WORK SESSION

January 19, 2010

A Work Session of the Whitpain Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at the Whitpain Township Building, 960 Wentz Road, Blue Bell, PA at 7:30 PM for the purpose of reviewing the agenda of the January 19, 2010 Supervisors' Meeting. Chairman Joseph J. Palmer was present with Supervisors Brian W. Young, Anthony F. Greco, Adam D. Zucker and Frederick Conner. Also present from the township solicitor's office was Andrew R. Freimuth. Assistant Township Manager/Township Engineer Roman M. Pronczak, Police Chief Mark A. Smith, Director of Finance John Marcarelli, Director of Public Works Ronald J. Cione, Director of Code Enforcement Michael McAndrew, Fire Marshal David M. Camarda, and Parks and Recreation Director Kurt W. Baker were also present. Township Manager Phyllis C. Lieberman was absent. Two residents were present.

The Supervisors reviewed the agenda discussing the recognition of Detective Wittig, named SWAT Officer of the year; scheduled meetings for February 2010; approval of the Minutes of the January 4, 2010 meeting, along with the Treasurer's Report for December, 2009; approval of an amendment to a previously approved subdivision/land development plan for 1860 Skippack Pike (Addison Reserve) involving a reduction in the number of units in accordance with the requirements of the R3B Residential District; approval of a temporary construction access easement agreement between the Township and residents Peter and Susan Licari; consideration of a request for a two-year extension of preliminary land development approval for 1950 Skippack Pike; authorization of Hough Associates to collection 2009 residential and commercial recycling data and their follow-through with reporting; extension of the bid for 2009 Road Resurfacing Program for one year; extension of the 2008 Line Painting Program for one more year; extension of the 2008 Root Control Program for one more year; to piggyback the Montgomery County Consortium and/or any individual Consortium municipality for the purchase of materials and supplies in 2010 and allowing the same communities to piggyback our bids in 2010; authorizing Township to dispose of Township personal property by public auction for 2010 and allowing Montgomery County Consortium Communities and/or any individual Consortium municipality to piggyback our signed contract with either JJ Kane Auctioneers or the on-line auction service of the Commonwealth of PA; authorizing Manager to advertise for leaf collection services for one year with the option to extend for two years in one-year increments; review of ZHB Case No. 1852-09 for variances; an advertised public hearing for proposed Ordinance No. 22-37 (Uniform Construction Code) and an advertised public hearing for proposed Ordinance No. 314 (reorganizing/renaming the Park and Recreation Board into the Park and Open Space Board and dissolving the Open Space Preservation Plan Committee which duties will be fulfilled by the Park and Open Space Board).

The Supervisors discussed appointments to the Parks and Open Space Board. It was agreed that if the ordinance creating this board is enacted on January , the appointments will be made at the February meeting.

Mr. Pronczak discussed the possibility of meeting with representatives from Montgomery County, Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association, Ambler Borough, and other interested adjacent municipalities. The purpose of the meeting would be to discuss a long range open space and recreation plan for the West Ambler area. The Supervisors agreed that Messrs. Zucker and Conner would attend.

At approximately 7:45 PM the work session was adjourned and the Supervisors discussed a personnel matter and a legal matter pertaining to the Centre Square Fire Company. The Supervisors then left for the public meeting.

At approximately 8:35 PM the work session was reconvened, where the Supervisors continued to discuss legal matters.

At approximately 10:00 PM the work session was adjourned.

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Roman M. Pronczak, P.E.
Whitpain Township Engineer/
Assistant Township Manager

#02-2010

The regular meeting of the Whitpain Township Board of Supervisors was held Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at the Whitpain Township Building, 960 Wentz Road, Blue Bell, PA. Supervisors Joseph J. Palmer, Brian W. Young, Anthony F. Greco, Adam D. Zucker and Frederick R. Conner were present. Township Engineer/Assistant Township Manager Roman M. Pronczak, Township Solicitor James J. Garrity, Police Chief Mark A. Smith, Code Enforcement Officer Michael E. McAndrew, Public Works Director Ronald J. Cione, Park and Recreation Director Kurt W. Baker, Fire Marshal David M. Camarda, Finance Director John Marcarelli and Recording Secretary Virginia Papale were also present. Township Manager Phyllis C. Lieberman was absent. There were approximately 20 members of the public in attendance.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Joseph Palmer at 8:04 p.m.

