

TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HUNTINGDON, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING, THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 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 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CITIZENS' INPUT

Amy Johnson ó 8583 Delaware Avenue ó states she is here as the President of the Norwin Lacrosse club and as a parent to raise awareness for the need of multi-purpose fields specifically turf fields large enough to hold a lacrosse field which is one hundred ten yards by sixty yards. There is not enough green space, parks, or parking in the Township for these types of facilities. Many families travel to Harmarville, Hempfield rec center, West Newton and Mt. Pleasant. There is nothing in the Township available for general use and not for Norwin Soccer Club or something that is owned by the facility. If there are dollars collected by the developers for each new house that is built, where is that money going? Ms. Johnson states that if we add facilities to the community, we will be addressing the drug problem without even realizing it. She urges the Board to seriously consider this for our community.

RESPONSE TO CITIZENS' INPUT

Commissioner Herold asks if the fields have to be turf for lacrosse.

Ms. Johnson states no, itø just more weather resistant and durable.

Commissioner Herold states the grass is easier to land on.

Mr. Johnson states it doesnøt matter if grass or turf, but turf is more weather resistant as sheøs had to cancel five games in total because of weather conditions.

Commissioner Herold asks if all the soccer fields at Turner Valley are being used.

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Ms. Johnson states that Norwin Soccer Club is not willing to work with her because she is their competition and Norwin Lacrosse Club plays at the same time as the Spring soccer season, so they are not interested in working with them.

Commissioner Faccenda asks how many kids are in the lacrosse team.

Ms. Johnson states there were ninety players. Lacrosse is growing very rapidly in the Township with both girls and boys.

Commissioner Herold asks if the high school has any fields to use.

Ms. Johnson states the school district has been good to work with and uses Sunset Valley to practice but with the number of kids and practices, the club is outgrowing it. Also the playing field just fits. They would like other teams to be envious of Norwin. Norwin is the only team in the lacrosse club that doesn't play at the high school or have a Township sports facility. Norwin charges eight hundred dollars per day for stadium rental plus forty dollars per hour for custodial fees. Many other organizations are not charged to use their high school stadium. She states she has tried to get the permits for Oak Hollow Park, but Norwin Soccer Club has had the permits the past many seasons.

Commissioner Faccenda states about reviving Markvue Park because it has a pretty big field.

Commissioner Martino states they will be here next Wednesday to address the Board.

Commissioner Faccenda states this is a growing sport and feels they need to be offered the same opportunity that Norwin Soccer was twenty five years ago.

Ms. Johnson states the multi-use fields will not be used only for lacrosse and can be rented for different trainings or any sport that is interested. There are no indoor facilities offered in the Township that is accessible and feasible for the residents to use which is turning away business, revenue and tax dollars. The youth of our community deserve a facility to call their own and keep them off the streets, active and healthy.

Commissioner Haigis states reviving a park to have additional field space is good, but not too long ago, a recreational center was proposed and they were looking at one million per year from the Township and the fee structure was three hundred fifty dollars per month for a family and one hundred dollars per day, however the majority of the public voted it down. The idea of having additional fields would be plausible but an indoor facility for the Township to run and maintain, didn't have support at that time.

Ms. Johnson states that she too voted against it because the plan for it was so vague and unclear, that it didn't make sense.

Commissioner Haigis states he disagrees with that because the plan was detailed and gives credit to everyone that put a lot of hard work and time into the recreation facility and worked very hard on the feasibility plan.

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Ms. Johnsons states the way it was put on the ballot was very unclear. It's been five years since that study was done.

Commissioner Haigis states Ms. Johnson eluded that the Township is hiding the fee structure money, but that money is put back into the parks to maintain and upkeep.

Manager Shepherd states there have been a lot of improvements at Indian Lake and Oak Hollow Park where the majority of the money goes for the improvements. It also takes awhile to collect the fee in lieu money based on how many building permits are issued each year. Manager Shepherd cautions the Board that anywhere there is a field or plan on having a field, it shouldn't go in a place where it negatively impacts the residents, for example, Country Hills field is inconvenient for the residents. Markvue Manor is a great park and could become again, but there is nowhere to park.

Cheryl Omlor Colianne - 1453 Barry Drive ó states she is one who is trying to revitalize Markvue Manor park and have signed petitions. Currently the activity in that park is no good. The road is accessible to get to the park.

Manager Shepherd states Markvue Manor was used long ago and was taken care off by the Markvue Manor Homeowners Association who turned over the deed to the Township.

Commissioner Martino states he will work with Manager Shepherd and Dan Miller to see what can be done and bring it back to the Board.

Commissioner Gray asks what specifically it is Ms. Colianne is looking for and what amenities.

