

**HATFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 8, 2006
7:30 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner President Scott Brown called the Hatfield Township Board of Commissioner's February 8, 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, and Commissioner John Thinnes. Also in attendance were Township Manager Stephanie Teoli Shafkowitz, Solicitor Joseph Kuhls, Engineer Joseph Nolan, Parks and Recreation Director Nancy Stock, and Assistant to the Manager Melissa Shafer.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

IV. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

There were no citizen's comments at this time.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Planning and Zoning Committee – Commissioner Brown

1. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes – *January 17, 2006*

Commissioner Brown entered the January 17, 2006 Planning Commission Meeting Minutes into the record.

2. Ashmead Insurance Minor Land Development, 2422 North Broad Street, Zoned LPO

Jill Hedges represented Ashmead Insurance. Joseph Kuhls asked Ms. Hedges if she had spoken to the developer about the fee in lieu of open space. Ms. Hedges said that the developer is aware of it. Commissioner Andris asked if the traffic impact fee would apply to this development.

Stephanie Teoli Shafkowitz responded that the amount of the traffic fee would be \$5,008.20.

B. Public Works Committee – Commissioner Thinner

No report.

C. Parks and Recreation Committee – Commissioner O’Byrne

1. Hatfield Park Commission Meeting Minutes – *January 9, 2006*

Commissioner O’Byrne entered the January 9, 2006 Hatfield Park Commission Meeting Minutes into the record.

2. Hatfield Township Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes - *January 9, 2006*

Commissioner O’Byrne entered the January 9, 2006 Hatfield Township Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes into the record.

3. Hatfield Township Shade Tree Commission – *January 21, 2006*

Commissioner O’Byrne entered the January 21, 2006 Hatfield Township Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes into the record.

4. Hatfield Community Pool Design Decision

Commissioner O’Byrne made a motion to authorize MKSD Architects to prepare construction drawings and bid documents for the Hatfield Community Pool Project, based upon design option number four, and to authorize township staff to undertake a community fundraising campaign for this project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thinner and carried on a 4-0 vote.

D. Public Safety Committee - Commissioner Sisian

1. Monthly Report of Police Activities – *January 2006*

Commissioner Brown entered the January 2006 Monthly Report of Police Activities into the record.

E. Finance Committee – Commissioner Andris

No report.

F. North Penn Water Authority – Commissioner Brown

1. North Penn Water Authority Meeting Minutes – *December 20, 2005*

Commissioner Brown entered the December 20, 2005 North Penn Water Authority Meeting Minutes into the record.

2. North Penn Water Authority Report – *John Strobel, Hatfield Township Representative*

John Strobel reported that the North Penn Water Authority (NPWA) is considering a potential 7.9% rate increase. This increase would be the first increase in 10 years. For the average household, this increase would mean approximately \$5 more a quarter. Mr. Strobel added that this increase comes six years after a three percent decrease in rates.

Anthony Bellitto, North Penn Water Authority Executive Director reported that according to financial projections, the increase will carry the authority for at least the next two years.

Commissioner Brown asked Mr. Bellitto to comment on water quality. Mr. Bellitto said that the NPWA is currently expanding the Forest Park Plant. He said that while the current water quality is great, this new plant will use a membrane treatment method instead of the sand treatment method that will make the water quality even better.

Mr. Strobel provided an update on the Orvilla Road Well. He said that recent tests have shown that MTBE is not traceable there, however, TCE is still traceable and so the well remains shutoff.

Michael Malin of Line Lexington Road asked for further clarification on the rate increase.

Mr. Belitto explained that their customer base is expanding which means the NPWA must spend more money on chemicals and operating costs. The NPWA also has taken on a number of capital improvement projects, such as the Forest Park Plant, that require additional funding.

Commissioner Brown asked Mr. Belitto for a copy of the NPWA budget, which Mr. Belitto promised to deliver to the township.

G. Hatfield Township Municipal Authority – Commissioner Brown

1. Hatfield Township Municipal Authority Meeting Minutes – *December 13, 2005*

Commissioner Brown entered the December 13, 2005 Hatfield Township Municipal Authority Meeting Minutes into the record.