Chairman Palmer was pleased to announce the recognition of Detective Thomas Wittig, who has been named SWAT Officer of the Year for 2009 by the SWAT Command Staff. This award was developed in honor of Whitpain Township Lt. Joseph Rosko who passed away in 2003, for those who possess strong dedication, along with exemplary skills, initiative and drive.

Chairman Palmer announced the scheduled meetings at 8 p.m. for the month of February 2010, with the regular meeting Tuesday, February 2, 2010 and the second meeting Tuesday, February 16, 2010.

A motion was made by Mr. Conner, duly seconded by Mr. Zucker to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2010 Supervisors' Meeting. Chairman Palmer called for any discussion. There being none, the motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Young, duly seconded by Mr. Zucker, to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of December, 2009. Chairman Palmer called for any discussion. There being none, the motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Greco, duly seconded by Mr. Zucker, to approve an amendment to a previously approved subdivision/land development plan for 1860 Skippack Pike, formerly known as Canterbury Estates. The revised plans are titled "Addison Reserve - Sheets 1 of 27 through 27 of 27", prepared by Woodrow & Associates, Inc., dated March 16, 2005, and last revised January 15, 2010. This amendment involves a reduction in the number of units from 30 to 25 in accordance with the requirements of the R3B – Residential District. Chairman Palmer called for any discussion. There being none, the motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Greco, duly seconded by Mr. Young, to approve a temporary construction access easement agreement between Peter J. and Susan M. Licari, of 780 Lewis Lane and Whitpain Township. Chairman Palmer called for any discussion. There being none, the motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Conner, duly seconded by Mr.Young, for the Supervisors to consider a request for a two year extension of preliminary land development approval for a land development plan titled "1950 Skippack Pike, LP – Sheets 1 of 11 through 11 of 11", prepared by Robert E. Blue Consulting Engineers, P.C., dated March 29, 2002 and last revised December 9, 2004. Chairman Palmer called for any discussion. There being none, the motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Greco, duly seconded by Mr. Zucker, to authorize Hough Associates of King of Prussia, PA to collect 2009 residential and commercial recycling data and prepare the PA DEP 904 Recycling Grant application, along with Montgomery County's report. This motion is contingent upon the Township Solicitor reviewing and finalizing the agreement between Hough Associates and Whitpain Township. Chairman Palmer called for any discussion. There being none, the motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Greco, duly seconded by Mr. Zucker, to exercise the Township's option to extend the bid for the 2009 Road Resurfacing Program, to include Novchip, Ralumac, Crack Sealing and Polypatch for one year. This motion will also allow the Montgomery County Consortium of Communities and/or any individual Consortium municipality to piggyback our bid in 2010. Chairman Palmer called for any discussion. There being none, the motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Greco, duly seconded by Mr. Young, to exercise the Township's option to extend the bid for the 2008 Line Painting Program for one more year. This will be the second extension for this contract. Chairman Palmer called for any discussion. There being none, the motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Greco, duly seconded by Mr. Zucker, to exercise the Township's option to extend the bid for the 2008 Root Control Program for one more year. This motion will also allow the Montgomery County Consortium of Communities and/or any individual Consortium municipality to piggyback our bid in 2010. This is the second extension for this contract. Chairman Palmer called for any discussion. There being none, the motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Young, duly seconded by Mr. Greco, to authorize Whitpain Township to piggyback the Montgomery County Consortium of Communities and/or any individual Consortium municipality for the purchase of materials and supplies they bid in 2010. This motion will allow the same communities to piggyback our bids in 2010. Chairman Palmer called for any discussion. There being none, the motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Greco, duly seconded by Mr. Zucker, to authorize Whitpain Township to piggyback the PA General Services Contract Program, the PA Capital Cities Contract Program, and the Central Westmoreland COG for the calendar year 2010. This will include the purchase of highway materials, vehicles and supplies, as needed. Chairman Palmer called for any discussion. There being none, the motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Mr. Greco, duly seconded by Mr. Conner, to authorize Whitpain Township to dispose of Township personal property by public auction for the calendar year 2010, utilizing JJ Kane Auctioneers or the on-line auction service of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This motion will also allow the Montgomery County Consortium of Communities and/or any individual Consortium municipality to piggyback our signed contract with either service. Chairman Palmer called for any discussion. There being none, the motion unanimously passed.

