

Union Township Board of Supervisors
Monthly Board Meeting
July 23, 2012

The Board of Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Linda Evans-Boren at 7:06 pm. The meeting was held at the Union Township Municipal Building, 3904 Finleyville-Elrama Road, Finleyville, PA. The pledge of allegiance was recited. Board Members in Attendance by roll call were Stephen Parish, Larry Spahr, Linda Evans-Boren, Andrew Tullai and Brenda Cushey. Also in attendance, Dennis Makel–Solicitor, Harold Ivery–Building Code Official, Peter Grieb–Code Enforcement Officer, Judy Taylor–Treasurer, Debra Nigon–Secretary.

Public Comment

None

Officer Brown delivered the report for SWRPD. She mentioned that another SWRPD officer will be working traffic in the Township while the regularly assigned officer will work their regular shift. The traffic officer will be backed up by the regular officer on duty as needed. This is being done in accordance with the Township's request for extra traffic duties. The statistics for the past month include 17 arrests, 5 criminal complaints, 12 non-traffic citations, 30 vehicle stops, 21 traffic citations, 9 warnings, and 3 vehicles towed.

The June 25, 2012 Minutes were reviewed by the Board. The Secretary noted that she had just noticed that the phrase "at a cost of \$75.00" needed to be moved from the end of one Motion to the end of the one beneath it, as the \$75.00 was the cost for the Municipal Budget Training which had been approved for the Secretary to attend.

Motion to approve minutes of the June 25, 2012, Regular Board Meeting, with typographical revision as stated by the Board Secretary, subject to being true and correct.

Motion by Andrew Tullai, Second by Steve Parish

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Evans-Boren-yes, Tullai-yes, Cushey-yes. Motion carried.

The July 9, 2012 Minutes were reviewed. Mr. Parish stated that the Motion to approve purchase of the door from Rich Cox Construction should also include installation.

Motion to approve minutes of the July 9, 2012, Regular Board Meeting with changes as stated by Mr. Parish, subject to being true and correct.

Motion by Andrew Tullai, Second by Brenda Cushey

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Evans-Boren-yes, Tullai-yes, Cushey-yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Ivery delivered the Zoning / Code Enforcement report. He informed the Board that the second hearing for Dollar General would occur this week before the Zoning Hearing Board. He also stated that the report on the two abandoned homes on Stout Street is in process, and he passed pictures of the properties to the Board for their review. Ms. Evans-Boren inquired as to whether Union Gardens had contacted the Township following denial of their re-zoning

request as she had noticed that extensive grading work was being done on-site. The solicitor asked Mr. Ivery to supply him with a copy of the grading permits.

The solicitor stated that he wished to discuss his research in regard to Ringgold School District in Executive Session.

The Township engineer was unable to attend the meeting due to medical reasons and no report was obtained.

Ms. Audrey Dorsen delivered the report from the Recreation Board. She said that the outdoor tables at Brownsville Park had been painted by Jason Jaki and that they had received positive comments. Quotes for cleaning of the park facilities were coming in but they are waiting for one more. She also stated that they would like to meet with members of the Board on several items they have questions about. Ms. Evans-Boren inquired as to the plans for Pleasant View Park and asked whether they had considered making that an older children's park with basketball courts. Ms. Dorsen said that they had considered that option but that parking is an issue and several more spots should be created to make that park more accessible to the public. Mr. Tullai inquired as to the Board's intentions with regard to recreation facilities at the Nike Site property if it should be turned over to the Township. Mr. Spahr and Mr. Parish said that a recreational planner would need to be brought in to look at the property should it ever be turned over. Mr. Tullai requested that, since there has been recent movement, the solicitor contact the Army to keep the issue from languishing again.

Motion to approve payroll #14 dated July 6, 2012 in the amount of \$11,799.35 as presented by the Treasurer, subject to being true and correct.

Motion by Andrew Tullai, Second by Larry Spahr

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Evans-Boren-yes, Tullai-yes, Cushey-yes. Motion carried.

