

WORK SESSION

April 4, 2017

A work session of the Whitpain Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at the Whitpain Township Building, 960 Wentz Road, Blue Bell, PA at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the agenda of the April 4, 2017 Supervisors' meeting. Board Chair Melissa M. Weber was present with Supervisors Kenneth F. Wollman, Anthony F. Greco, Adam D. Zucker, and Frederick R. Conner, Jr. Also present were Township Solicitor Robert J. Iannozzi, Esq., Township Manager Roman M. Pronczak, Engineering Assistant Greg Klucharich, Assistant Township Manager David J. Mrochko, Director of Public Works Ronald J. Cione, Police Chief Kenneth Lawson, Director of Finance Christine M. Bauman, Director of Code Enforcement Michael McAndrew, Fire Marshal David M. Camarda, and Parks and Recreation Director Kurt W. Baker.

The Supervisors reviewed the agenda discussing the Mission Moment, approval of the Consent Agenda, including the March 2017 Voucher List, the minutes of the March 21, 2017 Board meeting, the February 2017 Treasurer's Report, advertisement of proposed Ordinance No. 358, award of contract for ADA ramps, authorization to sign a Pillar Agreement for 602 Skippack Pike, authorization to proceed with engineering services related to the Maple Avenue Sidewalk Improvement Project, consideration of enactment of Ordinance No. 356 and the April Zoning Hearing Board cases.

The next topic discussed was a listing of upcoming events, including:

- WRA Opening Day Parade and Ceremony – April 8 – Gather at CSFC at 8:00 a.m. – Parade starts at 8:30 a.m.
- Earth Day – April 20 – Prophecy Creek Manor House
- Business Breakfast – May 10 starting at 8:00 a.m. – Manor House
- Whitpain Parks and Recreation Department; Centre Square Fire Company; and Whitpain Police Association Golf Outing – June 26 – Blue Bell Country Club
- Big Rig Round-Up – Wentz Run Park – July 14 – 5:00 to 7:30 p.m.
- Community Festival – September 23 – starts at 11:00 a.m. and fireworks begin at 8:00 p.m. (one hour earlier this year)

The next topic discussed was a one-day soccer tournament which will be hosted by the Whitpain Recreation Association (WRA) on May 20 at Centre Square Park. Since this is the first large tournament to be held at the park, Township staff members will meet with WRA officials this Thursday to help plan the event. Staff members have encouraged WRA officials to meet with representatives from St. Helena's Church to ensure they are aware of the event.

The meeting continued with Mr. Pronczak updating the Supervisors on the 202 Widening Project. In a recent meeting PennDOT indicated that they are no longer interested in installing temporary traffic signals at the intersections of Cherry and 202 and Cherry and

Wentz. Township staff will be meeting with PennDOT in the near future to discuss the realignment of Wentz and Parkwood Roads. This realignment would be facilitated by PennDOT and in return, the Township would allow PennDOT to create stormwater BMPs on Township property. Mr. Pronczak continued to discuss the 202 Widening Project by explaining that improvements to 202 will allow Centre Square Park's main entrance to move from Yost Road to 202.

The next topic discussed was a reminder that Montgomery County will host a training session at the Whippain Township Building at 6:00 p.m. on the evening of May 24. The session, which is geared for elected officials, is entitled, "Overview of Incident Command and Emergency Management Training."

Mr. Pronczak continued the meeting by mentioning that a retirement luncheon will be held for Keith Fuller on April 13 here at the Township Building. Supervisors and staff are invited to the luncheon.

The last topic discussed at the meeting was news that the Township was recently awarded a \$29,140 grant from the Commonwealth Financing Authority for a Pumping Station SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system. When discussion on this topic ended at 7:51 p.m., Supervisors met in executive session to discuss matters of potential litigation. When the executive session ended at 7:58 p.m., Supervisors left for the public meeting. After the public meeting, Supervisors met once again in executive session.



David J. Mrochko
Whitpain Township Assistant Manager

#07-2017
April 4, 2017

The regular meeting of the Whitpain Township Board of Supervisors was held Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at the Whitpain Township Building, 960 Wentz Road, Blue Bell, PA. Chair Melissa Murphy Weber, along with Supervisors Kenneth F. Wollman, Anthony F. Greco, Frederick R. Conner, Jr. and Adam D. Zucker were present. Township Manager Roman M. Pronczak, P.E., Solicitor Robert J. Iannozzi, Esq., Assistant Township Manager David J. Mrochko, Police Chief Kenneth Lawson, Engineering Assistant Greg Klucharich, Code Enforcement Officer Michael E. McAndrew, Fire Marshal David M. Camarda, Public Works Director Ronald J. Cione, Parks and Recreation Director Kurt W. Baker, Finance Director Christine M. Bauman and Recording Secretary Virginia Papale were also present. Township Engineer James E. Blanch, P.E. was absent. There were eight members of the public at the meeting.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance the meeting was called to order at 8 p.m. by Chair Weber who welcomed those in attendance. Our tradition of Mission Moments is when we take the opportunity to go over our Mission, Vision and Values, the benchmark we use for public service. Tonight, discussion includes a community partner addressing the achievement gap. In reviewing the Mission, Vision and Values Statement, the correlation between the Township and the Wissahickon School District (WSD) is evident. Twenty-five percent of the Township's population, or 5,000 children, are under the age of 18. The achievement gap touches the youngest of our citizens. Children are our number one human resource. This is why we as a Township must pay attention to the achievement gap and the children most at need. Our partnerships with the WSD, the North Penn Valley Boys and Girls Club and WRA among others are important. Chair Weber asked Mr. Pronczak to update the Board on where the project stands.

