

**LOWER MAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MINUTES - JULY 17, 2006**

Present: Mr. Steve Santarsiero, Chairman  
Mr. Ronald Smith, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Greg Caiola, Secretary/Treasurer  
Mr. Terry Fedorchak, Township Manager  
Ms. Grace Godshalk, Supervisor  
Mr. Peter Stainthorpe – Supervisor

Mr. Robert Baxter                      Mr. Martin Healy  
Mr. Steven Ross                        Mr. Anthony Spisto

Ms. Karen McElwee                    Ms. Wendy Jacobson-Simon  
Ms. Judith Gordon                     Ms. Doreen Kaplan  
Mr. Gregory Smith

Absent: Mr. David Vandenburg

A meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on July 17, 2006 for the purpose of interviewing candidates for the various boards and commissions. Chairman Santarsiero called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

**CITIZENS BUDGET COMMISSION**

**Robert Baxter**

Mr. Santarsiero asked Mr. Baxter what he felt he could bring to the commission. Mr. Baxter's reply was his extensive accounting and managerial backgrounds. He also served as an auditor for Westtown Township in West Chester, PA. Mr. Santarsiero commented that Mr. Baxter had a unique perspective with respect to municipal budgets and asked him what challenges he saw Lower Makefield Township experiencing in the future. Mr. Baxter commented that the issue of providing services within the township and not increasing taxes. He also commented that the close proximity to the Delaware River posed causes some complexity that other townships did not have. Mr. Stainthorpe asked Mr. Baxter if he was an elected auditor and how active was the board at Westtown Township. Mr. Baxter commented that he was an active, working auditor. Mr. Stainthorpe questioned Mr. Baxter if he was working and if he had the time to serve on the commission. Mr. Baxter replied that he was working in New York and did not foresee any scheduling issues. Mr. Santarsiero asked Mr. Baxter about his philosophy on providing services and the raising of taxes for services. Mr. Baxter replied that in order to keep a high level of service to the township it may be necessary to raise taxes. Mr.

Santasiere asked Mr. Baxter if he was interested in another position within the township; he replied that he was.

#### Martin Healy

Mr. Healy is currently on the Sewer Authority Board. His background is in finance and he gains a great deal of satisfaction from volunteering for the township. Mr. Santarsiero asked Mr. Healy what he felt was the biggest challenge for the township going forward. Mr. Healy replied that the township needs to better articulate long-term goals to the community. He also believed that the township has to keep an eye on dollar expenditures by better educating the public. Mr. Santarsiero also asked Mr. Martin his philosophy on providing services and raising of taxes for services. Mr. Martin replied that the township is responsible for providing a good level of service and that the frontline employees need support. He said that the township must be careful how they use and spend tax money. Mr. Caiola asked Mr. Martin how long his commitment was to the Sewer Authority Board. He replied he has two years left on the Board.

#### Mr. Steven Ross

Mr. Ross' has an MBA in finance. He currently owns his own company. Mr. Santarsiero asked Mr. Ross his philosophy on providing services and the raising of taxes for services. Mr. Ross replied in order for services to be maintained they need to be paid for. If residents want to maintain a high standard of living that they are used to in the township, then taxes will have to be increased. Ms. Godshalk asked Mr. Ross what good ideas he could bring to the board. His replied was to generate revenue possibly from user fees. Also Mr. Ross brought up the issue of the township revoking its dry status. Mr. Stainthorpe replied that there is no additional revenue for the township. The dry status is by referendum. The only benefit would be to the restaurant owners if they pushed to revoke the referendum. There is no financial gain or accruing of taxes for the township. Mr. Smith asked Mr. Ross is he was interested in a position on the Economic Development Board. His reply was yes and that he was interested in exploring ways of bringing revenue into the township and stabilizing business.

#### Mr. Anthony Spisto

Mr. Caiola asked Mr. Spisto his qualifications and what positives he could bring to the Board. Mr. Spisto replied that he has a wealth of experience in finance and can work well within budget guidelines. He is also an arbitrator for the Better Business Bureau for the Lemon Law and was elected to the condo board association where he lives. Mr. Santarsiero asked Mr. Spisto what his philosophy was on the idea of providing services and raising of taxes for services. Mr. Spisto replied that the first priority is for a balanced budget; however, situations arise where plans have to be adjusted and raising taxes may have to be done. Mr. Stainthorpe asked Mr. Spisto his views on earned income tax. His view was that the Board of Supervisors needs to get a pulse on the community and their feelings. He believed that the senior population could have objection since they have a limited income base. However, there could be a fair method of balance to determine if an

earned income tax is viable. Mr. Smith commented his appreciation to Mr. Spisto on his candor on this subject.

### SPECIAL EVENTS COMMISSION

#### Ms. Karen McElwee

Mr. Santarsiero commented that the board will consist of ten or eleven people who will be responsible for coordinating community events three times a year. Mr. Santarisero asked Ms. McElwee what she would like to see happening in the township. She replied organizing a 5 or 10K race possibly benefiting the firehouse, a corn roast on a local farm which would showcase the great open space we have, and a carnival benefiting the children of the township. Mr. Smith asked Ms. McElwee to comment on her past experience involving community events. She discussed her participation with Canal Day as a team player. She felt that Lower Makefield Township had no center of town as does Yardley borough. She believed the Pride Day event would give the township the "face" it has been missing.

#### Ms. Susan VanOrden

Ms. VanOrden is a borough resident; however, she would like to plan community events for Lower Makefield. Ms. Godshalk suggested that she could share her ideas with the committee once it becomes organized. Mr. Terry Fedorchak will get in touch with Ms. VanOrden when such committee becomes organized.

#### Ms. Wendy Jacobson-Simon

The interview between Ms. Jacobson-Simon and the Board of Supervisors was conducted via conference call. Mr. Santarsiero asked her to tell the Board of Supervisor her involvement in community events. Ms. Jacobson-Simon is very active in Kol-Emet where she directs volunteers who are involved in nursing home, youth and hospice activities. She is also involved in collecting clothing for shelters, blood drives, highway clean-up program and the Aid for Friends program. Mr. Stainthorpe asked her if she had the time to be involved on this committee since she already was very active for Kol-Emet. She replied that she would be very interested in being a committee person not a chairman. Mr. Caiola asked her what would be some suggestions for community events. Ms. Jacobson-Simon replied that the township could incorporate different seasons and holiday events to promote sense of community. Possible venues could be township farms and the township building.

#### Mr. Gregory Smith

Mr. Smith's background is in event planning. He also has an extensive background in the Boys and Girls Club. He is involved with ICIS. This organization encompasses people

from all disciplines; equipment rental company, floral, food service and entertaining. He has a music background and is also involved with the Pennsbury Community Chorus.

Ms. Judith Gordon

Mr. Santarsiero asked what future township events Ms. Gordon would like to see occur. She replied that the township should tap into the rich history of the township. Possibly arranging a road rally which would involve the older children in the township. Mr. Stainthorpe commented on the success of the Jewish Festival at Shady Brook which Ms. Gordon participated in planning. Her role in the event was advertising and registration.

Ms. Doreen Kaplan

Ms. Kaplan strengths are as a social worker and a group process person. Mr. Santarsiero asked Ms. Kaplan what future township events she would like to see occur. She suggested a family picnic and a Halloween parade.

There being no further business, Mr. Santarsiero moved, Mr. Smith seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Greg Caiola  
Secretary/Treasurer