridated water and they are not safe, especially for children. The chemical compositions are: sodium fluosilicate, hydrofluorosilicic acid, and sodium fluoride. All the Board would need to do is to stop the fluoridation in East Fallowfield is to ask the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for permission to stop the fluoridation. She distributed the procedures from the DEP to the Board. Ms. Cossaboon stated that PA American Water Company informed her that Valley Township is the only other municipality. Steve Herzog stated we need clarification from PA American Water if there are any other municipalities impacted by the water company.

B. Kiosk – Tyler Schafer Eagle Scout Project.

Steve Herzog commented that a letter was submitted requesting permission to install a plaque on the kiosk in East Fallowfield Township Park for an Eagle Scout Project. The Board approved this request.

C. Interview of Applicants for Board of Supervisor Vacancy.

1) Sirpa Cossaboon.

Steve Herzog asked Sirpa Cossaboon why she'd like to be on the Board. Ms. Cossaboon responded by stating she has previous board experience and she is also an attorney. Steve Herzog said it can up anywhere between 1-5 monthly meetings. He asked if she had any concerns about this. Ms. Cossaboon stated she has the time.

Steve Herzog asked Sirpa Cossaboon what she feels is the biggest issue facing the Township now and how would she work to resolve it. Ms. Cossaboon said the Township has had a bunch of issues that appear to have been settled for now.

Joe Pomorski asked Sirpa Cossaboon what her thoughts are on the debate between maintaining a tax and cutting township services. Ms. Cossaboon stated she remains neutral and would like to really examine the budget before deciding. She said the 2016 budget as already been decided and the budget won't be a big issue until the end of the year. She said she would have to look at all the budget numbers very carefully. She understands that some people don't want to increase taxes but what services can we afford to cut.

Carol Kulp asked Ms. Cossaboon to state at least one positive and one negative she foresees if she is appointed to this position. Ms. Cossaboon said a positive is to be able to give back to the society. She has been a resident here for thirteen years and she has vested interest in the Township because she is raising children in the Township. Ms. Cossaboon stated the budget fights are a negative.

#### COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:

- a. Ronald Scott asked if each candidate is a registered voter. Steve Herzog stated all the candidates are registered voters. Ronald Scott also asked how the Township should proceed with road repairs and meeting our infrastructure needs without raising taxes. Ms. Cossaboon stated the roads are a budget issue.
- b. Buddy Rhoades said the Township has been doing a great job on the roads. Every year, the Board decides what roads to work on based on what the Road Master recommends. He asked if any of the candidates have experience with municipal administration. He also stated he'd like to know what each candidate would do to keep the budget within means.
- c. Ed Porter asked Ms. Cossaboon if she has administrative or computer experience. Sirpa Cossaboon stated she is very computer literate and has great research skills. She said she has been in human resources and did a lot of fundraising. She stated she did not specifically write grants.

#### 2) Joel R. Brazy.

Steve Herzog asked Joel Brazy why he submitted an application for the open Board position. Mr. Brazy said he cares a lot about the Township and feels he'd be an asset to the Township. He stated he has been looking for an opportunity to serve the Township.

Steve Herzog asked Joel Brazy what he feels the biggest issue for the Township is and how he would work to fix it. Mr. Brazy stated that the biggest issue faced by the Township is maintaining the quality of the Township and moving the Township forward. This can be done by creating a long term plan by creating a stabilized budget and stabilized path with 2, 5 and 10 year goals. Some ways to accomplish this would be finding new ways of funding, maintaining and improving the Township, stretching budgets, and looking for different ways of funding first responders.

Steve Herzog asked Joel Brazy if he had any problem with attending the required number of meetings. Joel Brazy stated he has no issues with attending the monthly meetings.

Mr. Brazy answered Mr. Scott's question regarding infrastructure by stating to fix the roads, you schedule it out over time and do one road at a time. He also stated you need to evaluate and prioritize the roads. Maintenance needs to be dealt with responsibly every year.

