

**HATFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

April 14, 2004

7:30 PM

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner President Gerald Andris called the Hatfield Township Board of Commissioner's April 14, 2004 workshop meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioner Andris asked Ms. Shafkowitz to call the roll. Present at the meeting were Commissioner President Gerald Andris, Commissioner Vice-President Jim O'Byrne, Commissioner John Norman and Commissioner Jean Vandegrift. Also in attendance were Township Manager Stephanie Shafkowitz, Township Planner Ken Amey, Engineer Joe Nolan, Parks and Recreation Director Nancy Stock, and Administrative Assistant Melissa Croak.

Justin Davis from Dischell, Bartle, Yanoff and Dooley served as Township Solicitor in Joe Kuhls' absence.

Commissioner Andris noted that Commissioner Brown was unable to attend the meeting due to a personal matter.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Norman led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS

- Charlotte DeFranco of Rebecca Drive thanked the Board for the organized branch collection in the Township.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Planning and Zoning Committee

1. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes – March 16, 2004

Township Planner Ken Amey entered the March 16, 2004 Planning Commission Meeting Minutes into the record.

2. Rowe Subdivision – Welsh Road – Zoned RA1

Mr. Amey reviewed the proposed subdivision.

3. Zoning Ordinance – Discussion of Accessory Building Amendment

Mr. Amey reviewed the proposed amendment. Accessory buildings would be subject to three regulations. One, there would only be one accessory building allowed per property; two, the size of that building may not exceed 24x36 in RA1 and 24x24 in RA 2 and RA 3; and three, the height of the eave may not exceed nine feet.

Forest Kerr said that he already has three accessory buildings on his property. Mr. Amey said that any buildings erected prior to the passing of the Zoning Ordinance Amendment would be legal nonconforming uses. Ken Jones of Oak Boulevard and Charlotte DeFranco of Rebecca Drive had the same concerns as Mr. Kerr. Commissioner Norman reported that this amendment was to limit large accessory buildings in the “cookie cutter” RA1 districts where lots are smaller. He noted that Mr. Kerr and Mr. Jones both resided on properties with larger lots. Mr. Jones asked that lot size be taken into consideration with this amendment. Fran Haley didn’t believe that a 9-foot eave would not allow enough space for a garage door on the accessory building. Commissioner Andris said that the Commissioners will take these concerns into consideration.

The proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment will go back to the Planning Committee for revisions.

B. Public Works Committee

1. Commissioner Norman reported that the Public Works Department should be moved into the new building by the end of the week. Also, road repair should begin by the end of the month.

C. Parks and Recreation Committee

1. Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes – March 2, 2004

Commissioner Vandegrift entered the March 2, 2004 Parks and Recreation Board meeting minutes into the record.

2. Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes – March 15, 2004

Commissioner Vandegrift entered the March 15, 2004 Shade Tree Commission meeting minutes into the record.

3. Hatfield Park Commission Meeting Minutes – February 9, 2004

Commissioner Vandegrift entered the February 9, 2004 Hatfield Park Commission meeting minutes into the record.

4. Schweiker Park Storage Building – Installation and Maintenance Agreement – North Penn Valley Girls Softball League
5. School Road Park Hardball Field Lighting –Installation and Maintenance Agreement – Hatfield Athletic Association

Township Manager Stephanie Teoli Shafkowitz provided an overview of the two installation and maintenance agreements.

6. Chestnut Street Trail – Easement Agreement – RJI Limited Partnership

Ms. Shafkowitz reported that Mrs. Stock negotiated the easement agreement for the Chestnut Street Trail and the RJI Limited Partnership at no cost.

D. Public Safety Committee - Commissioner Norman

1. Monthly Report of Police Activities – *March 2004*

Commissioner Norman entered the March 2004 Monthly Report of Police Activities into the record.

Commissioner Norman reminded the residents that the Public Safety Meeting will be held Thursday, April 15 at 7 pm followed by the Public Works Meeting at 7:30 pm.

2. Chestnut Street Parking Discussion

Ms. Shafkowitz reported that Chestnut Street is currently no parking. She asked the Board to consider temporarily allowing parking along one side of the street during construction of the new building. Commissioner Vandegrift asked that Ms. Shafkowitz look into temporary lighting on Chestnut Street.

E. Finance Committee

1. Street Light Tax Discussion

Commissioner O'Byrne reported that the Street Light Tax will be left as is for present time. The tax will be looked at in August for the next year's budget. Also, Dunlap and Associates completed the audit of township.

