

**TOWNSHIP OF FALLS  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

**ROLL CALL:**

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|---|----------------|
| <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 7:33 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. Chairman Harvie said he wanted to clarify recent reports and said there is no dog-eating or man-eating turtle in the lake at the Falls Township Community Park.

**ITEM # 1 CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS – 75 MAIN STREET – ROOF SHINGLES**

Member Prokopiak moved to approve the certificate of appropriateness for 75 Main Street for roof shingles; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)

**ITEM # 2 CONSIDER AWARDED BID FOR POLICE ARMOR VESTS**

Member Prokopiak moved to award the bid for police armor vests to McDonald Uniforms in the amount of \$31,414.04; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)

**ITEM # 3 CONSIDER AUTHORIZING ADVERTISEMENT OF AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 209 – CHANGE TO ZONING MAP (SECTION 209-7) REZONING TMP 13-17-210-001 FROM AGE QUALIFIED (AQ) TO NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL (NC)**

Member Vislosky moved to authorize advertisement of amendment to Chapter 209 – change to zoning map (Section 209-7) rezoning TMP 13-17-210-001 from Age Qualified (AQ) to Neighborhood Commercial (NC); Member Prokopiak seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)

**ITEM # 4 CONSIDER AUTHORIZING ADVERTISEMENT OF AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 145 – LICENSED BUSINESSES**

Manager Gray said this amendment will require all contractors working with a value greater than \$5K in a given year to register with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania prior to receiving any permits to do work in the township. Member Vislosky said she is not certain

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that she agrees with this. She is torn between not wanting to harm the good contractors and the others. Member Prokopiak moved to authorize advertisement of amendment to Chapter 145 – Licensed Businesses; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor with the exception of Member Vislosky who voted no. (4-1)

### **ITEM # 5 CONSIDER AUTHORIZING MANAGER TO GATHER RFP'S FOR BILES ISLAND STUDY**

Chairman Harvie asked board members if they had any changes or corrections to the document that was distributed to them. He also said they needed to decide which engineering firms to send the document to. Member Snipes said the document was well written and covers the basic issue. He said there are some organizations that are looking at this section of the river and wonders how this project might connect with those initiatives. After discussion, the board agreed to send the request to all six firms who gave presentations. Member Prokopiak moved to open public comment; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0) Mr. Jeff Mourey said he thinks they want to keep this project natural and simple and to keep the disturbance to this area minimal. He said this should also be a low-maintenance area. Mr. Mourey said all six firms should have the opportunity to respond with their plans. Mr. Roland Kenney said the best thing is to get a proposal from all six of the firms. Ms. Madeleine Jones spoke about the island off of River Road and said people can walk over the bridge to get to it. She also said one of the islands around Philadelphia was just donated to the Philadelphia region from the President of Venezuela. Ms. Jones suggested looking into a natural waterfall. She thought it would be a good idea for the board to take a tour of this area. Member Prokopiak moved to close public comment; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0) Member Prokopiak moved to authorize the manager to gather RFP's for the Biles Island Study; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)

### **ITEM # 6 PUBLIC COMMENT – FIVE MINUTE LIMIT PER PERSON – FORTY-FIVE MINUTE MAXIMUM**

Mr. Guido Mariani said that during the last meeting he addressed an issue on cap and trade. He said he is here tonight in regard to the national healthcare bill that is now in the House of Representatives. Mr. Mariani spoke about this bill and said it will affect all of us. Mr. Mariani said he was very concerned with some comments made by folks who are involved with this bill. Mr. Mariani spoke of some of the mandates concerning this bill. He urges the public to stay informed on this issue.

Mr. Roland Kenney expressed condolences for a resident at Avenrowe who was also a veteran. Mr. Kenney said he agrees with keeping the boat ramp free for Falls Township residents as well as police officers, firefighters, and rescue workers, no matter where they reside. Mr. Kenney asked if there were any update on the tractor trailer parking behind Avenrowe. Chairman Harvie said they are looking into a law that deals with noxious odors and trying to find the best way to proceed.

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Ms. Norma Lindbloom asked about the Certificate of Appropriateness for 75 Main Street. Chairman Harvie explained the procedure for Certificate of Appropriateness requests.

