

**BIRMINGHAM TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES  
APRIL 18, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order at 7:33 PM in the Township Building by Chairman Conklin with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence. A quorum of Supervisors was declared.

John Conklin	-	Chairman, Board of Supervisors
William Kirkpatrick	-	Vice-Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Al Bush	-	Member, Board of Supervisors

Chairman Conklin moved to approve the April 4, 2011 minutes as written. Mr. Kirkpatrick seconded the motion. Mr. Bush abstained from voting as he was not in attendance at the meeting. The motion was carried with two in favor and one abstention.

Mr. Kirkpatrick moved to approve the bills submitted for payment. General Fund bills totaled \$38,577.65. Sewer Fund bills totaled \$16,589.42. Mr. Bush seconded the motion and the bills were unanimously approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Sunshine Law Act 93 (as amended in 1998) requires public comment to be held before official action is taken.

Debbie Hineman, Meetinghouse Road, asked the Board how much money the Township spent on the acceptance of the rights-of-ways along Meetinghouse Road? Chairman Conklin did not have an exact figure without reviewing the files but expected the cost to be a couple of hours from both the Township Engineer and the Township Solicitor at their approved rates.

**ABRAMSON, BRINTON'S BRIDGE ROAD, HISTORIC COMMISSION  
REVIEW REQUIREMENT FOR ROOF REPLACEMENT**

Mr. Bush stated that Township representatives met with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in February to discuss the roles of the HARB Board and the Historic Commission. The Township was informed that the Historic Commission can do nothing more than be an advisory board on properties within the Historic District as HARB has the final say. As a result of this meeting the Township is looking into revising its ordinances so there are no redundancies between HARB and the Historic Commission.

Chairman Conklin added that the ordinances are in conflict and onerous to the residents. The Board wants to improve this situation.

Mr. Abramson, Brinton's Bridge Road, is replacing the roof on his house, which would require reviews by both HARB and the Historic Commission. If the Board waives the Historic Commission review requirement their role on the review of the roof will be eliminated and it would save the homeowner the necessity of sending out certified letters

to surrounding property owners on the roof replacement, a requirement that Mr. Bush feels is onerous. Mr. Bush moved to waive the Historic Commission review requirement for the roof replacement. Chairman Conklin seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried.

Mr. Aiken, Birmingham Road, said that he is looking into putting his house on the Historic Registry. He asked how that would affect him regarding Township requirements for internal or external improvements? Mr. Aiken was advised that registering his house would have no effect on Township requirements.

### **RECREATION, PARK & OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE (RPOS) REPORT**

Greg Kurey, RPOS member and coordinator for the 325<sup>th</sup> anniversary event, reported that he has been enlisting volunteers for the event which is to be held on August 27, 2011. He met with Mrs. O'Dell and the Brandywine Conservancy to explain the scope of work to them. The main part of the event will be held on the Birmingham Hill property. Aerial maps of the property were purchased from the Brandywine Conservancy. Mr. Kurey submitted a bill for \$40.00 for the maps. Representative Barrar will be flying a flag at the capital for the Township and presenting a certificate of recognition.

Mr. Kurey brought Joe Carney to the meeting who has experience handling the parking and traffic for the Unionville Sports Council walk/run/bike race. Mr. Carney commented that two key issues are the safety of those involved with the event and not being obtrusive to those that don't want the event. He noted that the police coverage is the largest expense for the event.

Michael Langer, RPOS Chairman, said that Tom McGuire, historian, has been secured for the event. His charge for a showing is \$750.00.

Mr. Aiken asked what the estimated cost of the event will be for the residents of the Township? Mr. Kurey responded that local businesses will be asked for sponsorships and that hopefully the cost of the event will be neutralized by the revenues received from the sponsors. Mr. Aiken asked for the amount that has been budgeted for the event? Mrs. Nelling said that the RPOS budget for 2011 is \$7,500.

