

HALIFAX TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING
NOVEMBER 10, 2008

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Shearer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Supervisors Shearer, Ruff, Eppley, Hoover and Shultz are present. Solicitor Steve Dzurain, Engineer Tom Wilson, Roadmaster Dale Shoop and Secretary Carolyn Nye are present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The session was held tonight from 5:30 – 6:53 and on October 15, 6:30 – 7:10 p.m. discussing personnel matters.

TAPING OF THE MEETING: In addition to Secretary taping, Dan Shearer and Eileen Snyder are taping.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Flo Mallonee has no comment. Bonnie Freeman stated she recently presented a check to the township from the Friends of Ft. Halifax Park for \$22,750.00 and thus far they been able to raise in excess of \$75,000 for the park. Grants are being sought and there are two fund raisers planned which is a Chow Down March 21, 2009 and a festival May 1 and 2. The donations came from the estate of Marlin Ballits, an M & T Bank pledge and the Friends of Ft. Halifax Park pledged \$2,500 from the Chow Down.

SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT: Bills-October 27, 2008 Interim Bills and November 10, 2008 Bills – Supervisor Eppley made a motion to approve the interim and current bills totaling \$17,180.96, seconded by Supervisor Hoover, vote called, motion carried 5-0. Minutes October 13, 2008 and Budget Minutes of October 7, 8 and 15 – Supervisor Shultz made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Supervisor Hoover, vote called, motion carried 5-0. Financial Report of October 2008 – Supervisor Ruff stated in addition to the money previously mentioned toward the mortgage payment there is an additional \$8,000 check from the COMCAST franchise fee and some additional donations. The current mortgage balance is \$185, 606.96.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT: Jim Eppley read the report (see attached). Chairman Shearer mentioned the Nightwine Subdivision Plan currently in the Township and asks if there is a problem with the lots pertaining to that plan being up for sale. The Solicitor stated this is not a problem. Jim asked the Solicitor about the Accu Mold Plan and did he receive this. The Solicitor said this should be delivered in the next couple of days. Jim commented on the Greenways project and announced a public meeting in Millersburg is scheduled for public review and comment.

ENGINEER REPORT: Tom Wilson read his report dated November 7, 2008 (see attached). Engineer Study on Mountain Road – A resolution needs to be done by the Solicitor for the December meeting. Motion – Supervisor Ruff made a motion to authorize the Solicitor to prepare the resolution, seconded by Supervisor Eppley, vote called, motion carried 5-0. Secretary will supply a copy of the study to Reed Township. Drainage Issues at Pawnee Lane – The Solicitor feels this is a landowner to landowner issue and the township has no involvement. Dale will inform Mrs. Halderman. Halifax Commons Land Development Plan – Supervisor Ruff asked Tom to shed some light on the comments made by PennDOT regarding the situation at the corner. Tom will get more information from his staff person and report to the Board. Barn Repair Scope of Work – Motion -Supervisor Eppley made a motion to authorize Tom Wilson to send out the RFP as is, seconded by Supervisor Shearer, vote called, motion did not carry 3-2. New Motion – Supervisor Shultz made a motion to authorize Tom Wilson to send out the RFP and eliminate Item No. 3, seconded by Supervisor Eppley, under discussion Tom Wilson stated the RFP is not costing the township anything, but the feasibility study may cost about \$2,500.00 to \$3,000.00, the Solicitor stated the purpose of the RFP is for someone to tell us what they estimate the cost to be to stabilize the barn, vote called, motion carried 3-2.

SOLICITOR REPORT: (see attached report dated November 7, 2008) Accu Mold As Built Plan – Solicitor agrees with Chairman of the Planning Commission in that the plans should be delivered to the engineer and copies supplied for the Planning Commission’s review.

Amy Wise and Darren Mohney Property – The Solicitor stated there is an error in this reporting with the sentence that reads beginning with “However, it may be improper” and this should be deleted. The foreclosure action in this case has been scheduled for January of 2009. If a demolition permit request has been made, this should be provided as soon as possible.

Motion to Advertise Ordinance to Abandon The Portion Identified On Tobias Road – Supervisor Hoover made a motion to authorize the advertisement either in December or January for the ordinance to abandon a portion of Tobias Road that has been identified, seconded by Supervisor Eppley, vote called, motion carried 5-0.

Mid Penn Bank Tax Assessment Appeal – The Solicitor stated Mid Penn Bank appealed the tax assessment of \$464,100.00 and after a hearing Dauphin County Tax Assessment granted a reduction to \$320,000.00. Mid Penn filed an appeal at the Court of Common Pleas against this assessment. This has an impact upon Halifax Township, Halifax School District and Dauphin County in terms of the assessment for calculating taxes. The letter asks for each of these entities to share the approximate cost of an appraiser at just a little less than \$2,500 pro rata based on the millage that each municipality charges. The millage is set for Halifax Township at .93 which includes .42 as the township real estate tax and .51 is the township fire tax, Halifax School District at 16.690 and Dauphin County at 7.226. The Solicitor stated the contribution the Township makes would be contingent upon the other two entities contributing. Motion – Supervisor Eppley made a motion to agree to the pro-rata contribution toward the cost of the appraiser for the appeal, seconded by Supervisor Shultz, vote called, motion carried 4-1. The Solicitor will send a letter stating we have approved the pro-rata share contingent upon the other two entities contributing.

ROADMASTER REPORT: Building Permit Application – Supervisor Hoover made a motion to authorize the building permit for Dominic McGruther for a pole building, seconded by Supervisor Ruff, vote called, motion carried 5-0. Dale stated he provided his Roadmaster report to the Board.