Motion to approve payroll #15 dated July 20, 2012 in the amount of \$9,383.16 as presented by the Treasurer, subject to being true and correct.

Motion by Andrew Tullai, Second by Brenda Cushey

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Evans-Boren-yes, Tullai-yes, Cushey-yes. Motion carried.

Motion to approve the general funds bills presented as of July 23, 2012 in the amount of \$15,133.29 as presented by the Treasurer, subject to being true and correct.

Motion by Larry Spahr, Second by Steve Parish

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, but abstaining from any bills involving Finleyville Airport, Spahr-yes, Evans-Boren-yes, Tullai-yes, Cushey-yes. Motion carried.

Motion to issue a check to Rich Cox for 50% of \$2,175 for purchase and installation of the door as noted on the approved quotation.

Motion by Andrew Tullai, Second by Brenda Cushey

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Evans-Boren-yes, Tullai-yes, Cushey-yes. Motion carried.

The status of the liens on the Stout Street abandoned houses was supplied by the solicitor. Aside from two cases for school taxes and one for judicial sale, there were no liens that would stop the Township from obtaining ownership of the property if that were the Township's choice. An estimate for demolishing both homes by Mr. Ivery and Mr. Grieb was approximately \$5,000 for each property, but demolition was complicated by the position of the homes on the hillside. The Board agreed that the hillside would need to be stabilized following any demolition and that the Township engineer would need to spec out the demolition and stabilization. The Dangerous Structures ordinance was reviewed. Mr. Tullai requested a revision of the Ordinance to include reimbursement of legal costs by the owner.

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2012-01, Dangerous Structures Ordinance, as prepared by the solicitor with the change requested by Mr. Tullai.

Motion by Andrew Tullai, Second by Brenda Cushey

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Evans-Boren-yes, Tullai-yes, Cushey-yes. Motion carried.

Motion to authorize the Code Enforcement Officers to take the appropriate actions against Judy Williams and Carol Apfothaler, owners of 14 and 16 Stout Street, in Elrama.

Motion by Brenda Cushey, Second by Larry Spahr

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Evans-Boren-yes, Tullai-yes, Cushey-yes. Motion carried.

The solicitor stated that the oil and gas ordinance required to be revised in accordance with Act 13 will be ready for review at the next meeting. In addition, he will revise the Act 20 Ordinance as discussed at a former meeting to take out the fees and put them in an attachment so that the Ordinance would not have to be revised should the fees be changed by Resolution. He also indicated that the Elrama Sewerage System Rules and Regulations will be revised and ready for review.

Larry Spahr said that Chief Hartman had contacted him regarding the request of Jeff Lawrence of the Finleyville Fire Department to have additional police coverage during the Fireman's Fair being held this week. The request did not come in until Friday, which was insufficient time to make payment arrangements for any extra coverage or to ascertain what services were being requested. As an officer will be on duty in the evenings for the week-long event, Linda Evans-Boren will contact the Chief and request that the officer on duty be instructed to do more runs past the fair grounds to make the police presence known, but that the officer would remain on duty primarily for Township calls.

The road superintendent brought to the attention of the Township a situation in Elrama wherein the Township's storm water is being directed through private property through old pipes and catch basins which have not been fully located. Some of the catch basins on the private property are on the verge of collapse and are unwanted by the owner of the property. Since the Township cannot enter onto private property, the engineer had been contacted to review the situation and had proposed that the storm water be re-directed along the berm of Township streets and alleys. Since the downspouts of the owners' homes may be directed into the antiquated storm water system on private grounds, the engineer recommended that those pipes would best be left in place, however, should the Township's storm water be re-routed,

the affected property owners would have to be informed. The engineer will have a cost estimate by the next meeting.

The road superintendent's quote for equipment necessary to flush storm water and sewer lines was reviewed.

Motion to purchase a pump and storage tank, hoses and fittings as required to flush the lines as required, not to exceed \$1000.

