

TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HUNTINGDON, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING, THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016, 7:00 P.M.
11279 Center Highway, North Huntingdon, PA 15642
Presiding Officer – Tony Martino, President, Board of Commissioners

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Martino called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Commissioner Herold	Present	Also Present:
Commissioner Haigis	Present	John Shepherd
Commissioner Bertani	Present	Solicitor Bruce Dice
Commissioner Gray	Present	Michael Turley
Commissioner Faccenda	Present	
Commissioner Kucera	Present	
Commissioner Martino	Present	

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CITIZENS' INPUT

1. Roseanne Novotnak ó 2491 Mickanin Road and Rich Sinowski ó 8064 Pennsylvania Avenue ó states they are from the Norwin Chamber of Commerce requesting to have permission to put a bench in Braddocks Trail Park in memory of Mr. Warren Gardner who was a teacher at Norwin High School and also who took care of four of the islands on Route 30 for over twenty years. Mr. Gardner passed away very suddenly two years ago. Mr. Sinowski shows the Board a picture of the bench that will be maintenance free and the Chamber would take care of the mounting of the bench so it could not be moved. He states the bench will be placed wherever the Board suggests.

Manager Shepherd asks if the bench will have a plaque with his name on it.

Mr. Sinowski states there will be plaque with his name on it and the Chamber will take care of that as well.

Manager Shepherd states Mr. Gardner did a lot for North Huntingdon even though he was not a resident.

2. Fran Beven ó 640 Stonebridge Drive ó states Mr. Gardner had a big influence on her children. He was a very good teacher and very involved with the students. She feels a lot of people in North Huntingdon would greatly appreciate the Board approving the bench. Ms. Bevan states that North Huntingdon has a problem and it will not go away by itself. Specifically she asks the Township to investigate and resolve the issue of the stolen or

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missing millings. This needs to be addressed as the Township is rebranded as a place of opportunity for business industry and families, the perception and the atmosphere of the Township is important. It is as important as any advertising to promote and encourage businesses and families to invest in our community. The news story that WTAE aired a few weeks ago is not the way to advertise the benefits of North Huntingdon Township. It effects all of us, our schools, our neighborhoods and even property value. Ms. Bevan reminds the Board of her statement last month about how important it is to respect the residents and employees of the Township. As a solution to this problem, she suggests an approach. 1. At least one or two of the seated Commissioners should apologize to Detective Youngstead and the entire Police Department for the false accusations against him at the Public Meeting on February 17, 2016. 2. Restitution for the stolen millings. 3. Prompt resignation of any Commissioner involved in this fiasco. There is a greater responsibility to create an atmosphere of decorum and trust.

RESPONSE TO CITIZENS' INPUT

Commissioner Kucera states the Dr. Boylan would be proud to sit on the bench as he does the wildflower tours. If it takes a Motion to approve the bench he will make that Motion.

Commissioner Martino states he would be ok with the bench being put in the park. He states to talk to Dan Miller to see if there is a place to put it.

Motion: Commissioner Kucera

Motion to approve the bench in Braddock's Trail Park for Mr. Warren Gardner and to work with the Parks Staff to determine the site.

Second: Commissioner Faccenda

Commissioner Bertani agrees to work with the Parks Staff to determine the best place to put the bench and if there will be any prep work at the site.

Commissioner Gray states he is totally in favor of the bench and that the bench will be bolted to a concrete slab but in the event something happens to it, who will be responsible for it.

Mr. Sinowski states The Chamber will be responsible.

Commissioner Herold asks if the bench will be like the ones in Irwin.

Ms. Novotnak states the bench will be like the ones in Irwin.

Motion carried 7 6 0 6 0

Response to Fran Bevan:

Commissioner Faccenda states everything in Government has been built on judicial law of

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innocent until proven guilty, so everyone needs to remember that. There are other problems in this Township too, so you have to be careful with the way you talk.

Commissioner Gray states that Ms. Bevan asked for an investigation into the stolen or missing millings. He states that has already been done at the last meeting and the investigation is moving forward.

Commissioner Martino states they cannot comment until the investigation is complete.

Work Sessions Discussion Topics

1) Veterans Memorial / Celebrate 2000 Monument.

Manager Shepherd he has worked on getting costs for insurance coverage for the monument in front of the Town House. He states the Township can have General Liability coverage at no cost since it's on Township property. To get one hundred thousand dollars in structural damage insurance would cost two hundred four dollars per year.

Motion: Commissioner Faccenda

Motion to approve paying the insurance cost.

