

December 22, 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. Edward Mazur, Vice-Chairman; Mr. Robert Koman and Mr. Daniel Piatt, Supervisors; Mr. Thomas Lonich, Solicitor and Mr. John J. Stickle, Manager. Mr. Thomas Moore, Chairman and Mr. Robert Hollick, Supervisor, were absent.

A Visitor's List is on file. There were approximately eight (8) persons in the audience.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

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Gerald Angelo, 421 Rankin Road, recommended that the Supervisors consider using the balance of the Park-Recreation Council's funding for 2009, combined with the \$5,000 included in the 2010 Preliminary Budget for improvements to Driscoll Park, and use such funds for overall improvements to Driscoll Park including restrooms, a kitchen and storage area. Mr. Mazur recommended that Mr. Angelo review his suggestion with the Park-Recreation Council, and then the Council can make a formal recommendation to the Supervisors.

BILLS AND PAYROLL:

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General Fund.....Cks. #24671-24720.....\$62,037.49

PAYROLL:

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Pay of 12/18/09.....Ck. #24670.....\$68,498.45

Mr. Koman asked for clarification on several of the bills to be paid.

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

MINUTES:

MEETING MINUTES:

Mr. Piatt made a motion, seconded by Mr. Koman, to approve the December 8, 2009 Supervisor's meeting minutes. Motion carried.

VISITORS:

SCHEDULED VISITORS:

Brian Fortay, Broadlands Financial Group was present to discuss Broadland'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. Fortay explained that Broadlands provides project underwriting support, construction project loss controls, asset assessment, cash controls and other profit maximization services to its clients. He noted that while Broadlands initially began as a surety underwriting firm, that they have expanded their work to include overseeing construction projects throughout the U.S. and abroad. He reported further that all of the projects Broadlands has overseen have been on time and on budget.

VISITORS CONT'D.:

Mr. Fortay reported that Broadlands has municipal experience which includes having provided construction controls for 60 police facilities, 50 fire/rescue facilities, and 20 municipal buildings since 2003. He noted that by putting the proper cash controls in place for any project, will result in such project being completed on time, within budget and with a minimum of change orders.

In response to a question from Mr. Piatt, Mr. Fortay advised that if requested, that Broadlands can provide construction oversight during the construction process. Mr. Piatt asked about the bidding process to appoint a general contractor for the Township's project. Mr. Fortay advised that Broadlands can assist the Township in reviewing the qualifications of the prospective bidders.

Mr. Koman asked about the fee for cost control/budget management services. Mr. Fortay advised that they have proposed a flat fee, based on an estimate of hours to be worked.

In response to a question from Mr. Fortay, Mr. Piatt explained that the Supervisors have authorized entering into negotiations with an architect (RSSC Architecture), but that such negotiations have not yet begun.

Mr. Fortay stated that Broadlands is very much interested in providing the requested cost control/budget management services to the Township, and he felt that Broadlands has the experience and expertise to provide such services.

Mr. Mazur thanked Mr. Fortay, Mr. Graupner and Mr. Ward for attending tonight's meeting and providing their presentation to the Board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mr. Koman asked the status of Police Department air quality testing. Mr. Stickle reported that after receiving air quality test results from Adams Environmental Services, that a remediation firm was contacted who recommended that the air plenum (ceiling cavity duct work) of the Police Department offices be sanitized. Following receipt of that recommendation, Mr. Mazur contacted another remediation firm who advised that no fungal contamination was present in the Police Department, and therefore no remediation was necessary. Mr. Stickle further stated that he was waiting for direction from the Board as to how to proceed in regard to this matter.

NEW BUSINESS:

The first item under New Business was adoption of the Final 2010 Budget. Mr. Stickle noted that the Preliminary 2010 Budget had been adopted at the November 24, 2009 Supervisor's meeting, and that the budget had been advertised and on display at the Municipal Building for the required twenty (20) day period. He noted additionally that no changes had been made to the Preliminary 2010 Budget.