Mr. David Hoch asked for an update of the plantings at the skate park. Mr. Sullivan said they are doing everything they can to avoid a public bid. The Public Works Department will install the berm. Manager Gray has a program where the township can get trees at a very reasonable price. They will probably start this work in late September.

Mr. Gallus Obert asked if they are going to authorize the Zoning Hearing Board and the Planning Commission meetings to be broadcast. Manager Gray said they asked both boards if they would consider televising their meetings. At this time they will hold off per each board's request not to televise the meetings. Chairman Harvie said in terms of zoning issues, it is mandated by law that all residents within a quarter of mile are notified. In terms of the Planning Commission, a lot of the issues are with businesses and are in areas that are generally not around residential areas. Mr. Obert spoke of the boat ramp project. Mr. Sullivan said they have an NPDES permit for work on the land. They do not yet have the permit from the Army Corps of Engineers. They believe they have secured an area to put the dredge after they take it out of the water but they do not yet have the permit. Mr. Obert said he thinks they are spending a lot of money on the boat ramp.

Ms. Madeleine Jones asked about the date of an article that was left in the back of the meeting room. She suggested that if anyone leaves material, to make sure it is dated. Ms. Jones asked about the status of the revitalization and beautification of the Tyburn Road area. She said it is not an attractive area and there are a lot of pot holes. Ms. Jones asked for someone to look into funding to make this area more attractive. Ms. Jones asked about the noise ordinance. Chairman Harvie said they have asked the police department to look into this as well as the area around WAWA. Ms. Jones suggested changing the noise ordinance time from 10:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. She said she can hear trucks idling two streets away from the WAWA. Chairman Harvie said the ordinance states 10 ft. from a property line and they are looking at expanding it to 20-30 ft. Chairman Harvie said in terms of Tyburn Road, PENNDOT came up with a plan for repairing the bridges. Manager Gray said they are looking into doing some reconstruction work on that roadway. Ms. Jones said in regard to healthcare everyone needs to listen about the healthcare reform. Member Vislosky responded to Ms. Jones' inquiry about the article about missing tapes.

Mr. Jeff Mourey said there is a drainage problem at WAWA. He said there is standing water and believes this could be a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Mr. Mourey spoke about transportation needs. He said anyone in Falls Township should be able to catch a bus at any corner. Mr. Mourey also spoke about the correct way to repair roadways.

Mrs. Vislosky said she has a letter from Harrisburg about putting items on the agenda. Chairman Harvie asked for a copy of the letter. Mrs. Vislosky spoke about David Lane and the letters he writes. She said she will print every one of his letters. Mrs. Vislosky said she has a 5-page letter from a man who writes to her on a regular basis. She read a portion of the letter. In regard to healthcare, Member Vislosky said the President tried to push that through in six weeks. Member Vislosky said she has letters from former Township Manager Wayne Bergman. Mrs. Vislosky formed a group called the Titans and said Mr.

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Bergman met with them. Mrs. Vislosky said she wants the taxpayers to think about how much debt will be passed on to future generations. Mrs. Vislosky said she would like a clock to be installed on the front of the podium.

### **ITEM # 7 MINUTES – JULY 21, 2009**

Chairman Harvie said the motion to close the last meeting had a poll count of (5-0) when it should have been (4-0). Member Snipes moved to approve the amended minutes; Member Prokopiak seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) (Member Vislosky not present for vote.)

### **ITEM # 8 ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Mr. Sullivan gave an update on the road program. Member Prokopiak moved to approve the July, 2009 engineer's report dated August 14, 2009; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor with the exception of Member Vislosky who voted no. (4-1)

### **ITEM # 9 BILL LIST – AUGUST 18, 2009**

Member Snipes asked about the energy-efficiency audit. Manager Gray said they are following up on the greenhouse gas pilot program that was approved last fall. They will find out what they need to change in the township. They have started to gradually replace some lighting, making it more energy efficient. Member Prokopiak moved to approve the bill list dated August 18, 2009 in the amount of \$2,737,962.32; 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 # 10 EXECUTIVE SESSION – There was no Executive Session held.**

### **ITEM # 11 MANAGER COMMENT**

1. Member Prokopiak moved to accept the letter of extension request from U.S. Steel Corporation for the waiver of land development for the galvanizing gate north entrance until September 30, 2009; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)
2. Manager Gray said the township plans to purchase 50 bare-root trees at \$25 each for a total of \$1,250. Member Snipes moved to open public comment; Member Prokopiak seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0) Ms. Madeleine Jones said she has had some requests for trees at the dog park, as well as a bench or two. Member Prokopiak moved to close public comment; Member Snipes seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0) Member Snipes moved to approve the purchase of 50 bare-root trees at \$25 each for a total of \$1,250; Member Prokopiak seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (5-0)
3. Manager Gray said mylars for the Towns at Oxford Falls are ready for signature.

