

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL
Beaver County, Pennsylvania
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP MINUTES**

May 9, 2011
Meeting in Session at 6:31 p.m.

6:31pm: Workshop Meeting Called to Order by Mr. Bufalini and that the meeting will be recorded

ROLL CALL

President

Richard Bufalini

Vice President

Norm Kraus Arrived 7:03pm

Commissioners

Nick DiPietro

Joe Kusnir

Brian Rohm Absent

Others Present

Andy Brunette, Township Manager/Controller

Mike Jones, Solicitor

Marie Stratakis-Hartman, Township Engineer

6:31pm **ENGINEERS REPORT** Marie Stratakis-Hartman (Report on File)

7:00pm **CITIZEN COMMENTS PERTAINING TO THE AGENDA**

Tom Rohm 225 Sharon Grange Road

Mr. Rohm inquired about Marie's report on the five roads that proposed to be paved in 2012, that if any of the roads being paved have stop sign issues. Marie stated that the roads have not been inspected yet, but she will find out about the stop signs. Mr. Rohm also questioned if there was going to be any discussion on the depository fee issue. Mr. Bufalini advised Mr. Rohm that it is not listed on the agenda, but will be discussed when more Commissioners are present later on.

Terry Shannon 1703 Maratta Road

Mr. Shannon asked the engineer about why the contractor would want to coat the steel and not have it done at the plant. Marie advised Mr. Shannon that the contractor believed he could save time by finding steel and coating it himself instead of setting it up for scheduling at a steel plant. Marie also stated that as long as it is not costing the Township more money and saved time in the construction process she had no problem with them doing the coating.

Mr. Bufalini noted that the first two items on the agenda are public hearings for ordinances that are scheduled for 8:00pm and that the Board would be moving to item three on the business agenda at this time

7:05pm **BUSINESS AGENDA**

Mr. Kusnir Motion to approve the Workshop Minutes of April 11, 2011

Mr. Kraus Second the motion

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. DiPietro Abstain

Mr. Kusnir Yes

Mr. Rohm Absent

Mr. Kraus Yes

Mr. Bufalini Yes

Motion Carried

Mr. Kraus Motion to approve the list of bills dated for May 9, 2011
Mr. Kusnir Second the motion

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. DiPietro Yes
Mr. Kusnir Yes
Mr. Rohm Absent
Mr. Kraus Yes
Mr. Bufalini Yes
Motion Carried

Mr. Bufalini Motion to approve Chief of Police Gene Ungarean to attend the Police Education Conference in Lancaster Pa the week of July 10-14. Total cost of the conference is \$870.00. The fee includes room and meals per budget line item 1-410-190.
Mr. Kraus Second the motion

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. DiPietro Yes
Mr. Kusnir Yes
Mr. Rohm Absent
Mr. Kraus Yes
Mr. Bufalini Yes
Motion Carried

Mr. Kusnir Motion to approve Garvin, Boward and Beitko Engineers to provide inspection services at their rate schedule for Laird Road construction repair in the amount not to exceed \$20,000.
Mr. Kraus Second the motion

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. DiPietro Yes
Mr. Kusnir Yes
Mr. Rohm Absent
Mr. Kraus Yes
Mr. Bufalini Yes
Motion Carried

7:14pm ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

All items for discussion in regards to engineering were addressed in the engineers report and are on file at the Township Building.

Mr. Jones updated the Board on the ordinance for a reciprocal agreement with neighboring communities in regards to police service, the ordinance restricting parking during school hours along neighboring school streets, grading and filling updated ordinance and stated that he is continuing to work on these ordinances for the Board.

The Township Manager discussed with the Board the idea of replacing and installing new welcome signs and banners for Township entrances as well as on Interstate 376. Drafts of new Welcome to Hopewell Township signs with State Champions on it was passed around for viewing to the Commissioners. The Manager also discussed with the Board about the compliance on replacing street signs on all Township roads by 2012. The Manager advised the board that the Township is going to focus on replacing the signs on the State Roads first.

