

# HATFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 25, 2006

7:30 PM

## I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner President Scott Brown called the Hatfield Township Board of Commissioner's January 25, 2006 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, Finance Director John Hall, Parks and Recreation Director Nancy Stock, Public Works Director Nick DeMeno, and Assistant to the Manager Melissa Shafer.

## III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner President Brown led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

## IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner O'Byrne made a motion to approve the Agenda of the January 25, 2006 Hatfield Township Board of Commissioners meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sisian and carried on a 5-0 vote.

## V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. **Board of Commissioners Rezoning Hearing – December 14, 2005**
2. **Board of Commissioners Workshop/Regular Meeting – December 14, 2005**
3. **Board of Commissioners Reorganization Meeting – January 3, 2006**
4. **Board of Commissioners Workshop Meeting – January 18, 2006**

Commissioner O'Byrne made a motion to approve the Board of Commissioners December 14, 2005 Rezoning Hearing Minutes, December 14, 2005 Workshop/Regular Meeting Minutes, January 3, 2006 Reorganization Meeting Minutes, and January 18, 2006 Workshop Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sisian and carried on a 5-0 vote.

## **VI. SPECIAL ITEMS**

### **1. Eagle Scout Recognition**

Commissioner President Scott Brown recognized Michael Stephen McDonald and Daniel H. Shelly for their efforts in pursuit of rank of Eagle Scout.

### **2. Pool Design Presentation**

Bob Banker of Counsilman Hunsaker & Associates, Inc. gave a presentation on the different pool design options and amenities.

Charlotte Dubroff of East Orvilla Road asked Mr. Banker if he was exploring a natural substitute for chlorine. Mr. Banker replied that health codes require that chlorine be used in public pools.

Ms. Dubroff also asked what amenities were there for the aging population. Mr. Banker pointed out the hydrotherapy bench and the option of having fitness walking in the current channel.

Members of the Hatfield Swim Team voiced their support for Option 4 with the moveable bulkhead so to offer more options for training and competitions.

Stephanie Teoli Shafkowitz reported that Option 4 would cost \$4.7 million. Of that amount, \$600,000 has already been budgeted for soft costs such as the architect and construction management services. There is also \$425,000 saved for the pool project in the Capital Reserve Fund and \$100,000 is available from the Pool Commission budget. Hatfield Township will need to borrow approximately \$3.5 million through Delaware Valley Regional Finance Authority (DVRFA). The township would pay approximately \$275,000 to the annual debt service over 20 years. Hatfield Borough will be contributing \$30,000 a year to that amount. Ms. Shafkowitz noted that if there were additional fundraising, it would make the financial picture look even better.

Michael Malin of Line Lexington Road asked if the loan would be a variable or fixed rate. Ms. Shafkowitz responded that the township's recent loans have been variable rates.

Commissioner Thinnes asked Mr. Banker what is the expected life of a pool. Mr. Banker said that pools built today should last well into 50 years. He cited the use of PVC piping over the old cast iron piping as one of the contributors to the longevity of newer pools.

Commissioner Thinnes asked what the disadvantage was of the older pools. Mr. Banker said that there is more maintenance to older pools. He also said that the current filtration system at the Hatfield Community Pool turns over the water in the leisure pool every 8 hours. The new filtration system will turn over the water

every 2 hours. Also, there are code issues in older pools, such as the slope of the diving well not being where it should be.

Jon Taylor, Hatfield Community Pool Manager, stated that much of his job is maintenance on the current pool, that he is constantly patching holes.

Commissioner Sisian thanked Mr. Banker, the Parks Commission, and Parks and Recreation Director Nancy Stock. Mr. Sisian said that while this pool will benefit the community, he is concerned about the costs. He believes that many of the people in the area of retirement age are also worried about costs and taxes being raised.

Commissioner Sisian asked Ms. Shafkowitz if the amounts for the bid came back over the estimated costs. Ms. Shafkowitz said that there is a 10% cushion built into the amount.

Commissioner Sisian asked Mr. Banker what he felt about Option 3. Mr. Banker said that he felt that Option 4 provided more flexibility and options for the future.

Commissioner Brown said that he liked the pool design but was also worried about the cost. Mr. Brown said that he would like to see private funds move the project from Option 3 to Option 4.

Commissioner Andris said that the township strives to serve the entire community at the most efficient cost. Mr. Andris highlighted the efforts of the public safety department, the new salt shed and garage for public works department, the newly enacted traffic impact fees, and the new administration building where 24 user groups utilize the community room on a regular basis.

Regarding the pool project, Mr. Andris noted that his children might not use the spray ground, but others will enjoy it. The pool will serve all ages with programs such as swimming lessons for children, the current channel for adults, and the hydrotherapy bench for seniors. Commissioner Andris stated that he likes Option 4 with the moveable bulkhead.

Commissioner Thinnes said that he was critical of the moveable bulkhead at first but he is now in favor of Option 4.

Commissioner O'Byrne also said that he was in favor of Option 4 with the moveable bulkhead.

