

**HATFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 18, 2006
7:30 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner President Scott Brown called the Hatfield Township Board of Commissioner's January 18, 2005 meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioner Brown asked Ms. Shafkowitz to call the roll. Present at the meeting were Commissioner President Scott Brown, Commissioner Vice-President Gerald Andris, Commissioner Jim O'Byrne, Commissioner Charles Sisian and Commissioner John Thinnis. Also in attendance were Township Manager Stephanie Teoli Shafkowitz, Solicitor Joseph Kuhls, Township Planner Ken Amey, Engineer Joseph Nolan, Chief of Police Mark Toomey, Parks and Recreation Director Nancy Stock, and Assistant to the Manager Melissa Shafer.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Brown led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Michael Malin of Line Lexington Road asked when the wards would be reapportioned. He also said that he hopes the board will take a look at the skyrocketing health care and pension costs. He continued to ask that the compensation of the staff be listed on the township website.

At Commissioner President Brown's request, Ms. Shafkowitz responded to the healthcare and pension question. She informed Mr. Malin that Hatfield Township participates in Delaware Valley Health Insurance Trust, which is a municipal risk-sharing pool with other Delaware Valley municipalities. She highlighted the benefits of participation in the trust including below market increases to costs for health care. There was an 8% increase from 2005 to 2006. The Trust has a rate stabilization fund in which Hatfield Township has \$61,000. In any one-year we may use half of that to stabilize rates. Regarding the municipal pension plans, Ms. Shafkowitz reported that both plans were recently audited by the State Auditor General and were found to be in good condition.

Bob Nolen of Fairgrounds Road received a notice of the Zoning Hearing. He asked why there was going to be a second hearing on the Sprint tower. Solicitor Joe Kuhls responded that first hearing was a variance for a setback. After the variance was approved, Mr. Amey issued a building permit for the tower. A citizen group in Towamencin is appealing the issuance of the building permit.

Mr. Nolen asked what the cost is for the hearing and who was paying for it. Mr. Kuhls responded that there was an application fee for the Zoning Hearing and that would cover the cost of the hearing.

Commissioner Brown asked if all the proper procedures were followed for this hearing. Mr. Kuhls responded that the township sent out a mailing to residents within 500 feet and Towamencin Township. It was advertised in a general circulation newspaper and is posted at the property.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Planning and Zoning Committee – Commissioner Brown

1. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes – *December 20, 2005*

Commissioner Brown entered the December 20, 2005 Planning Commission Meeting Minutes into record.

2. Interstate Fleets Land Development, 696 Bethlehem Pike, Zoned C

Rodney Thornton of Schlosser and Claus explained that the land development consisted of the construction of a new office building on the site they already own. The applicant agrees all the points on the December CKS review letter.

3. Zoning Hearing Board Alternate Position

Commissioner Sisian made a motion to appoint Reeves Miller as an Alternate to the Zoning Hearing Board for a term of January 18, 2006 – December 31, 2008. The motion was seconded by Commissioner O’Byrne and carried on a 5-0 vote. Commissioner Brown noted that Mr. Miller was appointed to the Zoning Hearing Board when Jim Bleakly was appointed to the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Miller is stepping aside so that Mr. Bleakly may return to the ZHB.

B. Public Works Committee – Commissioner Thinnis

No report.

C. Parks and Recreation Committee – Commissioner O’Byrne

1. Hatfield Park Commission Meeting Minutes – *November 14, 2005*

Commissioner O’Byrne entered the November 14, 2005 Hatfield Park Commission Meeting Minutes into record.

2. School Road Park - Pole Lighting Installation Bid

Ms. Shafkowitz reported that this bid has been advertised. It was out to bid in 2005 but only one proposal was submitted and it was twice the amount that was budgeted, so it is being re-bid. The board should be able to approve the proposal at the February meeting.

D. Public Safety Committee - Commissioner Sisian

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

Commissioner Sisian entered the December 2005 Monthly Report of Police Activities into record.

E. Finance Committee – Commissioner O’Byrne

No report.

F. North Penn Water Authority – Commissioner Brown

1. North Penn Water Authority Meeting Minutes – *November 22, 2005*

Commissioner Brown entered the November 22, 2005 North Penn Water Authority Meeting Minutes into record.

Commissioner Brown said that he noticed in the minutes that there might be an increase in water rates in the future. He would like to invite a representative from the NPWA to a Board meeting to give updates on this issue.

