

**WEST PIKELAND TOWNSHIP
1645 ART SCHOOL ROAD
CHESTER SPRING, PA. 19425**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SPECIAL MEETING
May 28, 2009**

The Board of Supervisors of West Pikeland Township met on May 28, 2009 at the Township Meeting Room. Those in attendance were Robert Shemonsky, Chairman; Richard Bright, Vice Chairman; Robert Barker, Supervisor; William Cracas, Supervisor; Harold Hallman III, Supervisor; Stephen J. Ross, Township Manager, Shane Clark, Chief of Police; Guy Donatelli, Solicitor; Harry Miller, Director of Facilities, and Joan Matthews, Township Secretary.

I. CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 P.M.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mr. Shemonsky noted that the Board met in Executive Session after the May 18, 2009 meeting for legal reasons.

III. PERSONS WISHING TO BE HEARD – There were no persons wishing to be heard.

IV. BUSINESS:

- A. ***Hopkins Tract*** – Mr. Ross noted the Proof of Publication for the Hopkins Land Acquisition. The hearing is regarding the consideration of the Township's acquisition of, as an open space interest, the property known as the Hopkins Tract, identified as Tax Parcel 34-1-1.1. Mr. Ross stated that the Open Space Advisory Committee requested that the hearing be continued. Mr. Cracas made a motion to continue the Hopkins Tract Hearing to the Board of Supervisors meeting of June 15, 2009. Mr. Hallman III seconded the motion. After no further discussion the motion carried with all voting Aye.
- B. ***Use of the Culture Center*** – Mr. Ross informed the Board that he has received a request from Art Miller and Nathan Brunk of Downingtown Hills Christian Fellowship Church to use the "Black Box" for church services. The Church has a congregation of approximately 75 people and they are in the process of building a permanent church in Uwchlan Township. The church originally offered to paint the Cultural Center building in exchange for use of the facility. Mr. Hallman III requested that the church submit a monthly rental fee to be deposited into a building maintenance fund instead of painting the facility, and the Township can proceed to contract with a professional painter. Mr. Cracas made a motion to allow the Downing Hill Christian Fellowship Church use of the "Black Box" theatre for church services on Sundays, from June 14, 2009 to June 2010. during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for the rental fee of \$225.00 that shall be deposited into a fund for daily maintenance and

utilities. A discussion ensued regarding the use of the facility for religious purposes. Mr. Shemonsky stated his concern of permitting such use to a religious group and how it could be interpreted in direction relation to the litigation of the ACMEC Conditional Use Appeal. Mr. Cracas stated that if the ACMEC property owners applied for use of the facility, it would be granted. Mr. Barker suggested a statement be included in the Facility Use Agreement Resolution that the Township does not discriminate against race or religion. Mr. Hallman III made a motion to amend the original motion to include that the Township draft an agreement for use of the facility that includes both parties. Mr. Shemonsky seconded the motion. After no further discussion the motion carried with all voting Aye with the exception of Mr. Shemonsky who voted Nay. Mr. Miller asked if there would be a discount if they paid the entire years rent in one payment. Mr. Ross stated that he would have to look into a possible discount.

- C. **Pipeline** – Dr. Bright stated that West Pikeland Township Land Trust is requesting the Township to participate as a co-applicant with West Vincent Township for the application of a Technical Assistance Grant from PHMSA for funds related to engineering or other scientific analysis of pipeline safety issues and help promoting public participation in official proceedings. Mr. Barker made a motion to authorize the Township as a co-applicant with West Vincent Township in the application of the PHMSA Grant to be completed by May 29, 2009. Dr. Bright seconded the motion. A discussion ensued regarding the credentials of PHMSA. Mr. Cracas made a motion to amend the original motion that conditional authorization be based on the Township Manager assuring that PHMSA is a reputable and legitimate agency. Mr. Shemonsky seconded the motion. After no further discussion the motion carried with all voting Aye.
- D. **Police Department**- Mr. Shemonsky stated the Board made a commitment to review budget funding of the Police Department at a later date during the 2009 Budget Presentation Meeting. Mr. Barker submitted a detailed outline with the objective to set a strategic vision for the Police Department in regards to focus, efficiency, workforce, and budget while assuring the safety and welfare of its residents. Chief Clark submitted a report which detailed the amount and types of incidents responded to from 2000 to 2008, current police force information, areas of focus, constraints of the Department and UCR comparisons of crime statistics of Chester County and adjoining municipalities. Chief Clark also answered questions from the Board regarding police activity, focus areas, constraints, and relationships of adjoining municipalities, specifics on crime, labor constraints, and types of calls, traffic details, and use of vehicles. Mr. Cracas suggested that Police Department Study of 2001 be reviewed to assure that the Township is accomplishing the goals and ideas listed in that document. Mr. Barker stated he would review the document with Chief Clark. Mr. Ross gave an update of the Regional Police Study. Mr. Ross also noted that additional information on the Police Department will be included in this study. The Board and attending residents thanked Chief Clark for his service to the

community. Mr. Ross stated that Chief Clark runs a very efficient and financially responsible department and has the respect of the residents and other municipalities. Chief Clark will assist the staff to prepare his report to be posted on the web page. Residents Eleanor McCahon and Linda Glaum thanked Chief Clark for providing the community with excellent police protection.

- E. **Bills for Approval** – Mr. Cracas made a motion to approve the bills submitted. Mr. Barker seconded the motion. After no further discussion the motion was carried with all voting Aye.

V. PERSONS WISHING TO BE HEARD.

- A. **Bob Smith** – Asked the status of the Pickering Meadows Road Dedication. Mr. Ross reported he did not have a current time frame for the Road Dedication.

- B. **Jeff Chernet** –stated that he met with Mr. Ross in regards to his current lease for the Palmer House and wanted the Board to know that the current lease’s first page includes a short term lease when he moved in at 2006. The second and last pages are the actual lease. Mr. Ross stated that the beginning and end of the lease is not specified, and will have the staff research the minutes.

VI. ADJOURNMENT - Mr. Barker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joan C. Matthews,
Township Secretary

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