

**TOWNSHIP OF FALLS  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

The meeting commenced at 7:37 p.m. with roll call and salute to the flag. All Board members were present. Also present were Township Manager Peter Gray, Township Solicitor Ed Rudolph, and Township Engineer James Sullivan.

**ITEM # 1    DAYSRING ELECTRIC – PRELIMINARY PLAN OF LAND  
DEVELOPMENT – 418 TYBURN ROAD – TPN 13-28-66**

This item will be rescheduled for the March 3, 2009 meeting.

**ITEM # 2    CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS – 32 LOWER  
MORRISVILLE ROAD – NEW SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING**

Mr. Joe Barta presented the board with the sketch drawing for a new home. Member Vislosky moved to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness for 32 Lower Morrisville Road for a new single family dwelling; Member Prokopiak seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)

**ITEM # 3    CONSIDER AWARD OF BID FOR MOBILE COMPUTER  
MONITORS FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Lt. Ron McPherson gave information on the proposed purchase of mobile computer monitors for the police department. Four companies requested bid specifications, but only one bid was received. Member Prokopiak moved to award the bid for mobile computer monitors for the police department to HUB Systems, LLC, doing business as Data 911 in the amount of \$19,797.80; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)

**ITEM # 4    PUBLIC COMMENT – FIVE MINUTE LIMIT PER PERSON  
FORTY-FIVE MINUTE MAXIMUM**

Mr. Roland Kenney congratulated Member Prokopiak. Mr. Kenney said he would like to see someone on the board make a motion and second to put the senior center and boat ramp on the ballot in May. Mr. Kenney expressed sorrow and spoke about the death of Philadelphia Police Officer John Pawlowski.

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Mrs. Liz Reese announced information on this year's Ladies Tea. It will be held on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at the Sheraton Hotel. The theme is "Queen for a Day," and the proceeds will go to the Girl Scouts of America. They are asking everyone to wear pink, black and silver. Mrs. Reese invited the supervisors to stop at the Three Arches to view the renovation work.

Mrs. Debbie Martier said tickets for the Ladies Tea will be sold at Three Arches on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6 to 7 p.m. and also on March 7<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The ticket cost is \$25 per person and only 400 tickets will be sold. Raffle tickets will also be sold at this time. For more information please call 215-302-3303 or send an e-mail to [tea2006@gmail.com](mailto:tea2006@gmail.com).

Mr. Dick Trimble said he may not be able to attend the meeting when Dayspring Electric presents their plan. Mr. Trimble would like to recommend that the island in front of their building be removed, thus allowing left-hand turns to be made into their facility. He would like the board to support Dayspring Electric as well as PENNDOT to make this happen. Chairman Harvie asked Mr. Trimble if the issue of the rear access for this property had been taken care of. Mr. Trimble said that was brought up and they will work with the fire marshal to address the issue. Mr. Trimble asked if the money for the boat ramp was coming out of the capital reserve account. Chairman Harvie said they are not taking the money out of the capital reserve account; it is coming out of the host community fees. They are also looking for state grant money. Mr. Sullivan said the cost of the boat ramp will be between \$600K and \$800K. There is a maximum of \$250K grant money which they should hear about sometime in July. Member Vislosky said she thought the host community fees did go into the capital reserve fund. Chairman Harvie said the host community fees are used for a variety of things. Mr. Trimble asked how much money was in the capital fund account as well as the long-term restricted savings account. Manager Gray said there are several million dollars in the capital reserve fund account and approximately \$33M in the long-term restricted savings account. It is projected to have approximately \$39M in the long-term restricted savings account by the end of 2009. Mr. Trimble asked what they would need in that fund in order to eliminate real estate taxes. Chairman Harvie said there are \$2.4M in real estate taxes every year. Mr. Trimble asked where the money is coming from for the proposed senior center renovations. Manager Gray said the host community fees would be paying for the majority of the project and there is a grant through the Bucks County Community and Economic Development Grant Program for approximately \$350K.

Ms. Yvonne Kracker said she has a home in Falls Township and wanted to show her support to the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Guido Mariani asked about the total annual cost, maintenance, and future replacement budget of the senior center. Manager Gray said the township pays the electric bills out of the Parks & Rec fund. Chairman Harvie said the senior center is an independent structure. In terms of the building, if they needed to replace doors, windows, the senior center raises the money themselves; however, back in 2003 or 2004 they did pay for upgrades to the HVAC system. Mr. Mariani does not agree that whenever the subject of funding comes up for some projects there is always the emphasis that the taxpayer money is not the funding source. Mr. Mariani said tax income to this township is derived from various sources and

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that income belongs to the residents of Falls Township. Mr. Mariani said that just because we have income that may exceed our present needs, it does not mean it has to be spent on a boat ramp, a dog park and a senior center. Mr. Mariani said he would like to see the taxpayers get more involved in township business. He believes this money should be returned to the people to whom it belongs. Mr. Mariani told people to watch their money and watch where and how quickly it is being spent. Chairman Harvie said there was the implication that they are spending money that is not for the benefit of the Falls Township residents. He said they are spending Falls Township money, but they are being very conscious of it. Chairman Harvie said there are several hundred people, most of whom are Falls Township residents, who are members of the senior center. Member Vislosky said she is a senior and she agrees with Mr. Mariani. She said she has concerns about Mr. Petras and his idea of expanding the senior center to include the surrounding municipalities. Member Vislosky asked for the manager to contact Mr. Petras at the senior center and obtain a list of all of the senior center members as well as their addresses. Chairman Harvie said Member Vislosky could probably get that information from Mr. Petras. Mr. Petras serves at the pleasure of the Board of Directors of the senior center.