## **VII. CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

Michael Malin of Line Lexington Road asked Mr. Banker if the health codes governing public pools change, would natural alternatives to chlorine be feasible. Mr. Banker said that he doesn't believe so. He cited an example of public pools in Europe that use natural alternatives to chlorine and they have to dispose of 8 gallons of water per bather per day.

Charlotte Dubroff of East Orvilla Road asked if the new diving well would be up to code. Mr. Banker said that it would be.

Sharon Hamilton, President of the Hatfield Swim Team Parents Group asked the Board to consider Option 4.

Katie Plewinski, of Providence Lane, member of the Knights and Maidens Water Polo Team, also asked the Board to consider Option 4. Ms. Plewinski explained that water polo requires a 30-yard pool. She said that if Hatfield Township considered Option 4 the water polo team could hold sanctioned meets capable of bringing in a substantial amount of money for the township. She cited a recent host who was able to bring in \$50,000.

Botch Nolen of Fairgrounds Road asked if the leisure pool could be left open during the swim meets so that people could enjoy the pool every evening. Ms. Shafkowitz said that the township has been discussing that issue and will continue to discuss it as a possibility.

Julie Krail Evans of Lenhart Road supports the moveable bulkhead. Ms. Evans also supports allowing the pool to remain open during the swim meets, in the hope that more kids might watch the meets and become interested in being a part of the swim team.

Dave Paulsen, Hatfield Borough Manager, thanked the Board of Commissioners, Ms. Shafkowitz, the staff, and the Pool Commission for their work on the pool project. Mr. Paulsen said that Hatfield Borough is proud to be a partner in this project.

Michael Malin of Line Lexington Road asked if Hatfield Township was not receiving adequate revenue from the district justices. Commissioner Brown said that he would talk to the solicitor and staff regarding this issue.

## VIII. ACTION ITEMS

1. **Interstate Fleets Final Land Development – 696 Bethlehem Pike, Zoned C Resolution #06-02 - DEFERRED**
2. **Edmund H.C. Justice Resolution #06-03**

Commissioner Brown asked Chief Toomey to explain the resolution. Chief Toomey reported that the resolution was to honor Montgomery County Detective Edmund H.C. Justice's retirement. Detective Justice started his law enforcement career at Hatfield Township as a patrol officer and then detective before leaving to work at Montgomery County.

Commissioner Sisian made a motion to approve Resolution #06-03. The motion was seconded by Commissioner O'Byrne and carried on a 5-0 vote.

**3. CVS Pharmacy 18-Month Maintenance Period**

Commissioner O'Byrne made a motion to accept CVS Pharmacy into an 18-month maintenance period. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thinnes and carried on a 5-0 vote.

**4. Fire Marshal Position**

Ms. Shafkowitz explained that the township received a proposal from Keystone Municipal Services for fire marshal and emergency management consulting services. Ms. Shafkowitz reported that Mike Waldron would serve as the township Fire Marshal if the motion were passed. Mr. Waldron is also currently the part time Fire Marshal in Hatfield Borough.

Ms. Shafkowitz explained that the Chiefs of the Hatfield and Colmar Volunteer Fire Companies would be appointed as Deputy Fire Marshals to assist Mr. Waldron if necessary.

Commissioner Sisian made a motion to appoint Mike Waldron, Keystone Municipal Services, as Fire Marshal and Emergency Management Coordinator; Robert Kaler, IV, Chief, Hatfield Volunteer Fire Company as Deputy Fire Marshal; and Michael Hagan, Chief, Colmar Fire Company, as Deputy Fire Marshal. The motion was seconded by Commissioner O'Byrne and carried on a 5-0 vote.

**5. 2622 East Vine Street Property  
Resolution #06-04**

Ms. Shafkowitz explained that this property is located on the corner of Vine Street and School Road. Mrs. Jones, the former owner, has passed away and her estate has offered this property to the township for \$250,800.

Commissioner O'Byrne made a motion to approve Resolution #06-04. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sisian and carried on a 5-0 vote.

**6. Commerce Bank Signature Resolution  
Resolution #06-05**

Commissioner O'Byrne made a motion to approve Resolution #06-05. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thinnes and carried on a 5-0 vote.

**7. Bills Payable**

▪ **Paid Bills (January 2006) - \$16,696.61**

Commissioner O'Byrne made a motion to approve the Paid Bills for January in the amount of \$16,696.61. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sisian and carried on a 5-0 vote.

▪ **Bills To Be Paid (January 2006) - \$166,843.39**

Commissioner O'Byrne made a motion to approve the Bills to be Paid for January in the amount of \$166,843.39. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thinnes and carried on a 5-0 vote.

**8. Treasurer's Report – November and December 2005**

Tax Collector Christina Murphy entered the November and December 2005 Treasurer's Report into record.

**IX. OTHER BUSINESS**

Joseph Kuhls announced that there would be an executive session following the meeting to discuss matters of potential litigation. There would be no action taken.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner O'Byrne made a motion to adjourn the January 25, 2006 Board of Commissioners Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thinnes and carried on a 5-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.