

PALMER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
MARCH 7, 2011

A general business meeting of the Palmer Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, March 7, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Palmer Library with four Supervisors in attendance: David Colver, Ann-Marie Panella, Robert Smith and Mike Mitchell. Robert Lammi was absent. Also in attendance were the Township Manager, Police Chief, and Township Solicitor. Takisha Thomas from Patch Internet News represented the news media. Chairman Colver convened the meeting and led those present in the Pledge to the Flag.

2. APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS – MARCH 7, 2011

INFORMATION

The report will be provided at the meeting.

DISCUSSION

On motion by Mitchell, seconded by Panella, and agreed by all, the Board approved the disbursement of funds for March 7, 2011.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 22, 2011

DISCUSSION

On motion by Smith, seconded by Panella, and agreed by all, the Board approved the minutes of February 22, 2011.

4. PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING DISCUSSION

INFORMATION

Tom Adams, Scott Kistler and Paul Hosking will be present to update the Board on the new public works facility.

DISCUSSION

Paul Hosking and Scott Kistler were in attendance and noted Tom Adams was ill. Colver said as we all know we borrowed money about one year ago to construct a new public works facility and Paul, Tom and Scott have been working on a plan for the building.

Kistler said we've been working for the past three months aggressively on the building layout. We looked at several different orientations of the building and came up with a building that will run parallel to the parks department building. Kistler reviewed the building plan with the Board. Kistler said every piece of our equipment will be under roof and there will still be room for growth. Kistler said the building will be 100 feet wide by 400 feet long.

Hosking said the public utilities area will be about 9,500 square feet and would include a work area and weld area. Kistler said the building will be a steel skeleton with a steel skin roof and have three to four feet of masonry block from the ground up.

Colver said the idea was to get this before the Board so we all had a background on what is going on and what they've been working on. Colver said the building will have to go out to bid. Anckaitis said Tom, Paul and Scott have done a lot of good work on this over the past six months and they are ready to get this moving. Colver said we will also need to get the old building appraised in the near future.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Takisha Thomas from Patch asked for some details from Scott Kistler.

6. REPORTS

Solicitor

- Bruno said relating to the case involving Industrial Developments International (IDI): the application was turned down by the Zoning Hearing Board; IDI appealed to the Commonwealth Court who denied, and then IDI appealed to the Supreme Court. Bruno said the Supreme Court did not grant the petition for allowance to appeal. Therefore, the Commonwealth Court decision stands.
- Bruno said there was a recent decision related to the Jolene LaBar tragedy that took place a few years back. Bruno said the US District Court dismissed the case and it states the complaint fails to allege facts that the township was in violation. Bruno read portions of the decision to the Board. Bruno said the plaintiff's council has the right to appeal once the entire case is over. Bruno said this further exonerates the police officers and the township related to this tragic event.
- Bruno had one real estate and one litigation item for executive session.

Township Manager

- Anckaitis said Met-Ed is going to replace mercury vapor street lights in the township at their expense. Anckaitis said we have 261 lights that will be upgraded in April. Anckaitis said they project our annual savings to be \$10,200.
- Anckaitis said he gave the Board a letter from Brown and Brown explaining a refund check the township received in the amount of \$3,174.
- Anckaitis said we had our first Pennsylvania Municipal Insurance Cooperative meeting and the 2010 preliminary data indicates we will be refunded somewhere around \$125,000. The refund will be made in three different payments.
- Anckaitis said the library does not have enough shelf space and they would like to expand. They would like to move the circulation desk between the pillars outside of Stephanie Supinski's office. Anckaitis said it will give them a lot of extra shelf space at a very low cost. Anckaitis said our public works department can move a lot of the material and the library's information technology staff will move their computer equipment. It will also give the librarian much better visibility of people coming in and out of the doors. Smith asked about security. Anckaitis said their computers will be locked up under cabinets and they don't see having monitors out on the counter as an issue. Colver said they can still lock the doors to secure all the books in the main library area.

- Anckaitis had one personnel item for executive session.

Police Chief

- Chief Fretz had one personnel item for executive session.

Supervisors

- Smith reported that the baseball and lacrosse seasons are starting.

On motion by Mitchell, seconded by Panella, and agreed by all, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. with two personnel, one litigation and one real estate item for executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert G. Anckaitis
Township Manager