Mr. Brazy answered Mr. Rhoades question about administrative experience by discussing his administrative experience. He said he was on the Board of Directors of the Diabetes Association and an Executive Vice President of a music syndication company. Mr. Brazy said he has technology skills and currently does engineering design and sales for commercial audio video and video conferencing.

Joe Pomorski asked Joel Brazy if he'd favor maintaining or increasing millage versus cutting services. Mr. Brazy said we need to look at ways to responsibly manage the budget to inch towards goals. We will

make more progress some years than others. Mr. Brazy said if this is approached responsibly, we can maintain the level of millage and the level of service. Joe Pomorski said we are facing the challenge of rising insurance costs. Mr. Brazy discussed ideas on insurance. Mr. Brazy stated he doesn't favor either taxes or cutting service until analyzing all information.

Carol Kulp asked Joel Brazy for one positive thing and one negative thing he foresees if appointed to the position. Mr. Brazy stated a positive is being of service to the community. He said the negative is being here on snow days.

#### QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

- a. Buddy Rhoades asked all the candidates about putting a fire tax on the ballot.  
Sirpa Cossaboon said no problem to putting the fire tax on the ballot. Joel Brazy said a fire tax is something he'd like to entertain.  
Mr. Brazy also talked about Bridgeport entertaining a \$10 assessment per household to fund the fire department.
- b. Ronald Scott asked if that is Bridgeport, Pennsylvania. Joel Brazy replied yes.

#### 3) Jean M. Jones.

Steve Herzog asked Jean Jones why she wanted to submit her name for the open Board position. Jean Jones replied that she is interested in the Board of Supervisor position because she saw what was going on in the Township and thought she could be of assistance. She said she brings a different background to the table and she has extensive corporate government experience, board of director experience, and administrative zero based budget experience. She said she can bring a lot of experience to the Board.

Steve Herzog asked Jean Jones if she can attend the monthly meetings. Jean Jones stated attending meetings is not an issue.

Steve Herzog asked Jean Jones what she thinks is the biggest issue facing the Township and how she would solve it. Ms. Jones stated the biggest Township issue is the budget. She said it is a matter of coming up with creative ideas and suggestions and looking beyond what we see here.

Steve Herzog asked Jean Jones if she would consider a fire tax. Ms. Jones replied yes.

Steve Herzog asked Jean Jones if she has a plan for infrastructure. Ms. Jones stated she would have to educate herself more on infrastructure and would be dedicated to do that.

Joe Pomorski asked Jean Jones if she would be in favor maintaining or increasing millage versus cutting services. Jean Jones said she'd look long and hard at the budget and learn more about it because no one wants their taxes raised.

Carol Kulp asked Jean Jones for one positive thing and one negative thing she foresees if appointed to the position. Jean Jones stated she is a positive person, and is not conflicted. She stated she has no affiliation, no personal gain, is independent, and is fair minded and open. It's a Township to be proud of!

Joe Pomorski asked Jean Jones how long she lived in East Fallowfield Township. Ms. Jones stated she has lived in East Fallowfield Township for 17-18 years. Joe Pomorski stated that until recently, the Township has had a huge population increase. He asked Jean Jones if she felt the Township was better off before the growth or after. Jean Jones said the diversity that everyone brings to the Township is a good thing. She also stated she likes the rural scenery as well.

Ed Porter asked Ms. Jones about her audit and corporate accounting experience. Ms. Jones said she gathered information from all over the company and audited the information to ensure compliance to SEC regulations and the New York Stock Exchange regulations.

4) Wes Maughan.

Steve Herzog asked Wes Maughan why he wanted to submit his name for the open position. Wes Maughan stated he has lived in this Township for three and a half years and our Township has been struggling with the budget, accounting and auditing process. In his opinion, we haven't conquered it. There is a need to accomplish this. He spoke about new ways that haven't been assessed or evaluated. He'd like to see the government and the people get along at meetings. He said communication is at the core of this problem. He said he has been doing government in various forms for 40 years and has seen a lot. There is an opportunity to bring his experience into play.

