

HATFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
February 25, 2004
7:30 PM

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner President Jerry Andris called the Hatfield Township Board of Commissioner's February 25, 2004 meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioner Andris asked Ms. Shafkowitz to call the roll. Present at the meeting were Commissioner President Jerry Andris, Commissioner Vice-President Jim O'Byrne, Commissioner Scott Brown, Commissioner Norman and Commissioner Jean Vandegrift. Also in attendance were Township Manager Stephanie Shafkowitz, Solicitor Joe Kuhls, Township Planner Ken Amey, Engineer Joe Nolan, Finance Director John Hall and Administrative Assistant Melissa Croak.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner O'Byrne led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner O'Byrne made a motion to approve the Agenda of the February 25, 2004 Hatfield Township Board of Commissioners meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Norman and carried on a 5-0 vote.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes – *January 28, 2004*

Commissioner Norman made a motion to approve the Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vandegrift and carried on a 5-0 vote.

VI. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Ronald Abendshine of 1137 Koffel Road had a question in regards to the Street Light Tax. He said that this is the first time he was asked to pay the Street Light Tax. Township Manager Stephanie Teoli Shafkowitz explained that any property on a street

with a streetlight is taxed. There was Street Light Tax audit that was completed during the last budget period. As of this audit, some properties were given refunds because they were found not to be on the same street as a streetlight and other properties were taxed for the first time because they were discovered to be on a street with a streetlight. Commissioner President Andris told Mr. Abendshine that his concern would be taken under advisement. The topic will be brought up at the next Finance Committee meeting.

Eleanor Pellack of 1143 Koffel Road said that she had the same concern as the Abendshines and would appreciate the Board looking into a revision of the Street Light Tax.

VII. SPECIAL ITEMS

1. Resolution 04-06 *Lions Club Recognition*

Commissioner Norman made a motion to approve Resolution #04-06. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vandegrift and carried on a 5-0 vote.

2. Resolution 04-07 **Resolution 04-08** **Resolution 04-09** *Hatfield Volunteer Fire Company Award Resolutions*

Commissioner Norman made a motion to approve Resolutions #04-07, #04-08 and #04-09. The motion was seconded by Commissioner O'Byrne and carried on a 5-0 vote.

3. Resolution 04-10 *Commissioner Jean Vandegrift Recognition – 10 Years of Service*

Commissioner Jean Vandegrift was recognized for her 10 years of service with the Hatfield Township Board of Commissioners. Commissioners Andris and O'Byrne read Resolution 04-10 and Commissioner Norman offered words of appreciation to Commissioner Vandegrift for her 10 years of diligence and dedication to Hatfield Township.

Commissioner Norman made a motion to approve Resolution #04-10. The motion was seconded by Commissioner O'Byrne and carried on a 5-0 vote.

4. Public Hearing *TH Properties Rezoning Request*

Commissioner Andris turned the meeting over to Solicitor Joe Kuhls and the Public Hearing began at 7:43 pm.

Edward Mullin represented TH Properties at the Rezoning Hearing. THP would like to see the property known as the Natali-Szekely-Roher tracts be rezoned from ER-Residential to RA-Residential. Mr. Mullin explained the developer would like this rezoning to occur to make room for 91 units on an average of 20,000 to 40,000-square foot lots. The property is currently zoned as ER-Residential with 70,000-square foot lot minimums. Mr. Mullin referred the Board to the Montgomery County Planning Commission letter in the Board of Commissioners' packets and their suggestions in reference to the potential development of the area. Commissioner Brown reported that he did not believe that the Montgomery County Planning Commission supported THP's rezoning request and agreed with their suggestion of working to maintain the rural feel of Hatfield Township. Commissioner Norman reported that he would like to see a deed restriction placed on the Szekely property so that the house would remain indefinitely on that unit.

Bill Forst of Diamond Street asked the Commissioners why the area was zoned ER-Residential in the early 1980's. Commissioner Norman responded that at the time, the Board of Commissioners thought that was the best decision for the particular tract of land.

Peter Valucci of Derstine Road raised a question concerning the location of the Route 309 Connector in relation to the potential development. There was a discussion on this placement of the Route 309 Connector that is slated to run through that particular area of Hatfield Township and how that would affect the number of units on the Hatfield Township side of the expressway.