Second: Commissioner Kucera

Motion carried 7 ó 0 ó 0

2) SINCUP Emergency Preemption.

Mr. Turley states a SINCUP was done a few years ago and now doing another. The SINC part is synchronization or coordinating timings and traffic counts. The UP part of it is equipment upgrades. One of the items of interest were the emergency omitters. He states not all the lights have been done for cost reasons but trying to do a good bit of the Route 30 corridor. As the memo states, they ran into an issue in the area of Arona Road through Lincoln Way. Two of the signals are in Irwin and they declined to participate for their share. They would get a grant for eighty percent of it but declined for their share of the cost for the other two signals. Mr. Turley states as the memo shows alternatives for the signals, one being if the Board is interested in paying for the two omitters we would have a more continuous system in which SPC recommends. The other option is to exclude the two Irwin signals but that creates a gap in the corridor. Lastly, could modify and deemphasize the omitter program.

Commissioner Bertani asks if Irwin is completely against it and not looking to put anything towards or contribute in any way.

Mr. Turley states the Township has not discussed this with Irwin directly. SPC spoke with them and states it was due to lack of funds.

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Commissioner Gray states he went to the Irwin Council Meeting to bring this issue up to them to see if they would contribute their share however because of the budgetary matters with their fire department and funds were cut from twelve thousand dollars to fifty five hundred. After the discussion, it was abundantly clear that they were not going to have the funds.

Commissioner Kucera asks Mr. Turley if their signals are capable of placing the omitters in them or would they have to be upgraded.

Mr. Turley states he believes the omitters can be installed in the current equipment.

Commissioner Kucera asks who would be responsible for repairs or upgrades if Irwin still owns the signals.

Mr. Turley states that because we don't know which option we're taking, we haven't really discussed it, but if the Township purchases the signals would be responsible for maintenance.

Commissioner Kucera states that area is very congested and signals need to be functioning.

Commissioner Bertani agrees and states he has driven in that area in an emergency vehicle and it is difficult. It would definitely ease safety concerns.

Mr. Turley states even though the signals are not in North Huntingdon, it would definitely benefit the residents and decrease emergency response time.

Commissioner Bertani states it will increase the safety for both emergency responders and the general public.

Manager Shepherd states that if the Board is in favor of funding this on behalf of Irwin it would be approximately ten thousand dollars.

Mr. Turley states the budget is six hundred twelve thousand dollars so the Township's share is one hundred twelve thousand.

Manager Shepherd states financially for the Township it can be fit into a budget category and won't be problematic, if the Board decides to do it.

Commissioner Bertani states he is all for whatever increases public safety.

Motion: Commissioner Faccenda

Motion to fund signals pending Irwin agrees to maintain the signal.

Solicitor Dice states Mr. Turley raised the question a motion to fund the signals pending Irwin agrees to maintain it.

Manager Shepherd states it would be extremely difficult to maintain their signal.

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Commissioner Gray asks why is there a motion made when there was already a motion for the Celebrate 2000 Monument and also on the bench. Typically at the work session meetings, the Board does not take a lot of actions. There is discussion and primarily for the planning commission. Possibly the Board can arrive at a consensus to move forward with negotiating with Irwin and then present it for a motion at a later date.

Solicitor Dice clarifies it is a consensus to move forward to Irwin and discuss them maintaining the signal.

No motion.

3. Proposed Portable Storage Container and Dumpster Ordinance.

Commissioner Faccenda states he feels with the advent of some of the older homes, we're starting to see more remodeling and construction work. He has seen a lot more bagsters and storage containers and dumpsters. However there are no regulations. Commissioner Faccenda states that by putting this Ordinance together is protecting ourselves but also protecting the neighbors. It's a safety issue and can become a rodent problem.

Commissioner Kucera states directly across from his home there was a bagster that was there for quite awhile resulting from a dispute between the property owner, the contractor and the garbage hauler. He agrees the dumpsters should be regulated, but doesn't agree with limiting to one bagster per year. Or in case of an emergency, fourteen days limit.

Manager Shepherd states this Ordinance is just a sample or concept.

Commissioner Gray states that he is ok in looking at this issue and to discuss it but why is there already an Ordinance in front of them before the Board even discussed it. He asks who put the Ordinance together.

Solicitor Dice states Commissioner Faccenda came to him to request a Draft be put together and this can be changed any way they decide.

Commissioner Gray states he is ok with all of that but it is very unusual that anyone can go to the Solicitor and request a Draft Ordinance. Typically, when someone has an issue, they raise it before the Board and they collectively decide if it has merit and discuss each idea.

