



Pocopson Township

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Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes Monday, 7:30 P.M., June 23, 2014

In attendance: Supervisors – Ricki Stumpo, Georgia F. Brutscher, Barney Leonard; Richard Jensen, Zoning/Code Enforcement Official; Mark Knightly, Public Works Director.

Number of citizens in attendance: 56 at various times during meeting (room capacity 40). The Constable provided assistance with maintaining progress for the meeting.

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: Stumpo called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M., and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Announcements: Stumpo announced the Board met in Executive Session on June 16th and June 23rd.

3. Public Hearing to Adopt Comprehensive Plan: *Motion:* Leonard moved, Brutscher seconded, to close the regular public meeting and open the public hearing at 7:32 P.M. for the adoption of the 2014 Comprehensive Plan; motion unanimously approved.

Stumpo reviewed public hearing exhibits B-1, B-2, B-3, B-4, B-5 and B-6. She noted that the Draft Comprehensive Plan has been available for public review since May 2, 2014 when a link was posted on the Township website and a printed copy was made available at the Township Administration Building. Stumpo introduced Susan Elks, AICP, Community Planner, Chester County Planning Commission, to lead the discussion and to call for public comments.

Elks briefly reviewed the work of the Pocopson Township Comprehensive Plan Update Task Force ("Task Force"). The Task Force met once a month over the past two years for purpose of drafting proposed long-range recommendations on topics such as housing, land use, and historic and natural resources. Elks noted that the Township Planning Commission moved to adopt the plan during their regular meeting held April 16, 2014. Stumpo read a letter in support of adoption submitted by Dale Stratton. Task Force Members in attendance were recognized for their service. Stumpo read a letter of recognition acknowledging the dedicated efforts of Elks. Elks thanked the Township and the staff for their assistance.

Motion: Brutscher moved, Leonard seconded, to close the public hearing and reopen the regular public meeting at 7:40 P.M.; motion unanimously approved.

Motion: Leonard moved, Brutscher seconded, to adopt Resolution 2014-9 adopting the 2014 Comprehensive Plan and resolving to consider the Comprehensive Plan when making decisions; motion unanimously approved.

Motion: Leonard moved, Brutscher seconded, to approve Resolution 2014-10 recognizing Susan Elks, AICP, Community Planner, for her significant contribution to Pocopson Township and her service as a consultant during the Comprehensive Plan update process; motion unanimously approved.

4. Ordinance 1-2014 Hearing/Amending Municipal Pension Plan: Motion: Brutscher moved, Leonard seconded, to close the regular public meeting and open the public Ordinance Hearing at 7:50 P.M. to adopt Ordinance 1-2014; motion unanimously approved.

Stumpo reviewed the legal exhibits for Ordinance No. 1 of 2014 amending the Municipal Pension Plan administered by the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System (PMRS) pursuant to Article IV of the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement Law. Stumpo noted that with changes in IRS laws over the past few years, PMRS needed to revise all contracts with municipalities. The substance of the new version of the contract is largely unchanged. There were no public comments.

Motion: Leonard moved, Brutscher seconded, to close the Ordinance Hearing and to reopen the regular meeting at 7:55 P.M.; motion unanimously approved.

Motion: Brutscher moved, Leonard seconded, to adopt Ordinance 1-2014 amending the Municipal Pension Plan in accordance with and acceptance of new contract terms; motion unanimously approved.

5. Public Comment: Mary Beth Drobish requested that the Board list The Barn at Spring Brook Farm ("The Barn") Conditional Use Decision conditions on the July 14th agenda. She noted that Dan Stark tendered his resignation as Executive Director effective June 27th and that representatives from The Barn would like to discuss the specifics of the status of the conditions. Rules of participation for public comment were suspended as the Secretary was not able to determine the names of all individuals appearing before the Board to express comment and opinion on The Barn Conditional Use Decision conditions. In the interest of all, the presiding Board did not limit the duration of public comment and all individuals were allowed to speak more than once on the same topic. Comments were not brief nor were they limited. The substance of the public comment on The Barn included but was not limited to the following: (1) residents urging the Board to compromise on the Conditional Use Decision conditions; (2) healthcare and education professionals lauding the benefits of animal-assisted therapy; (3) parents and siblings of special needs children citing Board overregulation as contributing to the closure of The Barn in September; (4) support for the efforts of the Board in requiring The Barn to comply with government agency building codes; and (5) offers by residents to assist with an evaluation of the conditions to determine the extent of fundraising required to meet conditions for code compliance.

