

**WEST PIKELAND TOWNSHIP**  
**1645 Art School Road**  
**Chester Springs, Pa. 19425**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGULAR SESSION**  
**November 16, 2009**

The Board of Supervisors of West Pikeland Township met on November 16, 2009 at the Township Meeting Room. Those in attendance were Robert Shemonsky, Chairman; Richard Bright, Vice Chairman; Harold Hallman III, Supervisor; William Cracas, Supervisor; Guy Donatelli, Solicitor; Shane Clark, Chief of Police; Harry Miller, Director of Facilities, and Joan Matthews, Township Secretary.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** 7:30 P.M.
- II. **EXECUTIVE SESSIONS** – Mr. Shemonsky reported that the Board met in Executive Session on November 5<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 for personnel reasons.
- III. **MEETING MINUTE APPROVAL** – Mr. Cracas made a motion to approve the minutes of October 12, 2009, October 19, 2009 Regular Session, October 19, 2009 Harvey Conditional Use Hearing, and October 29, 2009. Dr. Bright seconded the motion. Mr. Hallman III noted a correction to the October 19, 2009 Regular Session that Robert McClintock did not attend. After no further discussion the motion carried with all voting Aye.
- IV. **PERSONS WISHING TO BE HEARD** – There were no persons wishing to be heard.
- V. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
  - A. **Harvey Conditional Use Hearing Decision** – Mr. Cracas made a motion to approve the Harvey Conditional Use Decision as presented. Dr. Bright seconded the motion. After no further discussion the motion carried with all voting Aye.
  - B. **Disposition of Township Shed** – Mr. Ross noted that HARB submitted a letter dated September 25, 2009 recommending the immediate stabilization of the existing shed and protect the structure from further deterioration. Mr. Ross further stated that the budgets of 2009 and 2010 will not support having the building rehabilitated. Mr. Cracas made a motion to have the building dismantled by the Township Road Department, cataloging the useable lumber and storing it at the Township garage facility for future use, and also capping the foundation so that water cannot penetrate into the stone. Dr. Bright seconded the motion. John Matthews stated that he has discussed the status of the shed with Historic Yellow Springs and agrees with their recommendation that the shed is historical and requests the Board not make a formal

action until recommendations are received from HARB who will meet this week. Dr. Plater Zyberk stated that there is no proof of the specific age of the shed with the exception of photographs that indicate the shed may date around late 1800. Dr. Plater Zyberk further stated that the markings on the timbers of the shed do not denote a specific significance of historic value and that the shed is unsafe. Bill White recommended the Board should follow the Township Manager's recommendations. Dr. Bright asked if the Board should consider getting an estimate on restoring the shed. Mr. Shemonsky stated the shed is unsafe and this matter has been discussed before, however he would be willing to wait one month for further input from HARB. Dr. Bright suggested Mr. Matthews ask Historic Yellow Springs if they would consider drafting a plan to preserve the shed and assist in the construction. After no further discussion Mr. Cracas and Mr. Hallman III voted Aye, Mr. Shemonsky and Dr. Bright voted Nay. Therefore the motion did not carry. Mr. Shemonsky stated that the matter will be discussed at the next meeting after receiving a recommendation from HARB.

C. **Vaughn House** – Mr. Hallman III asked for the status of the Vaughn House. Mr. Ross reported that the Township public works employees delivered Mr. Kring's loaned fence to be erected by Historic Yellow Springs to secure the building. To date, the fencing has not been erected. A discussion ensued regarding proper fencing around the Township shed. Mr. Hallman III made a motion that fencing be erected around the shed if not stabilized or dismantled since it is not safe in order to protect the Township from liability. The motion was not seconded.

D. **Park and Recreation 2009 Report**. Mr. Shemonsky summarized the Park and Recreation 2009 report. A discussion ensued regarding the noise on the bridge at Pine Creek Park. Mr. Cracas made a motion that the Township not fund work on the Pine Creek Bridge to eliminate noise. Mr. Shemonsky noted that \$30,000.00 is needed to repair the bridge. Gesa Skarloff stated that the matter is an annoyance to residents adjoining the Park and that the noise is generated when cars speed over the bridge and suggested that perhaps this is an enforcement issue. The motion was not seconded.

Mr. Shemonsky noted that Park and Recreation has requested that the front fields at Pine Creek Park should be left go to meadow. Mr. Cracas stated that the fields do not have the type of soil to support a meadow but could for forest. John Matthews stated that Nancy Bartley and Darin Groff have knowledge behind their recommendations. Bill Smith stated the Board should continue to mow the fields.

Mr. Shemonsky noted the Park and Recreation's recommendation of LYA use of air horns during games. Mr. Ross stated that LYA has stated the use of the air horns is a safety practice. Mr. Shemonsky noted that LYA has not made application to the Township for permission to use air horns. Tom Tucker explained how air horns are used during games. Mr. Shemonsky requested that the Township Manager research to see if this matter was addressed by the Board before, and have a discussion with LYA to get an official response.