VI. TOWNSHIP STAFF REPORTS

A. Township Manager's Report

1. Verizon Franchise Negotiations

Ms. Shafkowitz reported that Verizon is in the process of launching a new program, Fios, or Fiber to the Premises. They have laid fiber throughout the township so that individual households and businesses can connect directly to the fiber for both video and Internet service. Because they are offering video services, they are required to negotiate franchise agreements with the municipalities.

The Montgomery County Consortium of Communities has formed a subcommittee to negotiate a franchise agreement with Verizon on behalf of the 31 municipalities in the consortium. They have retained the services of attorney Dan Cohen, of Cohen Telecommunications Law Group, to assist in the negotiation process. Ms. Shafkowitz reported that the Montgomery County Consortium will pay for half of the \$20,000 cost of legal services, and the participating municipalities will split the rest of the cost based on population. Hatfield Township's cost would be around \$300. Ms. Shafkowitz also reported that she is a member of the subcommittee and will be personally negotiating with Verizon.

Commissioner Thinnes asked if there was an advantage of Hatfield Township negotiating with the Consortium instead of alone. Ms. Shafkowitz responded that there is more negotiating power as 31 municipalities than as just one.

2. 2006 Project List

Ms. Shafkowitz reported that the 2006 Project List is included in the board's packets for their review. She reported that this list does not take into account the day-to-day duties of the township staff. Also, some items on the list are strictly research projects.

B. Solicitor's Report

1. Ordinance #550 – Grinder Pump Ordinance

Joseph Kuhls reported that Ordinance #550 will be considered for adoption at the February 22, 2006 Board of Commissioners Action Meeting.

2. Steen Advertising – Zoning Hearing Board Application

Mr. Kuhls explained that Steen Advertising has submitted an application to have two billboards on Route 309. This is a matter of outstanding litigation, as Steen Advertising is challenging the Hatfield Township's Code of Ordinances. Mr. Kuhls would represent Hatfield Township and defend the Code of Ordinances in this matter.

Commissioner O'Byrne made a motion to authorize the solicitor's appearance before the Zoning Hearing Board on behalf of the Township and in opposition to the Steen Advertising application. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thinnes and carried on a 4-0 vote.

Mr. Kuhls reported that an Executive Session was held on February 1, 2006 to discuss matters of outstanding litigation.

C. Building Report

1. Building Report – *January 2006*

Commissioner Brown entered the January 2006 Building Report into the record.

D. Engineer's Report

1. Escrow Release Report – *January 2006*

Joseph Nolan entered the January 2006 Escrow Release Report into the record.

2. Stormwater Management Report

Mr. Nolan reported that Hatfield Township is wrapping up the third year of the Stormwater Management requirements. In the first year, CKS Engineers mapped every stormwater discharge in the township. The Board of Commissioners adopted a new stormwater management ordinance that included best management practices and earth moving practices. In the second year, CKS sampled 50% of the stormwater outfalls after a rainfall. The samples were tested to see what types of pollutants are being discharged into streams. The requirements of this program also include public education. The township has included information about stormwater management on the website, in the newsletter, and in the form of handouts. Also, volunteers on Earth Day placed stickers on stormwater inlets throughout the township reminding residents not to dump in the drains. This year, the plan is to sample the

rest of the stormwater outfalls and to continue with the education programs.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Michael Malin of Line Lexington Road asked when Board meetings would begin being televised. Commissioner Brown replied that providing a community access channel to potentially televise meetings in the future is on the 2006 Project List. Ms. Shafkowitz added that the township is working with Hatfield Borough to partner with them and their public access channel.

Clyde Roberts of Anthony Drive asked if there was a target date for the ward redistricting. Commissioner Brown reported that there is no date that he is aware of as yet.

VIII. ADJOURN

Commissioner O'Byrne made a motion to adjourn the February 8, 2006 Board of Commissioners meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thinnes and carried on a 4-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.