

December 8, 2009

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of South Strabane Township took place on the above date in the Mae C. Reynolds Meeting Room, 550 Washington Road, Washington, PA 15301-9622.

Present for the meeting were: Mr. Thomas Moore, Chairman; Mr. Edward Mazur, Vice-Chairman; Mr. Robert Koman, Mr. Robert Hollick and Mr. Daniel Piatt, Supervisors; Mr. Thomas Lonich, Solicitor and Mr. John J. Stickle, Manager.

A Visitor's List is on file. There were approximately eleven (11) persons in the audience.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

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Jerry Angelo, 421 Rankin Road, asked that the Supervisors revisit the matter of the Community Park Phase 3 Walking Trail Project. Mr. Angelo recommended that a significant portion of the walking trail could be constructed now, even with the stone removal taking place by Golden Triangle. He contended that if work begins now on a portion of the walking trail, that it could be ready for use by next summer. Mr. Moore stated that the Board would revisit such matter under Supervisor comments.

Chief Donald Zofchak noted that for safety considerations, that the proposed walking trail should be located to avoid hidden areas.

BILLS AND PAYROLL:

BILLS:

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General Fund.....Cks. #24635-24669.....\$63,680.73

Escrow Fund.....Ck. #287.....\$ 937.50

PAYROLL:

PAYROLL:

Pay of December 4, 2009....Ck. #24633.....\$72,633.02

Mr. Koman asked about one (1) of the bills to be paid.

Mr. Hollick made a motion, seconded by Mr. Piatt, to approve the preceding Bills and Payroll. Motion carried.

MEETING MINUTES:

MINUTES:

Mr. Hollick made a motion, seconded by Mr. Koman, to approve the November 24, 2009 Supervisor's meeting minutes. Motion carried with Mr. Piatt abstaining from voting.

SCHEDULED VISITORS:

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Police Chief Donald Zofchak was present to provide his report on the Police Department. Chief Zofchak reported that the Police Department has made progress this year, particularly in the hiring of two new full-time officers and two new part-time officers. He also reported that criminal arrests have increased this year, compared to the same time period last year.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
REPORT:

Chief Zofchak did request that the Supervisors consider proceeding to order a new police unit, which is included in the 2010 Preliminary Budget. He noted that due to the length of time for new units to arrive from the factory, that it would be helpful to order the new unit now, rather than wait until next month.

Chief Zofchak reported that the Police Department recently received from the AAA their platinum award recognizing the Department's efforts in improving the quality of life through traffic safety.

After some discussion regarding Chief Zofchak's request that a new police unit be ordered now, Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mazur, to authorize the purchase of one (1) 2009 Ford Crown Victoria, through SHACOG pricing, in the amount of \$26,079 including extended warranty. Motion carried.

Mr. Moore asked for comments for Chief Zofchak from those in the audience.

MANIFOLD ROAD
SPEEDING:

Don Trautman, 635 Manifold Road, asked about speed enforcement on Manifold Road. He recommended that the Police Department should advocate more strongly for the use of radar for speed enforcement. Chief Zofchak stated that he does support the use of radar by local police departments, but that the state controls such radar usage.

Mr. Angelo asked about the use by the Police Department of changeable speed display signs. Chief Zofchak explained that the department does have the use of such sign, along with North Strabane and Chartiers Townships.

RANKIN ROAD
TRUCK TRAFFIC:

Mr. Angelo asked about truck traffic on Rankin Road. Chief Zofchak reported that he has contacted various trucking companies, as well as the contractor performing work on the Zediker Station Road Bridge Project, to advise them to follow the posted speed limits.

NELLO CONSTRUCTION
COST CONTROL/BUDGET
MANAGEMENT SERVICES:

The next Scheduled Visitor was George Leasure, Nello Construction, who was present to discuss Nello's proposal to provide cost control/budget management services to the Township related to the new Police Department Building and Municipal Building renovations project.

