

**Towamencin Township
Board of Supervisors
Monthly Meeting
May 27, 2009**

Present:

Daniel M. Littley, Chairman
Dr. Thomas Hollenbeck, Vice Chairman
H. Charles Wilson, III
James P. Sinz
John V. Gottschall

Staff:

Robert A. Ford, Township Manager
John T. Dooley, Esquire, Township Solicitor
Joseph Leis, Director of Community Planning
William Dingman, Sanitary Sewer Engineer

Chairman Littley called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Opening Comments

5 Chairman Littley announced the Board held an executive session prior to the meeting to discuss personnel and legal issues.

10 Chairman Littley announced the Township received a \$40,000 grant award from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission for Efficient Growth for Growing Suburbs Program (EGGS) for the Township's proposed Park and Ride Facility.

15 Chairman Littley noted the Township Pool will have an "Open House" on June 12th. He noted that the Township's pool and recreation department is now on Twitter.

Chairman Littley stated that the 5th District Water Battalion will be hosted by the Towamencin Volunteer Fire Company at 10:00 a.m. on July 18th.

Public Comments

20 Ann Sparks, 202 Wyncote Courte, asked if the meeting minutes could be posted more quickly. She noted the most recent ones on the website today were from February.

25 The Board directed Mr. Ford to correct this matter.

Approval of Minutes – May 13, 2009

5 On motion of Mr. Sinz, seconded by Dr. Hollenbeck, the Board approved the minutes of May 13, 2009 as presented.

Voting Yes: Daniel M. Littley, Dr. Thomas Hollenbeck, James P. Sinz, H. Charles Wilson, John V. Gottschall

10 **Voting No:** N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

Resolution 09-25: Walgreens (Regency Realty Group, Inc. – Towamencin Village Center)

15 Chairman Littley stated as required by the Village District Land Use & Design Manual, the applicant appeared before the Board of Supervisors on April 22, 2009 to seek approval for a proposed free-standing sign. At that meeting, the Board directed Staff to prepare a resolution to deny the sign design as presented at the April 22, 2009 meeting.

20 On motion of Dr. Hollenbeck, seconded by Mr. Gottschall, the Board approved the resolution denying the sign as presented at the April 22, 2009 meeting.

Voting Yes: Daniel M. Littley, Dr. Thomas Hollenbeck, H. Charles Wilson, John V. Gottschall

25 **Voting No:** James P. Sinz

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

30 Brian Donnelly of Regency presented a new design for the sign to the Board. Also presented were renderings of all other signs for the site.

Chairman Littley asked if that was all the signs because after tonight this matter would be closed. Mr. Donnelly confirmed that was all the signs.

35 Mr. Gottschall thought the sign should be lower.

Mr. Wilson suggested that the brick base be widened.

Public Comment

40 Betsy Meehan stated that the drawing of the proposed building did not look like the building currently being constructed.

Joe Silverman thought the building appears closer to Forty Foot Road.

45 Pat Litavec asked where the wall signs were to be located.

On motion of Mr. Sinz, seconded by Mr. Wilson, the Board approved the new sign, with the condition the brick base be widened to six feet.

- 5 **Voting Yes:** Daniel M. Littley, Dr. Thomas Hollenbeck, James P. Sinz, H. Charles Wilson,
Voting No: John V. Gottschall
Abstaining: N/A
Absent: N/A

10 **Zoning Hearing Board Application 2009-02: 1721 Kriebel Road – G. Windsor and Laura Tracy**

Chairman Littley stated the applicant is proposing a 24 foot x 36 foot pole barn and is seeking a variance to allow a detached garage to be located forward of the rear of the principal building.

- 15 It was the consensus of the Board not to send the Township Solicitor to the Zoning Hearing Board to oppose the application.

Request for Final Inspection – PSDC (SKF Building)

- 20 Chairman Littley noted that in accordance with §510 (a) of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Philadelphia Suburban Development Corporation has notified the Township that they have completed all the improvements required by the approved land development plan for the new SKF facility on Forty Foot Road. At the direction and authorization of the Board, the
25 Township Engineer must complete an inspection confirming approval or rejection of these improvements within thirty (30) days.

On motion of Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Sinz, the Board directed the Township Engineer to inspect and report on the completion of the improvements.

- 30 **Voting Yes:** Daniel M. Littley, Dr. Thomas Hollenbeck, James P. Sinz, H. Charles Wilson,
John V. Gottschall
Voting No: N/A
Abstaining: N/A
35 **Absent:** N/A

Resolution 09-26: Affirmation of Authorization to Submit Pennvest Grant Application

- 40 Chairman Littley noted at the Board's April 22, 2009 meeting, the Township Engineer advised that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania had announced that \$44 million in green infrastructure stimulus funding is available for Pennsylvania from the "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009." It was suggested that the Township should submit a grant application through this program to assist in funding the construction of a 35,910 square foot pervious parking area with infiltration bed and bio retention islands at Fischer's Park in a meadow area that has become a
45 facto parking lot. The Board directed that staff to prepare and submit an application for project funding by the May 18th, 2009 deadline. An application was filed in the amount of \$281,963.70

for the purpose of financing the construction. However, a formal resolution is required to affirm the Board's authorization granted at its April 22, 2009 meeting.

5 On motion of Mr. Sinz, seconded by Mr. Gottschall, the Board adopted Resolution 09-26 affirming the authorization to submit a Pennvest grant application.