Dave Kimmerly of Park Avenue raised the question concerning the cluster development that THP recommended and believed that the cluster was the best way to preserve the rural character of the area.

Frank Smith of Westbury Lane was concerned about traffic patterns changing in the development that abuts the proposed tracts up for rezoning.

No action was taken after the Public Hearing. Commissioner Norman made a motion to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and carried on a 5-0 vote. The hearing closed at 8:30 pm and was followed by a 5-minute recess.

The regular meeting reconvened at 8:35 pm.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

1. **Hatfield Township Municipal Authority Budget**

Motion to approve the HTMA Budget for the fiscal year April 1, 2004 through March 31, 2005

Commissioner Vandegrift reported that several residents had asked about the Municipal Authority billing residents on a per usage basis instead of on a flat rate system. Pete Dorney, Executive Director of the HTMA expressed the pros and cons with any changes to the billing process. Commissioners Andris and Norman complimented Mr. Dorney on a well-run organization.

Commissioner Norman made a motion to approve the HTMA Budget for the fiscal year April 1, 2004 through March 31, 2005. The motion was seconded by Commissioner O'Byrne and carried on a 5-0 vote.

2. **Stormwater Management Ordinance – Ordinance #521**

Commissioner Norman made a motion approve Ordinance #521. The motion was seconded by Commissioner O'Byrne and carried on a 5-0 vote.

3. **Zoning Change – Koffel Road Property – RA1 to LI – Ordinance #522**

Commissioner Brown had a question concerning the tax rate with reference to the zoning change.

Commissioner Brown made a motion approve Ordinance #522. The motion was seconded by Commissioner O'Byrne and carried on a 5-0 vote.

4. **Pennise Preliminary/Final Land Development – Lenhart Road Resolution 04-11**

Commissioner O'Byrne made a motion approve Resolution #04-11. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Norman and carried on a 5-0 vote.

5. **Logan Phase II – Revised Final Land Development – Maple Avenue Resolution 04-12**

Commissioner Vandegrift made a motion approve Resolution #04-12. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Norman and carried on a 5-0 vote.

6. **Open Space Committee**

Commissioner Vandegrift made a motion to appoint the Hatfield Township Open Space Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and carried on a 5-0 vote.

7. Act 209 Committee

Ms. Shafkowitz explained the purpose of the Act 209 Committee and their role in the Act 209 Traffic Impact Study.

Commissioner Norman made a motion to appoint the Hatfield Township Act 209 Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vandegrift and carried on a 5-0 vote.

8. Northern Montgomery County Recycling Commission Appointment

Commissioner Norman made a motion to appoint Commissioner Jean Vandegrift to the Northern Montgomery County Recycling Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner O'Byrne and carried on a 5-0 vote.

9. Emergency Management Operation Plan

Motion to approve Resolution 04-13, adopting the Hatfield Township Emergency Management Operation Plan.

Commissioner Norman made a motion approve Resolution #04-13. The motion was seconded by Commissioner O'Byrne and carried on a 5-0 vote.

**10. Tarrington Village Subdivision – Orvilla Road
Escrow Release #9 - \$101,207.25**

Commissioner Norman made a motion approve Escrow Release #9 in the amount of \$101,207.25. The motion was seconded by Commissioner O'Byrne and carried on a 5-0 vote.

11. Bills Payable

▪ **Paid Bills (February 2004) - \$6,438.29**

Commissioner O'Byrne made a motion to approve the Paid Bills for February in the amount of \$6,438.29. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Norman and carried on a 5-0 vote.

▪ **Bills To Be Paid (February 2004) - \$155,420.43**

Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve the Bills to be Paid for February in the amount of \$155,420.43. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Norman and carried on a 5-0 vote.

12. Treasurer's Report – February 2004

Commissioner O'Byrne entered the February 2004 Treasurer's Report into record.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Dean Mininger of Belvue Lane asked the Board if there had been any more discussion in regards to having one trash collector in the Township. Ray Masser of Cowpath Road also had a comment regarding the trash collection in the Township. A short discussion followed concerning this topic and the Board decided they will revisit the issue at a later date.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner O'Byrne made a motion to adjourn the February 25, 2004 Board of Commissioners meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and carried on a 5-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.