Motion by Andrew Tullai, Second by Larry Spahr

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Evans-Boren-yes, Tullai-yes, Cushey-yes. Motion carried.

A request from an organizer from Planet Aid to place a used clothing box on municipal property was reviewed by the Board. It was decided to table voting on the box to investigate other local charitable organizations which may wish to place a drop-off box on Township property.

Motion to table a decision on the Planet Aid drop-off box to investigate other avenues.

Motion by Andrew Tullai, Second by Brenda Cushey

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Evans-Boren-yes, Tullai-yes, Cushey-yes. Motion carried.

Motion to authorize the Secretary to attend an Introduction to QuickBooks class to be held on August 7, 2012 at a cost of \$85 per month plus mileage.

Motion by Andrew Tullai, Second by Brenda Cushey

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Evans-Boren-yes, Tullai-yes, Cushey-yes. Motion carried

Motion to authorize the Superintendent to attend Underground Storage Tank training by Webinar at a cost of \$150.

Motion by Andrew Tullai, Second by Larry Spahr

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Evans-Boren-yes, Tullai-yes, Cushey-yes. Motion carried

The landscaping quotes were reviewed by the Board. Because the two quotes which covered replacement of the current landscaping were different from one another it was decided that it was difficult to select which one would be the best and that they should include the base, topsoil/amendment, and the design. It was decided that Ms. Evans-Boren would obtain more information and a design scheme from Dirt Dugan Landscaping.

The fact that there is no procedure for handling cancellation of the Brownsville Park Rental facilities was discussed, and the Secretary inquired as to how the Board would like to handle cancellations.

Motion to add to the Brownsville Park Rental form the rental fee is non-refundable,
Motion by Brenda Cushey, Second by Larry Spahr
Roll call vote: Parish-no, Spahr-yes, Evans-Boren-yes, Tullai-abstain, Cushey-yes. Motion carried.

Motion to add "effective January 1, 2013" to the Motion for Park Rental indicating that the rental fee is non-refundable beginning on that date.
Motion by Brenda Cushey, Second by Larry Spahr
Roll call vote: Parish-no, Spahr-yes, Evans-Boren-yes, Tullai-abstain, Cushey-yes. Motion carried.

Motion to pass Resolution 2012-05 appointing the Chairperson as the Chief Administrative Officer for the Police Pension Fund.
Motion by Larry Spahr, Second by Steve Parish
Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Evans-Boren-yes, Tullai-yes, Cushey-yes. Motion carried.

Steve Parish mentioned that he would like the Board to consider funding Phase I of Mr. DeiCas's estimate which was obtained in years prior to correct the Jack Street flooding problem. Ms. Cushey stated that, while she is not opposed to funding the Jack Street flooding project, that ground work on the approved Linden Street flooding project has yet to begin and she would like to see that area of concern out of the way first.

Mr. Tullai asked about whether bridge inspections should be conducted on Township Roads, such as the bridges on Patterson Road, Jack Street and Union Avenue and by whom. Mr. Parish confirmed that they belong to the Township. He suggested that the Board have the Township engineer inspect these bridges.

Motion to go to executive session for personnel reasons and possible litigation at 9:22 p.m.
Motion by Steve Parish, Second by Larry Spahr
Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Evans-Boren-yes, Tullai-yes, Cushey-yes. Motion carried.

The Board returned at 9:35 p.m.

The solicitor indicated that the Board discussed personnel and potential litigation involving Ringgold Middle School.

Motion to advertise a Special Meeting of the Board at Finleyville Community Center on August 1, 2012, at 7:30 p.m.
Motion by Larry Spahr, Second by Brenda Cushey
Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Evans-Boren-yes, Tullai-yes, Cushey-yes. Motion carried.

Board Approved: 9/10/12

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 p.m.

Motion by Brenda Cushey, Second by Larry Spahr

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Evans-Boren-yes, Tullai-yes, Cushey-yes. Motion carried.

Debra A. Nigon, Secretary