

**LOWER HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
MARCH 16, 2015**

The Lower Heidelberg Township Board of Supervisors held their regularly scheduled meeting on the above date. Those present were: Chairperson Deborah Scull, Vice-Chairman Neal Nevitt, Member Cheryl Johnson, Township Solicitor Andrew Bellwoar, Systems Design Engineering Pamela Stevens, Codes Enforcement Officer Glenn Kraft, Acting Township Engineer Scott Anderson, Chief W. Thomas Deiterich, Road Foreman Michael Boyson, Acting Emergency Management Coordinator/Fire Commissioner Robert Zerman and other attendees, Secretary/Treasurer Diana L. Minnich. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Scull at 7:04 p.m.

Mrs. Scull opened the MS4 Public Meeting. Mrs. Shimp from Berks Conservancy attended the MS4 Public Meeting to educate the residents about stormwater in the community.

The Minutes from the February 16, 2015 Regular Meeting were distributed for review prior to the meeting.

MOTION

Motion was made by Member Cheryl Johnson, seconded by Vice-Chairman Neal Nevitt to approve the minutes of February 16, 2015 regular meeting. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Open to the Public:

Bonnie Page, Western Berks Ambulance, gave her quarterly report. For the first two months this year Western Berks responded to 40 emergency calls in Lower Heidelberg Township. Neal Nevitt received a couple of complaints regarding the solicitations for contributions that were sent out. Mr. Nevitt suggested that next time they send solicitations out they should make it clearer that it is voluntary.

Before the Board is the Preliminary/Final Subdivision application of Carter and Sarah Reese. The Planning Commission recommends approval of the said subdivision which is situated along Reigel Road. Also for consideration is a waiver request from SALDO Section 402 (plan scale); Section 652 (curbs); Section 653 (sidewalks); and Section 658 (concrete monuments).

MOTION

Mr. Nevitt motioned to approve the waiver request for the Reese Preliminary/Final Subdivision from SALDO Section 402 (plan scale); Section 652 (curbs); Section 653 (sidewalks); and Section 658 (concrete monuments). The motion was seconded by Mrs. Johnson. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

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MOTION

Vice-Chairman Nevitt motioned that the Township approve the preliminary/final subdivision application for the Reese property, pursuant to the conditions set forth in the form of written decision presented by the Township Solicitor. Member Johnson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Forrest Stricker mentioned that since the Reese Subdivision is under Agricultural Easement, wouldn't the Berks County Ag Preservation Board have to approve where the house is located. Mr. Nevitt stated that is one condition of the approval.

Tax Collectors Report:

Sandra Davis turned over \$1,052.64.

Treasurers Report:

Attached to the minutes is the Summary of the Revenues and Expenditures for the month of February 2015.

MOTION

A motion was made by Chairperson Deborah Scull, seconded by Vice-Chairman Neal Nevitt to accept the Tax Collectors Report and the Treasurer's Report. The Report from the Tax Collector must be submitted in DCED format correctly and accompanied with the correct reports from the County and BCIU. When the Tax Collector prints out her computer reports the printouts should not be altered or handwritten on after receipt from the County or BCIU this is not acceptable and is **subject to Audit**. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Bills for the month of March 16, 2015:

MOTION

A motion was made by Chairperson Scull to accept and approve the bills for the month of March to be paid. Member Johnson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Acting Emergency Management Coordinator/Fire Commissioner's Report:

Robert Zerman gave the Fire Report for the month of February 2015. The Department responded to 84 calls; 6 of those were in Lower Heidelberg Township with no fire loss. The Fire Company

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is looking to replace their ladder truck. They are still waiting for information. Once they receive a formal proposal, he plans on bring the information to the municipalities to review. Mr. Zerman mentioned that they do not anticipate any additional funding from any of the municipalities. The current ladder truck is a 1997. In the last 3 years the fire company put \$135,000.00 into it. It is getting difficult to repair. They can't get any answers from the repair shop. The transmission company got involved as well. The new ladder truck will cost approximately \$985,000.00.

Planning Commission:

The Planning Commission met on March 9th and approved the February minutes. The Planning Commission continued the review of the Reese plan and recommends to the BOS preliminary/final approval. There was one time extension for Paper Mill Estates. The Board recommends advertising and approval of the Bamboo Ordinance.

Building/Zoning Report:

Glenn Kraft reviewed his report.

Kraft Codes addressed 1 property maintenance issue. Apparently the letters that were sent out regarding removal of snow from the sidewalks worked because during the last snow event there were no properties in violation.

Great Valley Consultants Report:

Scott Anderson, Township Engineer gave his report.

The following items were addressed:

1. Gaul Road Bridge: The Coordinator of Transportation for Wilson School District contacted GVC regarding their concern over the current weight restriction and its impact to the bus service for the Green Valley West Subdivision. GVC along with Mackin Engineering is working with the school district to resolve these concerns.
2. 23 Fairwood Drive – Fence Permit: GVC reviewed the applicant's request to install a fence within the stormwater easement at 23 Fairwood Drive.

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SDE Consulting Report:

Pamela Stevens gave her report.

