

**BIRMINGHAM TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES
MAY 18, 2009**

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:30 PM in the Township Building by Chairman Conklin with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence. A quorum of Supervisors was declared. The following Township Officials were in attendance:

John Conklin	-	Chairman, Board of Supervisors
William Kirkpatrick	-	Vice-Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Al Bush	-	Member, Board of Supervisors
Thomas Nelling	-	Chief of Police
Lloyd Roach	-	Emergency Management Coordinator and Historic Commission Chairman
Michael Langer	-	Recreation, Park & Open Space Committee Chairman arrived at 7:44 PM
Quina Nelling	-	Secretary/Treasurer

Mr. Kirkpatrick moved to approve the May 4, 2009 minutes as written. (Approved all in favor.)

Mr. Bush moved to approve the bills submitted for payment. General Fund bills totaled \$45,221.75. Sewer Fund bills totaled \$11,615.75. (Approved all in favor.)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Lloyd Roach presented Paul Langerhans, Brinton's Bridge Road resident, and Michael Hochhaus, Revere Road, to the Board of Supervisors for consideration as emergency management assistants. Paul has a degree in Criminal Justice and professionally works as the Practice Leader for IT Risk Management for a multinational company located in Berwyn. One of his principle responsibilities is to lead the enterprise Continuity of Operations Program (business continuity and disaster recovery preparedness). Mike is a member of Fame Fire Company and a former Lieutenant with the Marple Township Fire Department. He is NIMS qualified and has significant first responder experience.

Mr. Roach reminded the Board that he has eighteen items that have to be accomplished before February of 2010 as part of the After 911 Action Plan Report. There are four pages of mitigation and training that have to be done with more involvement required by the Supervisors. The Department of Homeland Security and FEMA are imposing significant regulations at a level not seen in the past. The Supervisors will need to take the NIMS training. Also, a tour of the Township will be necessary to identify all the hazardous materials.

Chairman Conklin stated that the emergency management issues in Birmingham include tornadoes; flooding; power outages; road closures and fires. He expressed his gratefulness for residents that volunteer their time to the Township.

Mr. Roach reported that he has received several responses from the newsletter on available equipment for emergency use as well as documenting non-ambulatory residents in the Township.

Mr. Roach said that the Township's participation in the Emergency Management Consortium will provide personnel, services and equipment to the Township during a disaster. The Consortium includes the Borough of West Chester, East Bradford Township, Pocopson Township and the West Chester University, which is a fabulous resource.

Mr. Bush moved to appoint Paul Langerhans and Michael Hochhaus as Emergency Management Assistants for the Township. (Approved all in favor.) Chief Nelling will remain as an assistant. Ronald Bosken is not available to be an assistant any longer.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Roach expressed his extreme displeasure at the lack of maintenance of the Birmingham Hill trail. In the past the properties were immaculately maintained by the Worths and the O'Dells. The high grass along the road is unsightly. Mr. Roach said that he has been mowing it himself because it looks so terrible. Mr. Langer explained that the intent was to have a ten foot wide path mowed once a week with the entire area mowed once a month. There was a section of the path on Mr. Worth's property past the woods that had not been mowed and was part of the contract. This has been addressed and it will be mowed going forward. Mr. Langer expressed the Committee's desire to be cost conscience for the Township. Chairman Conklin said that the resident's expectations are that the trail has the appearance of their lawns. Mr. Bush said that his expectation is that the area be kept as it was by the O'Dells and the Worths and this is definitely not being accomplished. Mr. Kirkpatrick agreed that the appearance of the trail is not indicative of his expectations as a Supervisor. He has received similar feedback from residents. Chairman Conklin noted that a change from the original plan will result in a large escalation in the maintenance cost. Mr. Bush said that the low budget figure for maintenance of the trail has concerned him all along. Mr. Conklin added that the inside fence on the Brandywine Conservancy property is the maintenance responsibility of the Conservancy, not the Township. Mr. Langer noted that longer grass is more desirable from a water retention perspective. He would like to see how the monthly mowing proposal plays out. Mr. Bush said that the grass doesn't need to be short, but some level of evenness should be accomplished with the grass level not extending higher than the lowest rail of the post and rail fence. Chairman Conklin reiterated that it is an issue of expectations and aesthetics. Mr. Langer will get a cost proposal for the Board for more frequent mowing. Chairman Conklin said that this issue will be addressed at the RPOS meeting on Wednesday night.

Mr. Kirkpatrick reiterated the need for RPOS to work on a continuing solution to address dog manure at Sandy Hollow. Mr. Langer said that picking up after your dog is a park rule and it is listed on the signage. He was looking for strong ordinance language for fines to address the problem. Mr. Kirkpatrick suggested waste containers with a

contracted pick-up as people walking the trail do not want to take the dog waste home with them in their cars. He emphasized the importance that the appearance and maintenance of Sandy Hollow have on the reflection of the Township. Mr. Langer said that the issue comes down to whether the Township wants to embrace having dog waste containers at Sandy Hollow. Mr. Kirkpatrick said that he, as one Supervisor, would embrace such a solution. The Supervisors are anticipating a recommendation from RPOS on this issue.

Mr. Langer asked for approval for the replacement of ten sections of fence from the Carroll property to the fence installed by Fenceworks for Birmingham Hill. The cost will be \$62.50/section. Chairman Conklin moved to approve a maximum \$700.00 expenditure for the fence replacement. (Approved all in favor.)

Eugene Weaver, Winturford Drive, expressed his safety concern for the Dilworthtown employees parking on the Arden Forge property. He also thought the Supervisors had been remiss in not requiring additional parking for the Dilworthtown Inn.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM. (JLC)

Respectfully submitted,

Quina Nelling
Secretary/Treasurer