

EAST FALLOWFIELD TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
June 11, 2019 Approved minutes
6:30 p.m.

Members Present

Steve Herzog, Chairman
Wilson Lambert, Vice Chairman
Joe Heffern, Member
Katja DiRado, Member
Carol Kulp, Member

Township Staff Present

Scott Swichar, Township Manager
Pani Martin, Township Treasurer
Lisa Valaitis, Township Secretary

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

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

2. DISCUSSION

A. Approval of Minutes.

1) May 1, 2019 Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Chairman Herzog made a motion to approve the May 1, 2019 Board of Supervisors meeting minutes as presented. Supervisor Carol Kulp seconded.

VOTE: 4-0 (Supervisor Kulp abstained.)

B. Township Manager's Report.

1) Weed Control Program for 2019 - Weeds, Inc. Contract.

Township Manager Swichar reported that River Valley Organics recently treated the weeds in the park with a natural product. He asked the Board of Supervisors to reconsider approving the Weeds, Inc. weed control program for the guard rails. Township Manager Swichar reported that he looked at alternative methods to handle the guard rails, but he has not found an effective organic treatment. River Valley Organics, the company that did the weed treatment in the park, did not recommend the natural product option for the guard rails. Township Manager Swichar stated he is concerned about car accidents occurring due to overgrown guard rails if this contract is not approved. Chairman Herzog requested that Township Manager Swichar continue investigating natural weed control options for next year.

MOTION: Chairman Herzog made a motion to approve Program #1 for \$2,152 for the 2019 vegetation control behind the guard rails on Township roads and authorize the Township Manager to sign the contract. Supervisor Wilson Lambert seconded.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

- a. Supervisor Kulp asked about the possibility of using the Public Works Department's summer help to weed whack around the guard rails instead of using the Weeds, Inc. program. Township Manager Swichar said it is dangerous for the Public Works Department employees to weed whack around the guard rails.

VOTE: 3-2 (Chairman Herzog, Supervisor Lambert and Supervisor Joe Heffern voted yea. Supervisor Katja DiRado and Supervisor Kulp voted nae.)

2) Sale of Public Works 1997 Ford Conventional H L8501 Truck (VIN # 1FDYN80E4VVA31109) - Resolution No. 2019-16.

Township Manager Swichar stated that the 1997 Ford Conventional Truck is the oldest truck in the fleet, and he recommended retiring this vehicle. The Ford F-350 that was recently purchased replaces this vehicle.

MOTION: Chairman Herzog made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2019-16 authorizing the sale of a 1997 Ford Conventional H L8501 truck (VIN# 1FDYN80E4VVA31109) as presented. Supervisor Lambert seconded.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

- a. Supervisor DiRado stated she is concerned about the number of vehicles that the Township has purchased this year. She requested a list of vehicles purchased and sold. Supervisor DiRado commented that the Board of Supervisors should put a limit on the number of vehicles purchased. She stated she is not against purchasing equipment, but she is concerned about how many vehicles are being purchased.
- b. Chairman Herzog stated one reason the Township has recently purchased several vehicles is because many of the Township vehicles are very old and there has not been a replacement plan in past years.
- c. Township Treasurer Pani Martin reported that the 2019 Capital Projects Budget includes all the vehicles that have been purchased this year. She stated that vehicle repairs had sky-rocketed in the last few years because of aging Township vehicles.

VOTE: 5-0

3) Vision Partnership Program Grant.

Township Manager Swichar recommended the Township apply for a Vision Partnership Program Grant through Chester County to complete a Village Master Plan for the Newlinville section of the Township. This section of the Township, which runs along Route 82, is one of the few areas in the Township that is zoned for commercial use. A Village Master Plan would help to direct future development of the Newlinville area as a walkable community that would accommodate various uses. Township Manager Swichar stated that he is hoping a Village Master Plan will also help convince PECO to consider doing something with the 89 acres they own. Township Manager Swichar reported that Ray Ott submitted an estimated project cost of \$30,380. The grant would cover 70% of project costs. The Township would be responsible for 30% of the project costs which is \$9,714. This cost could be budgeted in the 2020 budget. The grant deadline is June 28, 2019. The Newlinville area of the Township is zoned commercial, however, there are currently not a lot of businesses in that area. There are a lot of opportunities for development of this area of the Township. Township Manager Swichar reported that the Chester County Economic Development Council recommended looking at the Newlinville area of the Township for potential development. Township Manager Swichar stated that a Village Commercial Master Plan would provide the Township with a Concept Plan which could be used to create a Streetscape Improvement Plan. Township Manager Swichar stated that a Village Commercial Master Plan would be an extension of the Township Comprehensive Plan which identified Newlinville as a future village commercial area. The Village Commercial Master Plan would also provide a blueprint of that area and the infrastructure of the area. Supervisor. Township Manager Swichar explained that the Village Master Plan would review existing zoning and propose changes if recommended. The process of developing a Village

Master Plan would include public participation, workshops, creation of a task force, and monthly task force meetings.

