

**TOWNSHIP OF FALLS  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

**ROLL CALL:**

<b>ROBERT HARVIE, JR., CHAIRMAN</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>
<b>JONATHAN SNIPES, VICE-CHAIRMAN</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>
<b>JEFFRY DENCE, SECRETARY-TREASURER</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>
<b>PHILIP SZUPKA, SUPERVISOR</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<b>DOROTHY VISLOSKY, SUPERVISOR</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>

The meeting commenced at 7:02 p.m. with roll call and salute to the flag. All Board members were present with the exception of Member Szupka. Also present were Township Manager Peter Gray, Township Solicitor Michael Clarke, and Township Engineer James Sullivan.

**ITEM # 1 CONSIDER PURCHASE OF LIFT TRUCK FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Manager Gray said they have secured quotes for the purchase of a new lift truck for the Public Works Department. There are two components to this purchase. The first component is from New Holland Auto Group in the amount of \$35,726. The second component is from Mobile Lifts in the amount of \$49,032.90. This has been included in the 2011 budget and is on the Co-Stars Program. Mr. Joe Arnao said the truck would be used for work on traffic lights, street lights, tree work, and other utility tasks. This is for purchase of a 2011 Ford 550 Super Duty Chassis Cab with fiberglass utility body and a 39-ft. aerial lift. Member Vislosky asked Mr. Arnao about the winter snowstorms. Mr. Arnao said they have been very busy for six weeks taking care of everything. Member Vislosky moved to approve the purchase of an Ultra low-sulfur diesel chassis cab from New Holland Auto Group in the amount of \$35,726 as quoted in the March 11, 2011 memo; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) Member Snipes moved to approve the purchase of a utility body/lift unit from Mobile Lifts in the amount of \$49,032.90; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

Mr. Arnao said last November he applied for a PECO Smart Incentive Program for reimbursement of the cost of upgrading our traffic signals. They upgraded seven signals with the LEDs. Thirty-three out of thirty-four intersections have now been upgraded. The monthly bill went from over \$3,000 a month to under \$1,000 a month. The amount of \$14,124 was fully reimbursed by PECO. Mr. Arnao presented the Board with the check.

**ITEM # 2 CONSIDER AUTHORIZING ADVERTISEMENT OF BID FOR RETROFITTING FIVE NEW POLICE VEHICLES**

Member Snipes moved to authorize advertisement of bid for retrofitting five new police vehicles; Member Vislosky seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) Manager Gray said this item has been included in the budget.



**ITEM # 3 CONSIDER AUTHORIZING ADVERTISEMENT OF CODE AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 209, ARTICLE II, SECTION 5, (ZONING, DEFINITIONS) AND ENACTMENT OF CHAPTER 209, ARTICLE V, SECTION 43.1 (ZONING, REGULATIONS, DRIVEWAYS)**

Mr. Tom Bennett gave an explanation of this code amendment. He said this is a section that has always been in the Ordinance and was inadvertently left out. They are putting this section back in. Member Snipes moved to open public comment; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) A gentleman from the audience asked if the township would be going around to see if driveways are up to code or if this is only for new driveways. Mr. Bennett said there needs to be some regulation for driveways, but they do not plan to go around looking at existing driveways. Mr. Clarke said in the first section of the proposed Ordinance, no person shall construct or alter a driveway which opens up to a township road except in full accordance with the contents of this chapter. This section will only affect those who are building a new driveway or altering an existing driveway. Member Snipes moved to close public comment; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) Member Snipes moved to authorize advertisement of code amendment to Chapter 209, Article II, Section 5, (Zoning, Definitions) and enactment of Chapter 209, Article V, Section 43.1 (Zoning, Regulations, Driveways); Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

**ITEM # 4 CONSIDER AUTHORIZING ADVERTISEMENT OF CODE AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 209.7 (ZONING MAP)**

Mr. Bennett said Nottingham Village is zoned as NCR, LMR, and LHR. This code amendment is to straighten out a hardship issue in the Village of Nottingham. Member Snipes moved to authorize advertisement of code amendment to Chapter 209.7 (Zoning Map); Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) Mr. Bennett said anyone having their zoning changed will be sent a letter explaining the change. If there any questions, the public may contact Mr. Bennett at 215-949-9000, X251.

