

RICHLAND TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
Business Meeting  
April 11, 2016

Chairman Timothy Ritter called the Richland Township Board of Supervisors Business Meeting to order. Those present are as follows: Richard Orloff, Supervisor; Timothy Ritter, Supervisor; Timothy Arnold, Supervisor; Stephen Sechriest, Township Manager (retiring); Paul Stepanoff, Township Manager (successor); Chief Richard Ficco, Township Police Dept.; Damon Drummond, Traffic Eng., Gilmore & Associates; B. Lincoln Treadwell, Township Solicitor.

**I. OPENING**

- A. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.
- B. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- C. Mr. Orloff gave an Invocation.
- D. Roll call was taken.

**II. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- A. Announcement of cancelation of the Public Hearing to add a parcel to Richland Township's Agricultural Security Area.  
**Note:** George and Hope Zavitsanos submitted a letter to the Township withdrawing their request to add their property at 1225 E. Cherry Road (TMP # 36-029-021) to the Township's Agricultural Security Area.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at this time in the meeting.

**IV. PRESENTATIONS**

- A. A presentation of the Quarterly Report was given by Thom Roeder, Public Works Director.

**V. BOARD AND STAFF REPORTS**

- A. Steve Sechriest, Township Manager reported that EPA is holding another public meeting on April 14, 2016 from 6:30-8:30 at the Michener Library, which will include a formal presentation at 7:00pm regarding the groundwater cleanup of the Watson-Johnson Landfill that is scheduled to begin later in the month. Once the work is further along, Phase II (capping the landfill) will begin. Mr. Orloff noted that the eight affected properties were offered relief with free hook-up to public water; however, not everybody accepted the offer. The other 1400 residents in that area are not affected. The next item Mr. Sechriest reported were 2 concerns from neighbors regarding the Pickleball court lights. First, the Township will be posting a sign stating a night-time limitation of 9:00pm for the lighting. Secondly, the noise barrier that neighbors requested will only reduce sound rather than eliminate it, and would cost the Township approximately \$7700 plus installation. It will be suggested to the Pickleball Club to look into purchasing newer style equipment (paddles & balls) that reduce noise. **Note:** Mr. Orloff and Mr. Ritter suggested the option of planting arborvitae, or similar, as a sound barrier due to the cost being considerably less, the appearance more attractive, and the longer lifetime of vegetation.

- B. The Supervisors had no reports at this time.
- C. The Solicitor had no reports at this time.
- D. The Traffic Engineer had no reports at this time.
- E. Rich Ficco, Police Chief reported that April 30, 2016 is the Drug Take-back (10:00am – 2:00pm) and Shred Event (noon-2:00pm) at the Richland Twp. Police Dept.

**VI. DEVELOPER’S ISSUES**

- A. Richlandtown Borough requested for a determination accepting their proposed setbacks and buffer yards for the proposed dog park to be constructed at their Benner Hall Recreation Area and for a Stormwater Exemption for the dog park, a tot lot, and an improved building entrance. Section 27-405.C5.(b).1 of the Zoning Ordinance grants the governing body the power to establish the appropriate setback and buffer requirements for municipally owned recreational facilities. The fence for the proposed dog park would extend to within 30 ft. of the western property line. Previously approval was given for a walking trail to be located within 30 ft. of the western property line. Boucher & James has confirmed that the project meets the requirements for an exemption. Since this is a governmental project, no stormwater fee is required.

**MOTION** Mr. Orloff made a motion to grant the Stormwater Exemption, Mr. Ritter seconded the motion. Vote: All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

- B. Consideration of a Resolution to authorize the Township Manager to submit an application to PennDOT for the modification of the traffic signal located at the intersection of Tollgate Road and Rt. 309 requested by the proposed CVS project. The developer is required to make improvements to the traffic signal at this location, but PennDOT approval is needed. Gilmore & Associates has reviewed the proposed signal permit plans and recommends submission to PennDOT.