Mr. Kraus Motion to approve the purchase of signs (2) for the entrances on Interstate 376 from PennDot, and the purchase of two Hopewell High School Championship welcome signs for route 151 and Bucktail hill from Dobish Signs in the amount of a total cost of \$2,330

Mr. DiPietro Second the motion

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. DiPietro Yes
Mr. Kusnir Yes
Mr. Rohm Absent
Mr. Kraus Yes
Mr. Bufalini Yes

Motion Carried

The Manager discussed with the Board the Beaver Lakes parcel that was leased to the Beaver Lakes Condo Association and advised the Board that it will end on June 30, 2011. The Condo Association has given notice to the Township that they will not renew the one year lease. The Board will have to determine what to do with the existing pavilion and retaining walls that are currently on Township property if the lease is not renewed.

The open Planning Board position was discussed and tabled

The Manager asked the Board if they wanted to consider passing an ordinance to address vacant and abandoned structures within the Township. Currently these structures are covered by Pennsylvania building codes and the Township does not have any enforceable ordinances to force people to tear down structures. The Board discussed the issue and asked Solicitor Mike Jones to investigate other communities to see if there were any sample ordinances they could review, or if Mike could put a sample ordinance together

Mr. Kraus asked the Manager if there was any update on the abandoned houses on the corner of Kane and Laird Drive. The Manager advised Mr. Kraus that the owners have been notified twice verbally and by written notice and have told the Township that the property will be taken down by the summer. Mr. Bufalini said that he will follow up with a phone call to Mrs. Duncan. The Manager advised the Board that he will have the zoning officer send a final notice to the owners which will give them a certain amount of time to have the structure taken down.

The Manager asked the Board to consider ordinances for alternate energy sources such as solar and wind generating power. The Board asked Mike Jones to look into sample ordinances that govern these types of structures, especially since the Beaver County Jail will be installing solar fields within the Township

The Manager also advised the Board that the Township's traffic lights engineers are currently in the process to try and fix the duplicate green lights at the five points intersection.

7:41pm **CITIZENS FORUM**

Ruth Mason 3007 Heights Road

Mrs. Mason questioned the Depository Fees; Mr. Bufalini explained that the tax payers are subsidizing the Depository and that the Township needs the yard waste removal to be self sustaining.

Con Cannon 116 Sawver Drive

Mr. Cannon told the Board that the ordinance that passed earlier in the year restricting certain types of vehicle parking was not being enforced by the Police Department. Mr. Jones explained to Mr. Cannon that there is not a loop hole in the ordinance and that the Police need to cite him. Mr. Cannon said he was ok with going to court if a citation would be issued.

Mark Ciccarelli 4019 Forest Drive

Mr. Ciccarelli expressed his concerns over the Sohn Road Depository yard waste fees issue. Mr. Ciccarelli stated that it has come to his understanding the Township is subsidizing the operation of the Depository with tax payer money. In his opinion Mark does not believe that maintaining a waste management operation is the function of local

government and tax money from the residents should not be used to subsidize an entity that less than 10% of the residents use. Mr. Ciccarelli stated that he does not use the facility and none of the residents he knows use it either. Mr. Ciccarelli stated that he submits to the board that the facility has to pay for itself or the Township needs to consider abandoning it because he feels that the public resources can be better allocated to something that will benefit the majority of the taxpayers instead of subsidizing the Depository.

Commissioner Kraus

Mr. Kraus stated that we are in the negotiating year of the waste removal system and that the Township is looking for ways to change the yard waste collection system. Mr. Kraus stated that he agreed with Mr. Ciccarelli's statement. Mr. Kraus stated that he has had calls on the depository from people who do not use it and has requested it be put on a referendum vote so that the residents can decide the fate of the Depository.

