

WORK SESSION
December 1, 2009

A Work Session of the Whitpain Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday December 1, 2009 at the Whitpain Township Building, 960 Wentz Road, Blue Bell, PA at 7:30 PM for the purpose of reviewing the agenda of the December 1, 2009 Supervisors' Meeting. Vice Chairman Brian W. Young was present with Supervisors Anthony F. Greco, Adam D. Zucker and Frederick R. Conner. Solicitor James J. Garrity, Township Manager Phyllis C. Lieberman, Assistant Township Manager/Township Engineer Roman M. Pronczak, Director of Finance John Marcarelli, Police Lieutenant Jeffrey Franck, Director of Public Works Ronald J. Cione, Director of Code Enforcement Michael E. McAndrew, Fire Marshal David M. Camarda, and Program Director of Parks and Recreation Michael Richino were also present. One member of the public was present. Chairman Joseph J. Palmer was absent.

The Supervisors reviewed the agenda discussing the announcement of Mr. Conner's swearing in on November 30, 2009, a Budget Work Session on November 23, 2009, a motion to appoint Mr. Conner Treasurer of the Board of Supervisors, approval of the minutes of the November 17, 2009 Board of Supervisors' Meeting, approval of the minutes of the November 17, 2009 Budget Work Session, announcement of the 2010 Annual Budget reflecting reductions developed in the Budget Work Sessions, public comment on the Budget, approval of items on the November 2009 Voucher List, a motion to authorize the advertisement of proposed Ordinance No. 22-37 regarding signs exempt from permits, and a motion to authorize the Township Manager to advertize proposed Ordinance No. 314 providing for the reorganization of the Park and Recreation Board into the Park and Open Space Board.

Mrs. Lieberman then notified the Supervisors that the Township did not receive the solar grant it had applied for.

Mrs. Lieberman and Mr. Cione then discussed recent comments received about trash collection and recycling in the Township, especially an e-mail received about contracting with one hauler Township-wide and the use of Recycle Bank. Mrs. Lieberman noted that she had responded to the e-mail and told the resident that Recycle Bank will not offer its program to townships with multiple haulers. Mr. Zucker said that he had contacted the resident also about the recycling services of her present hauler.

The Supervisors then discussed legal matter and a personnel matter.

The Supervisors then left for the public meeting.

The Work Session was reconvened at 8:25 PM.

The Supervisors discussed another personnel matter.

At approximately 8:45 PM the Work Session was adjourned

Phyllis C. Lieberman
Whitpain Township Manager

#21-2009

The regular meeting of the Whitpain Township Board of Supervisors was held Tuesday, December 1, 2009 at the Whitpain Township Building, 960 Wentz Road, Blue Bell, PA. Supervisors Brian W. Young, Anthony F. Greco, Adam D. Zucker, and Frederick R. Conner, Jr. were present. Township Manager, Phyllis C. Lieberman, Township Engineer/Assistant Township Manager Roman M. Pronczak, Township Solicitor James J. Garrity, Finance Director John Marcarelli, Police Lieutenant Jeff Franck, Fire Marshal David M. Camarda, Park & Recreation Superintendent Michael Richino, Code Enforcement Officer Michael E. McAndrew, Public Works Director Ronald J. Cione and Recording Secretary Michele Alifano were also present. Supervisor Joseph J. Palmer was absent. There were approximately five residents present for the meeting.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Vice Chairman Young called the meeting to order. Mr. Young announced that Mr. Conner was recently elected to a seat on the Board of Supervisors, and due to the resignation of William L. McKernan, III, Mr. Conner was sworn in on November 30, 2009 by District Justice John Murray.

Mr. Young announced that a Budget Work Session was held on Monday, November 23, 2009 at 9AM in Meeting Room B. The session was open to the public.

A motion was made by Mr. Zucker, duly seconded by Mr. Greco, and unanimously passed to appoint Frederick R. Conner, Jr. as the Treasurer of the Whitpain Township Board of Supervisors.