Ron Abenshine of Koffel Road asked why the Street Light Tax would not be looked at until August. He also wanted to know how certain residents were removed from the Street Light Tax list. Ms. Shafkowitz replied that the Township did a complete audit of the streetlights in the Township and discovered that some people were being billed incorrectly. Actions were then taken to remedy the billing errors. Mr. Abenshine said that he does not believe that this tax is legal. Commissioner Andris suggested making the solicitor available to meet with Mr. Abenshine to discuss the legality of the tax. Botch Nolen requested to be a part of that meeting. Ms. Shafkowitz will coordinate.

Commissioner Norman noted that all residents benefit from the streetlights just by driving on our Township streets. Commissioner Andris agreed with Commissioner Norman and said that an option in this issue is for every resident to share the responsibility since everyone benefits.

F. Hatfield Township Municipal Authority

1. Hatfield Township Municipal Authority Meeting Minutes – February 10, 2004

Commissioner Andris entered the February 10, 2004 Hatfield Township Municipal Authority Meeting Minutes into the record.

2. Hatfield Township Municipal Authority Monthly Budget Report – February 2004

Commissioner Andris entered the February 2004 Hatfield Township Municipal Authority Monthly Budget Report into the record.

G. North Penn Water Authority

1. North Penn Water Authority Meeting Minutes – February 24, 2004

Commissioner Andris entered the February 24, 2004 North Penn Water Authority Meeting Minutes into the record.

H. Northern Montco Recycling Commission

1. Commissioner Vandegrift reported that there was a problem with Ches-mont trash removal in Souderton where they were taking residents' recyclables and putting them in the trash truck. Mrs. Vandegrift urged residents to report this action if they see it happen in Hatfield Township.
2. Commissioner Vandegrift reported that there is a flyer available in the meeting room with special recycling dates, including the computer recycling.

3. The Northern Montco Recycling Commission has a new member. They recently signed an agreement with Towamencin Township to be a part of the commission. Ambler Borough is expected to follow.

II. TOWNSHIP STAFF REPORTS

A. Township Manager's Report

1. Municipal Building Status Report

- Project Schedule

Ms. Shafkowitz distributed a project schedule for the municipal building outlining the pre-construction phase leading up to the groundbreaking in the middle of June.

Ms. Shafkowitz also reported that the contractor who was awarded the underground storage tank removal bid had been given a notice to proceed.

- Bid for Demolition of Public Works Buildings

Ms. Shafkowitz reviewed the bid results and recommended that the Board take action on the demolition bid and award it to Associated Paving Contractors of Huntingdon Valley, PA in the amount of \$40,800.

Commissioner Vandegrift made a motion to award the Demolition Bid to Associated Paving Contractors of Huntingdon Valley, PA in the amount of \$40,800. The motion was seconded by Commissioner O'Byrne and carried on a 4-0 vote.

- Pole Barn Discussion

Ms. Shafkowitz reported that Colmar Fire Company has submitted an application to the Zoning Hearing Board. The hearing will be held on Thursday, April 29.

At solicitor's recommendation, the Township is accepting sealed bids for the pole barn. The bid has been advertised and will be opened on Monday, April 19.

Commissioner Norman had a question about Colmar obtaining the pole barn and how that would factor in with the proposed accessory amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. Commissioner Andris said that this will be on the agenda for April 28.

2. Local Government Day

Ms. Shafkowitz reported that the Township is holding Local Government Week this week. On April 13, AM Kulp Elementary School visited the police department and municipal buildings and learned about local government. Ms. Shafkowitz thanked Administrative Assistant Melissa Croak for planning the event.

3. Commissioner Vandegrift wanted to inform the Board and the public about a referendum question that will be on the upcoming ballot. The question will ask the electorate if they are in favor of incurring \$250 million in debt for grants and loans for water treatment and wastewater management. Commissioner Vandegrift urged residents to gather as much information as they can so they can be informed voters.

Ms. Shafkowitz reported that the Hatfield Township Municipal Authority supports the act, though they are not aware whether they will be able to receive the funds or not.

B. Solicitor's Report

Acting solicitor Justin Davis reported that an Intergovernmental Agreement will be needed with Montgomery Township in reference to the Line Street Culvert Project.

Botch Nolen asked where the culvert is located. Joe Nolan responded and explained that due to a deterioration of the top slab, repairs have become necessary.

C. Building Report

1. Building Report– *March 2004*

Mr. Amey entered the March 2004 Building Report into the record.

D. Engineer's Report

No report.

III. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Commissioner Vandegrift reported on the rush at the Amoco Gas Station on Cowpath Road earlier in the month when country radio station WXTU was giving away gasoline for .925 cents a gallon. She hoped that many of our residents were able to take this opportunity for low priced gas.

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2. Commissioner Andris reported that there would be a brief executive session after the meeting to discuss potential litigation.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner O'Byrne made a motion to adjourn the April 14, 2004 Board of Commissioners meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Norman and carried on a 4-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.