

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES – APRIL 4, 2005

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on April 4, 2005. Chairman Stainthorpe called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. noting that the Board had been meeting in Executive Session since 6:00 p.m. interviewing candidates for Boards and Commission and discussing legal matters. Mr. Stainthorpe noted that while Chief Coluzzi is present to answer any questions, he will be leaving the meeting as he has been working since Saturday dealing with flood issues. Mr. Stainthorpe also commended all the emergency services personnel for their work over the weekend dealing with the flood. He stated while there was significant property damage, there were no injuries or serious losses. He also thanked the neighboring communities for their help during this time.

Those present:

Board of Supervisors: Pete Stainthorpe, Chairman
 Scott Fegley, Vice Chairman
 Grace Godshalk, Secretary/Treasurer
 Steve Santarsiero, Supervisor

Others: Jeffrey Garton, Township Solicitor
 James Majewski, Township Engineer
 Kenneth Coluzzi, Chief of Police (left meeting in progress)

Absent: Frank Fazzalore, Supervisor
 Terry Fedorchak, Township Manager

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Sam Conti stated at the previous meeting he had asked if Clearview Farm had been certified as part of the Agricultural Security area. Mr. Garton stated he will get back to the Township on this in the next few days.

A gentleman from 1261 Quarry Commons Drive asked for an update on Heacock Road. Mr. Stainthorpe stated this is a State road and the Township cannot fix it themselves. Since the Manager is not present this evening they have no further information on this. Mr. Santarsiero stated he had requested at an earlier meeting that Mr. Fedorchak contact PennDOT about this, and he will try to get an update on this.

SIGN CASADONTI REVISED MYLARS

Mylars were signed following the meeting.

ZONING HEARING BOARD MATTERS

It was agreed to leave to the Zoning Hearing Board the Linda Oberkofler, 587 Saxony Lane, Variance request to allow a previously constructed shed and fence to remain within an easement.

SUPERVISORS' REPORTS

Mr. Santarsiero stated the Southeastern Bucks League of Municipalities met last week and discussed the adoption of the new Stormwater Management Ordinance. The Board had some discussion this evening about possibly getting an overview on this from the Township engineer at a future meeting. Mr. Santarsiero stated at the League of Municipalities meeting they also discussed an issue to be considered by the Board this evening regarding regional negotiations with Verizon to try to get a franchise agreement with them as they begin to offer various services in the County. He stated there are a number of concerns that arise from this and all the Townships want to insure that the revenue stream from franchise fees does not dry up. He stated they are committed to try to work collectively to try to get the best deal possible for each of their Towns.

Mrs. Godshalk noted there may be a conflict with dates as the next meeting of the Traffic Consortium will be Thursday, June 23 at 7:30 p.m. in Newtown. Mr. Santarsiero stated the next meeting of the League of Municipalities will be on May 31 at 7:30 p.m. at Morrisville Borough Hall.

DISCUSSION AND MOTION ON REGIONAL NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING A FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH VERIZON

Mr. Garton stated he feels they should pursue a regional approach to this. He stated there has been discussion among the Township Managers as well as Mr. Santarsiero's group. Mr. Stainthorpe stated currently the Township derives a significant amount of revenue from the Cable Franchise Fees and Verizon will soon be offering cable television type services through the fiber optic line and at this point in time they cannot get a franchise fee from them. The Township is therefore facing a significant loss in revenue.

Mrs. Godshalk moved and Mr. Santarsiero seconded to authorize the Township Manager to facilitate approaching this in a regional fashion.

Mr. Santarsiero stated the problem is that Verizon plans to offer streaming video that would take the place of traditional cable service and there is some uncertainty as to how that would impact franchise fees. He stated the revenue the Township currently gets is \$250,000 from Comcast and the fear is all the Townships could be in a position where they no longer have that fee coming in. To the extent they can use the leverage of all the Towns who are concerned about this to get a better deal out of Verizon, he feels they should do that.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE HIRING DGW TO PREPARE ELECTRICAL PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR MACCLESFIELD PARK FIELDS A, E, F, G AND H

Mr. Stainthorpe stated this is a more sophisticated timing system at the Park and does not necessarily impact the discussions that were held at the previous meeting.