A motion was made by Mr. Greco, duly seconded by Mr. Zucker, and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2009 Board of Supervisors' meeting, and the minutes of the November 23, 2009 Budget Work Session

The proposed 2010 Annual Budget was announced at the November 4, 2008 meeting, with the Budget being advertised and made available for public inspection on November 6, 2009. Mr. Young specified the following proposed real estate taxes for the 2010 Annual Budget:

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>Increase/(Decrease)</u>
General Fund	2.42 ¹	1.35	1.07
Debt Service	0.73	0.60	.13
Fire Protection	0.30	0.30	.00
Fire	<u>0.05</u>	<u>0.05</u>	<u>.00</u>
TOTAL	3.50	2.30	1.20

¹ The Real Estate tax rates are expressed in mills which equate to \$1/\$1,000 of assessed valuation.

² Fire Hydrant Tax is assessed, as appropriate, depending on property proximity to fire hydrants. Approximately 95% of residential properties are charged this portion of the real estate tax millage.

Mr. Young stated that the Board struggled with the development of the Budget for 2010, but he believes that the proposed Budget is feasible due to cost-reduction measures that were developed through the Budget Work Sessions which include not filling vacancies through attrition of two police officers and one public works employee, the institution of a hiring freeze, a 4% payment to non-uniformed, non-contractual employees instead of salary increases, and a firm commitment from Township Staff to the numbers developed for the 2011-2014 Budgets. Mr. Young stated that the difficulty involved in keeping costs under control were due to decreased revenues from deed transfer taxes and assessment evaluations, which decreased by 12 million dollars in 2009 within the Township of Whitpain.

Mr. Warren Fisher and then Ms. Amy Fruncillo requested an explanation for the increase in millage. Mr. Young explained that with the original proposal for the increase, the Board realized that taxes would need to be raised again next year. The present figure represents an amount that will hopefully not require taxes to be raised again for the next five years. Mr. Zucker added that over the course of several Budget Work sessions, the Board decided it would be wiser to take a broader look at resolving the budget issues as opposed to just looking at the problem in one-year increments. He stated that numerous Budget Work sessions were held in order to try to figure out what sources of revenue could be developed, and what costs could be trimmed. Mrs. Chris Fisher made the request that a resolution be adopted that would ensure no tax increases for the next five years. Mr. Conner and Mr. Young commended the Township staff for their involvement and hard work in the process. The Board noted that it expected to adopt the 2010 Budget at the December 15, 2009 Supervisors' meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Greco, duly seconded by Mr. Zucker, and unanimously passed to approve all items on the November, 2009 Voucher List which totaled \$1,329,601.45.

A motion was made by Mr. Greco, duly seconded by Mr. Zucker, and unanimously passed to authorize the Township Manager to advertise Ordinance #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 H101.2, 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. Mr. Young asked Mr. Garrity to provide a brief explanation of this proposed Ordinance.

Mr. Garrity stated that the Ordinance deals with the regulation of signs, which is a subsection of the Building Code. It specifically will clarify which signs are exempt from

the requirement of obtaining a building permit, such as small temporary signs, as opposed to larger signs that have foundations or electricity, which require a building permit in order to ensure their proper construction. Mrs. Chris Fisher asked if this Ordinance would regulate illuminated signs. Mr. Pronczak responded that it does not, but that the Planning Commission has had numerous discussions regarding that type of signage, and an Ordinance was expected to be coming before the Board within the next few months.

A motion was made by Mr. Greco, duly seconded by Mr. Zucker, and unanimously passed to authorize the Township Manager to advertize Ordinance # 314 providing for the reorganization of the Park and Recreation Board into the Park and Open Space Board and prescribe 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. Mr. Young explained that there were two separate boards that have duties which greatly overlapped, and this an effort to merge the two.

A motion was made by Mr. Zucker, duly seconded by Mr. Greco, and unanimously passed to have the Township Solicitor take legal action against the owners of the property located at 1557 Sullivan Drive for utilizing the property as a woodworking shop, and not as their primary residence.

At this time, Vice Chairman Young called for any old or new business for discussion from the Board or the public. Ms. Amy Fruncillo inquired as to when Ordinance #314 would be open for public discussion. Mr. Garrity advised that the Ordinance would appear on the January 19, 2010 Board of Supervisors' meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. upon motion by Vice Chairman Young.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony F. Greco, Secretary