

GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
MAY 24, 2011

A general business meeting of the Palmer Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, May 24, 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 outgoing Township Manager, incoming Township Manager, Planning Director, Public Services Director, and Police Lieutenant. Takisha Thomas from Patch Internet News and Colin McEvoy from the Express Times represented the news media. Chairman Colver convened the meeting and led those present in the Pledge to the Flag. Colver welcomed Chris Christman to his first township meeting as township manager and wished Bob Anckaitis well in his retirement.

2. APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS – MAY 24, 2011

INFORMATION

The report will be provided at the meeting.

DISCUSSION

On motion by Panella, seconded by Lammi, and agreed by all, the Board approved the disbursement of funds for May 24, 2011.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MAY 9, 2011

DISCUSSION

On motion by Lammi, seconded by Smith, and agreed by all, the Board approved the minutes of May 9, 2011.

Anckaitis introduced Edward Thomas from the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Anckaitis said Mr. Thomas came to him before the meeting and asked if he could address the Board for a few minutes. Thomas said the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary has met in this meeting room over the past several years. Thomas said at their last meeting they voted to move their future meetings to a new location. Thomas said they would like to present a certificate of appreciation to the Board of Supervisors for allowing us to use this meeting room over the past years.

Anckaitis said the township's three new part time employees are in attendance tonight and Lieutenant Trinchere would like to introduce them to the Board. Lieutenant Trinchere introduced Michael Spinozzi, Ricky Knecht and Stephen Schleig to the Board members and the township managers.

4. VICTORIA SQUARE V SKETCH PLAN

INFORMATION

At the request of the developer, this matter has been placed on the agenda for comments from the Board. No action is required.

DISCUSSION

Nicholas Pugliese, developer, and Domenick Colangelo from Finelli Consulting Engineers were present. Colangelo said they are looking for a positive recommendation from the Board on this project. Colangelo said Mr. Pugliese received approval several years ago for 40 two to three bedroom townhomes and now they would like to downsize that plan. We are now proposing 12 two family, semi-detached buildings (4 one bedroom dwelling units per building – 48 total units) with an associated private roadway and parking facilities between Hobson Street and Milford Street on a 7± acre consolidated tract. Colangelo said since they are one bedroom units there will be no children or effect on the school system. Colangelo said we are proposing gates at the end of the streets to keep it as a private community. The township won't have to maintain it. Colangelo said they will be going to the Zoning Hearing Board in June regarding a density issue, lot width, and square feet per dwelling unit.

Colver asked if there would be any garages. Pugliese said there could be two garages on site. Colver confirmed the maintenance, snowplowing and lawn care would be done by the association. Pugliese said correct. Colver asked if they would be placing any street lights. Pugliese said yes. Colver asked how the trash would be handled. Pugliese said there would be centralized dumpsters. Mitchell asked when it is built out will it be turned over to a homeowner's association. Pugliese said he would own the units. Lammi said if a couple gets pregnant do they have to leave since they are only one bedroom units. Pugliese said they will sign a lease every year and the lease states only two people; so they would have to look for another place to live. Colver said it appears the Board is okay with this. Carman said there was an environmental concern that was previously brought up that still needs to be addressed, but there are no other issues from a zoning perspective. Colver said it appears that this Board is okay with the concept of the sketch plan but it will still need to go through the zoning process.

5. APPOINT NEW TOWNSHIP MANAGER AS SECRETARY/TREASURER

INFORMATION

The Board needs to appoint Christopher Christman as secretary/treasurer.

DISCUSSION

On motion by Lammi, seconded by Panella, and agreed by all, the Board appointed Christopher Christman, Township Manager, as secretary/treasurer.

6. APPOINT NEW TOWNSHIP MANAGER AS PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICER

INFORMATION

The Board needs to appoint Christopher Christman as the township public records officer.

DISCUSSION

On motion by Smith, seconded by Mitchell, and agreed by all, the Board appointed Christopher Christman, Township Manager, as the township public records officer.