Ms. Liz Fisher spoke about instances involving dangerous dogs. She and her family have asked several municipalities to consider supporting Representative Galloway's House Bill No. 2553 which would enable municipalities to create and enforce their own dog ordinances. Ms. Fisher is asking for the support of Falls Township. Ms. Fisher said this ordinance does not single out specific breeds nor does it prevent pet owners from having a specific breed. Ms. Fisher said this is a serious issue and one that she does not take lightly. Member Vislosky drafted and read a letter to Representative Galloway and Senator McIlhinny. Member Vislosky moved to accept the letter to support Ms. Fisher's request in Harrisburg and to send it to Representative Galloway and also to Senator McIlhinny; Member Szupka seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)

Mr. Steve Gotkis complimented the board on keeping the meeting and comments to the point and moving the meeting along. He said he is from Lower Makefield and requests to meet with Member Vislosky about the upcoming Pennsbury School Board elections. He would like to introduce Member Vislosky to a candidate from region 1 and wants to have a discussion on region 3. Mr. Gotkis said if there are interested taxpayers who would like to speak with him, he can be reached at 215-321-3053.

Mrs. Anne DiGeorge said her Disabled Person's Advisory Board packets are mailed to her home. She believes it would save on postage if someone could deliver those packets instead of mailing them, and she does not ever want a police officer delivering them. Manager Gray said he did not ask a police officer to deliver packets. Mrs. DiGeorge asked about having the date and time aired during the video playback of the meetings. Chairman Harvie said they are working on it, but the software would cost about \$1,200 in order to do so. This could also cause the screen to be off-color or grainy.

Member Vislosky showed a picture frame with message that she received as a gift. She said for the last 43 years she has chosen to remain in Falls Township as a peoples' advocate fighting for the taxpayers. Member Vislosky said that last year Member Prokopiak aspired to a State Legislative seat and this year he will seek the County Prothonotary position.

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Member Vislosky said Chairman Harvie looked for support from the Democratic County Chairman the last time the commissioner's ran. Member Vislosky said when Member Snipes ran last year, he spent big bucks. Member Vislosky said her sister's health will determine whether or not she pays any attention to this next election.

### **ITEM # 5 MINUTES – FEBRUARY 3, 2009**

Member Prokopiak moved to approve the minutes from February 3, 2009; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)

### **ITEM # 6 ENGINEER'S REPORT**

The 2009 Road Program pre-bid meeting will be held on February, 18, 2009. Mr. Sullivan said A.E. Polysilicon is about 75% complete with phase 1. Mr. Sullivan will look into the issue of a leaning pole at the Montessori school. Member Prokopiak moved to approve the January, 2009 Engineer's Report dated February 11, 2009; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)

### **ITEM # 7 BILL LIST – FEBRUARY 17, 2009**

Member Prokopiak moved to approve the bill list dated February 17, 2009 in the amount of \$788,085.38; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor with the exception of Member Szupka and Member Vislosky who both voted no. (3-2)

### **ITEM # 8 EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The board went into Executive Session at 8:59 p.m. and the meeting reconvened at 9:34 p.m. Mr. Rudolph said that while in Executive Session, the board discussed two personnel matters.

### **ITEM # 9 MANAGER COMMENT**

1. Member Snipes moved to make a donation of \$6K to the St. Patrick's Day Parade to be held on Saturday, March 14, 2009; Member Prokopiak seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)
2. Member Vislosky moved to make a donation of \$6K to the American Legion Annual Memorial Day Parade to be held on Sunday, May 24, 2009; Member Szupka seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)
3. Member Prokopiak moved to grant the letter of extension for the Hiossen property until March 31, 2009; Member Szupka seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)
4. Member Prokopiak moved to grant the time extension for U.S. Steel for the galvanizing property until March 31, 2009; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)
5. Member Prokopiak moved to grant the time extension for T-Mobile Northeast to March 31, 2009; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)

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6. Member Prokopiak moved to accept the letter of waiver of the 90-day time limit for the Slabicki tract; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)
7. Manager Gray has mylars for the board to sign for the Mazzocchi lot line change.