Steve Herzog asked Wes Maughan if he had any issue with attending meetings. Mr. Maughan replied that he has no issue attending meetings.

Steve Herzog asked Wes Maughan what he feels is the biggest issue faced by the Township and how he would solve it. Mr. Maughan stated the biggest issue for the Township is the budget. He talked about Township Supervisors, police chief and road masters have been working on integrating townships. The cost of services exceeds residents' willingness to pay taxes. Mr. Maughan spoke about tax base erosion. We will have to be creative to solve this. He also commented that communications is a challenge for the Township and to succeed in goals you need communication.

Steve Herzog asked Wes Maughan if he would be willing to put a fire tax on the ballot. Wes Maughan stated that he is in favor of a fire tax. He stated the best way to do this is to put it up for vote.

Joe Pomorski asked Wes Maughan how he would increase transparency. Joe Pomorski talked about meeting coverage such as posting meetings online. Mr. Maughan stated that people need to come and find the information. You can push the information to the residents on Facebook, emails, and internet but they need to seek it. Mr. Maughan said that electronic communication is best because it is virtually free.

Steve Herzog asked Wes Maughan if he had a plan for infrastructure. Wes Maughan said the way the Township is structured, do we care for roads or provide security. Everyone uses the roads every day. If you want to see an economy fail, let roads go. Roads affect everyone and all aspects of the economy. He said security is nice and there are a lot of ways to do security such as state police, National Guard, and wisely integrating patrol patterns. Roads are priority number one.

Joe Pomorski asked Wes Maughan how the tax base erosion is affecting East Fallowfield Township. Wes Maughan talked about the steel mill layoffs at ArcelorMittal. Mr. Maughan stated that layoffs mean residents are not able to pay taxes. He said we really need to figure out what the Township's priorities are.

Ed Porter asked Wes Maughan if he is in favor of a township manager. Wes Maughan said the money isn't there however there is a need for one. The Board Members' days are full. You either need a township manager or a person on the board that is available to look at day to day township operations. Most townships usually have an older person on the Board that has extra time as well as experience.

5) Richard Agatone.

Steve Herzog asked Richard Agatone why he was interested in the open seat on the Board. Richard Agatone stated that he has lived in the Township for over 20 years. He is a current member of the East Fallowfield Township Planning Commission. Mr. Agatone said with his background, he feels he could speak for those that don't have a voice and bring a new voice to the Board.

Steve Herzog asked Richard Agatone if he'd be able to attend the required meetings. Mr. Agatone stated that he couldn't do both the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors. He'd have to pick one or the other.

Steve Herzog asked Richard Agatone what he felt is the biggest issue facing the Township and how he would solve it. Richard Agatone stated the budget is the biggest challenge and that this is actually more management issue. He stated he has ideas on the budget and there are a lot of areas that can be improved. Mr. Agatone stated he does not want to reduce services. He stated the funding is there and it's more of how it is managed. Mr. Agatone discussed other ways to manage the new 1.25 millage.

Steve Herzog asked Richard Agatone how he feels about a fire tax. Richard Agatone stated he fully supports a fire tax.

Steve Herzog asked Richard Agatone if he has a plan for infrastructure and road needs. Mr. Agatone said the roads are a huge issue. He stated that everyone uses the roads. He commented that the Road Crew works their tails off. Mr. Agatone also stated the Road Crew's resources could be managed better.

Carol Kulp asked Mr. Agatone what sets him apart from the other candidates? Mr. Agatone said he brings his knowledge from serving on the Planning Commission. He also brings both executive experience and Township knowledge as a long-time resident. He would like to keep East Fallowfield Township as it is. Other townships are encroaching on us.

#### COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:

- a. Ronald Scott asked Joel Brazy how many years he has lived in East Fallowfield Township. Joel Brazy stated he has lived in the Township for eight years.
- b. Buddy Rhoades discussed recycling and having multiple townships work together. Mr. Rhoades asked if all the candidates would continue to work with other townships on recycling. Mr. Rhoades talked about the local police departments working together and backing each other up. He asked if any of the candidates, with the current budget, would entertain the idea of hiring a township manager. Mr. Rhoades also commented on the Road Crew, Police Department and grant writing. He commented that grants would help with both the Public Works Department and the Police Department. He also asked if any of the candidates have grant writing experience.
- c. Steve Herzog asked each candidate if they have any issues with continuing to work with the other townships on recycling programs as well as their thoughts on a township manager. Ed Porter asked each candidate if they have witnessed and admired anything in surrounding municipalities that they wish East Fallowfield would do.
- d. Each candidate gave the following responses:
  - i. Sirpa Cossaboon said she'd like to increase recycling. The less trash the better. As far as a township manager is concerned, Ms. Cossaboon said she would have to look at the budget again. Ms. Cossaboon talked about more businesses bringing more income in to East Fallowfield.
  - ii. Joel Brazy said it is important to work with other townships on more than just recycling. He talked about group insurance and collective agreements. Mr. Brazy said that right now, a township manager is a low priority item. In the future, if you could find the money, a township manager could be validated. Otherwise you could spread the work among the Board. Ed Porter asked Mr. Brazy if he has seen anything in other municipalities that he admires. Mr. Brazy said he hasn't seen anything deficient in East Fallowfield. Mr. Brazy said he is very impressed with the Road Crew. He stated it seems like their department has a lot more employees than they actually have.
  - iii. Jean Jones stated recycling would continue. She said a township manager is a good idea but there are budget restrictions to consider. Ms. Jones said there are people in the township that have experience and could help with this. Ed Porter asked if there is anything done in other municipalities that she'd like to see here. Ms. Jones talked about getting ideas and encouragement from her contacts that work in other townships.

- iv. Wes Maughan said there is an opportunity to make money rather than consume dollars in regard to recycling. Mr. Maughan discussed the South Coatesville Compost Site and mulching. We are a rural township and our land produces crops every year that can turn a lot of money for this township. Mr. Maughan talked about converting mulch to methane gas which is a natural gas. He talked about using mulch to turn into power and sell gas to PECO. The Township needs to come up with ways to generate revenue. He commented on utilizing the resources of the Township to accomplish more. This will be build a tremendous sense of community. Mr. Maughan also stated that if you look at other townships, most of the more functional townships have a township manager. This is because they have a person there every day that knows all the rules and people. Mr. Maughan also talked briefly about the budget. He asked the Board what the outstanding debt was. Steve Herzog stated there is no debt. Mr. Maughan said we have a lot of talent in the Township. We need a leadership team to engage that talent to accomplish tasks. Joe Pomorski asked how he would propose to accomplish this. Mr. Maughan stated this could be accomplished by obtaining grants. He also talked about the South Coatesville mulch center and turning that into a power generation system and sell the power and natural gas to PECO. You get the money to put that equipment in place through grants. Ed Porter asked Mr. Maughan if he is proposing a revenue stream like West Bradford Township is doing with recyclables and grants. Mr. Maughan said he is not familiar with West Bradford's procedure. He talked about plastic, aluminum, leaves and mulch as possible revenue streams for the Township.
- v. Richard Agatone agreed that East Fallowfield Township should be working with other townships. He also agrees with the concept that Wes Maughn discussed regarding revenue generation. It's an avenue to pursue and research. Mr. Agatone said township manager support was the number one cause in the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission felt a township manager would work in the Township, be dedicated to the Township every day, and report to the Board. The Township needs more communication with the residents. He said he'd support a township manager if we can determine what direction the residents want to go in. Richard Agatone commented on the Mortonville Road closure. He said the road is eroding more every day. Mr. Agatone discussed township communication and stated many residents don't have computers. Some elderly residents have larger land, and may have a larger stake. There is a lack of communication with residents. Facebook works as a means of communication but not everyone checks it or has a computer.

6) Andy Marvel.

Andy Marvel stated he was interested in the open Board of Supervisor position because the Board asked for help and he would like to help the Township. Mr. Marvel stated he cares about the Township. He also said he doesn't have a problem with attending the monthly meetings.