Commissioner Bufalini

Mr. Bufalini stated that the Township is looking into many options as we move forward to the end of the year in changing the system to accommodate all the residents as well as cut cost at the Depository. The Township will probably move to collection of yard waste material at the curb as well as a card system for the Depository with reduced hours.

Lou Buclous 2506 Wigwam

Mr. Buclous stated that if you charge a fee for yard waste removal residents will find somewhere else to dump it illegally. Mr. Buclous thinks it does not make sense that pick-up trucks are being charged and cars are not.

Tom Rohm 225 Sharon Grange Road

Inquired about the metal that is being disposed of at the depository and he believes that the amount of recyclable metal that is dumped there should be enough to sustain the depository yard waste removal fees. The manager advised Mr. Rohm that after investigating his previous inquiries about this issue, that the maximum they have received for recyclable material this year was \$100.00.

Chuck Piroli 1223 Longvue Ave

Mr. Piroli asked about the agreement between the Beaver County Jail and Hopewell Township and if the Township was receiving any more money from the jail for the extra inmates and extra revenue that they are receiving. The Board has been watching closely the situation at the jail and has met with the County Commissioners in regards to this issue. The Township solicitor Mike Jones has also reviewed the agreement and it only has to do with cars and no other compensation. After the primary the board intends to revisit this issue with the Beaver County Commissioners. Mr. Piroli also wanted an update on the collection for the delinquent refuse and sewer account of resident Mr. Lopata. Mr. Jones stated that the Township is in the process of aggressively pursuing all delinquent refuse and sewer accounts.

Mr. Kusnir Motion to approve Resolution R-2011-13 regulating the disposal of acceptable yard waste at the Township Depository rescinding Resolution R-2011-12.

Mr. Kraus Second the motion

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. DiPietro Yes
Mr. Kusnir Yes
Mr. Rohm Absent
Mr. Kraus Yes
Mr. Bufalini Yes

Motion Carried

8:24pm EXECUTIVE SESSION IN

8:36pm EXECUTIVE SESSION OUT

8:39pm

A hearing to consider the adoption of Ordinance 2011-04 as advertised on April 24, 2011 and May 1, 2011 of the Township of Hopewell Beaver County Pennsylvania a First Class Township under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, amending the Hopewell Township Zoning Ordinance No. 2004-01, to allow oil and gas exploration, drilling and extraction operations as conditional uses in the industrial (I), residential-agricultural (R1), mixed use (MU) and riverfront industrial districts (RID) and further establishing permit requirements, pre-application conferences, design, installation and operation restrictions and penalties for violation thereof

The Board of Commissioner decided to continue this hearing on June 13, 2011 after they have the opportunity to visit a drilling site.

9:34pm

A hearing to consider the adoption of Ordinance 2011-05 as advertised on April 24, 2011 of the Township of Hopewell Beaver County Pennsylvania a First Class Township under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, regulating and establishing timber harvesting practices to allow for and encourage proper forest management within Hopewell Township.

- Mr. Kusnir Motion to approve Ordinance 2011-05 regulating and establishing timber harvesting practices to allow for and encourage proper forest management within Hopewell Township.
- Mr. DiPietro Second the motion

Roll Call Vote:

- Mr. DiPietro Yes
 - Mr. Kusnir Yes
 - Mr. Rohm Absent
 - Mr. Kraus Yes
 - Mr. Bufalini Yes
- Motion Carried

9:41pm **NEW BUSINESS** **NONE**

9:41pm **OLD BUSINESS** **NONE**

9:41pm **EXECUTIVE SESSION** **IN**

9:49pm **EXECUTIVE SESSION** **OUT**

9:55pm **ADJOURNMENT**

- Mr. Kusnir Motion to adjourn
 - Mr. DiPietro Second the motion
 - Voice Vote: All in favor
- Motion Carried

Minutes Recorded by: Andy J. Brunette 05/09/11
Minutes Prepared by: Andy J. Brunette 05/10/11