Mr. Leasure explained that Nello Construction is a local firm located in North Strabane Township at the I-79/Rte. 519 intersection. He further explained that Nello Construction is a general contractor as well as a construction management service firm. He reported that Nello has been involved with a wide range of municipal projects including projects in Peters, Upper St. Clair, Mt. Lebanon. He also reported that Nello was also involved with Trinity School District's recent building program.

Mr. Leasure reported that Nello Construction has a wide range of experience in construction management including preconstruction, interviewing of architects, development of budget and site selection/evaluation.

Mr. Piatt asked about Nello Construction's involvement in the Trinity South building project. Mr. Leasure explained how the Trinity South building project took place, including the involvement of Nello, the geotechnical consultant and the architect.

NELLO CONSTRUCTION
CONT'D.:

In response to a question from Mr. Piatt, Mr. Leasure explained that while Nello can provide general contractor services as well as project management services, that if they are selected to provide project management services to the Township, that they would not be able to also provide general contractor services for our project.

Mr. Hollick discussed the scope of consultant services provided in Nello's proposal. Mr. Leasure explained that such scope of services was patterned on the Township's Request for Proposals.

Mr. Leasure stated that Nello Construction is definitely interested in providing the requested cost control/budget management services to the Township, and he felt that Nello has the experience and expertise to provide such services. He suggested that Nello's prior customers could be contacted to provide any references. Mr. Moore thanked Mr. Leasure for attending tonight's meeting and providing his presentation to the Board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

2010 COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT:

The one item under Unfinished Business was a discussion of the Community Development Block Grant Program. Mr. Stickle explained that funds are available through the Community Development Block Grant Program through the Redevelopment Authority of Washington County. He reported that projects to be considered must benefit low-and-moderate income residents. He further reported that it is becoming increasingly difficult to find a needed infrastructure-type project and match it with an area of the Township that can meet the low-and-moderate income level guidelines.

Mr. Stickle reported that one option to consider would be to request the use of a portion of such funding for a Home Rehabilitation Program. He reported that by requesting that such funds be used for this type of program, that South Strabane residents could apply for loan assistance to be used for needed home repairs such as roof replacement, window replacement, etc. The residents who apply for such loan assistance would need to meet certain low-and-moderate income level guidelines.

After further discussion, Mr. Hollick made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, to request that the Township use a portion of the Community Development Block Grant funding, in the amount of \$100,000, to be used for the Home Rehabilitation Program to benefit South Strabane Township residents. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

FIRE DEPARTMENT
INSURANCE FOR 2010:

The first item under New Business was to accept a proposal from Huntington Insurance for Fire Department insurance coverage for 2010 through VFIS. Mr. Stickle explained that the Fire Department's insurance coverage premium for 2010 amounts to \$24,830.59, which is a reduction compared to the 2009 premium. After further discussion Mr. Mazur made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hollick, to accept the proposal from Huntington Insurance for Fire Department insurance coverage for 2010 through VFIS in the amount of \$24,830.59. Motion carried.

2010 POLICE PENSION
PLAN MMO:

The other item under New Business was to accept a revised Police Pension Plan Minimum Obligation (MMO) for 2010. Mr. Stickle explained that Mockenhaupt Associates had prepared a revised MMO, to reflect changes from Act 44 of 2009.

2010 POLICE PENSION
PLAN MMO CONT'D.:

He noted that the revised MMO is \$138,736, as opposed to the original MMO of \$138,951. Mr. Hollick made a motion, seconded by Mr. Koman, to accept the revised Police Plan MMO for 2010 in the amount of \$138,736. Motion carried.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

REPORT FROM SOLICITOR:

None.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

REPORT FROM SECRETARY:

Received the following reports for November 2009:

- Police Report from Chief Zofchak
- Public Safety Report from Mr. Barnes
- Tax Collector's Report from Centax and Ms. Keisling
- Animal Control Report from Ms. Secret

Follow-up regarding PennDOT meeting held on November 17 regarding plans for I-79 Meadowlands Interchange Project-traffic signals, recommend South Strabane accepts and maintains 3 signals, Chartiers accepts and maintains one signal.

