

**TOWNSHIP OF FALLS
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

ROLL CALL:

ROBERT HARVIE, JR., CHAIRMAN	PRESENT
JEFFRY DENCE, VICE-CHAIRMAN	PRESENT
JEFFREY ROCCO, SECRETARY-TREASURER	PRESENT
BRIAN GALLOWAY, SUPERVISOR	PRESENT
JEFF BORASKI, SUPERVISOR	ABSENT

The meeting commenced at 7:07 p.m. with roll call and pledge to the flag. All Board members were present with the exception of Member Boraski who had a work commitment this evening. Also present were Township Manager Peter Gray, Township Solicitor Michael Clarke, Township Solicitor Lauren Gallagher, and Township Engineer James Sullivan.

GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR THE CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

Chief Wilcox and Officer Yeager presented certificates to the residents who attended the Citizens Police Academy. Officer Yeager thanked the board for recognizing the most recent class of the academy. For this session, some of the topics they studied were: an introduction and overview of the township and police department, their hiring process, they shared a couple of cases that our police department worked on, had a drug investigation session, K-9's, covered traffic stops, spent some time at the gun range, had an overview of our community policing programs, and ended up with the shoot, don't shoot class. The 2018 class will begin in September. Applications can be found on the website or picked up at the police department. The Youth Police Academy will be held in July. Mrs. Pat Lindenmuth attended this program and praised the work our police department does. She spoke in support of the work of Officer Yeager and Lt. Whitney. Mrs. Lindenmuth thanked all those involved. Chairman Harvie also thanked everyone involved in this program.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS FOR THE HOLIDAY HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS

Mr. Brian Andrews presented certificates and gift cards to the winners of the 2017 Holiday House Decorating contest. They are: 3rd place – 261 Elderberry Drive; 2nd place – 236 Walton Road; 1st place – 9 Franklin Street. This past year was the last year for the decorated house at 1 White Spruce Lane. A certificate was given to Mr. Neil DiSpirito thanking him and his family for their holiday spirit.

**ITEM # 1 PUBLIC COMMENT – FIVE MINUTE LIMIT PER PERSON
FORTY-FIVE MINUTE MAXIMUM**

No one signed in for public comment.

ITEM # 2 PRESENTATION FROM BRIAN ANDREWS REGARDING THE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Mr. Brian Andrews gave some highlights for this year's Parks and Rec events. They include:

- Parents Night Out on Friday, January 19th, at Walt Disney Elementary School.
- Pinewood Pool on-line registration starts on February 1st. There will be five Youth Splash Nights, two movie nights, the senior breakfast, a couple of Dollar Dog Days, Family Day in August, a couple of theme days, and free ice cream sandwiches for the first 125 people on National Ice Cream Day. We are working out the staffing for the pool, but we are in need of several lifeguards.
- The 2018 Summer Camp session will run from June 25th through August 3rd and will be held at Walt Disney Elementary School. On-line registration will begin on February 1st.
- The township is working with the YMCA for a spring swim session. It is a 10-week program for \$80, which is a special rate for Falls Township residents who are not members of the YMCA. This is a great program to learn how to swim and be safe in the water.
- The geese harassment program is slated to begin in March. This will involve the use of border collies.
- We will be completing the Fall Photo Contest and the winners will be notified soon.
- This year's Breakfast with the Bunny will be held on Saturday, March 24th from 9-11 a.m. at the Senior Center. The maximum capacity is 125 and pre-registration is required. Immediately following the breakfast will be the Easter Egg Hunt from 11 a.m. – 12 noon. There is no limit for attending the egg hunt.
- For this year's Earth Day event, we will partner with Comcast Cares. There will be a general clean up on Saturday, April 21st from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Falls Township Community Park. They will also work on the community garden expansion and plant some trees near the skate park.
- This year's Touch A Truck event will be held on Saturday, April 28th at the Falls Township Community Park.
- The Annual Fishing Derby event will be held on Memorial Day from 8-11 a.m. This is held in partner with Bart's Tackle from Tullytown.
- This year's Que for the Troops will be held on Friday, June 1st with the Family Festival the following day, Saturday, June 2nd. The evening will end with fireworks.
- The Delaware Valley Vietnam Veterans (DV3) Flag Memorial will be held June 8-10, 2018 at the Falls Township Community Park.
- This year's Summer Concert Series begins at the park on June 17th. It is a 13-week event, held every Sunday evening from 6-8 p.m. This runs through September 9th.
- We are considering a children's kickball league and possibly an adult kickball tournament.
- We would like to have a National Night Out event on Tuesday, August 7th at the Falls Township Community Park. The rain date will be Friday, August 10th. Mr. Andrews will be meeting with Chief Wilcox, Officer Yeager, and Fire Marshal Dippolito.

