

HATFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

July 12, 2006

7:30 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner President Scott Brown called the Hatfield Township Board of Commissioner's July 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, 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, Engineer Joseph Nolan, Township Planner Ken Amey, 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 Brown led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. Community Pool Project Overview

Township Manager Stephanie Teoli Shafkowitz reviewed the timeline of the pool project, highlighting the progression of meetings and events in a PowerPoint Presentation. Ms. Shafkowitz reported that the pool project began in 2001 when the Hatfield Park Commission identified the need for a new facility and a grant application was made for a feasibility study.

In 2002, the grant was awarded and Wallover Architects were hired to complete the feasibility study. Also, \$100,000 from the budget was allocated for eventual pool construction.

In 2003, the feasibility study was underway, and another \$100,000 was allocated.

In 2004, the feasibility study was completed and \$85,000 was allocated for preliminary design and engineering. Another \$100,000 was also allocated as well.

In 2005, both the Hatfield Township Board of Commissioners and the Hatfield Borough Council endorsed the feasibility study. The Board of Commissioners authorized staff to move forward, and hired MKSD Architects and Boyle

Construction Management. Consultants conducted several public meeting to solicit input from residents and stakeholders and \$3.6 million was budgeted for the project based on early design schematics. And for the fourth year, \$100,000 was allocated for the eventual pool project.

Also in 2005, an agreement with Hatfield Borough was finalized which included a \$30,000 annual debt service contribution.

In 2006, the Final Pool Design was presented to the Board and public as part of two public meetings. Public and stakeholder input was incorporated into the Final Design and the budget was estimated at \$4.7 million. The Board of Commissioners authorized preparation of the construction documents and bidding of the project.

Ms. Shafkowitz highlighted that over 20 meetings were held over the past three years to discuss the pool and gain public comment.

Ms. Shafkowitz reviewed the bid documents and explained the recommendation to re-bid the plumbing and electrical bids.

Ms. Shafkowitz reviewed the financing of the pool project and explained that it would be a combination of borrowing, pool savings, fundraising, pulling from reserve funds.

2. Citizen Comments

Nick Merlo, President of the Hatfield Chamber of Commerce, presented Hatfield Township with a check for \$10,000 towards the Hatfield Community Pool project.

Michael DeFinis, Hatfield Borough Councilman, reported that Hatfield Borough continues to support the Hatfield Community Pool project, and they will sponsor the Seventh Annual Hatfield Township Golf Outing for \$1,000 and also pay for a foursome to the outing.

Sharon Hambleton, co-president of the Hatfield Swim Team, presented Hatfield Township with a check for \$5,000 for the Hatfield Community Pool project.

Commissioner Jim O'Byrne presented Hatfield Township with his own \$1,000 donation from he and his wife Grayce for the Hatfield Community Pool project.

Norman Blagbrough of Leon Drive said that he was surprised at the rising cost of the pool project. Mr. Blagbrough asked the Board to take a second look at the pool project costs and amenities.

Gerald Snyder of Orvilla Road said that he was concerned about the cost of the swimming pool, an asset that would only be utilized 25% of the year.

Michael Malin of Line Lexington Road said that he was concerned the pool project was taking money away from potential open space preservation. Mr. Malin confirmed that the interest rate was 4%.

Jon Taylor, Hatfield Community Pool Manager, said that he has been with the pool project from the beginning with the feasibility study and the need for the new pool is great. He noted several weaknesses with the current pool, such as an aging mechanical system, an unusable diving board, and a rising budget to cover patchwork repairs.

Sandie Musoleno, Hatfield Park Commission President, spoke about ongoing financing and fundraising options for the new pool that have been discussed, such as hosting invitational swimming and water polo meets and new opportunities for recreational programs.

Ron Musoleno of Forest Hills Road said that in the past several years, Hatfield Township has made improvements to the community that has retained he and his family as residents. Mr. Musoleno noted that there were already 22 public meetings that discussed the pool project, and urged the Board to move forward in awarding the bids.

Kathy Kushner of Clymer Road said that her son grew up at the pool and is now the diving coach. Ms. Kushner said that the pool gave her son a positive environment in which to grow.

Nancy Plewinski of Providence Lane said that he children also grew up at the pool and on the swim team. Ms. Plewinski said that the new competition pool would allow water polo meets, which can bring in a significant amount of revenue.

Larry Hughes of Oak Avenue said that he believes the debt service is too much and the pool amenities should be cut back.

Louise Bower of Foster Road said that while she and her children enjoy the current pool, they don't enjoy the bathhouse, and she is looking forward to seeing a new one. She also stated that she didn't think the pool was too much.

David Barrett of Lansdale said the he uses the Hatfield Community Pool because he likes the friendly staff and feels his children are safe. Mr. Barrett urged the Board of Commissioners to take action on the pool this year, as he has had first hand experience with costs of pool construction rising over the years.