A mtoion was made by Mr. Conner, duly seconded by Mr. Greco, to authorize Manager to advertise for leaf collection services for one year with the option to extend for two years in one-year increments. Chairman Palmer called for any discussion. There being none, the motion unanimously passed.

The Board of Supervisors took no action on the following Zoning Hearing Board application:

NO: 1852-09: Application filed by Clear Wireless, LLC as tenant of the property located at 1840 Skippack Pike (Skippack Pike near Ashford Lane) for the following relief at the subject property:

1. A variance from the terms of Article X, Section 160-48.A to permit the use of a cellular antenna tower with attachment of four (4) antennae to existing steel mounts on an existing PECO transmission tower at a height of 126’ and placement of related ground equipment of 4’ x 8’ lunar platform within an existing fenced-in compound at the subject property.
2. Variances from the terms of Section X, Section 160-48.B.(8) and Article XXVIII, Section 160-201.A to increase the maximum height of the four (4) antennae from 35’ to 126’ at the subject property.

The zoning classification of the subject property is “R-3B” Low-Intensity Multi-Family District.

As advertised, Chairman Palmer commenced a public hearing for proposed Ordinance No. 22-37, an Ordinance amending the Codified Ordinances of Whitpain Township, Chapter 71 (Building Construction), Part 7 (Uniform Construction Code), Article XIV (Adoption of Standards) to repeal Section 71-51 (Amendments to the Uniform Construction Code – Amending Appendix H, Section H 101.2, Signs Exempt from Permits) in its entirety re-establishing the exemptions as provided in Appendix H, Section H 101.2 of the Uniform Construction Code.

A motion was made by Mr. Greco, duly seconded by Mr. Zucker, to approve proposed Ordinance No. 22-37.

Chairman Palmer asked for any comments from the Board of Supervisors. There were none. He then asked for comments from the audience. There were none.

There being no further comments or discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

As advertised, Chairman Palmer began a public hearing for proposed Ordinance No. 314, an Ordinance providing for the reorganizing and renaming of the Park and Recreation Board into the Park and Open Space Board and prescribing the powers, duties and administrative procedures of the new Board. This Ordinance shall also act to dissolve the Open Space Preservation Plan Committee while charging the Park and Open Space Board with fulfilling the duties and obligations of that Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Conner, duly seconded by Mr. Young, to approve proposed Ordinance No. 314.

Chairman Palmer asked for any comments from the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Conner noted his initial concerns of the reorganizing and renaming of the Park and Recreation Board, but his concerns have been allayed and he believe this is the proper decision and fully supports it.

Chairman Palmer then asked for comments from the audience. There were none.

There being no further comments or discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Young called for any old or new business for discussion from the Board. Chairman Palmer noted the appointments to the Park and Open Space Board would be made at the February 2, 2010 meeting.

Mr. Laurence Crosson, Board President of the Oxford at Blue Bell Condominiums, said he has received many complaints from residents about the sewer rate, which is a standard charge of $28.34 per month. There is no difference in the rate between a studio, one-bath unit and a larger unit with two and one-half baths. His further research indicates no matter how many fixtures within a property, the rate is a flat $85/quarter.

An exchange followed with Board members and staff explaining the long discussions previously held regarding this issue. At present, there is no better way to charge sewer rates that would satisfy everyone. The current fee structure is the most responsible, reasonable solution.

Chairman Palmer suggested they could reapportion association fees, to which Mr. Crosson responded there are only sixteen two-bath units.

Mr. Crosson was satisfied the subject had been discussed previously, and thanked the Board.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Young adjourned the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony F. Greco
Secretary