7. REQUEST TO ADVERTISE EARNED INCOME TAX ORDINANCE

INFORMATION

The Board needs to approve/disapprove advertising the earned income tax ordinance.

DISCUSSION

Anckaitis said this ordinance was drawn up by the Northampton County Tax Collection Committee (TCC) solicitor and every organization within the TCC needs to adopt this ordinance.

On motion by Lammi, seconded by Mitchell, and agreed by all, the Board authorized the solicitor to advertise the earned income tax ordinance.

8. EARNED INCOME TAX RESOLUTION

INFORMATION

The Board needs to approve/disapprove the earned income tax resolution.

DISCUSSION

Anckaitis said this is also a requirement of the Tax Collection Committee (TCC). This resolution names the township manager and the township finance director as authorized individuals to make requests upon, and receive any and all tax information records from the Northampton Tax Collection Committee or the Tax Officer relative to Palmer Township Earned Income Tax collections.

On motion by Mitchell, seconded by Panella, and agreed by all, the Board approved the earned income tax resolution as required by the Northampton County Tax Collection Committee.

9. TRAFFIC SIGNAL RESOLUTION

INFORMATION

The Board needs to approve/disapprove the traffic signal resolution.

DISCUSSION

Colver said this is an application from Penndot being submitted by Langan Engineering for the proposed interchange and off ramps at Route 33 and Main Street. As part of their submission this needs to be approved by the township with us acknowledging if the traffic signal

permit is approved, the township accepts that we will install and maintain the lights in accordance with the Vehicle Code and Regulations of the Department of Transportation.

On motion by Mitchell, seconded by Lammi, and agreed by all, the Board approved the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation traffic signal resolution application for permit to install and operate traffic signals, at S. R. 1002 (Main Street) at the intersection with S. R. 33 interchange on and off ramps.

10. ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION REQUEST

INFORMATION

Todd Doerner will be present to request a field hockey program be started in the township.

DISCUSSION

Todd Doerner said five years ago he came to the Board to request start up of a lacrosse team in the township. Doerner said we now have four lacrosse teams. Doerner said now he would like to add girls field hockey teams. Doerner said he received Recreation Board approval and we have the funds to do it. Doerner said it would be great to give the Palmer kids an opportunity to play in the Palmer system instead of having to go to the Forks league. Doerner said they have support from the Easton High School field hockey team. Colver said last year his daughter played in the Forks league because Palmer didn't have a program. Colver said at that time Forks had concern that they wouldn't have enough kids to have a full team and they were using players from Forks and Palmer. Colver asked if they truly believe Palmer has enough demand to field a team and how far will they have to travel to compete. Doerner said Parkland and Saucon Valley currently have teams and Phillipsburg is supposedly in the start up stage. Doerner said he feels we need to get it started. Colver asked about field availability, equipment and uniforms. Doerner said each participant would purchase their mouth pieces, sticks and shin guards. We just need to buy goals and balls. Doerner said as start-up we would use pinnies and we can move on as the sport grows. Doerner said it should be fairly inexpensive, between \$5,000 and \$6,000. Doerner said field usage shouldn't be a problem, we can use one of the softball fields and he already cleared that with Jeff Young. Smith said an issue we had was the funding. Doerner said whatever is needed the Athletic Association (AA) is going to take care of. Smith said when they approached us about lacrosse years ago we didn't think we would have enough players, now that has grown. Smith said this is the same situation. Colver said he just wants to make sure there is a big enough demand. Colver said we can try it this year and see what happens and then revisit it during 2012 budget planning. Smith said the AA will fund it the first year since it wasn't included in the township budget for 2011.