Steve Herzog asked Andy Marvel what he feels is the biggest issue facing the Township and how he would solve it. Mr. Marvel stated the budget is the most important issue in the Township, specifically the budget going forward. He said transparency and communication are also important.

Steve Herzog asked Andy Marvel what he thought about the fire tax. Mr. Marvel stated if everyone votes on it, there would be transparency and everyone's voice is heard. Mr. Marvel stated he supports it.

Steve Herzog asked Andy Marvel how he feels about infrastructure road improvements plans and how to better improve the roads. Mr. Marvel said he works in construction and has an idea of what it takes to fix roads. He said he could help the Township in regard to road improvements.

Steve Herzog asked Andy Marvel what his thoughts were on a township manager. Mr. Marvel said there is a good reason to have a manager. A township manager would provide a buffer that can act as a liaison between the Board of Supervisors and the department heads.

Steve Herzog asked Andy Marvel what his opinion was on working with other townships with recycling. Andy Marvel stated that everyone needs to work together.

Joe Pomorski asked Andy Marvel if he had any grant writing experience. Andy Marvel said he did not. Joe Pomorski commented that he agreed with previous comments that the Township has a lot of talented people.

Joe Pomorski asked Andy Marvel to explain his work experience. Mr. Marvel said he works in construction and he has experience with pricing jobs, getting estimates from suppliers, managing materials and man power as well execution of projects. Joe Pomorski talked about Mortonville Road repairs.

Ed Porter asked Mr. Marvel if, based on his experience, he has looked at any roads in the Township and thought it could be done better or differently. Andy Marvel said he has looked at stormwater runoff and if that could have been done differently. He said the road crew works hard. The Board will provide Tag Gathercole and his department with supplies that he needs. Ed Porter said Andy Marvel's experience would be valuable with road bid jobs.

#### COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:

- a. Ronald Scott said it is a shame that there isn't more than one open seat. He hopes that the other five candidates not appointed to Supervisor consider running for office in the next election. Mr. Scott asked the Chairman if there is a cutoff for any other candidates to apply. Ed Porter said it would be fair to allow additional candidates to come before the Board at the February 23, 2016 meeting. Steve Herzog stated the Board has until February 25, 2016 to vote on candidates.
- b. Buddy Rhoades discussed the Township's lack of communication with residents. He said Facebook does not reach everyone in the Township. Mr. Rhoades suggested posting an advertisement regarding the open Board of Supervisor seat at Triple Fresh. Pani Martin will make up a one page advertisement. Ed Porter volunteered to take the advertisement to Triple Fresh.

#### D. Office/Treasurer.

- 1) Keystate Publishers Inc. – Code of Ordinances – Pani Martin discussed the status of the Township's codification as well as Keystate Publishers. The last time a codification was done was in 2012. Ms. Martin stated our website links to Keystate Publishers which is an online search database of our ordinances. She said Keystate Publishers is going out of business and will be taking down their link to our ordinances. Ms. Martin said we need to look at getting the codification book up to date as well as find a new company to manage online codification. Steve Herzog said he would like to see company possibilities and costs. Steve Herzog also stated he would like it online. Steve Herzog said the Board needs to decide if they want a full codification.
- 2) Server – Pani Martin and Mike Crotty discussed bidding specifications regarding a new server. Mike Crotty said the Township needs to get three quotes.
- 3) Security Cameras – Areas to monitor with security cameras were discussed including the salt shed, gas tanks, office, and parking lot. Ed Porter will bring quotes for new security cameras to the next meeting.

#### E. New Business

- 1) Rouse Chamberlin – Ridgcrest Development - Mike Crotty is working with Rouse Chamberlin to get their checklist completed and they can start the first phase of the Ridgcrest Development. The draft will be presented at the next Board of Supervisors meeting.

### 3. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Steve Herzog made a motion to adjourn the Board of Supervisors meeting at 8:13 pm. Ed Porter seconded. VOTE: 4-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Valaitis,  
Township Secretary