

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
MINUTES – JANUARY 4, 2016

The Organizational Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on January 4, 2016. Ms. Tyler called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. Ms. Tyler called the Roll.

Those present:

Board of Supervisors: Jeff Benedetto, Chairman
 John B. Lewis, Vice Chairman
 Kristin Tyler, Secretary
 Judi Reiss, Treasurer
 Dave Fritchey, Supervisor

Others: Terry Fedorchak, Township Manager
 John Koopman, Township Solicitor
 Kenneth Coluzzi, Chief of Police

SWEARING IN OF SUPERVISORS AND AUDITORS

Judge Michael Burns was present and swore in Bill Clark to the Board of Auditors, John B. Lewis as Supervisor and Judi Reiss as Supervisor.

Ms. Tyler noted that Mr. Fritchey was sworn in the end of the year, so he has already taken his Oath.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment at this time.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR 2016

The meeting was turned over to Mr. Koopman as Chairman Pro-tem who asked for nominations for Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for the year 2016.

Ms. Tyler moved, Mr. Lewis seconded and it was unanimously carried to elect Mr. Benedetto as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for the year 2016.

The meeting was turned over to Mr. Benedetto.

REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN

Mr. Benedetto thanked Ms. Tyler since last year was very difficult, and she did a great job. He also thanked the new Board members, Mr. Lewis, Ms. Reiss, and Mr. Fritchey for putting their faith and trust in him and voting for him for Chairman as it is an important responsibility which he takes very seriously. Mr. Benedetto stated they will be a great Board which will do a lot of great things together. He stated the Chairman cannot get anything done without the help of the Board, the Township Manager, the Chief of Police, the engineers, and the Township staff; and everyone is part of the success they enjoy. Mr. Benedetto stated he intends to get a lot of work done, and wants the residents to be proud of the people they elected. He stated he feels the biggest priority is the sewer plant. He stated he feels they are going in the right direction with the road resurfacing program by spending a \$1 million this year. He stated he feels the priorities are essential Government services, the sewer, the road resurfacing, and public safety. He stated the Police force does a great job, and they should be proud of the job the Police do every day.

Mr. Benedetto apologized to the Police force as he was not happy about the way the Public Works investigation was going, but he did not intend that to be a reflection on the Police force as he feels they do a great job. He stated he is sorry if anyone on the Police force watched the meeting and felt he was not supporting them. He stated he supports the Police force, and he feels they do a great job.

Mr. Benedetto stated he would like to see a comprehensive review of the Township Ordinances which he feels is a long time coming. He stated they should get rid of Ordinances they are not enforcing, and look into what they need to do in the Township to be business friendly and resident friendly. He stated in coordination with the rest of the Board, he would like to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee of individuals currently serving on advisory boards and those who had previously served on advisory boards to look into this. Mr. Benedetto stated he also wants to improve communication in the Township, as he feels you can never communicate enough. He stated they started out well with bringing back the Newsletter, but they need to continue in that direction. He stated he also feels open space is a quality of life issue. He stated there was a Referendum in 2008 approved to borrow up to \$15 million, and he feels this is something they need to do.

Mr. Benedetto stated he also feels they need to look at the Ten Year Plan and start implementing it. He stated the fact that the Snipes Tract is being used as a leaf-composting facility is something they need to start looking at and changing. He stated there is also a recreational facility across the street from the Municipal Building that they can improve upon, and he wants to have a partnership with PAA.

Mr. Benedetto stated they also need to finally get the Community Center done and build it in the right way. Mr. Benedetto stated he also feels they need a partnership with groups like Artists of Yardley. He stated he would like to see them get a long-term Lease and have a Supervisor Liaison to their group. He stated he also wants a long-term Lease with Sam Stewart who has farmed the Patterson Farm.

Mr. Benedetto stated he would to bring back Community Pride Day and proceed with the dog park.

Mr. Benedetto stated the Board will be proactive, and he is looking forward to working with the rest of the Supervisors, the Township Manager, and the Police Department.

ELECTION OF OTHER OFFICERS

Mr. Benedetto asked for nominations for Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for 2016. Ms. Reiss moved, Ms. Tyler seconded and it was unanimously carried to elect John Lewis as Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for 2016.

Mr. Benedetto asked for nominations for Secretary of the Board of Supervisors for 2016. Mr. Fritchey moved, Mr. Lewis seconded and it was unanimously carried to elect Kristin Tyler as Secretary of the Board of Supervisors for 2016.

Mr. Benedetto asked for nominations for Treasurer of the Board of Supervisors for 2016. Mr. Fritchey moved, Ms. Tyler seconded and it was unanimously carried to elect Judi Reiss as Treasurer of the Board of Supervisors for 2016.

Mr. Benedetto asked for nominations for Assistant Secretary/Treasurer for 2016. Ms. Reiss moved, Ms. Tyler seconded and it was unanimously carried to elect Terry Fedorchak as Assistant Secretary/Treasurer for 2016.

