

GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING  
JULY 5, 2011

A general business meeting of the Palmer Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, July 5, 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 Lieutenant, Township Engineer and Township Solicitor. 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.

2. APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS – JULY 5, 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 July 5, 2011.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 28, 2011

DISCUSSION

Lammi asked to add “Fire Department” to the second paragraph, third line of page six.

On motion by Lammi, seconded by Smith, and agreed by all, the Board approved the minutes of June 28, 2011 with the above change.

4. ARCHERY PROGRAM REQUEST

INFORMATION

Mr. Steve Klaver will be in attendance to propose a new Archery Program in the township. The Board needs to approve/disapprove the request.

DISCUSSION

Steve Klaver, 2649 Hermitage Avenue, said he originally came to the Township Recreation Board requesting use of township property for the Easton Fish and Game Archery program that recently started up. Klaver said since that initial request Easton Fish and Game has decided they want to start out small and stay on their own property. Klaver said because of the enthusiasm he received from the Recreation Board members he thought he would come back and ask if the township would be interested in starting a program.

Colver said that is a totally different request than what you came to the Recreation Board with. Your new request would still need to go through our Recreation Board. You would need

to supply them with the details and a budget for the program. The Recreation Board would then bring the budgeted item to us for approval. Klaver said the Recreation Board thought the Chrin Community Center was a perfect location for an archery program. Smith said all recreation program ideas go through the Township Recreation Board for approval and then the Athletic Association runs the programs. Smith said if it is something you want to do as a community center program you would need to speak to Dan McKinney, the Community Center Director. Colver said when your request was to have the Easton Fish and Game run the program you were supplying the instructors, materials and everything. If you want it to be a township run program you would need a budget and a group to run the program. Colver said our 2012 budget process begins in September. Klaver said he estimates the cost to be around \$1,800. Klaver said he isn't familiar with the township budget or insurance requirements. Klaver said he is in the process of getting his own insurance as an instructor. Klaver said participants could sign waivers. Smith said the Athletic Association has insurance for the programs they run. Smith said if it is an outside organization using our property you need to supply the insurance for your group to Palmer Township. Colver said the Recreation Board liked the idea when you presented it as an outside group wanting to run the event on our property. Colver said now it is a whole new ballgame if you want it as a township run program. The Recreation Board would have to approve the concept and have the amount included in their budget. Lammi said this sounds more like a program that should go through the community center. Lammi said we don't even know how many kids would be interested. Lammi said he would suggest Mr. Klaver talk to Dan McKinney at the community center to see if he is interested in having a program at the center. Lammi said we will want to make sure it is safe. Klaver said Jeff Young, Dan McKinney and Rick Bulette were all enthusiastic about it. Klaver said according to insurance company statistics football, basketball, soccer, and cheerleading are all more dangerous sports than target ranges. Lammi recommended Mr. Klaver contact the township community center director for a program that they would charge a fee for individuals interested in taking the class. Bruno said once the Board has a level of comfort the indemnification agreements and insurance requirements should be reviewed by the township solicitor.

5. LEHIGH AND NORTHAMPTON TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY REQUEST  
INFORMATION

Owen O'Neil from Lanta will be present to answer any questions or concerns from the Board. The Board needs to approve/disapprove Lanta's request for a temporary route within the township during the closure of the Tatamy Bridge and approve/disapprove a new route within the Palmer Industrial Park.

DISCUSSION

Colver said we had this item on last week's agenda and there was some discussion about the number of buses each day. Owen O'Neil, Director of Planning for Lanta was present. O'Neil said the first request is to use Newlins Mill Road due to the current construction detour and closure of the Tatamy Bridge. O'Neil said it will provide transportation to the industrial parks. O'Neil said their only other option is to go further south which would add time to the route. O'Neil said if we need to do that we may need to reduce the number of trips. Colver said the bridge construction is to take one and one half years. Colver said Newlins Mill, Stocker Mill and Northwood Avenue are other options. Colver reviewed a document from Mr. O'Neil that stated they are proposing 26 in-service buses Monday through Friday between 6 a.m. and 7:30

p.m. and 12 buses Saturday 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and no Sunday trips. Panella asked how many people are riding these buses to the industrial park. O'Neil said 50 to 60 people come into the industrial park every day. Panella said that is like four people per bus. O'Neil said most are going to Majestic from the Slate Belt region. Smith asked if the current detour over the other small bridge in Tatamy has a weight limit. O'Neil said it did have a weigh limit. Panella said why not use Stocker Mill Road instead. Panella said there are not as many homes on Stocker Mill and not as many stop signs. O'Neil said Newlins Mill is the most direct route. Lammi said at our last meeting someone said in a one hour and fifteen minute period there were six to nine buses that went through and someone was left off in the neighborhood. O'Neil said that is possible during the peak morning hours. Panella asked what happens when school buses are back in session – won't that throw off your schedule. O'Neil said it can slow it down but not as much as having to go miles out of the way.