**ITEM # 5 PUBLIC COMMENT – FIVE MINUTE LIMIT PER PERSON FORTY-FIVE MINUTE MAXIMUM**

Mr. Roland Kenney said this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade turned out very well. He said on Sunday there were about 550 adults who attended Charter Day at Pennsbury Manor. Mr. Kenney said he attended a meeting with Manager Gray, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Sullivan, a solicitor, Mr. Fritz and Avenrowe residents Mr. Milburn, Mr. Mariani, and Mrs. Kenney. They had a good meeting and he gave them a letter. He also asked for something. Mr. Kenney said if it is agreeable, good. If not, he will walk away from everything.

Mr. Guido Mariani spoke about the construction project and the installation of solar panels at the Eleanor Roosevelt School. He said he questions the judgment about that expenditure and, in particular, how much the solar panels cost as well as the return on investment. Mr.



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Mariani said San Diego discontinued a similar plan using solar panels because the performance did not save any energy; it cost them additional money each year. Mr. Mariani said the Irvine School District is spending \$100M to install the same kind of solar panels on the roof and they only expect to save \$5M a year. Mr. Mariani gave further examples of the cost of these types of projects. He said solar is seven times more expensive than conventional fuels. A better renewable option is being utilized by the Bensalem School District and that school is getting a geo-thermal heating and cooling system. This is the third school in that district to get geo-thermal technology. The savings on the electricity alone will make up the cost of the installation within six years. Mr. Mariani said this works in our area and it is being used at the Valley Elementary School, the Cecelia Snyder Middle School, the Russell Struble Elementary School, the Bucks County Community College (Lower Bucks Campus), and the entire Radnor School District. Mr. Mariani said he calls geo-thermal the reliable renewable. When Falls Township does its energy-efficiency study he suggests studying geo-thermal technology. Member Vislosky suggested that Mr. Mariani go to the school district to tell them what he has learned about geo-thermal technology versus solar technology. She said maybe they will reconsider the Eleanor Roosevelt project. Chairman Harvie said in terms of energy efficiency, they did look at solar panels for this building but it was not cost effective. They will take a look at geo-thermal technology.

Mr. Gallus Obert asked about the status of the New Falls Road sidewalk. He asked if the manhole cover on Oxford Valley Road near Trenton Road could be raised. Mr. Obert said the boat ramp is in progress. He asked why they need to have lights at the boat ramp if it closes at dusk. Mr. Obert asked if the boundary line issue between Tullytown and Falls Township had been resolved. Mr. Obert asked what percentage of roads in Falls Township have been rebuilt and what is left. Mr. Obert spoke about the water tower. He asked how this can be torn down without anyone seeing it until it is halfway down. He said he is surprised it has not yet fallen down. Mr. Obert said Mr. Mariani spoke about solar panels for the Pennsbury school renovation. Mr. Obert said if Mr. Mariani spoke to the business manager, he would be surprised at the number of schools on which they plan to install these solar panels. Chairman Harvie said there was a permit to take down the tower by Lower Bucks County Joint Municipal Authority. The issue was that they were supposed to take it down in as safe a way as possible and that was not done. Mr. Clarke said the permit was issued properly by the Code Enforcement Department. They went out there on a day with particularly high winds when it would have been much better for the contractor to stop working on that day but the contractor decided to move forward. That was the day when debris was blowing over the neighborhood. Mr. Clarke said they have met with Lower Bucks County Joint Municipal Authority. Mr. Sullivan has been provided with all of the information regarding the material that is on the tank. They have provided him with the information from the DEP, and they have provided the MSDS. Mr. Sullivan has had the opportunity to review all of that information. There is no toxic material on this tank. There is no lead on any high level on any of these tanks. It does not even read on the DEP sheets. Contrary to what was stated at the last meeting, there is no cadmium or any other extremely hazardous materials on this tank. Once they had all of that information and once Mr. Sullivan was able to analyze that information, they discussed how they would take down the



