

MINUTES

Upper Saucon Township Board of Supervisors
Regular Meeting
Monday, October 3, 2011 – 6:00 P.M.
Township Municipal Building

Members Present: Miro A. Gutzmirtl, Chairman (arrived approx. 6:45 pm)
Stephen Wagner, Vice Chairman
Joseph E. Horvath
John E. Gilda, Jr.

Absent: Joaquim "Jack" DeMatos

Staff Attending: Thomas F. Beil, Township Manager
Robert E. Kassel, Jr., Asst. Township Manager
Dennis Harman, P.E., Township Engineer
Jeffrey Dimmich, Township Solicitor

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Stephen Wagner called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m., in the Public Meeting Room of the Upper Saucon Township Municipal Building, 5500 Camp Meeting Road, Upper Saucon Township, Lehigh County, PA.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chairman Wagner asked all in attendance to stand and recite the "Pledge of Allegiance."

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark Wirth, 2438 Black River Road - Mr. Wirth asked the Board to review the stormwater management system for a proposed development at Colesville Road and Route 378. He is concerned that the existing stormwater management system is inadequate and that additional stormwater runoff from the proposed development will damage his property. Mr. Beil clarified that the proposed development is called Old Saucon and that plans for this development are currently being reviewed by the Planning Commission. Mr. Beil invited Mr. Wirth to attend the next Planning Commission meeting to voice his concerns.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Board reviewed a locally produced film detailing the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Saucon Rail Trail. The video can be viewed on the Township's website.

SUBDIVISIONS & LAND DEVELOPMENTS

None

MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Gilda and seconded by Mr. Horvath to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 19, 2011.

The motion was approved by a vote of 3 to 0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Horvath reported that the Finance Committee continues to meet to prepare budget recommendations for fiscal year 2012.

ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 73-B – Amendment to Earned Income Tax Ordinance

Motion made by Mr. Horvath and seconded by Mr. Gilda to adopt Ordinance No. 73-B re-enacting, re-stating, and amending the Township's prior Ordinance relating to the imposition and collection of an Earned Income Tax by the Township in order to conform with the provisions of Act 32.

Mr. Beil explained that the purpose of the ordinance is to have a uniform set of rules across all the municipalities in Lehigh County to support the County-wide collection of Earned Income Tax (EIT.) Mr. Beil stated that the tax rate does not change with this ordinance and most of the changes are administrative.

Mr. Wagner expressed concern that the delinquent tax provisions contained in the proposed ordinance might give rise to a private tax collection agency abusing its authority in collecting delinquent taxes by charging delinquent taxpayers excessive fees and penalties. Solicitor Dimmich stated that the Lehigh Tax Collection Committee has the responsibility to determine if the fees and penalties charged to delinquent taxpayers are reasonable.

The motion was approved by a vote of 3 to 0.

Mr. Gutzmirtl arrived at the meeting and asked that Mr. Wagner continue to Chair the meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

None

MOTIONS

Request For Payment – Asphalt Maintenance Solutions, LLC – Certification No. 1 (Final)

Motion made by Mr. Horvath and seconded by Mr. Gilda to authorize payment in the amount of \$164,313.25 to Asphalt Maintenance Solutions, LLC for crack sealing and seal coating work on various Township roads.

The motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

Amendment To Intermunicipal Agreement With Borough of Coopersburg

Motion made by Mr. Gutzmirtl and seconded by Mr. Horvath to approve an amendment to the Intermunicipal Agreement with the Borough of Coopersburg relating to the operation and joint use of certain sewage transmission facilities located in both the Township and the Borough.

Mr. Beil explained that the Agreement is in conformance with the recent amendment to the Township's Act 537 Sewage Plan to accommodate the Brinley Court subdivision.

The motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

Request For Payment – RGC Development – Certification No. 3

Motion by Mr. Gutzmirtl and seconded by Mr. Gilda to authorize payment in the amount of \$18,473.00 to RGC Development for repairs made to sanitary sewer lines in the Hampshire Road area of the Township.

The motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

Request For Payment – Barry J. Hoffman, Inc. – Certification No. 9

Motion made by Mr. Gilda and seconded by Mr. Horvath to authorize payment in the amount of \$701.00 to Barry J. Hoffman, Inc., for electrical work completed at various Township facilities.

The motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

Request For Payment – Barry J. Hoffman, Inc. – Certification No. 10

Motion made by Mr. Gilda and seconded by Mr. Gutzmirtl to authorize payment in the amount of \$249.00 to Barry J. Hoffman, Inc., for work completed on the electrical system at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION ITEMS

None

DIRECTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Miro Gutzmirtl – Discussion of Old Saucon Development

Mr. Gutzmirtl updated the Board on the latest details of the Old Saucon development. Mr. Gutzmirtl also addressed the major re-write of the SALDO to be released prior to the end of the year.

Zoning Hearing Board Agenda -- October 10, 2011

Mr. Beil reviewed the appeal filed by the owner of the Center Valley Motel to add a convenience store to the motel facility located at 4942 Route 309. The Board of Supervisors determined that this was a routine matter that could be handled by the Zoning Hearing Board without input from the Board of Supervisors.

Board of Supervisors - Meeting Schedule for October, November, and December

Mr. Beil suggested that the Board cancel the second meeting in October and the first meeting in December due to an anticipated light workload. It was the consensus of the Board to cancel the second meeting in October and the first meeting in December provided that all business matters can be handled at the remaining meetings.

BILLS, PAYROLL, AND COMMISSIONS

Prepaid Invoice List #09162011 dated 09/30/2011 for \$203,293.29

Warrant List #09162011 dated 09/30/2011 for \$574,032.38

Motion made by Mr. Horvath and seconded by Mr. Wagner to authorize the payment of the Prepaid Invoice List and the Warrant List.

The motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

2012 Township Budget

Mr. Kassel updated the Board on the work done to date on the 2012 Township budget. Township staff is working with the Finance and Administration Committee and the Budget Review Advisory Committee to develop the 2012 budget. Mr. Beil said the budget is under pressure primarily due to lower revenues, higher service demands, rising material costs, reduced State and County aid, rising costs of complying with State and Federal mandates, and the upward spiral in employee benefit costs. The Budget Review Advisory Committee is exploring the following options to reduce the anticipated budget shortfall:

- Possible staff reductions in the Police Department and/or Public Works Department.
- Eliminating the Open Space Program and making drastic cuts to the Recreation Program.
- Selling Township-owned property and/or assets which would result in a significant cash infusion.
- Requiring employees to pay more for health and pension benefits.
- Real estate tax increase.
- Identifying cost-cutting measures and revenue producing ideas to address the current budget imbalance.

Mr. Beil said the Budget Review Advisory Committee will officially present its findings and recommendations concerning the 2012 budget at the November 7 Board of Supervisors meeting. Mr. Beil also mentioned that the Finance and Administration Committee will meet in early November to finalize the preliminary budget and the preliminary budget will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on November 21. It is anticipated that the Board will adopt the final budget at its December 19 meeting.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board met in executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

The Board returned from executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Gilda and seconded by Mr. Horvath to adjourn the meeting.

The motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

Secretary

