

**HATFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 12, 2006
7:30 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner President Scott Brown called the Hatfield Township Board of Commissioner's April 12, 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 Thinner. Also in attendance were Township Manager Stephanie Teoli Shafkowitz, Solicitor Joseph Kuhls, Engineer Herb Gery, Township Planner Ken Amey, Chief of Police Mark Toomey, Parks and Recreation Director Nancy Stock, and Assistant to the Manager Melissa Shafer.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Sisian led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

There were no citizens comments at this time.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Planning and Zoning Committee

1. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes – *March 21, 2006*

Commissioner Brown entered the March 21, 2006 Planning Commission Meeting Minutes into the record.

B. Public Works Committee

Commissioner Thinner reported that on April 5, several residents met with him regarding Public Works issues. As a new Commissioner, he thanked those residents for taking the time to talk to him.

C. Parks and Recreation Committee

1. Hatfield Park Commission Meeting Minutes – *March 13, 2006*
2. Hatfield Township Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes - *March 6, 2006*
3. Hatfield Township Shade Tree Commission – *March 20, 2006*

Commissioner O’Byrne entered the March 13, 2006 Hatfield Park commission Meeting Minutes, the March 6, 2006 Hatfield township Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes, and the March 20, 2006 Hatfield Township Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes into the record.

Commissioner O’Byrne announced that Earth Day would be held on April 29, 2006, and that the day would include paper shredding, tire collection, and informational booths.

D. Public Safety Committee

1. Public Safety Monthly Report – *March 2006*

Commissioner Sisian entered the March 2006 Public Safety Report into the record.

Commissioner Sisian reported that at the last Public Safety meeting, it was decided that the traffic-calming program would move forward, beginning with a pilot program on Walnut Street.

Bruce Dannaker of East Walnut Street asked about the No Parking signs that were recently posted on his street. Commissioner Brown responded that the parking issue was discussed at the March Workshop meeting and the residents of Walnut Street provided suggestions for this solution. Mr. Dannaker said that without the cars being able to park on the street, he worries about more speeding problems.

E. Finance Committee

No report.

F. North Penn Water Authority

1. North Penn Water Authority Meeting Minutes – *February 28, 2006*

Commissioner Brown entered the February 28, 2006 North Penn Water Authority Meeting Minutes into the record.

G. Hatfield Township Municipal Authority

1. Hatfield Township Municipal Authority Meeting Minutes –
February 14, 2006
2. Hatfield Township Municipal Authority Monthly Budget Report –
February 2006

Commissioner Brown entered the February 14, 2006 Hatfield Township Municipal Authority Meeting Minutes and the February 2006 Hatfield Township Municipal Authority Monthly Budget Report into the record.

H. Fire Company Reports

1. Hatfield Volunteer Fire Company

Keith Weigner and Bob Kaler reviewed the Hatfield Volunteer Fire Company Budget. They discussed contributions, the purchase of a new fire truck, mutual aid, and their Venture Firefighting Program.

2. Colmar Volunteer Fire Company

Grace Dahlquist and Mike Hagan reviewed the Colmar Volunteer Fire Company Budget. They reported that half of their revenues come from taxes and that most of their expenditures are for bills and maintenance. This year they have received \$104,000 in grants.

Michael Malin of Line Lexington Road asked if the fire departments were audited by outside agencies. Hatfield Volunteer Fire Company has their books audited every year, while Colmar Fire Company's books were audited by Hatfield Township's auditors within the past three years.

I. Williams Kindig Committee Report

Charlotte Dubroff of Orvilla Road reported on the programming for the Williams Kindig House. Some of the programming notes include the May Artisan Fair, outdoor educational classes, and an autumn fundraiser.

Commissioner Thinnis and Commissioner Brown said that they appreciated Ms. Dubroff's efforts with the Williams Kindig House.

VI. TOWNSHIP STAFF REPORTS

A. Township Manager's Report

1. Uninvest Bicycle Race

Ms. Shafkowitz announced that the Uninvest Bicycle Race would be going through Hatfield Township this year. Representatives from the bicycle race have met with township staff about their route and public safety issues.

2. Hatfield Quality Meats

Ms. Shafkowitz publicly thanked Tom Clemens for giving her and Ken Amey a tour of the Hatfield Quality Meats facility. She commented that she was pleased to see the township's largest employer and was impressed with the company's operation.

3. Local Government Day

Ms. Shafkowitz announced that Local Government Day was held on Monday, April 10, and was a success. She thanked Melissa Shafer for organizing the event.

4. Open Space Plan

Ms. Shafkowitz reported that the Open Space Plan has been made available to the public and surrounding municipalities and is currently being reviewed by the Montgomery County Open Space Board. There will be a Public Hearing on May 10 at the Workshop Meeting and the Open Space Committee will give their recommendations.

5. Pool Fundraising Report

Ms. Shafkowitz provided a power point presentation that highlighted a timeline of events concerning the new pool project, from 2001 to the present. She then outlined the proposed fundraising efforts and a goal of \$150,000. (presentation attached)

Commissioner Thinnes asked if there were any bidders on the project yet. Ms. Shafkowitz responded that the project has not gone out to bid yet.

Commissioner Sisian expressed his concern over the price of the pool project.

Larry Hughes of Oak Avenue said that he was concerned that the fundraising for the pool would take away from the donations for the fire companies.

Michael Malin provided a fundraising idea of holding a "wake" for the old pool.

The Board of Commissioners authorized the staff to move forward with the fundraising efforts.

Ms. Dubroff noted that other municipalities are planning on building new pools as well. She wondered if that would affect the membership of Hatfield's new pool. Ms. Shafkowitz responded that she did not perceive that there would be adverse affects to the Hatfield Community Pool membership.

Commissioner Andris reported that while he is also concerned with the costs, the pool has been a very deliberate, thoughtful process. He said that so far \$425,000 has been set aside for the pool project. Mr. Andris also noted that many people thought that the new administration building was unnecessary and now there are 25 user groups that use the building. Commissioner Andris said that he wanted to get the fundraising effort started and handed a check to Ms. Shafkowitz for \$1,000.

Commissioner Brown reported that fear of the future should not stop progress today. He asked all residents to participate in the fundraising efforts and fun activities planned throughout this year. Commissioner Brown stated that he wants the pool to be a source of pride for the community and he would like to move forward with a collective vision.

B. Solicitor's Report

Joseph Kuhls reported that there was an Executive Session held prior to the meeting to discuss matters of outstanding litigation. Mr. Kuhls announced that the Good Neighbors of Towamencin has appealed the Hatfield Township Zoning Hearing Board decision. He recommended that the Township intervene at this point and join as a neutral party to be able to monitor the proceedings. Commissioner Andris made a motion that the township be named as a neutral party to monitor the proceedings. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thinnis and carried on a 5-0 vote.

C. Building Report

1. Building Report – *March 2006*

Ken Amey entered the March 2006 Building Report into the record.

D. Engineer's Report

1. Escrow Release Report – *March 2006*

Herb Gery entered the March 2006 escrow Release Report into the record.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

VIII. ADJOURN

April 12, 2006

Commissioner O'Byrne made a motion to adjourn the April 12, 2006 Board of Commissioners Workshop Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thinnes and carried on a 5-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.