### ITEM # 10 BOARD COMMENT

Member Prokopiak moved to terminate the employment of Katherine Leese; Chairman Harvie seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0) Member Prokopiak said the township received the results of the energy audit of the Falls Township Municipal Building. It says we are doing okay, but we could be doing better to reduce the cost of energy to the township and the report gave suggestions on how to do so. Member Prokopiak said they need to continue doing what they are currently doing and try to educate the public on how they can reduce costs. Member Prokopiak said the road program pre-bid meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2009. He is happy that they were able to decrease the time to finish this portion of the road program. Member Prokopiak thanked the board members who attended the Lower Makefield Board meeting regarding the traffic issue and is glad the two townships are working together to resolve this issue.

Member Vislosky said she attended the Lower Makefield board meeting and spoke about the proposed changes on West Ferry Road. She has confidence that Lower Makefield will do something that will be palatable to all of the citizens. Member Vislosky said this board was gracious enough to start the board meetings later at 7:30 p.m., but she sometimes leaves the meetings early. She said she left the last meeting early due to the weather and because she had to take a senior citizen to the hospital at 5:30 a.m. the next morning. Member Vislosky said there were three notes left at her home in the past two days.

Member Snipes echoed Member Prokopiak's comments about the energy efficiency study. He said one of the areas we can look at is the lighting and the costs associated with it. Member Snipes said there are ways to cut electric use in half. Member Snipes asked Manager Gray to respond to an Eagle commendation request for Sean Pullen. Member Snipes donated some memorabilia and photographs which were taken at the beginning of U.S. Steel. Another item was a comprehensive plan from 1966. He suggested that the board take a look at the township archives to see what state they are in and how accessible they are. Member Vislosky said she believes there are 34,997 residents in Falls Township. Member Prokopiak thinks it is great to have these items donated. He said they have spoken about displaying some historic items on the walls of this building to showcase where we have been through the years.

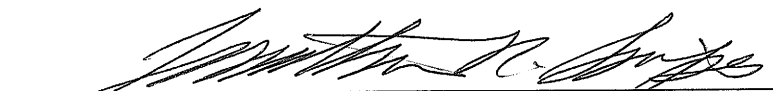
Member Szupka said he has had numerous residents asking him about some of the township projects. Member Szupka asked what process they would need to go through to put items on the ballot for the Primary Election. Mr. Rudolph said he would have to look at the specifics in regard to moving forward with a referendum. He said it is very limited as to what the Board of Elections can include in a referendum. There are severe time limits in moving forward with the proposal, getting it approved by the local entity, presenting it to the Board of Elections and actually getting it placed on the ballot. Member Vislosky said she doesn't think they can make the Primary, but they have enough time for November. The board agreed to look into the option of placing items on the ballot. Mr. Rudolph said he

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would ask Mr. Clarke to look into this. Member Szupka said Mr. Kenney spoke about the police officer who was killed. He is the third officer from the 35<sup>th</sup> District in Philadelphia who was recently murdered. Member Szupka said there was a memorial on display for Officer Pawlowski in the roll-call and hearing room and the judge turned Officer Pawlowski's picture upside down when the police captain refused to remove it. Member Szupka said in his opinion that judge was wrong and was disrespectful. Member Szupka said he is glad they can donate to the Three Arches, the St. Patrick's Day Parade and the Memorial Day Parade and that next year they may not be able to do all of these things. Member Szupka said in Philadelphia they are having problems with almost every parade. Member Vislosky said as far as that judge is concerned some people, judges included, forget that they have been appointed, not anointed. If enough people wrote to the Judicial Review Board and asked for a replacement, they might be successful. Member Szupka wished everyone a good evening.

Chairman Harvie said Mr. Smith, who did the energy study, was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Chairman Harvie said there are some very simple things they can do in this building to save on energy costs. At the last meeting there were some issues brought up from residents and the possibility of not being able to turn left onto West Ferry Road during rush hour. This would direct traffic to other roads. Chairman Harvie said he and Member Vislosky attended the Lower Makefield meeting the following night. The Lower Makefield Board agreed not to take action but to further study the issue. A committee was formed with one resident from each street. There was some concern about the traffic signals on West Trenton Avenue not being properly synchronized. One idea that was suggested was for a joint traffic study to be done by Lower Makefield and Falls Township to take a look at West Trenton Avenue to see if there is any way to help alleviate this problem. Traffic Planning and Design is the same traffic engineer for Falls Township and Lower Makefield. Chairman Harvie said Representative Galloway has agreed to provide some money to help fund that study. Manager Gray is working with the manager of Lower Makefield as well as the Chief of Police. Chairman Harvie asked if the board is in agreement to do this traffic study. Member Snipes said he thinks it is a good idea. Member Vislosky said the two senators, Tommy Tomlinson and Chuck McIlhinny both have the walking around money and they could probably be persuaded to divert some of that into the study. Member Vislosky said we needed to do some remedial work and maybe the state can do something about the highway. The road cannot be widened to any degree because of the setbacks. Member Vislosky spoke about the zoning ordinance. She would like to see people adhere to what has been planned unless they can give a good example of why they needed to do what they want to do. Member Vislosky said she thinks we need to have the powers in the state help us. The board agreed to do the traffic study.

Member Prokopiak moved to adjourn the meeting; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all Board members were in favor. (5-0) The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 p.m.

  
Jonathan Snipes, Secretary