Commissioner Faccenda states this is not the final Draft.

Commissioner Gray states the Ordinance is not the point. He is questioning the process of one Commissioner going to the Solicitor to request a Draft Ordinance without getting the approval or direction of the Board and going through Manager Shepherd. He is not disputing the idea but this is the first time in eighteen years that an Ordinance has appeared before the Board without ever discussing it. This isn't the way the Board does business and if it is going to be that way then the

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Board needs to set some rules and know that all seven Commissioners can call Solicitor Dice directly and request Ordinances. While Solicitor Dice is very reasonable with his hours, he also has a business and the Township will be paying for this. If seven Commissioners are going to start going directly to him and the Township will pay for it will end up getting very expensive. The Board needs to work as a group and go through Manager Shepherd. It's the process that he is questioning.

Manager Shepherd states the alternative way to do this would be to provide a memo or just put it on the agenda for discussion.

Solicitor Dice states that Commissioner Gray made a point. However he states that in other communities it is not unusual for an individual Board member to request a draft. He states that if an individual requests that kind of information from him that he is going to do it because they pay his bills.

Commissioner Gray states he understands that it is not foreign to Solicitor Dice for other communities to do that but North Huntingdon doesn't do business like that. However he understands if he was following orders.

Commissioner Faccenda states he does not look at it as following orders. He did not order anyone. He is looking to be a progressive community.

Commissioner Martino agrees with Commissioner Gray that the Board needs to discuss things before it goes into an Ordinance.

Commissioner Haigis also agrees items need to be discussed first.

Manager Shepherd states this should be discussed in the Planning and Zoning Department.

Commissioner Haigis asks Mr. Blenko if there would be anything under Property Maintenance.

Mr. Blenko states they should consider three things. One, being how soon trash can be put out. Secondly, the idea of a dumpster at a private home. Thirdly, where dumpsters are placed.

Commissioner Herold states a lot of people think the bagsters are picked up with their regular garbage. There is a fee for the bagsters to be picked up once they are full.

Manager Shepherd states they will spend some time on it and bring some ideas back to the Board.

Planning/Engineering Topics.

- 1) S-03-2016: Espy-Kerber Plan, First Street, R-2 Zoning**
 - *Boundary line revision involving two lots on First Street.*

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Mr. Blenko states this is a boundary line revision between two lots on First Street, one owned by Mr. Espey and the other owned by Mr. Kerber. Mr. Espey's lot is over eight hundred feet long, and ninety five feet wide. Mr. Kerber lives at the top of the hill and would like a bit more room so he would like to purchase four tenths of an acre. No outside approval is needed and the Planning Commission recommends approval.

FURTHER BOARD COMMENTS

Commissioner Haigis asks Mr. Blenko how the Zoning Re-Write Project is coming along.

Mr. Blenko states it's getting close.

Commissioner Bertani gives some information about marking the hydrants in the Township. He spoke with all the Fire Chiefs at the last meeting. He spoke with Manager Shepherd about getting pricing together for the markers. They are looking to get fiberglass poles on the hydrants and a blue reflector in the roadway. At this point, he is working on getting the pricing. Currently, there are eight hundred fifty six hydrants in the Township.

Commissioner Bertani also reports that one of the Parks employees, Rich Sima, was off for a month, leaving Gary Omlor on his own at Oak Hollow Park. Commissioner Bertani has a concern with that being a safety issue. If something would happen to Gary, being by himself, and couldn't get help, it would be a long time before someone would find him. Commissioner Bertani asked Manager Shepherd to work with Dan Miller to put a couple courses of action together whereas if one of the employees is off for an extended time that one person is not working alone.

Commissioner Bertani states he spoke with Manager Shepherd about the ground by the Public Works Building. He is looking at the feasibility of putting in a Public Safety Training Facility on that ground. His initial thought was the ground is out of the way and the building can be secured. Possibly a committee could be put together to determine the feasibility. Plus it keeps our emergency resources in the Township for training. Currently, a lot of the fire departments and EMS are going out to Smithton or Youngwood.

Commissioner Kucera states there is also a cost associated with going elsewhere for training.

There are no further Board comments.

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ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Commissioner Haigis
Second: Commissioner Bertani

Motion to adjourn. (7:46 P.M.)

Motion Carried 7 ó 0 ó 0

- Special Meeting minutes of March 10, 2016 were approved by the Board of Commissioners on _____.

Tony Martino, President

John M. Shepherd, Township Secretary
/jjm

****Executive Session after meeting.**

Police Complaint Matter ó discussion.