1. Legacy at the Papermill: A brief discussion took place regarding the amounts due to the City of Reading. The Board determined to bill Mr. Powell for 27 apartments in apartment building 1 from the 4th quarter 2013.
2. Stitzer Meter Area: SDE revised the scope of work for the proposed sewer repairs in the area tributary to the Stitzer Meter. SDE will also meet with the Road Foreman to discuss manhole inserts in this area and possibly other areas in the Township.
3. SEO Activities: SDE prepared a draft Amendment to the Act 537 Plan concerning the Knollwood/Faust area and a draft copy was given to the Sewer Liason for review and comment. Waiting for the revised map to be finalized.
4. Operations – Conveyance System Operations: There was a root matter on North Church Road that partially blocked the main and backed sewer into 2 laterals. SDE recommends that the Board consider Captain Clog's proposal when it is received to address the root issue in the main. The Board should authorize the work to be done for a not to exceed a cost.

MOTION

Mr. Nevitt moved that approve engaging Captain Clog to address the root issue on North Church Road with the cost not to exceed \$5,000.00. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Scull. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Recreation Board:

Chairperson Deborah Scull gave her report. The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for March 28th at 2:00 at Hain's Church Grove. April 18th from 10:00 – 3:00 will be the Local Government Day/Earth Day activities.

Chief of Police Report:

Chief Deiterich gave the police report. The Police had 220 calls for service during the month of February. Chief Deiterich asked approval to consider order a new car which is a Ford Sedan

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in the amount of \$26,000.00.

MOTION

Member Johnson motioned to order a new Ford Sedan for the police department in the amount of \$26,000.00. Chairperson Scull seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Rob from TRM offered \$100.00 per radio for the old radios prior to the new system as long as they have been taken out and not cut out. He would give credit to the Township for work that will be done on the police vehicles. The Board agreed to the offer.

A brief discussion took place regarding snow emergency. Chief Deiterich mentioned that they can't enforce the snow emergency without proper signage posted. Andrew Bellwoar will review the snow emergency ordinance.

Road Foreman Report:

There were 17 ice/snow events during the month of February. Equipment maintenance/repairs included state inspections, replaced both rear brake chambers on the 1997 ford dump truck and replaced several hydraulic hoses and system components. Mike Boyson thanked the road crew for coming out 7 weekends in a row. They did a good job.

Secretary's Report:

The Secretary had nothing to report.

Solicitor's Report:

1. Tax Rebate – Dan Snyder: Mr. Snyder was being charged a penalty for his 2014 taxes. He apparently paid the discounted amount on a timely basis, but the check was not deposited by the Tax Collector. The County waived the penalty, but they noted that they cannot waive the Township portion.

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MOTION

Chairperson Deborah Scull moved that the Township authorize waiving the late penalty of \$171.10 to resident Daniel Snyder for his 2014 taxes. Member Cheryl Johnson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

2. Bamboo Ordinance: The Planning Commission recommended advertisement and approval of the Bamboo Ordinance.

MOTION

Motion was made by Neal Nevitt, seconded by Deborah Scull that the Township authorize the advertisement of the Bamboo Ordinance in the form as presented for adoption at the Board meeting on April 20, 2015. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

3. Zoning and Pipeline Ordinance: The Township continues to wait for the revisions to the draft ordinance from South Heidelberg Township with respects to the Zoning Ordinance revisions. SBM suggests to advertise a Regional PC meeting for Wednesday, March 25th to have it discuss.

MOTION

Member Cheryl Johnson motioned that the Township authorize the advertisement of a special meeting of the Regional Planning Commission for March 25, 2015. Vice-Chairman Neal Nevitt seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

4. Township Recognition of Local Government Week: SBM circulated a draft Resolution which establishes and recognizes the 2nd full week of April as Local Government Week.

MOTION

Mrs. Scull moved that the Township approve Resolution No. 2015-08, to establish Local Government Week as the Week of April 13, 2015. Mrs. Johnson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

5. Eways – Papermill Estates: The applicant submitted an MPC extension request for the project. The extension would move the review period expiration to June 15, 2015.

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MOTION

Motion was made by Member Johnson, seconded by Vice-Chair Nevitt that the Township approve the MPC extension for the Papermill Estates project, until June 15, 2015. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

6. Green Valley Dental Systems: Previously advised that the landowner (Stereo Barn) and the applicant (AJ Geisaman) have terminated the agreement of sale for the dental building parcel. They are apparently in discussions to transition the project to Stereo Barn but have not done so to date.

MOTION

Chairperson Deborah Scull moved that the Township approve the MPC extension for the Green Valley Dental project until April 21, 2015. Motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Neal Nevitt. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

7. Reese Property: The PC recommended approval of this application.

MOTION

Motion was made by Neal Nevitt that the Township approve the preliminary/final subdivision application for the Reese property, pursuant to the conditions set forth of written decision presented by the Township Solicitor. The motion was seconded by Cheryl Johnson. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

8. Fence Installation – 23 Fairwood: The resident at 23 Fairwood wants to install a pool and fencing on her property. However, the fencing will encroach on the Township's storm sewer easement.

MOTION

Member Johnson moved that the Township approve the Declaration of Easement Encroachment Agreement with Andrea Funk of 23 Fairwood Avenue, as presented, for the installation of a fence on the property. Chairperson Scull seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

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Chief Deiterich received an email from the commander of Berks County Emergency Response Team, Officer Jordan Smith has made it to the end. They are asking if he can join as a tactical officer for County Response Team.

MOTION

Mrs. Johnson motioned to allow Officer Smith to join BCERT. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Scull. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Open to the Public:

Chairperson Scull asked if there were any public comments.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Johnson and seconded by Mrs. Scull. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Diana Minnich
Secretary/Treasurer