

PALMER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
MARCH 12, 2012

A general business meeting of the Palmer Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, March 12, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Palmer Library with four Supervisors in attendance: David Colver, Michael Mitchell, Ann-Marie Panella and Robert Smith. Robert Lammi was absent. Also in attendance were the Township Manager, Director of Public Services, and Police Chief. Solicitor Bruno was absent. Dino Ciliberti from Patch Internet News and Adam Clark from the Morning Call represented the news media. Colver convened the meeting and led those present in the Pledge to the Flag.

2. APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS – MARCH 5, 2012 AND MARCH 12, 2012

The report will be provided at the meeting.

DISCUSSION

On motion by Smith, seconded by Mitchell, and agreed by four, the Board approved the disbursement of funds for March 5, 2012

On motion by Smith, seconded by Panella, and agreed by four, the Board approved the disbursement of funds for March 12, 2012.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 28, 2012

DISCUSSION

On motion by Panella, seconded by Mitchell, and agreed by four, the Board approved the minutes of February 28, 2012.

4. NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT PUBLIC MEETING

INFORMATION

This item is being tabled until the April 2, 2012 meeting.

DISCUSSION

Colver said this item is going to be tabled until our April 2, 2012 meeting but we should approve advertising of that public meeting tonight.

On motion by Smith, seconded by Mitchell, and agreed by four, the Board authorized advertising of the Public Meeting for the April 2, 2012 Board of Supervisors meeting.

On motion by Smith, seconded by Panella, and agreed by four, the Board tabled this item until the April 2, 2012 Board of Supervisors meeting.

5. COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS PRESENTATIONINFORMATION

Jamie Collins will be present to make a presentation on behalf of the Compassionate Friends Group.

DISCUSSION

Colver said the Board previously said they were in favor of the concepts the Compassionate Friends group presented to us. Colver said they are back here tonight to present their plan. Jamie Collins said they are presenting a memorial butterfly garden that will provide a peaceful meditative state for people to reflect. Collins reviewed the plan with the Board that included a shady calm space at the entrance area with the group's logo design in the center of the garden area surrounded with inscribed pavers. Collins said they met with the township staff to discuss grading and we will continue to work with them to make sure we do not have any grading issues onsite. Collins said they would also like to use some of the rocks that remain on the site.

Colver said we previously said we felt this fits right in with the Pierce Garden and now with the Miracle League field started, everything fits very nicely. Colver said whatever contractor you hire will need to supply the township with proof of insurance and have the township listed as an additional insured. Colver asked if there would be water on the site. Adams said we talked about extending the water line closer to their garden. Collins said there should be enough volunteers to water and maintain the garden.

John Szabo thanked the Board for their consideration. Szabo said they have a joint meeting on Friday with two other chapters in the area where we will be making this same presentation. Szabo said their newsletter community includes 540 families; with the Easton chapter alone having more than 100 members, and over one dozen members in Palmer Township. Szabo said members will volunteer for upkeep, watering, etc. Collins said you typically get a one to two year warranty on plantings from the nursery and if we get a good garden group involved – upkeep won't be a problem.

Colver asked about timing. Szabo said realistically we are looking at the fall of this year. Szabo said there is a substantial amount of funds available from the national organization for projects like this that they would like us to begin spending. Colver said everything looks good and it is now in your hands to follow through and implement the garden. Szabo said at the last meeting you discussed an agreement with the township. Colver said we will check with our solicitor on that requirement. Colver asked the Township Manager to follow up with the Solicitor on the agreement requirements. Colver said we are looking forward to having the garden on the Charles Chrin Community Center site.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bobbie Fraunfelter, 225 Brodt Road, Bangor, said she works in the township and she had a mishap a few weeks ago on Newlins Mill Road. Fraunfelter said she hit a massive pothole and got a flat tire and it bent the rim of her vehicle. Fraunfelter said the rim could not be repaired and it cost her \$267.12 to replace it. Fraunfelter said she tried to turn it in to her insurance

company but they told her it would raise her rates. I'm asking that the township reimburse me my costs to fix the rim. Colver said we would be opening up a huge can of worms if we would take care of your bill. Fraunfelter said in these economic times it is not fair that she has to cover a cost like this that wasn't her fault. Mitchell said a comprehensive claim should not raise your insurance rates. Colver said we sympathize with your concern but there is no way we can cover things like this. Fraunfelter asked that the Board consider this because of the extensive size of the pothole. Fraunfelter said the Fehnels who live at the property aside of the pothole said the hole had been there for some time. Colver suggested the Township Manager check with our insurance company to see if they would cover a claim like this and to follow-up with Ms. Fraunfelter.

7. REPORTS

Township Manager

- Christman said the Northampton County Association of Township Officials Executive Board met last week and he was nominated as their voting delegate at this year's annual PSATS convention.
- Christman said the Northampton County Tax Collection Committee will be meeting this Thursday to discuss the Allentown NIZ zone.
- Christman said the Pidcock Company is meeting with the Northampton County Conservation District this week. Christman said they are hopeful permits will be issued by mid-summer for the new Public Works Building.
- Christman said at the last meeting the Board introduced Larry Palmer as the new Chief of Police for the township. Christman said he has the necessary employment documents related to Chief Palmer ready for approval. On motion by Smith, seconded by Panella, and agreed by four, the Board authorized the Chairman to sign the employment documents.
- Christman had two personnel, one real estate and one legal item for executive session.

Public Services Director

- Adams said tomorrow at Riverside Park they will begin the installation of the fence around the shooting range.

On motion by Mitchell, seconded by Panella, and agreed by four, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m. with two personnel, one real estate and one legal item for executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher S. Christman
Township Manager