Received from WEWJA their Financial Statements for September 30, 2009.

Received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) preliminary copies of their updated Flood Insurance Rate Map and Flood Insurance Study.

Received from the U.S. Census Bureau their Boundary and Annexation Survey of governmental units.

Received from the County Conservation District copy of Earth Disturbance Inspection Report for Strabane Manor development.

Received notification from Civil and Environmental Consultants re: application for GP-8 Permit for construction activities for proposed Park Place at the Meadows development.

Received correspondence from the PaPUC re: railroad crossing at Racetrack Road.

Received correspondence from Comcast regarding rate changes effective January 1, 2010.

Report that Preliminary 2010 Budget has been advertised for public review; adoption set for December 22.

Received from Mockenhaupt Benefits Group revised Actuarial Valuation Report for Police Pension Plan for 2009, reflecting changes as a result of Act 44.

Report that PennDOT will hold a meeting on Thursday December 10, 2009 in the Municipal Building Meeting Room re: I-70/Route 519 Interchange Improvement Project (Public Officials 4-5 P.M.; Public Plans Display 6-8 P.M.).

COMMENTS FROM SUPERVISORS:

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS:

Mr. Koman congratulated Officer Bruner on his recent efforts in the arrest of a counterfeit money ring operating in the Township.

Mr. Moore recommended that the Supervisors invite Dr. Kovacs of Holy Family to the next Supervisor's meeting, to receive an update on the operation of Holy Family School on Hillcrest Avenue.

Mr. Moore advised that Mr. Angelo had requested that the Board revisit the matter of the Community Park Phase 3 Walking Trail Project.

Mr. Mazur asked about the possibility of having the Road Department employees construct the walking trail. Mr. Stickle advised that the PaDCNR grant for the walking trail anticipated that the construction of the walking trail would be done by a private contractor.

Mr. Mazur recommended that the Board should proceed to accept bids for construction of the Community Park Walking Trail, the portion of such trail not impacted by the sandstone removal area. Discussion took place regarding Mr. Mazur's recommendation.

Mr. Angelo supported Mr. Mazur's recommendation to proceed as soon as possible with the construction of the proposed walking trail. He advised that since there is only a small portion of the proposed walking trail impacted by the sandstone removal area, that at least the majority of the trail could be constructed now.

Mr. Hollick reminded the Supervisors that Township Engineer Doug Patterson had recommended waiting until all of the sandstone is removed, and the area where the sandstone has been removed is graded, to begin the process of constructing the walking trail. Mr. Mazur did not see any reason not to proceed with work on at least the majority of the trail.

Further discussion took place regarding Mr. Mazur's recommendation. Mr. Hollick questioned the liability concerns that would need to be considered, in constructing a walking trail that could not be completed around the entire loop.

Mr. Mazur then made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, to proceed to accept bids for construction of the Community Park Walking Trail, the portion of such trail not impacted by the sandstone removal area. Motion did not carry with Mr. Koman, Mr. Hollick and Mr. Piatt voting no.

PRESS QUESTIONS:

PRESS QUESTIONS:

Christy Campbell, Observer-Reporter, asked about the presentation tonight by Mr. Leasure of Nello Construction. Mr. Koman advised that Nello submitted a proposal to provide cost control/budget management services in relation to the Police Department Building Project.

Ms. Campbell asked for clarification regarding the Community Development Block Grant Program. Mr. Koman advised that the action taken was to request the use of \$100,000 for a Home Rehabilitation Program to benefit Township residents.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Hollick made a motion, seconded by Mr. Koman, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 P.M.

Submitted by,

John J. Stickle
Manager