

GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
MAY 2, 2011

A general business meeting of the Palmer Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, May 2, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Palmer Library with all Supervisors in attendance: David Colver, Robert Lammi, Michael Mitchell, Ann-Marie Panella, and Robert Smith. Also in attendance were the Township Manager, Public Services Director, Police Chief, and Township Solicitor. Colin McEvoy from the Express Times, Charles Malinchak from the Morning Call, and 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 – MAY 2, 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 May 2, 2011.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – APRIL 26, 2011

DISCUSSION

On motion by Lammi, seconded by Smith, and agreed by all, the Board approved the minutes of April 26, 2011.

4. APPOINTMENT OF TOWNSHIP MANAGER

INFORMATION

The Board will appoint the new township manager.

DISCUSSION

Colver said he had good news to announce tonight. Colver said a few months back our township manager notified us that he was retiring. Colver said the Board hired the Davison Group to conduct the search and we received nearly 100 applicants. We narrowed the applicants down and conducted some phone interviews and then ended up interviewing a handful of applicants during three prior executive sessions. No official action was taken in any of the three executive sessions. Colver said he has a lot of faith that we have the right person coming on board. Colver said the Davison Group did a great job and he thanked them and Bob Anckaitis for coordinating the process. Colver said he is happy to announce that we have our selection

here tonight. Colver introduced Christopher Christman as the new township manager and said he would be coming on board effective May 16, 2011. Colver said he is coming from Hilltown Township and he lives in Bethlehem. He holds a Master of Arts degree in Political Science from Lehigh University and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Penn State University. Colver also introduced Chris' wife Teena. Smith said everyone did a fantastic job with the application process and it was a pleasure interviewing everyone. Lammi said this is something we don't do that often and we had some excellent applicants and I feel we made an excellent choice. Panella said she wished her everyday interviewing process went that smoothly.

On motion by Lammi, seconded by Mitchell, and agreed by all, Christopher Christman was hired as Palmer Township Manager with an effective date of May 16, 2011.

Christman thanked the Board for their vote of confidence and said he is excited about joining Palmer Township and looking forward to the opportunities before him. Christman thanked Bob Anckaitis for his duties in Palmer and said Bob is an excellent ambassador to other township managers in the Lehigh Valley. Christman said he knows he has big shoes to fill but he is looking forward to it.

5. DISCUSSION REGARDING INSURANCE ESCROW ORDINANCE

INFORMATION

The Board of Supervisors needs to determine if they want to enact an insurance escrow ordinance, also known as Act 93 ordinance, which ensures that buildings damaged or destroyed by fire are torn down, replaced, or secured and don't turn into dangerous, blighted property. These ordinances require the insurer to send claim payments to the township, where the funds are held in escrow until the owners clean up the property. A sample ordinance is included. The Board needs to decide if they want an ordinance and if so, direct the solicitor to draft an ordinance for advertisement and adoption at a later date.

DISCUSSION

Anckaitis said the information he provided in the packet is pretty self explanatory. Anckaitis said we currently do not have an ordinance but I feel we should. We provided the page out of the PSATS newsletter with a sample ordinance. Anckaitis said if the Board is interested in doing this we would need to have our solicitor review and finalize the ordinance. Colver said he likes the idea of the ordinance. Colver said chances are slim that it happens but if it does it would be good to be protected. Lammi asked how we could go on private property. Bruno said it would be related to the township code department regarding the health and public safety of the township.

On motion by Lammi, seconded by Smith, and agreed by all, the Board authorized the solicitor to draft up the ordinance and bring it back to the Board for review.

6. GASOLINE BID AWARDS

INFORMATION

The bids were opened on May 29th. Tom Adams will bring bid information and recommendation to the meeting.

DISCUSSION

Colver said a single bid was received on Friday from Petroleum Traders for a firm price of \$3.5128 per gallon and \$3.3760 per gallon for a fluctuating price. Colver said the way things are going I don't think we can chance taking the fluctuating price. Adams said the deadline for locking in the price is tomorrow. Adams said he estimated a .15¢ gas increase in his budget numbers. Adams said we will save on the first four months but will get hit on the end and be over budget by about \$15,000.

On motion by Mitchell, seconded by Panella, and agreed by all, the Board awarded the gasoline bid award at a firm price of \$3.5128 per gallon from Petroleum Traders.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

8. REPORTSSolicitor

- Bruno said the Finelli Project on Route 248 is ready to enter into its maintenance period. Bruno said they have posted security and signed the agreement. On motion by Mitchell, seconded by Panella, and agreed by all, the Board authorized the chairman to sign the agreement.

Township Manager

- Anckaitis said it is good news here tonight with the hiring of Chris.
- Anckaitis said the township received a check in the amount of \$75,087 for our health insurance rebate.

Public Services Director

- Adams said this Friday we will be receiving bids for road materials and they will be awarded at the next Board of Supervisors meeting.

Supervisors

- Smith said they have held several meetings at the Palmer Athletic football field regarding irrigation of the field and we have decided to hold off until after the fall football season to start the project. Smith said we can start in the fall and then complete it next spring.
- Colver said on May 25 there is going to be the BIP dedication of the new pavilion at the community center. Colver said the dedication has been combined with awarding of the BIP scholarship awards.

- Colver had one real estate item for executive session.

On motion by Mitchell, seconded by Panella, and agreed by all, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m. with one real estate item for executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert G. Anckaitis
Township Manager