

January 14, 2015
East Bethlehem Township, PA

The regular monthly meeting of the East Bethlehem Township Commissioners was held on Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at the Sewage Authority Building, 522 Front Street, Fredericktown PA.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by Commissioner Paul Battaglini. The roll call was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners present were Paul Battaglini, Brenda Bennett, William Hess and Leisa Conklin. Also present was Solicitor Lane Turturice and Secretary Maryann Kubacki.

Tri-County Joint Municipal Authority

Mr. Battaglini informed the audience that the Board of Commissioners has convened early and has invited representatives from Tri-County Joint Municipal Authority to explain the need for an extension in their charter which was presented at the December 2014 meeting. Melinda Dellarose, Solicitor for TCJMA stated that the authority charter currently expires in 2034 and they are asking for an extension to 2050. The board is attempting to put TCJMA in a better position and this would enable them to take on additional projects. Discussion was held on projects that are being considered. Ed Rebitch, TCJMA Accountant, explained that the filter media at the plant needs replaced and there are infrastructure issues in getting water to the California Industrial Park. Dave Bojtos, TCJMA Manager, spoke about plans for a new water tank which is expected to replace 2 current tanks. Mr. Bojtos explained why TCJMA expanded their area into Scenery Hill several years ago and that he believes more customers can be added in that area. Discussion was held on the quality of the water, DEP violations, decaying infrastructure and replacement of the main meter. Mr. Battaglini stressed his concern regarding the outstanding debt that TCJMA currently has. He stated that he would like to meet with the other communities that form TCJMA to discuss other options. Ms. Bennett stated that she would like to see a long range plan from TCJMA. Mrs. Conklin is concerned that the ideas for expansion won't benefit the current customers of TCJMA. Mike Hughes, TCJMA Board Member stated that the water authority is making an effort to move forward and that the charter extension would allow for future financing opportunities. Also present for this discussion was Susan Zebley, Centerville Borough Council, Ted Kollar, Luzerne Township Supervisor and Tim Faddis and Jack Golding of SPWA. Mr. Hess motioned and Mrs. Conklin seconded that East Beth organize and advertise a meeting on Monday January 26, 2015 at 6:00PM with Tri-County municipalities to discuss all options. The motion carried.

Public Participation

Darius Colbert, representing Troop #391, was present to inform the board of the Boy Scout Annual Clean-up day which will take place on Saturday, April 18, 2015 from 10AM to 2PM. Mr. Colbert stated that this is the 6th annual cleanup in East Bethlehem Township. He stated that he has created a Facebook page for the event and invited all to join. As in past years, he requested help from the township in providing a dumpster and

police participation. Mrs. Conklin motioned and Mr. Hess seconded that the township supply a dumpster for the clean up day. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Hess motioned and Ms. Bennett seconded to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2014 Regular meeting and December 29, 2014 Special meeting as received. The motion carried.

Secretary's Report

General Fund Receipts	\$20,045.78	General Fund Expenses	\$38,709.49
State Fund Receipts	\$.54	State Fund Expenses	\$ 2,440.57
Municipal Share Receipts	\$.87	Municipal Share Expenses	\$ 2,271.04
Act 13 Receipts	\$ 3.11	Act 13 Expenses	\$38,028.57
Police Dept. Fund Receipts	\$ 0	Police Dept. Fund Expenses	\$ 0

Mrs. Conklin motioned and Ms. Bennett seconded to accept the secretary's report and pay the bills as presented. The motion carried.

Tax Collector's Report

The December 2014 Tax Collector report was presented as follows:

Real Estate:	\$8,732.24	Fire Service:	\$451.65
Per Capita:	\$184.80		

Total uncollected taxes for 2014 that will be liened total \$27,611.61.

Mrs. Conklin motioned and Ms. Bennett seconded to accept the Tax Collector report as presented. The motion carried.

Solicitor's Report

Solicitor Turturice explained a recent billing issue with Advanced Disposal not instituting the new charge in July 2014 as they should have. Advanced has not back-billed the monthly increase to customers on their most recent bill causing much concern from residents. He stated that Advanced is willing, with the approval of the board, to remove the retroactive charges and start the new rate effective January 2015. This would benefit the residents by charging them the cheaper rate for all of 2014. The contract start date with Advanced would change to January 1, 2015 and the new rate would be instituted on that that date. Ms. Bennett motioned and Mr. Hess seconded to change the contract dates with Advanced Disposal making the contract valid from 1-1-2015 to 12-31-2017 with rates as were stated at the time of bid. The motion carried.