Mr. Cracas made a motion to allocate funds to re-install a baseball backstop at Hallmans' Field. The motion was not seconded. Mr. Hallman III stated the Township should take responsibility of maintaining the field. Wayne Freese stated he is against spending funds for the backstop.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Bills for Approval** – Mr. Cracas made a motion to approve the bills submitted. Mr. Shemonsky seconded the motion. Mr. Hallman III abstained from checks 2382 and 2389. After no further discussion the motion carried with all voting Aye.
- B. **Davis/Conti Subdivision Extension** – Mr. Cracas made a motion to authorize an extension for the Davis/Conti Subdivision to March 30, 2010. Mr. Shemonsky seconded the motion. After no further discussion the motion carried with all voting Aye.
- C. **French and Pickering Trust 2010 Budget Request** – Mr. Ross noted Claire Quinn of French and Pickering Trust requested an allocation of \$1,000.00 in the 2010 Budget. Mr. Cracas made a motion not to allocate the requested funds to French and Pickering Trust in the 2010 Budget. Dr. Bright seconded the motion. After no further discussion the motion carried with all voting Aye.
- D. **Appointment to Environmental Advisory Council** – Mr. Cracas made a motion to appoint Denise Molzahn to the Environmental Advisory Council with the term of office designated by the Township Secretary. Dr. Bright seconded the motion. After no further discussion the motion carried with all voting Aye.
- E. **Tentative Approval of 2010 Budget** – Mr. Ross presented the 2010 Budget for tentative approval with final approval at the December 21, 2009 meeting. Mr. Shemonsky stated that the Board has met numerous times in Executive Session for discussion relating to personnel. The Board also met with Chief Clark regarding reducing the police department hours. Mr. Shemonsky further noted that the average Township resident pays \$30.00 to \$40.00 in Township real estate taxes, and an increase has not been enacted for thirty years. Mr. Shemonsky noted that he wishes to make needed repairs to the roads and not reduce the police force. Mr. Shemonsky made a

motion to increase the Township Real Estate Tax from 0.125 to 0.200 mills. Mr. Cracas seconded the motion. Bill White commended the Board for increasing the taxes since the Township now provides more services and stated the time has come to double the tax this year and next year. Bill Normoyle stated that he agreed with Mr. White. Mr. Normoyle further stated that the police department provides excellent services and should not be reduced. Wayne Freese stated Financial Review Committee recommended a triple increase in the Real Estate Tax and he urged the Board to reconsider the current motion. Bob Smith also suggested the Board consider a larger increase. After no further discussion the motion carried with all voting Aye with the exception of Mr. Hallman III who voted Nay.

Mr. Cracas made a motion to approve the 2010 Tentative Budget, General Fund Expense \$1,737,584, General Fund Revenue \$1,798,288, Liquid Fuels Expense \$263,000, Liquid Fuels Revenues \$264,689, Open Space Expense Unknown, Open Space Revenue \$775,794, with the increase of Real Estate Tax of 0.200 mills and authorize the Township Secretary to proceed to advertise that the budget will be available for public inspection for twenty days prior to final adoption in December 21, 2009. Mr. Shemonsky seconded the motion. A discussion ensued regarding the budget amounts. After no further discussion the motion carried with all voting Aye.

## VII. REPORTS

- A. **Building/Zoning Officer** – Mr. Shemonsky read the Building/Zoning Officer's report for the month of October 2009.
- B. **Finance Committee** – Mr. Freese commented that the Financial Review Committee requests guidance from the Board of Supervisors regarding future budgets.
- C. **Fire and Ambulance** – Mr. Shemonsky read the Kimberton, West End, Lionville fire reports, and the Uwchlan Ambulance report for October 2009.
- D. **Police Report** – Chief Clark read the October 2009 police report.
- E. **Planning Commission** – Mr. Miller gave a summary of the Planning Commission's meeting of November 9, 2009. Mr. Miller reported that the Commission has received the draft Subdivision Ordinance revision. Mr. Cracas made a motion to appoint Theodore Gacomis of E. B. Walsh & Associates as consultant to the Planning Commission for revisions and review of the Township's current Subdivision Ordinance. Mr. Hallman III seconded the motion. After no further discussion the motion carried with all voting Aye.
- F. **Park and Recreation Board** – This item was discussed under New Business.
- G. **Manager's Report** – Mr. Ross gave a summary of the October 19, to November 16, 2009 report. Mr. Hallman III requested that Mr. Ross

look into a “No Hunting” policy for properties owned by the Township.

- H. ***Treasurer’s Report*** – Mr. Shemonsky read the Treasurer’s report as of November 16, 2009.
- I. ***Motion to receive reports*** – Mr. Cracas made a motion to receive the reports as read. Mr. Shemonsky seconded the motion. After no further discussion the motion carried with all voting Aye.

**VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Mr. Shemonsky noted the following announcements:

- A. Chester County Craft Guild Show will be November 21-22, 2009, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- B. The Township Office will be closed November 26-27, 2009 in observance of Thanksgiving.
- C. The Historic Yellow Springs Village Holiday Stroll will be held on Friday, December 4, 2009, 6-9 p.m.
- D. There will be a Chamber Music Concert in the Cultural Center Theatre, Sunday, December 6, 2009, 4-6 p.m.
- E. The Chester Springs Library Tour will be held on Sunday, December 6, 2009, 1-4:30 p.m.
- F. The next Board of Supervisors Meeting will be Monday, December 21, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

**IX. PERSONS WISHING TO BE HEARD**

- A. Bill White thanked the Township Manager for installing the Township sign in front of the building and requested a second sign be placed at the far entrance/exit also.

**X. ADJOURNMENT** – Mr. Shemonsky made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan C. Matthews,  
Township Secretary