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rest of the tower. They have put a plan in place that will deal with the monitoring of the winds. If the wind is in excess of 20 mph, they will stop cutting on that particular day. Instead of trying to cut smaller pieces, they will cut larger pieces and bring those pieces down to the ground area. They will cut those larger pieces into smaller pieces in an enclosed area that is surrounded by 6-8 ft. tarps that will prevent the material from going onto the neighboring properties. They will have individuals stationed at the property lines. If any material is going on the neighboring properties they will shut down cutting of the tank for that particular day. Regarding clean up of the debris, they have discussed that with Lower Bucks County Joint Municipal Authority. They recommend that if any resident has a complaint, damage to their property, or physical injury, they should contact the Lower Bucks County Joint Municipal Authority and register a complaint with them who will turn it over to their insurance carrier. The insurance carrier will address those complaints. Mr. Clarke said at two meetings they heard a lot of information regarding health hazards and dangers to the public, but none of that has been documented. There was a gentleman at the last meeting who spoke about information regarding cadmium, information from toxicologists, and information from the DEP. Mr. Clarke said when they asked for that information to be sent to them, none of that has been sent, other than what they already had from the DEP. At this moment, that tower is structurally sound and it is not in danger of falling over. It will come down when it is cut by Lower Bucks County Joint Municipal Authority. Mr. Clarke spoke about the Tullytown-Falls Township boundary line. He said they have worked out what they believe is the issue to determine the original boundary line. It is fairly technical and it involves aerial mapping. Mr. Sullivan and his team have discussed this with the engineers at Tullytown. There is an outstanding issue which Mr. Clarke said he has communicated to Tullytown's attorney in a meeting, over the phone, in an e-mail, and in correspondence. Until that one issue is resolved, we don't have an agreement with Tullytown to resolve this dispute. We are close, but we still have to resolve that one issue. Chairman Harvie said in terms of roads left to pave, essentially all the roads on this side of Rt. 1 are finished. They are currently working on Alden Avenue, Oxford Road, and Stevens Road. Other areas left to do are Penns Grant, Hedgerow Woods and Yardley Farms. The roads will be completed as quickly as they can. Regarding the sidewalk along New Falls Road, Chairman Harvie said there has not been any board action but they have had discussions amongst themselves. If there is any action, it will be at a public meeting. Regarding the manhole, they don't know who owns it, but they will figure it out and try to get it fixed. Chairman Harvie said in terms of the boat ramp they have received a lot of information from boaters who have talked about not having an opening or closing time, but to have it open for 24 hours a day from April to October. At this point they are getting a good amount of feedback from boaters. They can curtail the hours if they start having problems. Mr. Obert asked who watches the camera. Chairman Harvie said no one constantly watches it. The video is saved. Member Dence said if the police receive a call they can access the video from their police vehicles.

Ms. Kellie Donovan spoke on behalf of the Walt Disney Elementary Tools for Schools Committee. The committee is working hard to raise money for items that are not in the school budget. Their current goal is to purchase new playground equipment. They are having a Tools for Schools Walt Disney Fun Day at the Falls Township Community Park on Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. They will have a 5K race, scavenger hunt, games,



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raffles, food, demonstrations, and about 30 vendors. For more information, visit [www.runfortheplayground.com](http://www.runfortheplayground.com).

Mr. Joe Kraus said a couple of weeks ago he spoke about wind energy. He asked if anyone has looked into that yet. Chairman Harvie said not yet. Mr. Kraus thinks this is a cheaper way to go. Chairman Harvie said they are going to take a look at this building overall and they can also check into wind energy as well as geo-thermal technology.

Chairman Harvie reminded Member Vislosky that when she is speaking under public comment, she is not shielded by the laws that protect the supervisors when speaking.