6. Planning Commission Report June 18th Meeting: The Board accepted a report submitted by the Planning Commission indicating the status of ordinance revisions. The

Planning Commission offered support for the creation of a historical commission as an initiative to protect Pocopson's heritage and historic resources.

7. **Zoning/Code Enforcement Officer Report:** no action required.

8. **Public Works Report:**

- a. **General Comments** – Knightly reported chip sealing completed on Brooks and Haines Mill Roads. Roadway patches installed on Cannon Hill and Beagle Roads. A second round of roadside mowing will begin the week of June 30th. Suzy Breiseth noted that the trail system for The Preserve is in need of maintenance. Bob Delaney requested a site meeting with Public Works Department regarding a runoff intrusion. Knightly provided purchase proposals for a portable radar/speed monitoring device. He noted it can be used to gather traffic data but the data cannot be deemed official in the context of a speed study. Leonard expressed concern that the device be retrofitted to protect from roadside damage. **Motion:** Brutscher moved, Leonard seconded, to approve the purchase of a SafePace 100 Portable Radar Sign from Traffic Safety Store in the amount of \$2,694.00 per Quote 000049479; motion unanimously approved.
- b. **Resolution 2014-11 Filing Annual Liquid Fuels Forms Online** – Stumpo noted that the PennDOT Liquid Fuels allocation for 2014 is \$116,930. The purpose of the Resolution is to permit required reports to be filed online through the dotGrants System rather than multiple paper copies. **Motion:** Brutscher moved, Leonard seconded, to approve Resolution 2014-11; motion unanimously carried.
- c. **Parks, Recreation and Trails Purchase List** – no action taken.
- d. **Denton Hollow Road Update** – Sarah Mims asked the Board to consider installation of yield signs at the one-lane bridge and to clear the roadside to improve the sight distances on the approaches to the bridge. Mims requested the Board consider the steps necessary to make Denton Hollow a one-way road. Stumpo stated that she will review the request with the Township Solicitor. Christopher Conaway asked the Board to consider the installation of stop signs at various points along the road as a measure to slow traffic. He described difficulties he encounters exiting his driveway and accessing his mailbox. Stumpo suggested that the installation of a convex safety mirror properly positioned might aid in improving the sight line. Knightly commented that he does not recommend installing "slow sound horn signs" or rumble strips embedded in the roadway. Knightly stated for the record that he will install stop signs if directed to do so by the Board. He cautioned that such signage requires the passage of warrants. He will not provide legal testimony if the Board directs the installation of warrantless stop signs. Stumpo indicated that she contacted Birmingham Township Police Department regarding contracting police service for traffic control.

9. **Old Business:** a. **Wawaset Road Park Grant/Melton Proposal** – **Motion:** Brutscher moved, Leonard seconded, to approve the Architectural Proposal dated June 4,

2014, for the Kennett Underground Railroad Center construction work in the amount of \$2,000.00; motion unanimously approved.

10. New Business: a. Request for Proposal (RFP) for Engineering Services – Stumpo indicated that the Township recently requested an RFP for a specific engineering project and received competitive proposals from engineering firms other than the Township Engineer. The Township routinely requests consultant proposals but has not done so for a Township Engineer for quite some time. Secretary requested permission to prepare a Township Engineer RFP and submit it to the Board for approval before distributing. Brutscher indicated satisfaction with the current Engineer and saw no need to pursue an RFP. She cited the recent project as specific and beyond the scope of work of the current Engineer. Leonard indicated that the current Engineer will receive the RFP and will be encouraged to participate in the RFP process.

Motion: Stumpo moved, Leonard seconded, to proceed with drafting an RFP for Township Engineer; Stumpo and Leonard vote to approve; Brutscher opposed; motion carried.

11. Correspondence: Board approved signing letter of commendation recognizing Susan Elks, AICP, Community Planner, for her work on the Comprehensive Plan.

12. Treasurer's Warrants: Motion: Leonard moved, Brutscher seconded, to approve the Bill Payment Lists for June 10 -23, 2014 recommended for payment by the Treasurer; **General Fund:** 19 bills paid totaling \$45,385.23; 5 debit card charges totaling \$73.82; **Highway Aid Fund:** 1 bills paid for \$9,858.36; **Parks, Recreation & Trails:** 2 bills totaling \$1,180.00; motion unanimously approved.

13. Approval of Meeting Minutes: Brutscher moved, Stumpo seconded, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes dated June 9, 2014; motion unanimously approved.

14. Adjournment: At 9:10 P.M., Brutscher moved, Leonard seconded, to adjourn the meeting; motion unanimously approved.

Susan Simone, Administrative Secretary

Ricki Stumpo, Chair