

**Towamencin Township
Board of Supervisors
Work Session Meeting
May 11, 2011
7:30 pm**

Present:

Daniel M. Littley, Jr., Chairman
John V. Gottschall, Vice Chairman
H. Charles Wilson, III
James P. Sinz
Patricia Younce

Staff:

Robert A. Ford, Township Manager
John T. Dooley, Esquire, Township Solicitor
Joseph Leis, Director of Community Planning
P. Tim Dickinson, Chief of Police

Chairman Littley called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm and led the assemblage in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Chairman Littley stated that May is “Military Appreciation Month”. He asked that residents fly the flag and show appreciation to those who serve to protect our rights and freedom.

10 **Approval of Minutes – April 27, 2011**

On motion of Mr. Gottschall, seconded by Mrs. Younce, the Board approved the minutes of April 27, 2011 as written.

15 **Voting Yes:** Daniel M. Littley, James P. Sinz, H. Charles Wilson, John V. Gottschall, Patricia Younce

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

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Authorization to Advertise Ordinance: Noise Ordinance

25 Chairman Littley noted that staff is recommending the Board consider adopting a new ordinance controlling noise pollution throughout the Township. The proposed ordinance will control noise levels both during daytime hours and nighttime hours.

The Board directed that the present draft be changed to 11:00 pm Friday and Saturday and 10:00 pm Sunday through Thursday.

5 Mr. Joe Silverman, 1315 Reiff Road asked several questions about the noise Ordinance that were answered by staff and the Board.

On motion of Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Sinz, the Board approved the advertisement of the Ordinance with the recommended change.

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Voting Yes: Daniel M. Littley, James P. Sinz, H. Charles Wilson, John V. Gottschall, Patricia Younce

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

15 **Absent:** N/A

Authorization to Advertise: Wind Energy Ordinance

20 Chairman Littley stated the Board directed staff to research municipal ordinances regulating Wind Energy. Staff reviewed several ordinances and prepared a proposed ordinance based primarily on the Franconia Township ordinance.

After a brief discussion, the Board directed the staff to obtain additional sample Ordinances and bring this matter back before the Board at a future meeting.

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The issue was tabled until staff could bring back the additional information.

TYA Storage Sheds – Green Lane Park

30 Chairman Littley noted this issue was discussed and then tabled for the gathering of additional information at the Board's April 13, 2011 meeting. The Board directed the administration to contact UGTMA about any concerns they have on the sheds, and set up a meeting later in April with Supervisors Littley and Sinz and the TYA leadership.

35 The Towamencin Youth Association is seeking permission to place two storage sheds at the Green Lane Ball fields to be used for storage of equipment. The Board approved a 12 foot by 18 foot shed last year. The current proposal is for two 8 foot by 6 foot sheds to be located behind the back stop of each field. Staff noted that they started construction of the sheds prior to Board approval. A Stop Work Order was issued and all work has ceased pending review by the Board.

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Mr. Ford stated that UGTMA has approved the placement of the sheds depending on Board approval.

Mr. Gottschall asked if the term 'sheds' is in the TYA agreement. Mr. Ford said it is not.

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Mr. Gottschall asked how many sheds does TYA need. He also stated that TYA pay additional fees for the sheds, but that the building permit fee be waived.

Mrs. Younce noted she thinks the agreement should limit the number of sheds.

Jeff Baer of TYA advised that the new sheds are to replace older sheds that were previously there.

Mr. Gottschall commented that TYA should pay rent to keep the sheds on Township property. He questioned how many other organizations could approach the Township to store materials. Mr. Gottschall noted that the current agreement does not provide for storage of equipment.

Chairman Littley commented that TYA is paying over \$12,000 a year for the use of the fields that is increased each year.

Chairman Littley stated that this issue could be included in an amended agreement to provide placement of equipment and storage sheds.

Mr. Sinz suggested that the issue on tonight's agenda be resolved and that the agreement be looked at again in July after the planned walk around takes place.

On motion of Mr. Sinz, seconded by Mr. Wilson, the Board approved the placement of the two sheds with the condition that they be removed in the future should UGTMA or the Township request it.

Voting Yes: Daniel M. Littley, James P. Sinz, H. Charles Wilson, John V. Gottschall, Patricia Younce

Voting No: N/A

Abstaining: N/A

Absent: N/A

COPS Hiring Program – 2011

Chairman Littley noted this item has been removed from the agenda.

