

**Towamencin Township  
Board of Supervisors  
Monthly Meeting  
February 24, 2010  
7:30 p.m.**

**Present:**

Daniel M. Littley, Jr., 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

**Absent:**

Russell Benner, P.E., Township Engineer  
P. Tim Dickinson, Chief of Police

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

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

Chairman Littley announced that item number 4, 6, 7.1 and 7.2 have been pulled from the agenda and will be rescheduled at a later date.

10 Chairman Littley announced that the Township mailed out the 2010 Tax and Sewer bills. The 2% discount period will be ending April 30, 2010. Your sewer rental for 2010 will be included with your real estate tax bill that you should receive before mid March. The sewer and tax bills are sent in the same envelope and labeled: TAX and SEWER BILLS ENCLOSED. If you have not received the Tax and Sewer by mid March 15, please notify the Township Administration.

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**Waiver of Land Development – Ray’s Pizza**

20 Chairman Littley stated Ray’s Pizza on Valley Forge Road has submitted a request to the Board of Supervisors to not require the submission of a Land Development application for a proposed concrete pad, replacement concrete steps and the placement of a 18’ x 10’ x 8’ outdoor cooler/freezer. Per the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, this is an improvement that meets the definition for a Land Development. The Township Engineer has reviewed the plans

submitted and has indicated he has no objections to the Board granting a waiver, provided they comply with certain recommendations specified in more detail within his review memorandum.

5 Mr. David Hubbard, representing the applicant, advised that the applicant agrees to the conditions in the Township’s Engineer’s memorandum dated February 18, 2020. He also provided evidence of approval of the property owner to apply for this improvement.

10 On motion of Mr. Sinz, seconded by Mr. Wilson, the Board granted the waiver of land development for Ray’s Pizza with the requirement that the applicant reimburse the Township’s engineering and legal fees.

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

**Voting No:** N/A

15 **Abstaining:** N/A

**Absent:** N/A

**Warrant List**

20 On motion of Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Hollenbeck, the Board authorized payment of bills in the amount of \$196,505.90.

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

25 **Voting No:** N/A

**Abstaining:** N/A

**Absent:** N/A

**Fischer’s Park Master Plan Update**

30 Mr. Littley stated Towamencin Township is in the process of updating the 1998 Master Site and Design Plans for the 74 acre Fischer’s Park located in the southwestern portion of the Township. This project is partially funded by a \$25,000 grant from the Community Conservation Partnership Program administered by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (“DCNR”). The  
35 Township’s Open Space & Parks Advisory Committee has been diligently working on this update since last June and is present here this evening to have the draft presented to the Board by planning consultant Peter Simone.

40 Mr. Simone gave a brief PowerPoint presentation of the planning process and the pre-final master plan. The meeting then turned to questions, comments and suggestions.

45 Mr. Gottschall had two primary concerns regarding the proposed closing of Kriebel Road. First, he expressed concern for emergency responders navigating through this area of the Township. He asked that the proposal be run by the Township Police, Township Fire Marshall and area Emergency Management officials. Peter Simone commented that the barriers proposed at either side of Kriebel Road could be “knock-down” bollards that could be driven over by emergency

vehicles in such an event. Access to the residences on Kriebel Road remains unencumbered. Secondly, Mr. Gottschall questioned what would happen to traffic that could not use Kriebel Road. He suggested that a traffic study be done to determine ADT and if the road were to be closed, where traffic would likely go and what affect it would have on other roads. Peter Simone noted that Mr. Gottschall's concerns were important. He also noted that the closing of Kriebel Road could be done on a trial basis at little cost to the Township. There was further discussion about the proposed closing of the road by other members of the board about this topic and the advantages and disadvantages of this plan recommendation.

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Chairman Littley asked if there could be a handicapped accessible fishing located just below the dam added to the plan. He stated that fishing in this location was better than the ADA fishing area suggested up-stream. Peter Simone said that this could be added.

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Chairman Littley confirmed that in the proposed design of the play areas, children were not meant to be segregated based on physical ability. Peter Simone noted that all play facilities must be universally accessible.