G. Hatfield Township Municipal Authority – Commissioner Brown

1. Hatfield Township Municipal Authority Meeting Minutes – *November 8, 2005*
2. Hatfield Township Municipal Authority Monthly Budget Report – *November 2005*
3. Hatfield Township Municipal Authority Monthly Budget Report – *December 2005*

Commissioner Brown entered the November 8, 2005 Hatfield Township Municipal Authority Meeting Minutes, the November 2005 Hatfield Township Municipal Authority Monthly Budget Report, and the December 2005 Hatfield Township Municipal Authority Monthly Budget Report into record.

VI. TOWNSHIP STAFF REPORTS

A. Township Manager’s Report

1. Fire Marshal Position

Ms. Shafkowitz reported that the township is currently soliciting proposals for Fire Marshal services. Keystone Municipal Services has submitted a proposal, however Ms. Shafkowitz said that she would like at least one more for comparison. Also, Ms. Shafkowitz would like the Board to appoint the two Fire Chiefs from Hatfield and Colmar Volunteer Fire Companies as Deputy Fire Marshals. There will be a recommendation for the Board by the January action meeting.

2. Pool Design Discussion

Ms. Shafkowitz provided an overview of the pool planning process. She reported that the township has hired MKSD and Councilman Hunsaker to design the pool, and Boyle Construction to manage the project. She showed the residents and Board the four different pool plan designs and costs associated with each one. The leisure pool would cost \$847,000. The competition pool, depending on which option is chosen, ranges in price from \$565,000 to \$858,000.

Sandy Musoleno, former Swim Team President, reported that the first design wouldn't meet the safety needs of the swim team because of the four-foot depth at the shallow end. They would prefer the 4th option that has a six-foot depth at the shallow end with the moveable bulkhead. The moveable bulkhead was explained.

Ray Masser of Cowpath Road noted that North Penn School District has a moveable bulkhead at the high school's pool and it is a great amenity.

Amy Simmonds, programming coordinator, said that the moveable bulkhead would also allow for the continuation of swimming lessons and other programming.

Michael Malin asked how many people used the pool. Ms. Shafkowitz responded that in 2005 there were over 1,000 family memberships, 150 individual memberships, 250 Hatfield Borough memberships, and 450 non-resident memberships.

Mr. Malin asked if the township would be able to break even on the pool project. Commissioner Andris said that open spaces in the township aren't expected to pay for themselves; instead they add value to the community.

Commissioner Thinnes said that it's the fond memories that our children have of using the pool that is important.

Commissioner Sisian thanked the Park Commission, the Parks and Recreation Board, and the staff for all their hard work on the pool project. He said that while the pool would benefit the community, he is concerned about the cost and that doesn't want there to be a tax burden.

Commissioner Thinnes asked if this new design would attract more people. Ms. Shafkowitz said yes, and that the consultants will discuss that during their presentation at the action meeting.

Commissioner Thinnes asked what would happen if there was a surplus in the pool operating budget. Ms. Shafkowitz said that she would like to see it put in a reserve fund for future improvements at the pool or towards the debt service.

Commissioner Brown said that Hatfield Township needs a new quality swimming pool. He said that he is proud to be involved with this process. However, he is concerned about the financial implications. He would like staff to look at options 3 and 4 of the plan. He would also like to look into soliciting community support, creating a “victory fund” for contributions from the community. He thanked everyone for their hard work.

B. Solicitor’s Report

Mr. Kuhls announced that there was an Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss outstanding litigation and potential conveyance of real property. No action was taken.

1. Grinder Pump Ordinance

Mr. Kuhls reported that this ordinance concerns the maintenance of privately owned grinder pumps. The Hatfield Township Municipal Authority recommended this ordinance. Any grinder pumps installed prior to this ordinance would be grandfathered.

2. Police Pension Resolution #06-01

Mr. Kuhls explained the Police Pension Resolution, which requires the continuation of police officers contributions to the pension plan.

Commissioner O’Byrne made a motion to approve Resolution #06-01. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sisian and carried on a 5-0 vote.

C. Building Report

1. Building Report – *December 2005*

2. 2005 Annual Building Report

Mr. Amey entered the December 2005 Building Report and the 2005 Annual Building Report into record.

D. Engineer's Report

1. Escrow Release Report – *December 2005*

Joe Nolan entered the December 2005 Escrow Release Report into record.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Michael Malin asked for further review on the Township's plan for rising healthcare costs.

VIII. ADJOURN

Commissioner Sisian made a motion to adjourn the January 18, 2006 Board of Commissioners meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner O'Byrne and carried on a 5-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.