APPOINT CHAIRMAN OF THE VACANCY BOARD

Ms. Tyler moved and Mr. Fritchey seconded to appoint Tim Malloy as Chairman of the Vacancy Board.

Mr. Lewis moved and Ms. Reiss seconded to appoint Adrian Costello as Chairman of the Vacancy Board.

Mr. Benedetto stated he would like to see someone independent as the Vacancy Chair as they ran into a situation just a month ago where there did not want a matter to go to the Vacancy Chair. He stated while he has a lot of faith in both Mr. Malloy and Mr. Costello, he would be in favor of appointing Mr. Costello.

Motion to appoint Mr. Malloy as Chairman of the Vacancy Board did not carry as Mr. Fritchey and Ms. Tyler were in favor and Mr. Benedetto, Mr. Lewis, and Ms. Reiss were opposed.

Motion to appoint Mr. Costello carried with Mr. Benedetto, Mr. Lewis, and Ms. Reiss in favor and Mr. Fritchey and Ms. Tyler opposed.

DISCUSSION OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND APPROVAL OF INTERIM APPOINTMENTS

Ms. Tyler stated they discussed that rather than making these Appointments this evening, the Board is inclined to open up Interviews for Solicitor and the Engineers. She stated Solicitor Interviews will be January 19 and Engineer Interviews will be January 26.

Mr. Benedetto stated they discussed temporary appointments, and he would be inclined to keep the same Solicitors and Engineers in place until the Interviews are conducted.

Mr. Lewis moved, Ms. Tyler seconded and it was unanimously carried to appoint Interim Appointments as follows:

- Township Solicitor – Begley/Carlin
- Township Engineer – Boucher & James
- Sewer Engineer – Tri State
- Traffic Engineer – Gilmore & Associates

APPOINTMENT OF VARIOUS PROFESSIONAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

Mr. Lewis stated their intent is to have RFPs for those based on order of spend so that they can go through and analyze where they can gain additional efficiencies and lower the costs, and this will occur throughout the year.

Ms. Reiss moved, Ms. Tyler seconded and it was unanimously carried to temporarily leave in place the current professional service providers.

APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE DELEGATE TO THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF PENNSYLVANIA TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS TO BE HELD APRIL 17 AT THE HERSHEY LODGE

Ms. Tyler moved, Mr. Lewis seconded and it was unanimously carried to appoint Ms. Reiss as Delegate and Mr. Fritchey as the Alternate Delegate.

APPROVAL OF SUPERVISOR LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2016

Ms. Tyler moved, Ms. Reiss seconded and it was unanimously carried to appoint Mr. Benedetto to serve as Liaison to Disabled Persons Advisory Board, Electrical Reliability Committee, Golf Committee, and Zoning Hearing Board.

Ms. Tyler moved, Mr. Benedetto seconded and it was unanimously carried to appoint Mr. Fritchey as Liaison to Emergency Management, Park & Recreation, Sewer Authority, and the Veterans Committee.

Ms. Tyler moved, Mr. Fritchey seconded and it was unanimously carried to appoint Mr. Lewis as Liaison to Citizens Budget Commission, Economic Development Commission, and Electronic Media Advisory Board.

Ms. Tyler moved, Mr. Lewis seconded and it was unanimously carried to appoint Ms. Reiss as Liaison to Farmland Preservation Corporation, Planning Commission, Seniors, and Special Events Committee.

Ms. Reiss moved, Mr. Lewis seconded and it was unanimously carried to appoint Ms. Tyler as Liaison to Citizens Traffic Commission, Environmental Advisory Council, Historical Architectural Review Board, and the Historic Commission.

ESTABLISH AMOUNT OF THE TREASURER'S BOND AT \$2,000,000

Ms. Tyler moved, Mr. Benedetto seconded and it was unanimously carried to establish the amount of the Treasurer's Bond at \$2,000,000.

ESTABLISH AMOUNT OF THE ASSISTANT TREASURER'S BOND AT \$2,000,000

Ms. Reiss moved, Ms. Tyler seconded and it was unanimously carried to establish the amount of the Assistant Treasurer's Bond at \$2,000,000.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Benedetto stated he feels it would be prudent to rescind the Appointments made at the Board's last meeting in December of Chad Wallace to Park & Rec, Scott Ferrante to the Sewer Authority, and Tom E. Will to Citizens Budget since it was not properly advertised, and some people had not actually handed in their resignations yet. Mr. Benedetto stated he feels they should open this up and collect resumes for those three positions in addition to some of the other positions which are advertised on the Website.

Mr. Benedetto moved and Ms. Tyler seconded to rescind the Appointments of Chad Wallace to Park & Rec, Scott Ferrante to the Sewer Authority, and Tom E. Will to Citizens Budget.

Mr. Lewis stated all three of those individuals are of a very high caliber, and they definitely want their service; and he hopes they will find them a position maybe even the ones that they were originally appointed to, and they just want to resolve the technicality.

Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, Ms. Reiss moved, Mr. Lewis seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin Tyler, Secretary