SEO REPORT: No comments made.

OLD BUSINESS: Tracy Cox-HARA Quarterly Report – Tracy reported HARA’s current status regarding current finances and the budget as well as up coming projects to try to improve HARA’s finances which includes an invitation from Florence McGuire to attend a workshop on grant writing thru Revitalization. Tracy asked why the township financial report does not include liabilities and only shows assets which results in not providing the equities of the township. Chairman Shearer stated it is very complicated to add all the others every month and this was our decision. Supervisor Ruff suggested to

Tracy that HARA try to get the money for the development of their park as soon as possible and she would be glad to help in this effort.

Gypsy Moth Spraying for 2009 – Motion – Supervisor Hoover made a motion to authorize the township to pay the \$6,490.03, seconded by Supervisor Ruff, vote called, motion denied 3-2. New Motion – Supervisor Ruff made a motion to pay the \$6,490.03 and at a later time consider for discussion the issue of asking residents to pay their share, seconded by Supervisor Shultz, vote called, motion carried 5-0.

Regional Comprehensive Plan Ordinance/Inter-municipal Agreement – RFP’s have been sent out to engineers to participate in this multi-municipal comprehensive plan and are due back by December 12 at which time the committee will review them and create a short list for interviews targeted for January 13. Motion - Supervisor Shultz made a motion to approve the ordinance and agreement, seconded by Supervisor Ruff, vote called, motion carried 5-0.

Upper Dauphin Tax Office – This issue has to do with the overpayment made by Upper Dauphin and the repayment of that sum back to Upper Dauphin. It is the consensus of the Board to wait until both audits are complete. The Solicitor stated the Board is not compromising any of its right to wait until the audits are done. Tracy Cox was called on from the audience who suggested that these funds should be taken care of prior to the end of this year so that the income and expenses are comparable.

Light Tax – The current light tax does not cover the cost of lights in the township. Supervisor Shultz stated there should be a correction to be in compliance with the Second Class Township Code regarding vacant lot assessment and suggests increasing the rates per code and class as presented in the chart provided. Supervisor Ruff stated according to our political leaders there are movements to smooth out the electric increase situation. She stated the street lights light up the highways and not the resident’s properties and feels this is an unfair tax to residents because these lights benefit everyone traveling thru the township. Dale stated people who originally wanted street lights signed a petition to have them installed in the 70’s. Motion – Supervisor Ruff made a motion to abolish the light tax for all residents and use another means to pay for the light tax as a service of safety for our residents and all those passing thru our township, seconded by Supervisor Eppley, under discussion Chairman Shearer stated she is concerned about being faced with increased electric rates, vote called, motion denied 3-2. New Motion -

Supervisor Shultz made a motion to authorize the light tax rates to be in compliance with the Second Class Township Code for 2009 as follows: Class 1 \$.08, Class 2 \$.10, Class 3 \$.32, Class 4 \$.40, Class 5 \$.09 and Class 6 \$.36, seconded by Supervisor Hoover, vote called, motion carried 3-2.

Municipal Planning Advisory Service 2009 – Chairman Shearer stated this is the money the County gives all municipalities and we are utilizing it within the Regional Comprehensive Plan and this provides \$1000 of full time service. Motion – Supervisor Eppley made a motion to authorize the full time advisory service, seconded by Supervisor Shultz, vote called, motion carried 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS: Township Auditor – We have received proposals from two auditing firms. The Board would like to have contact with another firm. Chairman Shearer will contact the auditing firm from Pottsville. This will be on the agenda for December.

Budget Presentation –Chairman Shearer went over the proposed budget figures. Motion to Advertise the Budget – Supervisor Eppley made a motion to advertise the budget, seconded by Supervisor Ruff, vote called, motion carried 5-0. This will be voted on at the December 8 meeting. Tracy Cox representing HARA is asking the Board for reconsideration of the HARA contribution in light of the increase in the budget that HARA prepared. Chairman Shearer asked the Solicitor if the proposed budget could be modified. The Solicitor is not sure if at the end of the 20 day publication period the Board can change the proposed budget before it is adopted. He stated once it is adopted, the expenditure can be changed. He will advise the Board at the December meeting regarding changing the proposed budget before it is adopted.

Part-Time Township Employee Termination – Supervisor Shultz made a motion that we remove Robert Manning from township employment for reasons discussed in the executive session, seconded by Supervisor Hoover, vote called, motion carried 4-1.

Town Meetings for 2009 – Supervisor Ruff suggested quarterly town meetings. This will be on December's agenda.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: Workshops on Leadership Forum November 18 and Subdivision/Land Development Ordinances December 11. Motion – Supervisor Eppley made a motion to authorize Dauphin County to Sponsor a music festival at Ft. Halifax Park on July 18, 2009, seconded by Supervisor Shultz, vote called, motion carried 5-0.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING: Auditors, Budget, Upper Dauphin Income Tax Reimbursement, Balance Sheet and Town Meetings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Planning Commission Meeting December 1 at 7:00 p.m.
Township Meeting December 8 at 7:00 p.m. Tracy Cox asked for a complete balance sheet for December. Supervisor Hoover asked about status on Buffalo Park Road and Chairman Shearer stated this falls under the Master Site Plan. Bob Artman asked about the Act 537 meeting and will this be held during the regular township meeting in December. Chairman Shearer stated there will be a hearing before the regular meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Supervisor Hoover made a motion to adjourn at 10:03 p.m., seconded by Supervisor Shultz, vote called, motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Nye, Secretary