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Mr. Littley asked if the plan had studied when the park is used most heavily. Peter Simone commented that park use was seen via general observation, and that use conformed to "normal" use times that you might see at any park.

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Chairman Littley asked if there was a priority list for recommended improvements. Peter Simone noted that the master plan committee decided against a priority list, so that the Township could respond better to specific grant programs that might target specific park improvements (such as Enhancements funding for the pedestrian bridge). Mr. Littley suggested that the committee reconsider this decision and develop a priority list (not necessarily including every element) since it might help the Township in the future in deciding which improvements were the most important. Members of the committee present did not object to this suggestion. Peter Simone will coordinate this with the committee members via email. For example, Mr. Hollenbeck noted that the proposed new restrooms might be high on the priority list, since the summer concert series and the "turkey-trot" run draws large crowds to the park.

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There was general discussion about the need for this plan, even in this economic recession, so that the Township is prepared to move ahead with improvements as funding becomes available.

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Master Plan committee member Arlene Smith noted the importance of Fischer's Park in people's daily lives. She emphasized that the park is heavily used during all times of the day and this is a very important part of the community.

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A member of the public echoed concerns of Mr. Gottschall about closing Kriebel Road. He suggested that closing the road could be tried on weekends, like is done on Martin Luther King Drive in Philadelphia's Fairmount Park.

45

Joe Silverman commented on the funding process and how money on the park planning and future improvements could be better spent on other, more urgent matters. Mr. Littley suggested

that Joe contact state and federal officials and that grant monies used for the park are specific to that purpose.

5 Peter Simone commented on the importance of parks like Fischer’s Park to the mental and physical well-being of the community.

10 Mr. Gottschall asked if the proposed park improvements were all “stand-alone” improvements that could be completed one at a time. Peter Simone noted that some were – while there would be construction and cost efficiencies in completing some improvements together.

The Board of Supervisors needs to pass a motion to send the pre-final plan on to the DCNR for their review with these minutes. Peter Simone noted that the review will probably take 2 months.

15 On motion of Mr. Sinz, seconded by Mr. Gottschall, the Board authorized the administration to submit the plan in draft form to DCNR for review and comments.

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

**Voting No:** N/A

20 **Abstaining:** N/A

**Absent:** N/A

**Morgan Log House – Farmer’s Market**

25 Ms. Sarah DiSantis was introduced and presented an event narration to the Board as follows:

**I. Event Narrative/Objective:**

30 The Morgan Log House wishes to host a Farmers Market on the grounds of the Morgan Log House. The objective for this event would be to increase the site’s visability within the Community, offer a highly accessible area in which local growers can utilize, in order, and to support Towamencin Township’s mission of a “community of tradition and vision.”

**1. Event Overview:**

- 35 a. **Dates:** event will run two Saturdays a month beginning July, 2010 and ending in late September, 2010.  
b. **Times:** 9am to 12pm, not to interfere with the Township pool opening time of 12:30pm.  
c. **Location:** event area will be the “upper” field, on the north-side of the MLH.

**2. Setup information:**

- 40 a. **Farmers/vendors:** maximum number limited to 8 total  
b. **Setup spaces:** average size will be 20’ x 20’. Spaces will be marked by the MLH staff prior to the event.  
c. **Trash:** all trash created by the farmers/vendors will be removed by them. Trash created by the public/visitors will be removed by the MLH staff and put out for  
45 collection in MLH’s weekly trash pick up.  
d. **Restrooms:** MLH has one porta-john available for the public. MLH office restroom will be available for the farmers/vendors use.

e. **Parking:** Farmers/vendors will park on the street along the front of MLH.

3. **Miscellaneous information:**

a. **Products sold:** Farmers/vendors will include produce, fruit, and cut flowers. Selling of crafts, “garage sale” items, antiques will not be allowed.

b. **Famer/Vendor Registration fee scale:**

- i. \$200 per farmer/vendor for the season (July-Sept) OR
- ii. \$55 per farmer/vendor for a one-time “guest”

c. **Registration fees collected:** will be applied to event advertising.