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**ITEM # 12 BOARD COMMENT**

Member Snipes asked about the Open Space Committee. Manager Gray said they have a draft ready to be submitted to the county for their review. He will also share it with the board. Once the county signs off on it they will present it to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

Member Vislosky said the Chairman does not want her to have an item on the agenda. She said she will bring a copy of a portion of the letter to the next meeting in regard to putting items on the agenda. Member Vislosky said the Williams tract should have been put on the agenda. She said we cannot get it on the agenda because Snipes is involved. Regarding David Lane, Member Vislosky said he has made himself the attendance police and he keeps calling for her resignation. Member Vislosky said he is a registered republican, but she doesn't know him. Member Vislosky said she wants the packets that are delivered to her home to be signed by the person who delivers them as well as to note the date and time the packet was left. She said Member Szupka would also like this done.

Member Prokopiak wants to continue to engage the board to look into a pedestrian walkway along New Falls Road and possibly get a proposal on it. Member Prokopiak said there were comments made about the Williams tract. He asked Member Snipes if he owns the Williams tract. Member Snipes said he does not own the Williams Tract and has never owned it. Member Prokopiak said he doesn't know why they need to get into that as it was all done in this meeting room. Member Prokopiak said he would like to look at planting some trees along Mill Creek Road and Penn Valley Road. Member Prokopiak hopes to see some good proposals from companies interested in the Biles Island program. Member Prokopiak asked about the open space plan. Manager Gray said he will get a copy of it for the board.

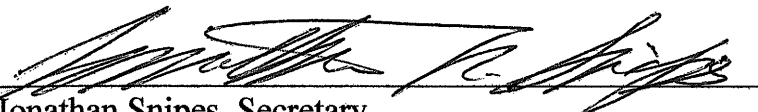
Member Szupka said they have been bringing in new trees for a while. Member Szupka said when new housing developments are built, they clear all of the trees because it makes it easier to build the houses. In some cases when trees are left, they charge for a wooded lot. Member Szupka said with our community being aged, a lot of trees are quite old and some need to be taken down so people remove them. Member Szupka said it was mentioned earlier about an incident at the park. He said if you look at the dog park and the fencing around it, there is no way a snapping turtle could have taken a dog. Member Szupka said it is a shame that within a few days two of the news crews spoke about how the township residents should be boiling water for three days. Member Szupka said the water department didn't know anything about it, but yet channels 6 and 10 aired it three times and never came back on to say it was okay. Member Szupka wished everyone a good holiday.

Chairman Harvie reminded everyone that school taxes are due by September 1<sup>st</sup>. The Tax Collector will have extended hours and will be open on August 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.; August 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.; and September 1<sup>st</sup> from 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. Chairman Harvie announced a players and coaches clinic by Jeff Manto to be held at the Levittown Continental Little League. All proceeds will go toward the cost of the Challenger Field. Chairman Harvie spoke of the issue of the snapping turtle being a hoax. Regarding healthcare, Chairman Harvie encourages people to look at accurate and reliable sources of

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information. When you see full-page ads, take a look at who is sponsoring them. It could be an ad to defeat this. Chairman Harvie said he has seen letters criticizing Congressman Murphy for not holding public meetings but yet Congressman Murphy actually had two meetings where both were fully attended. Chairman Harvie said Congressman Murphy is very involved in this. Chairman Harvie said healthcare reform is something that is needed. Chairman Harvie asked about only holding one meeting in September. The board agreed to one meeting on September 15, 2009. Chairman Harvie congratulated Brandon Weintraub from Troop 53 who has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

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 9:40 p.m.



Jonathan Snipes, Secretary