MOTION: Chairman Herzog made a motion to authorize the Township Manager to request a Vision Partnership Program Grant in the amount of \$21,266 from the Chester County Planning Commission. Supervisor Heffern seconded.

VOTE: 4-1 (Chairman Herzog, Supervisor Lambert, Supervisor Heffern, and Supervisor DiRado voted yea. Supervisor Kulp voted nae.)

4) Park Day 2019 - Contract with Zip and Bounce, LLC.

MOTION: Chairman Herzog made a motion to approve a \$5,000 agreement for amusement rides with Zip and Bounce and to authorize the Township Manager to sign the contract. Supervisor Heffern seconded.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

- a. Supervisor Kulp asked if the Township gets the total cost covered. Township Treasurer Martin stated that donations pay for Park Day.

VOTE: 5-0

5) Update on LED Sign.

Township Manager Swichar reported they tested the electronic signs in the Township over the last two weekends. He stated that there is a survey online about the LED sign which may be accessed from Facebook and the website. Township Manager Swichar stated the survey has also been emailed to residents.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:

- a. Township Resident Ellen Kuehner discussed a concern about Township communication with residents that are not online. She stated that in order to communicate with every resident, a letter should have been sent to every residence to get feedback on the electronic sign. Township resident Ellen Kuehner also discussed the 1790 historical farm across the street from the Township building. She strongly urged the Board of Supervisors not to put an electronic sign in front of the Township building. She asked the Board of Supervisors whether they plan to install an electronic sign. Chairman Herzog said that there is no official plan to put an electronic sign in front of the Township building or at the park. The electronic sign was just trialed. Township resident Ellen Kuehner asked if the Township would be paying for the electronic sign or if the sign is being donated to the Township. Township Manager Swichar said that the Township would need to pay for a sign. Township Manager Swichar stated a township sign would be no bigger than the Weaver Mulch sign. Supervisor Kulp stated the cost quote from KC Signs is \$26,790. Chairman Herzog stated the cost includes installation of the sign. Township resident Ellen Kuehner also discussed a need to have the speed limit reduced on Strasburg Road.

6) New Business.

a. Mortonville Road.

Supervisor Heffern asked Township Manager Swichar if he had received anything further from Senator Dinniman regarding funding options for the match requirement of the Multimodal Transportation Grant for Mortonville Road repairs. Township Manager Swichar reported he has called Senator Dinniman's office several times and left messages. He reached out to PennDOT directly to find out whether there are any additional local funds available. Township Manager Swichar discussed the possible option to obtain consent from PennDOT to use Chester County Conservation District Grant funding to cover some of the matching fund requirement of the PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant. He said the Secretary

of PennDOT would have to formally waive a rule to allow the Chester County Conservation District Grant funds to be used as a match with the PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant. That rule has not been waived.

b. Star-Spangled Banner Day.

Supervisor DiRado asked about the status of the planning of the Star-Spangled Banner Day. Township Manager Swichar reported that the Greater Philadelphia Coalition will be at the event to conduct basic bike safety checks. Walmart is donating one boy bike and one girl bike and two helmets to the Township to be given away at the event. Township Manager Swichar said that residents are encouraged to bring their pets to this event. The Brandywine Veterinary Hospital is donating goodie bags. The Star-Spangled Banner Day will be held on Saturday, June 29, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in the Township Community Park.

c. Township Park Benches.

Supervisor DiRado discussed a need for more benches and an additional pavilion in the park. Township Manager Swichar stated they did include the purchase of park benches in this year's budget. Supervisor Lambert stated that they should be encouraging residents to use the park. Township Treasurer Martin reported the 2019 budget includes the purchase of ten picnic tables. There was a discussion about the no burning ordinance.

d. Open Space.

Supervisor DiRado said she is going to seek information on an Open Space Referendum to keep land preserved as open space. Chairman Herzog said that open space is over 50% of the Township. Supervisor DiRado stated she would like the Township to continue to preserve open space. Tax exemptions of municipal property tax was discussed. Supervisor Lambert stated that he continues to hear that East Fallowfield Township has a lot of open space. Supervisor Lambert discussed the Brandywine Conservancy requiring municipalities to manage open space. The public must have access to open space. Supervisor DiRado stated the Township should be promoting the Laurels to residents to make them aware of the property. Planning Commission Chairman Crook commented that the Laurels is considered open space, but it is not public land and you need to have a membership to access the land. Supervisor DiRado asked about the possibility of the Brandywine Conservancy offering membership discounts for the Laurels to East Fallowfield Township residents. Township Manager Swichar said he will speak to the Brandywine Conservancy to inquire about a possible membership discount for East Fallowfield Township residents.

3. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Chairman Herzog made a motion to adjourn the Board of Supervisors meeting at 7:30 p.m. Supervisor DiRado seconded. VOTE: 5-0

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa Valaitis,
Township Secretary