Bonnie Kyle-Blamphin of Arbor Greene, spoke on behalf of her neighborhood. She said that the new facility would enable her neighbors in the age-restricted community who are older and less able to access the pool easier with the zero-depth beach entry.

Fran Haley of Cowpath Road confirmed that there would be an underground detention basin in order to save trees from being cut down. He also confirmed that the bids didn't include any of the add alternates.

Sharon Hambleton of McArthur Drive said that while she has a pool in her backyard, her son now wants to join the new Hatfield Community Pool after seeing the plans. Ms. Musoleno also noted that there are four children on her street that pay the nonresident price and go to the Lansdale Pool.

Larry Hughes said that he feels the price of the pool is too high. He said that children would have fond memories whether it's a \$3.8 million pool or a \$5.2 million pool.

Nancy Plewinski said that this new pool is needed to help the community grow and not stay stagnant. Ms. Plewinski said the pool needs to be constructed correctly the first time.

Evelyn Kelly of Hertford Drive said that she would like an affordable pool. Ms. Kelly said that money could be spent on other things in the township that attract and retain residents, not just the pool.

Chris McNerny, Hatfield Community Pool Lifeguard, said that pushing back a decision on the pool would be detrimental.

Bill Forst of Diamond Street asked if there would be a tax increase.

Norman Blagbrough said that he was concerned about the residents on fixed incomes if taxes would go up because of the pool.

Scott Deeck of Oak Avenue said that he supports the pool project. His family is a member of the pool and Mr. Deeck said that he felt it was a positive and safe environment for his children.

3. Community Pool Project Bids

Commissioner Scott Brown thanked all of the residents for attending the meeting and announced that the commissioners would now consider the bids.

Commissioner Sisian made a motion to rebid the pool project. Solicitor Kuhls clarified the motion as one to reject all bids. Commissioner Sisian restated his motion to reject all bids and rebid the project. There being no second, the motion failed.

Commissioner Sisian made a motion to have a nonbinding referendum on the November ballot. There being no second, the motion failed.

General and Site Construction Bid:

- Commissioner O'Byrne made a motion to award the General Trades and Site Construction Bid to **Deco Management Corp. of Fort Washington, PA** at a cost of **\$2,157,000**. This award is conditioned upon receipt of performance/maintenance bond and labor/materials bond. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thinnes.

Commissioner Andris said that he has always been and continues to be fiscally conscious. As a single-income wage earner, he understands being on a budget. However, Mr. Andris said, the pool project is ready to move forward, and just like the building project, it needs to be done correctly so that the community can use it effectively. He said that insurance issues have been looked at, which is why the bowl slide was taken out of the bid. He also noted that the new facility would allow disabled persons to access the pool, which is important. He also noted that he feels very strongly about open space preservation and there will be other avenues to pursue for this.

Commissioner Thinnes said that as a new commissioner, he was not a part of the pool project from the beginning. Mr. Thinnes said that at first he felt the project was too big and expensive. He said that he soon realized that this pool was what the community needed, and that he had faith in the professional staff that was managing the project. He said that the pool not only adds great value to the entire township but to his own individual property as well.

Commissioner Brown read the meeting minutes from August 9, 1965, when the Hatfield Township Board of Commissioners voted to build the first community pool. Mr. Brown said that like these predecessors, the current Board has a responsibility to look into the future and provide for the residents and young people of Hatfield Township. Mr. Brown said that he recently spoke with a family who is financially pressed and could not afford to join the pool this year. However, after seeing the plans for the new pool, they are saving up to become members next year.

The motion was called by Commissioner President Brown and carried on a 4-1 vote.

Swimming Pool Construction Bid:

- Commissioner Andris made a motion to award the Swimming Pool Contractor Bid to **Stoneridge Aquatics of Feasterville, PA** at a cost of **\$2,187,800**. This award is conditioned upon receipt of performance/maintenance bond and labor/materials bond. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thinnes and carried on a 4-1 vote.

HVAC Bid:

- Commissioner Andris made a motion to award the HVAC Bid to **B & E Boiler Works of Red Hill, PA** at a cost of **\$68,000**. This award is conditioned upon receipt of performance/maintenance bond and

labor/materials bond. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thinnes and carried on a 4-1 vote.

Plumbing and Electrical Bids:

- Commissioner O'Byrne made a motion to reject all Plumbing and Electrical Bids and authorize staff to rebid Plumbing and Electrical Contracts. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thinnes and carried on a 4-0-1 vote, with Commissioner Sisian abstaining.

Bill Forst asked if the rejection of the electrical and plumbing bids would affect construction. Sean Boyle of Boyle Construction assured Mr. Forst that this would not impact the construction timeline.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

V. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner O'Byrne made a motion to adjourn the Hatfield Township Board of Commissioners July 12, 2006 Workshop Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thinnes and carried on a 5-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.