**MOTION** Mr. Orloff made a motion to adopt Resolution #16-08, Mr. Ritter seconded the motion. Vote: All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

- C. Zoning Hearings Scheduled for April 28, 2016
  - 1. Benjamin Wambold, 370 W. Thatcher Road will present to the ZHB seeking of a variance from the impervious coverage limits in order to construct a garage and expand the driveway at his residence.
  - 2. Richard Baker, Jr., 360 W. Thatcher Road will present to the ZHB seeking a variance from the impervious coverage limit and the side yard setback limit in order to construct a garage and expand the driveway at his residence.

The Board made no recommendation to the Zoning Hearing Board concerning either project.

**VII. TOWNSHIP BUSINESS ITEMS (Old and New)**

- A. Minutes from March 14, 2016 Business Meeting

**MOTION** Mr. Arnold made a motion to approve the March 14, 2016 Minutes, Mr. Orloff seconded the motion. Vote: All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Financial Business - Approve payment of bills

**MOTION** Mr. Orloff made a motion to approve the payment of bills, Mr. Arnold seconded the motion. Vote: All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Consideration an Ordinance calling for a referendum on extending the Open Space additional Earned Income Tax for an additional five years. Voters would be asked to decide in November whether the additional 0.1% EIT should be extended to June 30th, 2023.

**MOTION** Mr. Arnold made a motion to adopt Ordinance #270, Mr. Ritter seconded the motion. Vote: All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Consideration of an Ordinance authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement concerning school resource officers. The proposed agreement would allow police officers from Quakertown Borough working as school resource officers for the Quakertown Community School District to have the power to enforce the laws on district property located within Richland Township.

**MOTION** Mr. Orloff made a motion to adopt Ordinance #271 and sign the agreement, Mr. Ritter seconded the motion. Vote: All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Consideration of a Resolution to allow Quakertown Community School District to rejoin the Quakertown Area Planning Committee, as request by QCSD.

**MOTION** Mr. Orloff made a motion to adopt Resolution #16-09, Mr. Ritter seconded the motion. Vote: All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Consideration of a Resolution to authorize the Township Manager to submit an application to PennDOT for modification of the traffic signal located at the intersection of W. Pumping Station Road and Rt. 309. In order to request PennDOT to allow us to modify this signal, which was approved last month, the Township will need to adopt a resolution so that Gilmore and Associates can move forward with the proposed improvements.

**MOTION** Mr. Arnold made a motion to adopt Resolution #16-10, Mr. Orloff seconded the motion. Vote: All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

G. Complaint about trucks using noisy engine braking retarders on Church Road (Rt. 212) between Younken Road and Richlandtown Borough. Robert Brown from 65 Meadow Road has requested that we prohibit the use of engine retarders on this stretch of roadway. We would need to send a letter to PennDOT requesting permission to adopt an ordinance and post signs prohibiting use of engine retarders at this location. PennDOT will determine if this section of road meets their requirements.

**MOTION** Mr. Orloff made a motion to send a request letter to PennDot, Mr. Ritter seconded the motion. Vote: All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

- H. Consideration of a Resolution requesting that a portion of the Sterling Act Taxes collected from Township residents be submitted to the Township; the proposed resolution was requested by BCATO.

**MOTION** Mr. Orloff made a motion to adopt Resolution #16-11, Mr. Arnold seconded the motion. Vote: All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

- I. Request for financial assistance for the annual Quakertown Fourth of July Fireworks Display. Last year the Township contributed \$500 towards the event.

**MOTION** Mr. Orloff made a motion to contribute \$500 towards the event this year, Mr. Arnold seconded the motion. Vote: All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at this time in the meeting.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Ritter made a motion to adjourn the Richland Township Board of Supervisors Business Meeting at 7:50pm. Mr. Arnold seconded the motion. Vote: All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting: Monday, May 9, 2016 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tracey Virnelson  
Recording Secretary