Mr. Piatt made a motion, seconded by Mr. Koman, to adopt the Final 2010 Budget. Motion carried.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
AIR QUALITY:

FINAL 2010 BUDGET:

DRAFT ABSENTEEISM
POLICY:

Next was a discussion of a Draft Absenteeism Policy for Township Boards and Commissions. Mr. Lonich explained that the Supervisors had previously requested that he prepare a draft policy regarding the number of meetings a Board or Commission member can be absent from, before such member forfeits his or her position. He noted that the draft policy also addresses how Board or Commission member vacancies will be filled.

Discussion took place regarding the draft policy. Mr. Koman recommended that if a Board or Commission member were to be absent from 50% of their meetings, then they would forfeit their position. Mr. Piatt felt that if a member were to be absent from 1/3 of their meetings, that they would forfeit their position.

Mr. Piatt also recommended that in the event a Board or Commission member's term is up, that it would send a wrong signal to automatically advertise for letters of interest.

Mr. Mazur felt that it would be best to advertise for letters of interest each time a Board or Commission member's term is up, thereby making certain that the best qualified resident is appointed.

After further discussion, Mr. Piatt made a motion, seconded by Mr. Koman, to table action on the Draft Absenteeism Policy for Township Boards and Commissions, pending further review, and until all Supervisors have an opportunity to provide input. Motion carried.

Mr. Piatt then made a motion to place this item on the next Supervisor's meeting agenda, and subsequent Supervisor's meeting agendas, until it is resolved. Motion died due to a lack of a second.

REPORT FROM SOLICITOR:

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

None.

REPORT FROM SECRETARY:

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Received meeting packets for December 15 Park-Recreation Council and December 16 Sanitary Authority Meetings.

Received from Ameriserv Trust Police Pension Plan and Police 457 Plan reports for November 2009.

Report that I attended Quarterly Police Pension Plan Plan Committee Meeting on December 15.

Report that I attended PennDOT Meeting re: I-70/Rte. 519 Interchange Improvement Project on December 10 - 2-year project to begin April 2010.

Received from PSATS registration information for PSATS Annual Convention April 18-20.

Reminder that Municipal Offices will be closed in observance of Christmas on Friday, December 25 and Monday, December 28; offices will also be closed Friday, January 1 in observance of New Year's Day.

Review of Police Department Air Quality Tests.

Received from County Board of Elections certifications of Elections of newly elected municipal officials.

COMMENTS FROM SUPERVISORS:

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS:

Mr. Piatt asked about the PennDOT meeting held on December 10 regarding the I-70/Rte. 519 Interchange Improvement Project.

He asked specifically if the Township had heard back from PennDOT regarding accommodations which will need to be made for Booth Road and Beagle Club Road regarding snow removal turn-arounds. Mr. Stickle responded that the Township has yet to receive a response from PennDOT regarding such matter.

Mr. Koman asked about the Supervisor's invitation to Dr. Kovacs of Holy Family School to attend a future Supervisor's meeting. Mr. Stickle stated that Dr. Kovacs has advised that she will be able to attend the January 26 Supervisor's meeting.

PRESS QUESTIONS:

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Crystal Ola, Post Gazette, asked for clarification regarding the cost control/budget management consultants that the Supervisors have heard presentations from. Mr. Piatt responded that each consultant has submitted a proposal, in response to the Township's Request for Proposals. He also noted that whichever consultant is selected, can assist the Township in its negotiations with RSSC Architecture.

Mr. Angelo asked for clarification regarding the Draft Absenteeism Policy for Township Boards and Commissions discussed earlier in the meeting. Mr. Lonich noted that such draft policy would apply to members of Township Boards and Commissions, but not to the Board of Supervisors. Further discussion took place regarding this matter.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Piatt made a motion, seconded by Mr. Koman and carried, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 P.M.

Submitted by,

John J. Stickle
Manager