

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
MINUTES – JANUARY 3, 2017

The Organizational Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on January 3, 2017. Mr. Benedetto called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and called the Roll.

Those present:

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

Others: Terry Fedorchak, Township Manager
 David Truelove, Township Solicitor
 Kenneth Coluzzi, Chief of Police

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Christa McConaghy, 494 Gayle Drive, stated she is the Chair of the Historic Commission this year. She invited anyone interested in joining or learning about the Historic Commission to come to their meeting next Monday at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Eric Silverman, 1809 S. Crescent Boulevard, stated he had asked previously about what needed to be done to get Liquor Licenses in the Township, and he was told that they would be discussing it the beginning of this year. Mr. Benedetto stated initially they understood that approximately 3,100 signatures were needed within a certain time frame to get this on the Ballot. He stated there has been a change in the Law that allows that this could be done not only during the Primary, but also during General Election so they could have this on the Ballot in 2017 either during the Primary or in the General Election. He stated since then they have learned that they may be required to have a significantly greater number of signatures which is close to 5,000 as it is based on the turn out of the last General Election which was the past Election when there was a significant turn out. He stated the Lower Makefield Township Business Association is the group that is coordinating this effort, and he is not sure whether a decision has been made how to go forward.

Mr. Fritchey stated all those in favor of this change should contact the Lower Makefield Business Association about working with them to get the required signatures.

Mr. Lewis asked if it would be the same timeframe that it be by the next meeting, and Ms. Tyler stated she feels this would depend on when the project comes up. Mr. Fedorchak stated he feels there would be a basic retainer which would include certain services. He stated as they have for the last year, they have also had them work on various special projects such as the Snipes Tract. Mr. Fedorchak stated he feels that Mr. Eisold probably has some boilerplate agreements that could be provided. He stated they could also get Mr. Truelove involved as well. This was acceptable to the Board.

Motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of Sewer Engineer for 2017

Mr. Lewis moved and Mr. Fritchey seconded to appoint Fred Ebert as Sewer Engineer.

Mr. Fritchey stated the Chairman of the Sewer Authority had advised him that the membership of the Sewer Authority felt Mr. Ebert did an excellent job and hoped that he would be retained for another year, and Mr. Fritchey stated he would concur with that view.

Motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of Traffic Engineer for 2017

Mr. Benedetto moved and Mr. Fritchey seconded to re-appoint TPD as Traffic Engineer for 2017.

Ms. Reiss stated she has heard that some of the projects they were doing were at cross purposes with some of the projects being done by other entities, and she feels that they need to remind them that they do not have to do something twice. Ms. Tyler asked Ms. Reiss for more specifics. Ms. Reiss stated she was told that some of the studies were done by both the Police and TPD. Chief Coluzzi stated this was when they first came on, and he feels it was just a miscommunication. He stated he is working very well with TPD now.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Zachary Rubin, 1661 Covington Road asked about the compensation for the Tax Collector. He stated Becky Cecchine is the Tax Collector; and she is currently compensated for the bill she sends out for the Township taxes at \$1.15 for every bill sent out, and there are 12,414 homes to which she sends bills. He stated the \$1.15 compensation was established in 1993, and for the last twenty-four years she has not received an increase in the Township's compensation for billing. He stated she does have an Office rent-free at the Township Building. Mr. Rubin stated the Middletown Tax Collector gets \$3.59 per Municipal tax bill and also gets a rent-free office. He stated the Newtown Township Tax Collector is compensated at \$3.35 per tax bill and gets an office and does not pay rent. He stated the Yardley Borough Tax Collector gets 3.25% of what is collected which is an estimated \$17,000 per billing. That individual does not have an office as they work at home. Mr. Rubin stated he would like the Board to bring Ms. Cecchine's compensation up to the comparable Townships in Southeastern Bucks County, and give her a raise of at least \$1 per bill that she sends out which would cost the Township \$12,434 additional. He stated if she were a Township employee, the average salary increase is approximately 2% per annum so that would have resulted for the thirteen years over a 26% raise compounded.

Ms. Tyler asked Mr. Fedorchak to have the Finance Directors run comps for this, and to have this put on the next Agenda.

Mr. Benedetto asked Mr. Rubin if he knows the overall compensation of the Tax Collector, and Mr. Rubin stated she gets \$3 per tax bill for the Pennsbury School District for bills that are collected, and she also gets compensated from the County.

Mr. Lewis asked if the Board of Supervisors were to act on this he assumes it would not take effect in 2017. Mr. Truelove stated he would have to look into this. Mr. Rubin stated the reason he is bringing it up now is by State law, compensation has to be set before the new term of the Tax Collector. He stated that position is up for Election this year, so for the next four years, they could not reduce or increase compensation during the term of the Tax Collector. Mr. Fedorchak stated he believes the Board would have to take action on this by February, and Mr. Rubin stated he believes that is correct.

Mr. Silverman asked why Mr. Rubin is requesting this on behalf of the Tax Collector, and why she is not requesting it herself. Ms. Tyler stated Ms. Cecchine did send the Board a letter a few weeks ago outlining her request.

APPOINT DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE DELEGATE TO THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF PENNSYLVANIA TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS TO BE HELD APRIL 23, 2017 AT THE HERSHEY LODGE

Mr. Lewis moved and Mr. Benedetto seconded that Ms. Reiss and Mr. Fritchey be appointed to be the representatives at the Annual Convention of Pennsylvania Township Supervisors.

There was discussion as to who would be the Delegate and who would be the Alternate, and it was agreed that they would decide that when they get there.

Motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUPERVISOR LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2017

Ms. Tyler announced the following Supervisor Liaison Assignments:

Ms. Tyler: Seniors, Electrical Reliability, Disabled Persons,
Historic Commission

Mr. Benedetto: Citizens Traffic, Planning Commission, Electronic Media,
Trenton-Mercer Task Force

Mr. Fritchey: Park & Recreation, Sewer Authority, Veterans,
Emergency Management

Ms. Reiss: HARB, Farmland Preservation, Citizens Budget,
Special Events, Seniors

Mr. Lewis: Zoning Hearing Board, Economic Development,
Golf, EAC

Ms. Tyler stated with regard to Special Events, she would like to get a letter out to those on the Committee and set up a meeting for February. Ms. Tyler noted the second page of her hand out on assignments which shows where they are available times for meetings for Special Events and the Trenton-Mercer Task Force.

Ms. Tyler stated the Liaisons are not members of the Committees, but their job is to report back to the Board of Supervisors as to what is being conducted at those meetings. She stated all Supervisors are free to attend any meeting as are members of the public.

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

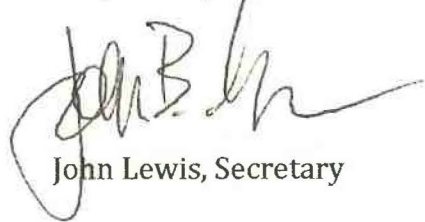
Mr. Fritchey moved, Mr. Benedetto seconded and it was unanimously carried to establish the amount of the Treasurer's Bond at \$2,000,000.

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

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

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

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Lewis', is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive.

John Lewis, Secretary

