

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES – AUGUST 15, 2012

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on August 15, 2012. Mr. Dobson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Those present:

Board of Supervisors: Dobby Dobson, Secretary
 Jeff Benedetto, Treasurer
 Kristin Tyler, Supervisor

Others: Terry Fedorchak, Township Manager
 Jeffrey Garton, Township Solicitor
 Mark Eisold, Township Engineer
 Kenneth Coluzzi, Chief of Police

Absent: Pete Stainthorpe, Chairman
 Dan McLaughlin, Vice Chairman

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Harold Koopersmith, 612 B Wren Song Road, asked that some of the Supervisors attend his upcoming mortgage foreclosure trial as character witnesses.

Ms. Gudrun Alexander, 256 S. Fieldstone Court, stated at the last meeting Mr. Dave Fraser from the Greenbelt Overhaul Alliance of Levittown, offered his services to the Township if volunteers could be provided for a Township clean up; however, no one from the Township followed up with Mr. Fraser. Mr. Fedorchak agreed to follow up on this. He stated there are certain steps that need to be taken with the DEP if there are going to be stream clean ups. Mr. Fedorchak stated they can also discuss this with Public Works. Ms. Tyler suggested that Ms. Alexander attend the next EAC meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Tyler moved, Mr. Benedetto seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of July 18, 2012.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 6, 2012 WARRANT LIST AND JULY, PAYROLL

Mr. Benedetto moved, Ms. Tyler seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the August 6, 2012 Warrant List and July, payroll as attached to the Minutes.

RECOGNITION OF LOWER MAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP SWIM AND DIVE TEAM FOOD DRIVE

Ms. Tyler stated the Lower Makefield Swim and Dive Team undertook a food drive to benefit the Penndel Food Pantry. Ms. Sandy Borowsky and Ms. Amy Waters were present representing the Swim and Dive Team. Ms. Borowsky stated she is President of the Parents Board. She stated they have 320 swimmers and 40 divers ages 6 to 18. She stated they are the largest team in the area. Ms. Waters stated she was one of the Co-Heads of the Community Service Project for this year, and she reviewed community service projects they have done in the past. She stated this year they held a food drive for the Penndel Food Pantry with a goal of collecting 1,000 pounds of food. She stated the Food Drive ran from July 16 through July 20. Ms. Waters stated Ms. Tyler contacted Kate Fratti from the Courier Times who wrote an article about the Food Drive, and Ms. Liney also sent out an e-mail to all Pool patrons which increased the participation. Ms. Waters stated they were able to collect almost 2,000 pounds of food. She thanked the parents, the Swim Team Coach, Pool Manager and staff, Ms. Liney, and Ms. Tyler.

Ms. Tyler thanked everyone for their participation and presented the Swim and Dive Team with a plaque of recognition on behalf of the Board of Supervisors.

AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF SEVERE REPETITIVE LOSS PEMA GRANT AGREEMENT FOR THE SWEENEY PROPERTY

Mr. Fedorchak stated PEMA has awarded the Township \$378,293 in Federal funds for the purpose of acquiring the property located at 196 N. River Road owned by the Sweeney family. He stated the property is approximately 1.3 acres on which there is currently a two-bedroom house. He stated the property is north of the Woodside Road intersection with River Road. He stated this section of Lower Makefield has repeatedly had flooding. Mr. Fedorchak stated they have been successful in the past of acquiring Grants for the purpose of elevating properties, but this is the first acquisition Grant. Mr. Fedorchak stated Lower Makefield will be purchasing the property from the Sweeney family for the amount of the Grant, and the Sweeney family will be responsible for demolishing the house and removing the driveway. Mr. Fedorchak stated there will be a Conservation Easement or Deed Restriction placed on the property; and while no structures will be able to be built on the property, the Township would be allowed to use that property for recreational purposes if they saw fit. Mr. Fedorchak stated the property

has one acre on the west side of River Road, and there is a third of an acre abutting the River so there is River access. Mr. Fedorchak stated the staff recommends that the Board approve the Grant Agreement, and they hope to close on the property sometime in September.

Mr. Benedetto asked if there are other houses adjacent to this property that are also threatened. Mr. Fedorchak stated this property is adjacent to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources maintenance building and is located very close to the Township border. Mr. Benedetto asked what makes this property more threatened than others in the vicinity. Mr. Fedorchak stated the eligibility is determined by FEMA using a formula, and very few properties in Lower Makefield have qualified.

Ms. Tyler asked if the Grant restricts the Township in any way, and Mr. Fedorchak stated it can be used for passive recreation but they are restricted from building any structures on the property.

Mr. Benedetto moved, Ms. Tyler seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve acceptance of the PEMA Grant for the Sweeney property.

GRANT EXTENSION OF TIME FOR CAPSTONE TERRACE

Mr. Benedetto moved, Ms. Tyler seconded and it was unanimously carried to grant an Extension of time for Capstone Terrace Final Land Development Plan to December 31, 2012.

ZONING HEARING BOARD

With regard to the Thomas and Arleen Santapau, 611 Kings Road, Variance request to construct a four-season room, patio, and extension to the kitchen which will exceed the allowable impervious surface Mr. Benedetto moved, Ms. Tyler seconded and it was unanimously carried that the Township should participate.

Mr. Garton stated the Board met in fifteen minutes prior to the start of the public meeting in order to discuss the Zoning Hearing Board matter just noted.

MID-YEAR FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Fedorchak stated the Township's 2012 Mid-Year Financial Report is available to the public and has been posted on-line. He stated at a recent Board meeting he went through a lengthy discussion about Township finances; and at this point in time the Township's revenues and expenses across all twenty funds are tracking as had been planned. He stated the only variances are positive variances for the most part, and he noted particularly the General Fund where all the Permit Fees are tracking ahead of last year's pace year-to-date. He stated he is cautiously optimistic that they will finish the year strongly.

Mr. Dobson asked about the Deed Transfer Taxes, and Mr. Fedorchak stated there is a chance that they may reach \$1 million by year end. He stated they are seeing home re-sales year-to-date slightly ahead of last year. He stated with regard to the Regency Project, he understands that the ban situation has been resolved with DEP for the Bucks County system; and he anticipates that Toll will be presenting the Township with another thirty Building Permits. Mr. Fedorchak stated over the last few years, Deed Transfer Taxes finished approximately \$800,000.

SUPERVISORS REPORTS

Ms. Tyler stated the Seniors will hold a Seniors Boutique on Saturday, October 20 at the Township Building.

Mr. Benedetto reminded everyone about the Labor Day Concert at Veterans Square.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Dobson stated they will wait for a full Board at the next meeting before making appointments. Ms. Tyler thanked those who requested re-appointment for their patience.

Ms. Tyler moved, Mr. Benedetto seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dobby Dobson, Secretary

