

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner President Scott Brown called the Hatfield Township Board of Commissioner's November 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, Commissioner Charles Sisian, and Commissioner John Thinner. Also in attendance were Township Manager Stephanie Teoli Shafkowitz, Solicitor Joseph Kuhls, Engineer Joe Nolan, Township Planner Ken Amey, Chief of Police Mark Toomey, Finance Director John Hall, Public Works Director Nick DeMeno, Parks and Recreation Director Nancy Stock, and Assistant to the Manager Melissa Shafer.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Andris led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

There were no citizen comments at this time.

V. SPECIAL ITEMS

1. Fire Company Reports/Distribution of Funding

Commissioner Brown distributed the Fire Relief Funding to the Hatfield Volunteer Fire Company, Colmar Volunteer Fire Company, and Hilltown Volunteer Fire Company.

2. Special Police Report

Chief Toomey reported on two items. The first is that the Police Department received a \$1,800 personal donation for the bulletproof vest fund. The donation came from a couple that appreciated the positive impact that former Sergeant Robert Jaztremski had on their son.

The second item was that one of the elementary school principal's in Hatfield Township thanked the Police Department for visiting the school in the aftermath of the Lancaster school shooting. Sergeant Woodford, Officer Cameron, and Officer Fox took it upon themselves to visit the township's elementary schools. The Chief reported that their initiative was worthy of being recognized at this meeting.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Planning and Zoning Committee

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

Commissioner Brown entered the October 17, 2006 Board of Commissioner Meeting Minutes into the record.

B. Public Works Committee

Commissioner Thinnes reported that the 2007 Public Works Budget is lower than 2006, due to Public Works Director Nick DeMeno. Mr. Thinnes also reported that the department is ready for winter.

C. Parks and Recreation Committee

1. Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes – *October 2, 2006*
2. Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes – *September 18, 2006 and October 16, 2006*

Commissioner O'Byrne entered the October 2, 2006 Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes and the September 18, 2006 and October 16, 2006 Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes into the record.

D. Public Safety Committee

1. Public Safety Monthly Report – *October 2006*

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

Commissioner Sisian added that when he was at the polls, several residents noted the professionalism of the police department, especially that of Lieutenant Eric Schmitz.

E. Finance Committee

Commissioner Andris reported that after months of work with getting the budget prepared, there would be a presentation at the end of this meeting.

F. North Penn Water Authority

1. North Penn Water Authority Meeting Minutes – *October 24, 2006*

Commissioner Brown entered the October 24, 2006 North Penn Water Authority Meeting Minutes into the record.

G. Hatfield Township Municipal Authority – Commissioner Brown

1. Hatfield Township Municipal Authority Meeting Minutes – *September 12, 2006*
2. Hatfield Township Municipal Authority Monthly Budget Report – *September 2006*

Commissioner Brown entered the September 12, 2006 Hatfield Township Municipal Authority Meeting Minutes and the September 2006 Hatfield Township Municipal Authority Budget Report into the record.

VII. TOWNSHIP STAFF REPORTS

A. Township Manager’s Report

Ms. Shafkowitz announced that the Community Pool Project is moving along and the township is hosting a Blood Drive in December.

B. Solicitor’s Report

1. North Penn Water Authority Main Extension Agreement

Solicitor Joe Kuhls reported that because the North Penn Water Authority closed down the well on Chestnut Street, there needed to be an extension from the water main on Vine Street to the new pool.

Ms. Shafkowitz added that the North Penn Water Authority would complete the work at a cost of \$33,700. There will be a credit back from the general contractor of \$20,000.

Commission O’Byrne made a motion to approve the North Penn Water Authority Main Extension Agreement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thinnes and carried on a 5-0 vote.

C. Building Report

1. Building Report – *October 2006*

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

D. Engineer's Report

No report.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Conditional Use Hearing Decision

Commissioner Brown asked if the Board would like to consider taking action on the 252 Bethlehem Pike Conditional Use Hearing that took place prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Sisian made a motion to approve the Conditional Use for 252 Bethlehem Pike conditioned upon the development and use of the property being in substantial conformance with the testimony and exhibits presented at the hearing. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thinnes and carried on a 5-0 vote.

2. Ward Redistricting Discussion

Commissioner Brown asked that the staff begin the process of finding a consultant for the ward redistricting.

Commissioner Thinnes asked what steps would be involved in the process.

Commissioner Brown replied that there would be a selection process for the consulting firm.

Commissioner Andris asked if this item was budgeted for.

Ms. Shafkowitz stated that there was a professional services line, but there could be a separate line item for a redistricting consultant.

3. 2007 Proposed Budget Presentation

Ms. Shafkowitz presented the 2007 Budget to the Board of Commissioners and residents through a Power Point Presentation. Ms. Shafkowitz highlighted the many projects completed by each department in 2006.

Ms. Shafkowitz reported that the 2007 Budget will allow Hatfield Township to maintain its current level of services and will fund additional projects that include the new community pool construction, open space acquisitions, traffic improvements, and public safety upgrades.

Ms. Shafkowitz reported that the proposed budget includes a 5% decrease in the real estate tax along with an increase to the occupation privilege tax, now called the Emergency and Municipal Services Tax, from \$10 to \$52. This change in taxes will help offset reduction in revenue from the Real Estate Transfer Tax.

Michael Malin asked what the expected revenue loss would be for the real estate tax and what the gain would be for the Municipal and Emergency Services Tax.

Ms. Shafkowitz responded that there would be approximately a \$100,000 loss from the real estate tax and a \$400,000 gain from the Municipal and Emergency Services Tax.

Commissioner Brown reported that the budget process has been a very realistic one, and the Commissioners have been involved in discussing every line item. Commissioner Brown reported that the tax changes are proposed to create a more diverse menu of taxes that spreads revenues across all users of municipal services. Commissioner Brown thanked the staff and other Commissioners for their hard work.

IX. ADJOURN

Commissioner O'Byrne made a motion to adjourn the November 8, 2006 Board of Commissioners Workshop Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thinnes and carried on a 5-0 vote.