June and Don Roettger, 2002 Newlins Mill Road were in attendance. June read a letter she addressed to the Township Manager, Mr. Christman, regarding the number of buses and trucks travelling Newlins Mill Road. June Roettger said they feel it is a dangerous situation with the people running stop signs, as well as the bike path crossing. We would like to request that Lanta use a different route due to concerns related to safety, noise and pollution.

Colver said we know the truck problem has increased due to the bridge detour. Colver said the bigger issue is the number of trucks and buses using the road. Tom Adams, Public Services Director, said the township received permission today from Forks Township allowing us to move the "no truck" signs to the other side of the Newlins Mill Bridge right at Bushkill Drive. Adams said up until this point the police were only giving warnings to truck drivers because of the sign location. Once the signs are moved the police will begin to issue tickets. Colver said if the detour was for a month or two it wouldn't be a problem but we are talking at least 16 to 18 months. Lammi said he also is concerned during the school year. There are children picked up on Newlins Mill Road at two intersections and there are a lot of children at those stops. Lammi said with the grade and curve it makes me nervous having a big piece of equipment like a bus on that hill. Lammi said he believes Stocker Mill Road is a better option from a safety perspective. Colver said it sounds like this Board prefers Lanta use Stocker Mill Road for all routes. The Board agreed.

O'Neil said the other change we are requesting is to re-route an existing route of eight buses a day to use Stocker Mill Road.

On motion by Smith, seconded by Panella, and agreed by all, the Board approved the use of Stocker Mill Road for the temporary Lanta bus route affected by the Tatamy Bridge detour and a new Lanta bus route that will include the use of Stocker Mill Road. The use of Newlin's Mill Road is not permitted.

#### 6. OFFICIAL PAYMENTS ONLINE PAYMENT AGREEMENT

##### INFORMATION

The Board needs to approve/disapprove the collection of Palmer Township real estate taxes through credit/debit card or echeck payments and then approve/disapprove the Official Payments agreement.

DISCUSSION

Colver said we currently allow residents to pay utility bills by credit card and the resident pays the user fee. Colver said this request is to allow residents to pay their township real estate taxes by credit card. Bruno said he didn't thoroughly review the agreement but stated it is a two year term agreement and includes a 60-day provision by either party to terminate the contract. Bruno said there are no charges to the township. Bruno said if the concept is acceptable with the Board he would recommend final review of the contract by the solicitor's office. Christman said this is for Palmer Township real estate tax payments only, not for school district or county taxes.

On motion by Lammi, seconded by Mitchell, and agreed by all, the Board approved accepting credit/debit card and/or echeck payments for township real estate taxes subject to the satisfactory approval of the Official Payments contract by the township solicitor; the Board authorized the township manager to execute the agreement upon satisfactory approval of the solicitor.

7. DALTON FENCE AGREEMENTINFORMATION

The Board needs to approve/disapprove the fence agreement for Patrick and Erin Dalton at 183 Willow Drive.

DISCUSSION

Adams said this is for a four foot high split rail fence in a drainage and utility easement. Adams said he reviewed the request and is comfortable with it and it includes the standard fence agreement.

On motion by Mitchell, seconded by Smith, and agreed by all, the Board approved the fence agreement for Patrick and Erin Dalton at 183 Willow Drive.

8. REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED WITH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS FOR THE NORTH ENDINFORMATION

The Township Planning Director has requested approval to proceed with drafting the necessary changes to the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance and Map to prepare for anticipated development in the north end. The Board needs to approve/disapprove the request.

DISCUSSION

Colver said the Board received a memo from the planning director regarding getting things moving with the comprehensive plan. Colver said it could take another six or eight months before this comes back to the Board.

On motion by Lammi, seconded by Panella, and agreed by all, the Board authorized the Planning Director to proceed with making the necessary changes to the Comprehensive Plan and

Zoning Ordinance and Map to prepare for anticipated development in the north end of the township.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

10. REPORTS

Township Manager

- Christman said the Board of Supervisors received an email from Tom Ganssle on behalf of Environmental Steering Committee with a recommendation to appoint Robert Natkie to an open position on the committee. On motion by Lammi, seconded by Smith, and agreed by all, the Board appointed Robert Natkie to the Environmental Steering Committee.

Supervisors

- Lammi said he saw in the Express Times that a township resident, Craig Maurer won medals at the Special Olympic World Games. Lammi suggested the Board recognize Mr. Maurer for his accomplishments and asked the township manager to put together a proclamation for the Board to sign and present to him at their June 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Mitchell said a township resident is having a wedding at their home on Bridlepath Road on August 27<sup>th</sup> and is asking if they could close Bridlepath Road between Marc Lane and Northwood Avenue. They are expecting 200 guests. Colver recommended the request go through the Traffic Committee for review and recommendations.

On motion by Mitchell, seconded by Panella, and agreed by all, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher S. Christman  
Township Manager