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- We should be receiving the Quaker Penn Open Space Improvement funds very soon. The plans are for a new playground, installation of a compost toilet facility, and cleaning up the riverfront.
- There was a question about having extended weekends at the Pinewood Pool. This has been studied and it is difficult to get adequate coverage as most of the staff go back to college by then.

ITEM # 3 DISCUSSION ON FIREWORKS IN THE TOWNSHIP

Chairman Harvie said several years ago, there was a law passed in Pennsylvania that allowed fireworks to be sold, but not used in Pennsylvania. The law has changed to open up new possibilities. Ms. Gallagher gave a brief summary of the new state law. The law had permitted the sale of fireworks in Pennsylvania, but not to Pennsylvania residents. This new law opens up the sale of consumer fireworks to Pennsylvania residents. It does not open up the sale or the use of display fireworks which are the more theatrical fireworks. Consumer fireworks are defined as ground or hand-held sparkling devices, and aerial devices such as sky rockets and missile rockets. These types of items can be sold in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to Pennsylvania residents and can be used in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The law would prohibit the use within 150 feet of any occupied structure. That would prevent the use of these devices in the vast majority of neighborhoods. Violation of this is a summary offense. We are currently in the process of reviewing this as well as the International Fire Codes regarding fireworks. Ms. Gallagher said we can begin enforcing this statute by a summary offense citation should anyone violate this, and we can continue to enforce all of the fire codes that are currently in place.

ITEM # 4 APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS, COUNCILS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS

Chairman Harvie moved to re-appoint Ms. Eileen Donahue and Mr. John Bentz to the Environmental Advisory Council; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) Member Rocco moved to re-appoint Mr. Thomas Hughes to the Planning Commission; Member Galloway seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) Member Dence moved to appoint Mr. Ed Crohe to the Planning Commission; Member Galloway seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) Member Dence moved to re-appoint Mr. Thomas Roche to the Police Pension Committee; Member Galloway seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) There are several folks who have expressed interest in the Parks and Recreation Board. They will revisit this next month.

ITEM # 5 MINUTES – DECEMBER 19, 2017 & JANUARY 2, 2018

Member Rocco moved to approve the December 19, 2017 minutes; Chairman Harvie seconded the motion; all board members were in favor with the exception of Member Dence who abstained. (3-0-1) Member Dence moved to approve the January 2, 2018 minutes; Member Galloway seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 6 ENGINEERS REPORT

For the community park fishing pier, Mr. Sullivan said the contractor hired a sub-contractor to do the carpentry work and on two occasions, they never showed up. We will have another crew coming in this Monday. All of the pilings are installed. With regard to the Quaker Penn Park boat ramp, four of the pilings are completely gone and the other ones are severely damaged by all of the ice on the river. Manager Gray is looking to file an insurance claim with our insurance company. We are looking at other options to try to prevent this from happening again. The original design had the boat ramp going into the cove, but the Army Corps of Engineers forced us to move it. Manager Gray said we have been in contact with Travelers today and we are working to get the funds to replace this. Member Rocco moved to accept the December Engineers Report dated January 11, 2018; Member Galloway seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 7 BILL LIST

Member Galloway moved to approve the bill list in the amount of \$1,583,073.45; Member Rocco seconded the motion; all board members in favor. (4-0)

ITEM # 8 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Clarke said that while in Executive Session, the board discussed several personnel matters, and several matters of litigation and potential litigation.