There has been no action on the Slate Dump property.

The solicitor stated that Kimberly Coleman, owner of the former Taylor Gas Station will be personally served with the Conservatorship petition and outstanding warrants as requested by Judge Emery. The Phase I study is underway and a report is expected within the month. The next step will be to advertise for bids for demolition.

Police Department Updates

Mrs. Conklin that performance appraisals are being conducted for all police officers. Mrs. Conklin and Mr. Hess will perform the evaluation on Chief Pompe. The police tasers are outdated and need replaced. Due to budget restraints Mrs. Conklin suggested purchasing one taser at this time. Mrs. Conklin motioned and Mr. Hess seconded to purchase a taser at a cost of \$1,030.00. The motion carried. Mrs. Conklin presented an invoice for \$85 for door vinyls for the Police Station door to identify it. The items were never received or installed. Mrs. Conklin motioned and Mr. Hess seconded to purchase the door vinyls at a cost of \$85. The motion carried.

Old Business

Mr. Hess stated that he has spoken with 2 contractors and is getting estimates for a building at the stockpile.

Mrs. Conklin stated that a letter has been sent to PennDot requesting a traffic study for a proposed "school zone" designation on Rt. 88 near Calvary Chapel Christian School. Solicitor Turturice stated that all paperwork for the \$25,000 Tax Anticipation Note has been prepared and is ready for signatures. Ms. Bennett motioned and Mr. Hess seconded that the Board President and Secretary are authorized to sign all necessary paperwork for the 2015 Tax Anticipation Note from Northwest Savings Bank. The motion carried. Updates were given on the Vestaburg Park Grant, Dock Expansion Grant and Community Square Phase II Grant.

Mr. Hess motioned and Mrs. Conklin seconded that Solicitor Turturice will attempt to have the existing easement agreement with LTV Steel voided. The motion carried.

New Business

Discussion was held on the audio recording of public meetings. Mrs. Conklin motioned and Mr. Hess seconded that the secretary start recording all meetings. The motion carried.

Ms. Bennett motioned and Mrs. Conklin seconded that Mr. Hess be added as a signer on all township accounts. The motion carried.

Mr. Hess motioned and Mrs. Conklin seconded that the township apply for a Business Credit Card with Northwest Savings Bank. The motion carried.

Mr. Hess motioned and Ms. Bennett seconded that the February regular meeting be rescheduled to Wednesday February 18. The motion carried.

Mrs. Conklin motioned and Ms. Bennett seconded to approve the event list provided by East Bethlehem Township Volunteer Fire co. The motion carried.

Discussion was held on an unsafe parking condition on Vesta Avenue. Ms. Bennett stated that since the opening of Vesta Avenue cars have been parking on both sides of the street making it difficult for the plow trucks and emergency vehicles to pass. She stated that she would like the residents input on the matter. The board agreed that a letter will be sent to all property owners on Vesta Avenue from Prospect Avenue to Beallsville Road inviting them to the February 18 meeting.

Mrs. Conklin motioned and Mr. Hess seconded that the unused plows (2), hi lift, tractor attachments (2), trailer and dump bed insert being stored at the stockpile be advertised for bid. The motion carried.

The board reviewed the winter call-out policy. Mr. Battaglini stated that if the commissioners or police feel that the road department needs to be out that they are to call them or 9-1-1 will call them out. He stated that both workers have been told to use their own judgment to keep the roads safe.

Mrs. Conklin motioned and Ms. Bennett seconded that two fire escrow accounts be established at Northwest Savings Bank in the name of Matusky and Mikolay. The motion carried.

Mr. Battaglini announced that Mrs. Conklin, Mr. Hess and Ms. Bennett will be on the newly formed Budget Committee.

Mr. Battaglini called for an executive session for personnel matters at 8:05PM. The board returned to regular session at 8:30PM.

Ms. Bennett motioned and Mr. Hess seconded to take action as discussed in executive session to lay off temporary street dept. laborer Ray Bogumit and place him on call-back status effective 1/24/2015. The motion carried.

Adjournment

Mr. Hess motioned and Mrs. Conklin seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.

Maryann Kubacki, Secretary