Chairman Conklin noted that surrounding townships host events on a regular basis. RPOS is talking to these townships to get ideas since they have already gone through the process. Chairman Conklin said that he would like a meeting as soon as possible for organization and delegation for the event.

Mr. Langer asked the Board to approve an expenditure of up to \$1,900.00 for a spring clean up and mulching of Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill. RPOS member Chuck Feld will be installing plantings at his cost.

Mr. Aiken questioned the cost of the mulching and asked for more detail. Mr. Langer anticipated the cost to be \$300. for Birmingham Hill and \$900. for Sandy Hollow. Mulching will be done along the parking area.

Mrs. Hineman asked about the status of handling dog waste at Sandy Hollow? Mr. Langer said that RPOS has purchased two dog waste stations which will be cleaned out by volunteers initially. Mrs. Hineman noted that Birmingham Hill is getting more walkers and that dog stations may need to be considered along that trail as well.

Chairman Conklin moved to approve up to \$1,900.00. for the spring clean-up of Sandy Hollow and Birmingham Hill. Mr. Kirkpatrick seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mrs. Nelling reported for the first quarter 2011. There is \$396,885. in the General Fund; \$228,623. in the Sewer Fund; and \$340,286. in the Sewer Fund Capital Reserve Account.

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Revenues 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	\$193,407.	\$1,789,407.
Expenditures 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	\$374,307.	\$1,265,897.
Real Estate Property Taxes	\$ 82,151.	
Real Estate Transfer Taxes	\$ 19,568.	
Vehicle Code Violations	\$ 11,846.	
Building Permits	\$ 4,120.	
Legal Services	\$ 3,058.	
Police Department	\$125,452.	
Snow Removal	\$123,330.	
<u>Sewer Fund</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Revenues 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	\$100,022.	\$864,639.
Expenditures 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	\$ 89,291.	\$309,134.

Mrs. Nelling said that Premier Orthopaedics on Rt. 202 had tied into the sewer and paid the tapping fee for one EDU.

Mr. Roach asked who acts as the Sewer Authority for the Township? Chairman Conklin replied that the Supervisors act as the Sewer Authority. Mr. Kirkpatrick added that the sewer plant is privately owned by the Township and operated by a private contractor. The contract is renewed every five years. The Township is saving money for its residents by operating the sewer plant. The expense of operating the sewer plant is borne by its users.

Vaughn Hoplamazian, Meetinghouse Road resident, asked how the Township handles the excess expenditure for snow removal? Mr. Bush indicated that the surplus at the end of the year has covered the excess expenditure for snow removal

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Chairman Conklin reported that he had attended a meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup> sponsored by the Environmental Management Center of the Brandywine Conservancy on the Brandywine-

Struble Greenway. The Brandywine Conservancy is looking for participation from all sixteen municipalities in the greenway area. They are in the process of formulating their mission statement; goals and maps for the thirty mile long conservation corridor that will stretch from the Delaware State line to Honey Brook Township. This project exists because of grant funds available.

Mrs. Hoplamazian expressed the sentiment that there is enough government spending. She did not understand why this project had to proceed. She was tired of being taxed for another project. She said that the planning of public trails is bringing stress to her neighborhood. She hoped that the trail didn't happen and she asked for the Board to make sure that it doesn't happen. She attended the meeting and the grant funding is just for the planning stage. She has concern that the taxpayers will be paying after the planning is complete.

Mr. Roach, Meetinghouse Road, added that six residents from Meetinghouse Road had attended the meeting as well. The trail will involve a pathway along the banks of the Brandywine right up Creek Road. There are three informational meetings being held to discuss the trail.

Chairman Conklin said that he attended the meeting because he wanted to know if Birmingham Township was being discussed.

Mr. Aiken said that the Board has its priorities wrong and that their priority should be on global warming not a trail along a Creek and he said that the Supervisors are more powerful than they think.

With no further comment the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM. (JLC)

Respectfully submitted,

Quina Nelling  
Secretary/Treasurer