

**HATFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP MEETING AGENDA
September 14, 2005
7:30 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Vice President Jim O'Byrne called the Hatfield Township Board of Commissioner's September 14, 2005 meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioner O'Byrne asked Ms. Shafkowitz to call the roll. Present at the meeting were Commissioner Vice-President Jim O'Byrne, Commissioner James Bleakly, Jr., Commissioner Scott Brown and Commissioner John Norman. Also in attendance were Township Manager Stephanie Teoli Shafkowitz, Solicitor Joseph Kuhls, Engineer Herb Gery, Chief of Police Mark Toomey, Parks and Recreation Director Nancy Stock, and Administrative Assistant Melissa Shafer.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Bleakly led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Forrest Kerr of Trewigtown Road asked if the Township would consider distributing "Slow Down 25 MPH" signs. Chief Toomey said that the issue would be put on the Public Safety meeting agenda for discussion.

V. SPECIAL ITEMS

A. National Geomatica – Web-based Geographical Information System

John Rimmer gave a presentation on the National Geomatica system.

Fran Haley of Cowpath Road asked if there was a capability of seeing building plans.

Botch Nolen of Fairgrounds Road asked if there was a capability of storing fire department files.

Forrest Kerr of Trewigtown Road asked if Montgomery County Tax information would be on the site. Ms. Shafkowitz explained that such information could be incorporated into this program.

Ms. Shafkowitz responded that there weren't many limits to what the system could do, and that there would be different access levels for residents and employees.

Commissioner Bleakly asked what the cost would be for the site. Mr. Rimmer explained that the cost would come from a fraction of what the township charges for the building and land development permits.

Commissioner Norman said that he fully supports the National Geomatica system and believes that it will be an asset to the township.

Commissioner Brown stated that he was not comfortable with a vendor being able to access resident information and download information.

Ms. Shafkowitz said that certain parameters would be set to prevent such access.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Planning and Zoning Committee – Commissioner Brown

1. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes – *August 16, 2005*

Commissioner Brown entered the August 16, 2005 Planning Commissioner Meeting Minutes into record.

B. Public Works Committee – Commissioner Norman

No report.

C. Parks and Recreation Committee – Commissioner O'Byrne

1. Stratford Avenue Park Discussion

Parks and Recreation Director Nancy Stock outlined the work already completed at Stratford Avenue Park. She reported to the Board that the Park and Recreation Committee and the residents of Stratford Avenue believe that this location would be a great place to allow residents to walk their leashed dogs.

Commissioner Brown asked if there was any other area in the Township where residents can walk their dogs.

Mrs. Stock replied that the Nature Area off of Cowpath Road is currently the only location.

Mrs. Stock also reported on several events in the township: Rhythm and Rides is September 24 and the summer Read to Me program has been extended and continues every Wednesday night in the Hatfield Township Municipal Building Community Room.

D. Public Safety Committee - Commissioner Norman

1. Monthly Report of Police Activities – *August 2005*

Commissioner Norman entered the August 2005 Monthly Report into record.

E. Finance Committee – Commissioner O’Byrne

Commissioner O’Byrne asked Ms. Shafkowitz to review the upcoming Budget Schedule. Ms. Shafkowitz reported that the budget meetings would be held at 7 pm on October 5, October 19, and October 21. She also announced that the Budget presentation would be on November 9.

F. North Penn Water Authority – Commissioner Andris

1. North Penn Water Authority Meeting Minutes – *July 26, 2005*

Commissioner Norman entered the July 26, 2005 North Penn Water Authority Meeting Minutes into record.

G. Hatfield Township Municipal Authority – Commissioner Andris

1. Hatfield Township Municipal Authority Meeting Minutes – *July 12, 2005*
2. Hatfield Township Municipal Authority Monthly Budget Report – *July 2005*

Commissioner O’Byrne entered the July 12, 2005 Hatfield Township Municipal Authority Meeting Minutes and the Hatfield Township Municipal Authority Monthly Budget Report into record.

VII. TOWNSHIP STAFF REPORTS

A. Township Manager’s Report

1. DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Grant – Chestnut Street Trail

Ms. Shafkowitz reported that the Chestnut Street Trail is a project the township has been working on for a number of years. The trail will link

School Road Park, Hatfield Township Municipal Building, Hatfield Community Park and Pool, Hatfield Borough Municipal Building, and Liberty Bell Trail. She reported that funding has been difficult to secure in the past because of several on-road portions of the trail. This year the township intends on applying for funding for the central portion of the trail from Maple Avenue to the Hatfield Township Municipal Building. The project will include opening Chestnut Street as a one-way exit road from the pool complex. The cost of the project is expected to be \$173,000. The grant request would be for 50% of the cost or \$86,500.

Engineer Herb Gery presented the plan for the Chestnut Street Trail.

Botch Nolen asked why the paved path on the plan is only going to be 8 feet wide.

Ms. Shafkowitz said that she would report back on the exact width of the path at the next meeting.

2. Hatfield Township Open Space Plan

Ms. Shafkowitz reported that the draft of the joint Hatfield Township and Hatfield Borough Open Space Plan has been distributed to the commissioners for review. Residents were invited to an open house to provide comments on the draft recommendations of the Open Space Plan. The Open Space Committee will meet on Thursday, September 15 to finalize the plan for submission to the County Planning Commission. At the September 28 Board of Commissioners meeting, the Board will consider a resolution endorsing the plan to be sent to the county for review and comment. County comments will be incorporated into a final draft that will eventually be presented to the Board for adoption within the next several months.

3. Hatfield Township/Hatfield Borough Pool Agreement

Ms. Shafkowitz reported that Hatfield Township and Hatfield Borough have been operating the existing community pool through a joint agreement since 1965. With plans to upgrade the pool facility, it became necessary to renegotiate the agreement. Ms. Shafkowitz reviewed the highlights of the new agreement. The township will borrow funds for the construction of the new pool and be responsible for the overall maintenance and operation of the pool. The Borough will contribute 15% of the annual debt service related to the borrowing up to \$30,000 annually. Borough residents will still receive resident rates and will appoint members to the pool commission. The pool commission will be made up of 7 members, 4 township and 3 borough residents. The existing park

commission will retain management of the existing facility through the 2006 season.

4. County Line Road Traffic Needs Assessment Study

Ms. Shafkowitz reviewed the background of the County Line Road Task Force. She reported that while the southern portion of County Line Road was going to be widened, the northern portion was going to be kept to one lane, primarily because of the problem with the existing intersection at County Line and Route 309. Traffic Engineer Andy Heinrich completed a study on the intersection and determined that the major problem with the intersection was its proximity to the Hilltown Pike/Route 309 intersection. The recommendation was to move the County Line Road/Route 309 intersection south on Route 309. Ms. Shafkowitz showed a slide of the proposed plan. She said that the next step is to submit the plan for inclusion in PennDOT's 12-year Traffic Improvement Plan or "TIP" to receive state and federal funding for the project. The project costs are anticipated to reach nearly \$2.5 million dollars for construction and right-of-way-acquisition.

B. Solicitor's Report

Mr. Kuhls reported that there would be an executive session following the meeting to discuss 2 items of personnel and litigation. No action will be taken.

C. Building Report

1. Building Report – *August 2005*

Ms. Shafkowitz entered the August 2005 Building Report.

D. Engineer's Report

1. Escrow Report – *August 2005*

Herb Gery entered the August 2005 Escrow Report into record.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

IX. ADJOURN

Commissioner Bleakly made a motion to adjourn the September 14, 2005 Board of Commissioners meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Norman and carried on a 4-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.