On motion by Smith, seconded by Lammi, and agreed by all, the Board approved the township start-up of a girls field hockey team with approved funding by the AA in 2011 and revisiting the funding during 2012 budget preparation. Colver said he would like to confirm that there will be one team for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders and one team for 5th and 6th graders. Colver said the season will run from August through November and it is confirmed that the existing township fields will support the sport and will not conflict with any other fall sport. Colver said

they will be using current funds in the 2011 budget and we will revisit again during the 2012 budget time.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

12. REPORTS

Township Manager

- Anckaitis had one personnel item for executive session.

Planning Director

- Carman reviewed the Zoning Hearing Board agenda with the Board.
- Carman said she attended a workshop conducted by the Census Bureau and they released to us block by block numbers from the census that we can use to verify information they came up with. We have a two year time frame to dispute any information.
- Carman said she and Delmar Grube attended a workshop conducted by FEMA related to a Northampton County community rating system. Carman said there is criteria where you can earn points by implementing activities. Carman said if residents require flood insurance they could receive discounts. Colver asked if there is anything that could help us or hurt us related to reimbursement during any type of disaster. Carman said there was nothing that indicated anything about reimbursement.

Public Services Director

- Adams said the Fairview Park softball lights have been installed. They need to be aimed and when the ground dries out they will aim the lights. At a previous meeting we discussed implementing a policy about the use of the lights. Adams said he sent everyone a draft policy and asked for feedback on the policy. Adams said he received comments from the Recreation Board to keep the hours the same each night of the week, allowing light use until 10 p.m. Adams said it was stated that if the last inning of a game began before 10 p.m. they would be allowed to end that inning, not finish a game. Adams said sometimes there is fall softball, should that also be included in the policy. Smith said if it is a township recreation program it should be included. On motion by Smith, seconded by Mitchell, and agreed by all, the Board approved the policy with the changes discussed.
- Adams thanked Bob Anckaitis and said it was a pleasure working with him and he wished Bob and his wife Kathy all the best in their retirement.

Lieutenant

- Lieutenant Trinchere reported the police department has a new summer intern from Delaware Valley College. Trinchere said he will be riding with officers on all three shifts.
- Lieutenant Trinchere said there will be extra traffic enforcement between now and June 12 related to the click-it and ticket program. Smith said it looks like we are being hit hard with graffiti in the township. Trinchere said yes there have been

several incidents within the last week. Trinchere said the parks department notified us today about activity along the bike path as well. Anckaitis said he learned in the past if you get rid of it right away it deters them from coming back. Lammi asked if we could get kids that are required to do community service out to remove the graffiti. Anckaitis said the only ones we can use are the ones in a probation program in the County, due to insurance purposes. Lammi asked if Chain Damn remained clean. Anckaitis said there was a little graffiti there when he was there earlier this week.

- Lieutenant Trinchere thanked Mr. Anckaitis for always being available to assist him during his employment.

Supervisors

- Lammi thanked Bob Anckaitis for his service to the township.
- Colver said tomorrow night at 5:30 p.m. the BIP pavilion dedication and scholarship presentation will take place at the community center.
- Colver thanked the fire department for hosting the Board at their banquet Saturday night.
- Colver said he attended a TIF meeting today for the Route 33 interchange. All representatives were present. They have come up with the actual district and they are close on the amount of funding. Colver said they have met with three different bond issuers. Colver said we are tentatively looking at the first public hearing in the township in July.
- Colver said a special thank you goes out to Bob Anckaitis. The past eleven and a half years have been great and a lot of fun. Colver said we as the township, and this Board, truly appreciate everything you did for the township.
- Panella said Saturday morning the Memorial Day service will be held at the Northampton Memorial Shrine at 9:00 a.m. Panella said it really is a heartwarming way to honor the heroes who gave their lives for this country. Panella said there is also a free breakfast at the Brown and Lynch American Legion Hall after the service.
- Mitchell thanked Bob Anckaitis for his hard work for the township and wished him well in his retirement.

On motion by Panella, seconded by Mitchell, and agreed by all, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. with one personnel item for executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher S. Christman
Township Manager