Ms. Colianne states she would like somewhere where neighbors can get together and have somewhere to go. Similar to Hilltop Park with swings, etc.

Commissioner Bertani states he agrees to bring the parks back because a lot of the neighborhoods have young families and need a place for the kids to go.

Work Sessions Discussion Topics

*There were no items for discussion.

Planning/Engineering Topics.

- 1) S-06-2016: Atria's Restaurant
 - *Proposed new restaurant in the Excela Plaza.*

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Mr. Blenko states this is located at the former state store at Norwin Hills Shopping Center. He states Atria's Restaurant wanted an end cap location with outside seating and large windows that can be opened in the summer to create an open air patio. Atria's would like to add a fifteen foot by fifty six foot area with a three foot edging of landscaping. This will be located in between the former State store and Galaxy Fitness. The building will have a façade treatment on the front with lighting and on the right side will have awnings over the windows, some shrubbery. The proposed floor plan is not a very large area. However, when Colony Holdings sold the shopping center to Excela, they wisely reserved a right of way to get back to their building from Norwin Avenue causing an impact with the patio addition. They have agreed they will screen the dumpster on the side of the building and asked for a parking calculation. Mr. Blenko states he has spoken with Commissioner Faccenda about handicapped parking and will work with Atria's on the location of the handicapped parking spaces. They will also work with Atria's on the flow of traffic. This would be the tenth Atria's Restaurant in the Pittsburgh area.

Commissioner Bertani asks about the parking spaces on the side of the building next to the proposed patio and would they be an issue with the easement that is there.

Mr. Blenko states the easements states you cannot built on them but appears to have eighteen to twenty feet for the parking spaces.

Commissioner Bertani is concerned four spots may be pushing it and agrees would be a better spot for the handicapped parking.

Mr. Blenko states it looks like they left one spot open for the walkway to come out.

Commissioner Faccenda states one spot would have to be van accessible.

Commissioner Kucera asks about the protection with the shrubbery.

Mr. Blenko states they have agreed to put pipe bollards at the corners hidden in the shrubbery for protection.

Commissioner Kucera asks if there will be lighting in the shrubbery.

Mr. Blenko states there will be overhead down lights. Perhaps paint with reflective paint.

Chief Lisiecki states he is concerned with someone backing up and mistakenly hits the gas instead of brake. In lieu of the shrubbery, what about the decorative balusters with the planters on top that could take the impact of a vehicle instead of shrubbery.

FURTHER BOARD COMMENTS

Commissioner Bertani states he feels a knox box should be required for businesses. Or if there is an Ordinance the Township could adopt that required new businesses or businesses that are being renovated to have the knox box. This would be helpful to police, fire and EMS.

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Manager Shepherd states the fire departments approached him to work on this. He informed the Board, that some of the Chiefs met with Tom McGuire, the building inspector, who has experience with this, and were in the process of determining exactly what they want to do and what they'd like to see from the Township. To date, no further action has been taken.

Commissioner Bertani asks if we can get anything from Murrysville as a draft.

Solicitor Dice states he can get some language from Monroeville or another municipality.

Commissioner Gray states he understands the value of the knox box, but whose issue is this right now. If it's not coming from the fire departments, is it Commissioner Bertani's issue?

Commissioner Bertani states he knows it was discussed in the past and just wanted to know where it stood. He feels it should be required for new businesses to have them.

Commissioner Gray states that is an opinion and not sure he agrees at this point because the fire chiefs are not here to discuss it.

Commissioner Martino states he will get the fire chiefs here to discuss it.

Commissioner Bertani states he attended the NHTMA meeting and states they do all their meeting paperless with tablets and a 65" plasma screen to view the agenda. He feels the Board should look in that direction instead of using paper copies.

Commissioner Herold states he too attended a meeting and it is very smooth and efficient.

Commissioner Bertani states he spoke with Mike Branhoover from NHTMA and they got the tablets for approximately eighty dollars per tablet.

Commissioner Martino asks Manager Shepherd to look into it.

Manager Shepherd states he wants to make sure the Board can find their documents. While the documents can all be electronic, if the Board can't find them, it doesn't make sense. The meeting book, even though it has paper copies, is organized and easy to use.

Commissioner Haigis states this was brought up a few years ago and was a new concept. He states he still likes having the paper copies.

There are no further Board comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Commissioner Haigis

Motion to adjourn. (8:00 P.M.)

Second: Commissioner Herold

Motion Carried 7 6 0 6 0

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- Special Meeting minutes of June 9, 2016 were approved by the Board of Commissioners on _____.

Tony Martino, President

John M. Shepherd, Township Secretary
/jjm

****Executive Session after meeting.**

1. Military Issues - discussion
2. AFSCME Negotiations - discussion.
3. Engineering Services