ITEM # 9 POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Wilcox provided the following information:

- Officer Morratti's condition is improving. He suffered a health injury not related to his job. Please keep him in our thoughts and prayers.
- The next Coffee with a Cop will be held in February at the Senior Center.
- The Chief for a Day program has started up again.
- We are working on re-accreditation for the police department. This occurs every three years.
- We plan to heavily enforce our traffic in the municipality with an effort to greatly reduce our traffic accidents.
- Drug enforcement continues throughout the municipality and we continue to work with other agencies.
- In 2017, we had 18,785 calls for service, a little less than the year before. We responded to 1,307 accidents, with fatalities decreasing from 7 to 2. We issued 4,182 citations, 1,297 of which were non-traffic citations. We responded to 1,924 medical calls and 116 of those were overdoses. Twenty of those overdoses resulted in death.
- The police department received a \$50,000 grant to replenish our Narcan supply.
- Our Detective Bureau was assigned 397 cases; 282 were criminal. We had a total clearance of 126 with a 44.68% clearance. Most clearances are around 15-20%.

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Clearance by arrest is over 25%. One detective, through very aggressive police work, solved 42 cases of thefts from automobiles.

- Chief Wilcox wished everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

ITEM # 10 MANAGER COMMENT

- A. Manager Gray said Rich Dippolito has secured three quotes for a backflow preventer for the fire sprinkler system in the township building. The quotes are: Advanced Sprinkler Technology in the amount of \$11,812; KE Siefert in the amount of \$12,166.36; and PA Water Specialties in the amount of \$15,523. Member Galloway moved to approve purchase of a backflow preventer from Advanced Sprinkler Technology in the amount of \$11,812; Member Dence seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)
- B. Member Galloway moved to authorize the retention of Mr. Greg McCarthy to assist our labor counsel, Jordan Yeager, with a personnel matter; Member Rocco seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)
- C. Member Rocco moved to approve escrow release # 2 in the amount of \$113,891.40 for St. Joseph Court; Member Galloway seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)
- D. Member Dence moved to ratify the state of emergency from 6 a.m., Thursday, January 4, 2018 through 6 a.m., Friday, January 5, 2018; Member Galloway seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0)
- E. Manager Gray announced new township businesses. They are: The Christmas Tree Stand, Rite Aid, Dollar General, and Great Clips.
- F. Accu-Fire mylars are ready for signature.

ITEM # 11 BOARD COMMENT

Member Galloway said he felt a heightened sense of community prior to the last Eagles game and hopes they do well. Fly Eagles Fly!

Member Rocco – Good luck Eagles!

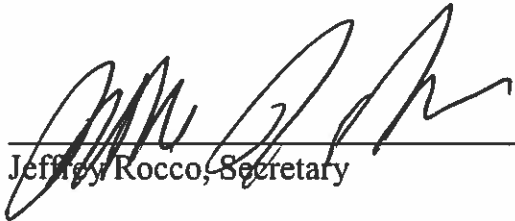
Member Dence wished everyone a Happy New Year. Member Dence said with the snow emergency, we get a lot of feedback about the policy of removing cars from the streets. It is an ordinance that gets enforced by the police and gets coordinated with the Public Works Department. It is something that is enforced, as needed, if it snows bad enough and the Public Works personnel can't get down the road. They do the best they can, but they can't be everywhere. There are other emergencies that come along and other resources that need to be used. Be careful if it snows. Vehicles will be removed, if necessary.

Chairman Harvie said he wanted to bring up the salary increase for Theresa Katalinas. Member Dence moved to authorize an increase for Theresa Katalinas at the rate of \$70 per hour for 2018; Member Galloway seconded the motion; all board members were in favor. (4-0) Member Dence said before we hired Ms. Katalinas, we had no one. Levittown Now does a decent job. The Bucks County Courier Times is how we get our news out there. Ms.

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Katalinas often writes articles and the Bucks County Courier times prints them word for word. This is a way for people to know what is going on. There was a newspaper article about Verizon not being happy over the privacy ordinance. The only thing they have a legal standing on, in their mind, is when we voted on the ordinance we made a change that they said needed to be advertised. The way around that is to advertise and approve this again. Member Dence moved to authorize advertisement of the cable privacy ordinance change; Member Rocco seconded the motion; all board members were in favor with the exception of Member Galloway who voted no. (3-1)

Member Dence moved to adjourn the meeting; Member Galloway seconded the motion all board members were in favor. (4-0) The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.



Jeffrey Rocco, Secretary