Voting Yes: Daniel M. Littley, Dr. Thomas Hollenbeck, James P. Sinz, H. Charles Wilson,
John V. Gottschall

Voting No: N/A

10 **Abstaining:** N/A

Absent: N/A

Discussion on Proposed Street Light – Gehman and Tomlinson Roads

15 Chairman Littley stated that Dock Woods Community contacted the Township in February to request that a street light be placed at the intersection of Tomlinson and Gehman Roads. This matter was previously discussed at the Board's February meetings at which time the Board directed staff to obtain cost estimates and to invite neighboring residents to a meeting to express any comments or concerns.

20 Mr. Ford presented the report from the Township Engineer illustrating the light pattern of the proposed light.

25 Gordon Bell, President of Dock Woods Resident Association, commented that he and the several residents with him this evening were in favor of the light. He believed that it was a safety issue with additional traffic from the SKF development.

30 On motion of Dr. Hollenbeck, seconded by Mr. Sinz, the Board directed the administration to place a lamp on the existing pole as presented by Mr. Ford.

Voting Yes: Daniel M. Littley, Dr. Thomas Hollenbeck, James P. Sinz, H. Charles Wilson,
John V. Gottschall

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

35 **Absent:** N/A

Consideration of Contract Award – Fischer's Plan Update

40 Chairman Littley noted that following the award of a C2P2 Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Board of Supervisors sought proposals for a one-time contract to perform certain professional consulting services for the Township involving the update the 1998 Fischer's Park Master Plan for the 74-acre Fischer's Park. The Township received eight proposals for this project, three of which were selected at the Board's May 13th meeting for a final review and consideration. The firms were:

- 45
1. Barry Isett & Associates

- 2. CMX Engineers
- 3. Simone-Collins

5 Dr. Hollenbeck gave a background on the park plan, and noted in his opinion the best proposal to consider was from Simone-Collins as they had the background on the original plan.

On motion of Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Sinz, the Board awarded the contract to update the Fischer’s Park Master plan to Simone Collins.

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Voting Yes: Daniel M. Littley, Dr. Thomas Hollenbeck, James P. Sinz, H. Charles Wilson, John V. Gottschall

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

15

Absent: N/A

Warrant List

20 On motion of Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Sinz, the Board authorized payment of bills as presented.

Voting Yes: Daniel M. Littley, Dr. Thomas Hollenbeck, James P. Sinz, H. Charles Wilson, John V. Gottschall

Voting No: N/A

25

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

Presentation on Proposed Act 537 Amendment – Merck Flows

30 Chairman Littley stated Merck & Company has approached Upper Gwynedd Township and Towamencin Township about construction of a sewer line from its plant in Upper Gwynedd Township to the Upper Gwynedd Towamencin Municipal Authority (“UGTMA”) plant located in Towamencin Township near the intersection of Bustard Road and Kriebel Road. The proposed line would parallel an existing sewer line that takes residential and commercial flows from Upper Gwynedd Township. All costs would be funded by Merck.

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The proposal must be approved by Upper Gwynedd Township, Towamencin Township, and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Their goal is to submit an application to DEP by July 1.

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Mr. Littley noted that this was not a public hearing this evening, but an informational hearing to start the process.

45 Bill Dingman, Township Sanitary Sewer Engineer, provided a briefing on the Act 537 process and the specific Merck proposal.

Betsy Meehan, 2117 Kriebel Road, asked about trees.

Dr. Richard Costa asked what would be in the pipes, as he is concerned with any toxic materials.

5 Carolyn Costlow, 2080 Parkview Drive, asked about the location of the proposed pipe along Kriebel Road.

Joe Silverman, 1315 Reiff Road, asked about the quantity of capacity needed.

10 Gary Prowant, 1276 Sumneytown Pike, asked where information would be available to review.

Chairman Littley again reminded all that this was just the beginning of the process and there will be future meetings on the issue.

15 **Extinguishment of Easement Agreement with North Penn Water Authority**

Chairman Littley stated as a condition of approval of the Township's grant application for the Tennis-Lukens open space off Allentown Road in 2008, the Montgomery County Open Space Board required that an easement be obtained from the North Penn Water Authority in order to provide access through their property should the Township lose the ability to use the access through the Tennis-Lukens Cemetery. The Water Authority provided such an easement and executed the document at its meeting on January 22, 2008. The Township has since acquired legal ownership of the cemetery property and therefore no longer has the need to retain an easement across the Water Authority's property.

25 On motion of Mr. Gottschall, seconded by Mr. Wilson, the Board authorized the administration to extinguish the Easement Agreement with the North Penn Water Authority.

30 **Voting Yes:** Daniel M. Littley, Dr. Thomas Hollenbeck, James P. Sinz, H. Charles Wilson, John V. Gottschall

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

35 **Sanitary Sewer Line Extension and Reimbursement Agreement – Carroll Road**

Township Solicitor John Dooley, provided background on the issue noting that the Carroll Road homeowners approached the Township to be able to connect to the public sewer line and to provide for a reimbursement if future residents hook up to the line.

40 On motion of Dr. Hollenbeck, seconded by Mr. Sinz, the Board authorized the sanitary sewer line extension and reimbursement agreement with the residents of Carroll Road.

45 **Voting Yes:** Daniel M. Littley, Dr. Thomas Hollenbeck, James P. Sinz, H. Charles Wilson, John V. Gottschall

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A
Absent: N/A

5 **Additional Business**

Mr. Sinz complimented the Towamencin Volunteer Fire Company and neighboring fire departments who responded gallantly to a recent disastrous fire in his neighborhood last week.

10 Chairman Littley asked for a consensus of the Board for Staff to set up one sign ordinance for the Village. It was the consensus of the Board to do so.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

15 Respectfully submitted,

Robert A. Ford
Township Manager

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RAF/sl