Consideration of Contract Award: Fischer's Park Improvements

Chairman Littley noted the Township is seeking DCNR and other grant funds as a match to Township funds for construction of improvements at Fischer's Park. The preparation of construction drawings during the summer will make the project "shovel-ready" (ready to be bid) when the anticipated DCNR grant award is made in Nov-Dec 2011. While funds used for the preparation of the construction documents will not be counted as a match to DCNR monies, the net effect of having a project designed and documented will be a great benefit to the project as compared to having no design complete.

The Township received the below five responses to our Request for Proposals to provide landscape architectural and engineering services for improvements to Fischer’s Park.

	Firm	Proposed Cost
1.	Bursich Associates	\$63,240.00
2.	CKS Engineers	\$69,000.00
3.	T&M Associates	\$72,712.00
4.	Simone-Collins	\$84,003.00
5.	Gilmore Associates	\$96,167.60

5 Chairman Littley suggested that this issue be held in abeyance until the board can fully review the proposals and interview firms.

10 On motion of Mr. Gottschall, seconded by Mr. Sinz, the Board voted to put this issue aside until they could fully review the proposals and conduct interviews.

Voting Yes: Daniel M. Littley, James P. Sinz, H. Charles Wilson, John V. Gottschall, Patricia Younce

Voting No: N/A

15 **Abstaining:** N/A

Absent: N/A

Consider Approval of Updated TYA Field Use Agreement

20 Chairman Littley noted members of the TYA Board met with officials of Towamencin Township on Thursday April 28th. The meeting included Supervisors Littley and Sinz, as well as the Township Manager and Director of Public Works. Among the issues discussed was the need to update the Field Use Agreement between TYA and the Township, specifically to revise the Exhibit that listed field use dates and times for Heebner Park and Grist Mill Park.

25 On motion of Mr. Sinz, seconded by Mr. Gottschall, the Board authorized the execution of the revised TYA Agreement.

Voting Yes: Daniel M. Littley, James P. Sinz, H. Charles Wilson, John V. Gottschall, Patricia Younce

Voting No: N/A

30 **Abstaining:** N/A

Absent: N/A

Appointments to Economic Development Committee

35 Chairman Littley stated the Board established the Economic Development Committee (“EDC”) in March 2011 with the charge to help create opportunities for economic development through desirable business growth, expansion, retention and attraction in working as partners with

businesses in order to develop a climate conducive to maintaining a strong economic base in Towamencin Township. The EDC is to consist of the following members:

- 5 a. Two Township Supervisors (Representation from Planning and Finance liaisons)
- b. Township Community Planning and Land Development Director
- 5 c. Five Community Business representatives with representation from the following areas:
 - 1. Active shopping center, business developer
 - 10 2. Active major land development developer
 - 3. Small business owner
 - 4. Professional business owner
 - 5. Commercial Real Estate professional

Chairman Littley proposed the following individuals:

- 15 Mark Nicoletti of Philadelphia Suburban Development Corp “PSDC”
- Jim Wrigley of Trefoil
- Kim Diehl of Coffee Head

20 Chairman Littley noted that the other positions would be filled at a later date.

Mr. Sinz commented that the group should explore all options with a positive spirit.

Chairman Littley noted the first meeting will be held next week.

25 On motion of Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Sinz, the Board appointed Mark Nicoletti, Jim Wrigley and Kim Diehl to the Economic Development Committee.

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

35 **Act 537 Comment Letter**

Mr. Ford advised the Board that Upper Gwynedd Township had recently completed a revised Act 537 Plan Amendment with a 30-day Public Comment period concluding on May 14, 2011. He noted that Staff had completed a review of the Update Revision, dated August 2010, as revised April 2011, and that Towamencin Township’s November 2010 comments, as submitted to Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and Upper Gwynedd Township, are not included in the plan. A review letter has been prepared and distributed to the Board that repeats the prior correspondence and states additional concerns in regards to the above noted plan. Mr. Ford requested approval from the Board to forward the review letter to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and Upper Gwynedd Township.

On motion of Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Gottschall, the Board authorized the administration to submit the Township's comments to the DEP regarding the Upper Gwynedd/Lansdale Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plans.

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

10 There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

15 Robert A. Ford
 Township Manager

20 RAF/sl

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