- i. \$150-\$200 for outdoor fence banners advertising the event
- ii. \$25 for advertising on MLH website (cost of MLH web designer to make changes to the homepage where the event will be highlighted).
- iii. Up to \$800 for advertisement in local media.
- iv. \$20-\$60 monthly cost for printing flyers to distribute to local venues.
- v. More advertising avenues to be determined

d. **Museum & Visitor Center operations:** MLH will open at 10am for tours on the mornings the event is taking place. Regular admission will be charged for tours during this event. The Farmers Market event will be free of charge for the public to attend.

Ms. DiSantis advised that she had polled area residents, all of who supported the Farmer’s Market, with questions on where the parking would be provided.

On motion of Dr. Hollenbeck, seconded by Mr. Sinz, the Board approved the Farmer’s Market to be held at the Morgan Log House site.

**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

**Finance Committee Report**

Chairman Littley stated that as noted during the Budget workshops, the Township Finance Committee would be meeting on a monthly basis throughout 2010 to closely monitor economic indicators and the pulse of the Township’s revenues and expenses. The Committee met last week on February 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Wilson reported that the focus of the meeting in February were the pension funds for both the Uniform and Non-Uniform plans. He noted that the Township’s actuary recommended changes to the plan assumptions to conform with current models. Supervisor Wilson explained the options provided through Act 44 by the State and that the Committee is recommending that the Township retain the current smoothing at 110%.

**Resolution 10-11: Non-Uniform Employees Pension Plan**

Mr. Littley stated that in September, Governor Rendell signed pension recovery legislation in the form of Act 44 of 2009 which provides optional funding relief that basically comes in two forms. First, asset smoothing can now be as high as 130% of market value for the January 2009 valuations (the cap before Act 44 was 120%). The second short-term relief is that the amortization component of the MMO can be reduced by 25% in the 2011 and 2012 Minimum Municipal Obligations. The Township Finance Committee has reviewed the options and is recommending that the Township retain its current smoothing level at 110% with no change to the amortization component of the MMO. Reports confirming what smoothing level selected must be filed with the State by March 31, 2010.

Additionally, it was noted that the Township’s Actuary had recommend a change of the plan assumptions by using the GA 1983 Mortality Tables for plan valuation. Supervisor Wilson confirmed that the Finance Committee had reviewed this issue and recommended approval.

On motion of Mr. Gottschall, seconded by Dr. Hollenbeck, the Board adopted Resolution 10-11.

**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

**Resolution 10-12: Police Pension Plan**

Chairman Littley in September, Governor Rendell signed pension recovery legislation in the form of Act 44 of 2009 which provides optional funding relief that basically comes in two forms. First, asset smoothing can now be as high as 130% of market value for the January 2009 valuations (the cap before Act 44 was 120%). The second short-term relief is that the amortization component of the MMO can be reduced by 25% in the 2011 and 2012 Minimum Municipal Obligations. The Township Finance Committee has reviewed the options and is recommending that the Township retain its current smoothing level at 110% with no change to the amortization component of the MMO. Reports confirming what smoothing level selected must be filed with the State by March 31, 2010.

Additionally, it was noted that the Township’s Actuary had recommend a change of the plan assumptions by using the GA 1983 Mortality Tables and a retirement age of 53 with 25 years of service for plan valuation. Supervisor Wilson confirmed that the Finance Committee had reviewed this issue and recommended approval.

On motion of Mr. Gottschall, seconded by Mr. Sinz, the Board adopted Resolution 10-12.

**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

**Resolution 10-13: Park Rental Fees**

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Chairman Littley stated that the Board directed the administration to prepare a resolution that outlined the Township's policy on rental fees for its park facilities. He noted that the policy was that fees and deposits will be required for all organizations, with the exception of events sponsored by a North Penn School District School located within Towamencin Township.

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On motion of Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Gottschall, the Board adopted Resolution 10-13 regarding park rental fees.

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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

**Absent:** N/A

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Robert A. Ford  
Township Manager

RAF/sl

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