Mrs. Dorothy Vislosky explained why she missed recent meetings. Mrs. Vislosky spoke of her forty-seven years of public service and how she use to attend public meetings five nights a week. She does not like the snide comments by the president of the Democratic Club. Mrs. Vislosky said she wanted to address Mr. Prokopiak and tell him he should question Mr. DeBlasio's attendance at the Pennsbury School Board meetings. She said he did not file to run for the school board. Mrs. Vislosky said if he loved the school board and the taxpayers so much and was doing such a good job trying to keep an illegal position, why is he wasting school board tax dollars for the issue of sitting on the board when he does not even plan to run for another term. Mrs. Vislosky said the information shows that the Pennsbury teachers are now only asking for a 2.5% increase. There are steps computed in there and they think it is an entitlement. Mrs. Vislosky said she went to Florida on November 10<sup>th</sup> and planned to stay for two weeks. She planned to be home by December 7<sup>th</sup> and then the blizzards started in Pennsylvania. No airplanes were flying from Tampa Airport. She had three flight cancelations. They had snow in every continental U.S. state except in Florida but it was cold. Mrs. Vislosky said she caught the flu and had two heart attacks. There was a tornado that hit Clearwater which is about an hour south of where she lives. Mrs. Vislosky said she went to move a double-pane door and ended up getting a very bad cut on her head. She is not apologizing for missing the meetings. She said she has donated her whole life to the people of Falls Township and does not feel she has done anything wrong. Mrs. Vislosky said Mr. Trulove, from the law firm of Curtin & Heefner, is representing Mr. DeBlasio and Mr. Kristofco is our solicitor. Mrs. Vislosky said there are three lawyers now from that one firm who had an interest in the DeBlasio position on the Pennsbury School Board more than Wayne Deblasio had. We are using Judge Mellon's time, the DA's time, they have assistants and office expenditures; it is a horrible waste of money and that is the history of the Pennsbury School District. Mrs. Vislosky said she had to pay \$204 for getting home two weeks ago. She had to make a decision of whether to run for a supervisor position, a school board position, or go back to Florida. She checked the Board of Elections law and it said that she could file for both positions. Mrs. Vislosky said the reason she files is that we already had someone from the teacher's union trying to discourage one of the fine candidates for school director because they want the same kind of people who are in there now. She promised the public from the last election that when she wrote the Vislosky newsletter, if they elect the people she endorsed, she will come back and fight the school board fight. Mrs. Vislosky said she had a letter from a person who lives in an apartment complex on Nolan Avenue and they complained because they cannot get FIOS. Mrs. Vislosky gave the letter to Manager Gray to see what he can do about this situation.



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Mr. Andy Dell spoke about the condition of this building. Mr. Dell was not sure if they had anything planned yet to work on this. Chairman Harvie said they have budgeted money in this year's budget to completely study the building to see what they can do to make it better.

Mrs. Debbie DeBlasio said her husband has missed school board meetings because he travels for his job and needs to go out of town. He calls in on Executive Sessions so he can be aware of what is going on. Mrs. DeBlasio said when their voting district was changed two years ago, he stated then that he was not going to re-run for election. The district changed that he is in now and Linda Palsky is in that district; he would not even consider running against her especially with the time constraints on him. Mrs. DeBlasio said that people need to make a living. Mrs. DeBlasio asked if elected officials like state representatives pay into their pension programs. Chairman Harvie did not know. Mr. Clarke said he does not know but said Mrs. DeBlasio could probably call one of the state representatives to find out. He said he has one in his office and would be happy to ask him. Mrs. DeBlasio said those health benefits are usually about the same as District Justices and wondered if District Justices paid into their benefits or if they had to stay in that position to get the benefit, paid for by the taxpayers. Mrs. DeBlasio asked if Jane Burger won the election. Chairman Harvie said no, she ran against John Galloway who won. Member Vislosky said Jane Burger did not win. Member Vislosky said she endorsed John Galloway. Chairman Harvie told Member Vislosky that no one interrupted her when she was talking. Member Vislosky said Mrs. DeBlasio is aiming at her and she aimed at her husband. Mrs. DeBlasio said she stopped at the Board of Elections to talk to them about people who write newsletters and don't follow campaign finance rules. Member Vislosky said she has never broken the law in her life. Mrs. DeBlasio said she respectfully disagrees because Member Vislosky said at one of these meetings that she chose not to report campaign finances. Member Vislosky told Mrs. DeBlasio not to distort anything she says and to get off her back. Mrs. DeBlasio apologized for wasting the time but said she will protect her husband and her family to the best of her ability, especially when they are being lied about, and especially when there is no cost for anything that is being done for any kind of case against her husband. Mrs. DeBlasio said he truly does care about Pennsbury. Considering he does work 60-80 hours a week and travels, he gives the best of his ability. Mrs. DeBlasio said her husband never, as of two years ago, had any intention of running again.