Ms. Torbert asked if they have looked into the total control lighting that advertises that the lighting will not go beyond the property line. She stated they are looking into this for the Wall Tract in Newtown. Ms. Liney stated she feels DGW is aware of this and the Township did request this of DGW when they were looking into this and the fact that they did not want to impact the houses. She stated she feels they will bid this as an alternate.

Mrs. Godshalk stated she did go to Macclesfield Park and there are currently twenty-three of the 70' high poles. She stated she feels adding more lights is too large an impact. Mr. Stainthorpe stated that is not the issue under consideration at this time as this is only doing the specs for the control of the timers. Mrs. Godshalk stated this does include the new lights. Mr. Stainthorpe stated this is only to spec it out.

Ms. Susan Sing, Countess Drive, stated she is aware of a child who died at the Park because there was not an automatic electric defibrillator on the site, and she asked if there is one currently. Ms. Liney stated they do have one at the Pool, but they do not have one at the Park. She agreed to look into this with Chief Coluzzi.

Mr. Santarsiero moved and Mr. Fegley seconded to authorize DGW to prepare electrical plans and specifications for Macclesfield Park Fields A, E, F, G, and H.

Mr. Santarsiero stated they previously discussed the issue of buffers, and Ms. Liney had provided a memo on this recommending white pines at a cost of approximately \$7,300. Mr. Santarsiero asked if they will put this on the Agenda at some point or could the Board consider it this evening. Mr. Stainthorpe asked that they consider the Motion first.

Mrs. Godshalk stated the new fields are included in this. Mr. Santarsiero stated he felt at the last meeting they decided a vote was not necessary on the lights as they had already budgeted money for it and they were not at the point where they had a design to vote on. Mrs. Godshalk stated further information had been requested. Mr. Santarsiero stated they did this and there was no reference indicating that the fields would not be lit. Ms. Liney stated there was a lot of discussion about the expanded area in 1994 and the residents had ongoing discussions with the Township. She stated she could not find anything on the original section or anything that said there would never be additional lights. The only statement she could find was a statement indicating that the current Board did not plan to do lighting in the expanded area.

Motion carried unanimously; however, Mrs. Godshalk asked that the Minutes reflect that she is in favor of hiring them for the existing lighting system but nothing additional for any additional fields.

Mr. Santarsiero asked that they consider proceeding with the buffers. He noted Ms. Liney's memo dated 3/31/05 which indicates that they could install twenty white pines, ten to twelve feet in height, at a cost of \$7,300. Mr. Fegley noted problems with white pines when they lose their bottom branches. He does not feel this is the kind of tree which will provide an effective buffer in the future. Mrs. Godshalk stated she does not feel a 12' tree can provide a buffer for lights 70' high. Mr. Santarsiero stated from what the residents indicated, their properties slope up so the problems with white pines may not be a problem in this instance. He asked why they considered white pines, and Ms. Liney stated they had to do a quote on something and they had mentioned this kind of tree to the residents at a meeting and there were in favor of this. She stated they could consider another kind of tree if the Board desired. It was noted that this does not have to be considered this evening. Ms. Liney stated they will be meeting with the residents again at a future Park Board meeting. Mr. Majewski stated their landscape architect did look at this area and did recommend white pines for this location noting that they grow quickly and provide a lot of buffer.

This matter will be researched further and they will request input from the residents. Mr. Santarsiero asked that this matter be put on the Agenda for the Board of Supervisors' meeting in May.

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APPROVAL OF 2005-2006 BUCKS COUNTY CONSORTIUM ROAD SIGN MATERIALS AND POSTS BID

Mr. Fegley moved, Mr. Santarsiero seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the 2005-2006 Bucks County Consortium Road Sign Materials and Posts Bid.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Santarsiero reiterated his request that the interview process take place in public. He noted the Board met in Executive Session and spent a considerable amount of time interviewing candidates for a vacancy on the Emergency Management Committee. He stated he feels there is utility in having this process occur in public and asked that this be done in the future.

Mr. Santarsiero moved and Mrs. Godshalk seconded to appoint Jeffrey Gusst to the Emergency Management Committee. Mr. Santarsiero reviewed Mr. Gusst's background. Motion carried with Mr. Fegley abstaining.

There being no further business, Mr. Santarsiero moved, Mrs. Godshalk seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Grace Godshalk, Secretary