### **ITEM # 6 MINUTES – MARCH 1, 2011**

Member Snipes moved to approve the minutes from March 1, 2011; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor with the exception of Member Vislosky who abstained from the vote. (3-0-1)

### **ITEM # 7 ENGINEERS REPORT**

Mr. Sullivan said the boat ramp is 100% complete in the water. There is some ongoing work but it should be fully open by the end of April. Manager Gray will ask Mr. Reese to put together a policy for the boat ramp including prices and hours. The work on the road program is progressing now that the weather has improved. Member Snipes moved to



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approve the February Engineer's Report dated March 11, 2011; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

**ITEM # 8 BILL LIST – MARCH 15, 2011**

Member Snipes moved to approve the bill list in the amount of \$1,985,515.10; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor with the exception of Member Vislosky who voted no. (3-1)

**ITEM # 9 EXECUTIVE SESSION – There was no Executive Session held.**

**ITEM # 10 MANAGER COMMENT**

1. Member Dence moved to approve the time extension request for the land development application for the project on Jennifer Lane to May 15, 2011; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)
2. Manager Gray presented some Park & Rec announcements. There will be a teen bowling night at Brunswick Zone on Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>; 8-10 p.m. for ages 11-17. The cost is \$20 and you must sign up by March 23<sup>rd</sup>. There will be a Pasta Dinner fundraiser on Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at the Falls Township Senior Center from 4-7 p.m. This event is sponsored by the Falls Township Teen Advisory Panel and the LYFT Youth Group. The proceeds benefit A Woman's Place. Manager Gray said the Park & Rec spring brochures will be available on April 1<sup>st</sup>. For information on any Park & Rec events, please call 215-949-9000, X220, X221, or X222.

**ITEM # 11 BOARD COMMENT**

Member Dence said they heard from Mr. Arnao about the PECO Smart Incentive Program and how they are now saving a couple thousand dollars a month in energy costs. Member Dence thanked Mr. Arnao for the PECO check. Member Dence said Member Vislosky spoke about the increased water and sewer rates. Member Dence said when they started the Water and Sewer Authority, it was with the intention of being able to raise the rates instead of continuously losing money and taking a loss. Member Dence said when he is out in public, dozens of people ask him about the boat ramp. He never hears anything negative but always hears positive comments about that project. People are waiting to use it. Member Dence said the weather is getting nice. Everyone has cabin fever from being inside all winter. Member Dence asks everyone to please keep an eye out for children playing outside.

Member Vislosky said she disagrees with Member Dence about the boat ramp. She said she was hospitalized five times recently. She said that Mrs. DeBlasio said that she can come up here to file with the Board of Elections but you cannot come back to do your job. Member Vislosky said Mrs. DeBlasio sticks her nose in things she does not know about just to harass her. Member Vislosky said if anyone doubts her, she will gladly show them her bills for the times she was hospitalized. Member Vislosky said she is asking all of the people who want to get the school district in the hands of the children and the taxpayers to come to the

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Pennsbury School Board meeting on Thursday night because it will be stacked. Member Vislosky said it doesn't matter to her that Jane Berger did not win, but it matters to her that our Senator and Congressman won. Member Vislosky said she received a boa to wear on St. Patrick's Day and she will wear it on Thursday night. Member Vislosky said she is not running for a high-paid position. All she wants to do is to live in a clean community where the children can grow up and turn into good citizens.

Member Snipes said at the first meeting in April, the Men of Harmony would like to give a very short performance. They have an upcoming fundraiser and would like to give the public a preview of their work. The board agreed for them to come out. Member Snipes said he will talk to them to arrange their visit. The police will probably present their awards that night as well.

Chairman Harvie said he received a letter from Dan McMullin who needs to resign from his position on the Community and Economic Development Commission. There are now three open positions on this board. Chairman Harvie spoke about the St. Patrick's Day Parade. He said it was a very good parade and is one of the biggest parades in Bucks County. Chairman Harvie spoke about the people of Ireland and how emotional they were over 9/11 and how concerned they were with his parents during that time. Chairman Harvie thanked everyone who was involved in the parade and said Brian Galloway did a great job organizing the parade. Chairman Harvie spoke of the thousands of people who lost their lives in Japan. He said there are a lot of places to make a donation and encourages everyone to keep the people of Japan in your thoughts and prayers.

Member Dence moved to adjourn the meeting; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

  
Jeffrey Dence, Secretary