Mr. Pronczak noted that we are still looking to build a permanent facility, although that goal is taking longer than hoped. In the meantime, an interim facility is anticipated to be open for the fall semester. More information is available on the website. Mr. Conner added that as a full partner in this project, WRA hopes to have an indoor playing facility. Other partners include the Blue Bell Rotary with Project Learn, American Legion Post #769 and the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association, who will be our partner in the park, which includes approximately 40 acres. Chair Weber introduced Dr. James Crisfield, who begins his third year as the Superintendent of the Wissahickon School District.

Dr. Crisfield thanked the Board and staff for the tremendous partnership the WSD has with Whitpain Township, every step of the way. He began his presentation of the 10-year plan to close the achievement gap, including areas of academic, extra-curricular and character education for each student. Relationships matter. The guidance department will make it a point to create the best fit for every student. The achievement gap defines students within certain demographic groups who are more likely to achieve at a lower level than others. This is a plague across the nation. Beginning this year, WSD is committed to a 10-year attack plan, small sections at a time, for its 4,500 students. Communication is key. There were previous attempts to achieve this goal, although they were not sustained.

More important than anything is the economic status of the households. Twenty (20%) percent of the students receive free lunches. This does not include those who do not know they can receive this benefit, or who are hesitant to apply for it. While the data has its limits, crossovers in data should help bridge the gap. There are disparities in the classroom, standardized tests and program placement. There is a correlation between income status and GPAs, and much research is being done to work on closing these gaps. It is important that teachers believe children can succeed. There are sub-gaps to the achievement gap, with the two greatest being confidence and engagement gaps. This is why the Boys and Girls Club is needed so desperately. In its current Ambler location, there are only 42 children. It is a tight, claustrophobic facility. A larger building with the programs offered will draw more children, and help promote the confidence they need. With the increased confidence, the children might be more apt to go into an AP class and with better grades, enter into a better college. The children want to be successful. This ten-year initiative really matters.

Mr. Zucker asked about the Homework Club, and how its closure has affected WSD. Dr. Crisfield responded that it has resurfaced as an expanded program with volunteers, in partnership with the Wissahickon Valley Public Library, in the old gym at the former Mattison Avenue School. Mr. Zucker asked if the WSD is working on attacking home gaps. Dr. Crisfield explained that a Zero-to-Five Literacy Initiative has just begun, with the goal being to get into each and every home to help parents understand the value of reading to a child. Weekly text messages are sent to parents with age-appropriate ideas for parents to share with their children at home. Those who do not have home resources, or who haven't attended pre-K, are already behind when they enter school. The Board members thanked Dr. Crisfield for his presentation and initiative.

A motion was made by Mr. Zucker, duly seconded by Mr. Conner to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- a. the March 2017 Voucher List in the amount \$425,428.61, check sequence #60652 through #60878.
- b. the minutes of the March 21, 2017 Board of Supervisors' meeting.
- c. the February 2017 Treasurer's Report.
- d. authorization to advertise proposed Ordinance No. 358, making provision for alternate member appointment by resolution to the Park and Open Space Board.
- e. award the 2017 ADA Ramp Bid as budgeted in the low bid amount of \$103,440 to Ply-Mar Construction Co., Inc. of Plymouth Meeting, PA.

- f. authorize the Chairman and Secretary to sign a Pillar Agreement with Vincent F. Piazza and Ronald M. Deorzio, owners of 602 Skippack Pike, and LMT Real estate LLC, tenant of the property. This agreement will permit the installation of a patio and associated improvements within the ultimate right-of-way of Penllyn-Blue Bell Pike, on the condition that the patio and associated improvements will be removed if any future road widening, repair or excavation is necessary.
- g. authorize Hunt Engineering Company to proceed with engineering services related to the Maple Avenue Sidewalk Improvement Project (Phase II) in accordance with their proposal dated March 27, 2017 at a cost not to exceed \$7,500. The scope of services includes topographic surveying and preparation of additional right-of-way and construction plans and agreements.

Chair Weber called for any discussion. There was none and the motion carried.

As advertised, the Board considered enactment of Ordinance No. 356, an ordinance Amending the Township's Code, Chapter 142 (Vehicles and Traffic), Article IV (Stopping, Standing and Parking), Section 142-37 (Special Purpose Parking Zones) to establish two Special purpose parking zones located at 223 Oak Street and 440 Railroad Avenue.

A motion was made by Mr. Greco, duly seconded by Mr. Conner to enact Ordinance No. 356. Chair Weber called for any discussion. There was none and the motion passed.

The Board of Supervisors took no action on the following Zoning Hearing Board cases scheduled to be heard April 20, 2017:

- #2109-17 Michael and Jessica Riesmeyer
- #2111-17 Michael and Linda Shanda Zahner
- #2112-17 Anthony DePaul and Gianna Bojazi

The Board discussed the following cases preliminarily during the work session, and deferred any further discussion to the next Board meeting following receipt of input from the Planning Commission after its April 12th meeting:

- #2108-17 The Meitner Family Partnership
- #2110-17 Jeffrey S. Bill (equitable owner) and Rob E. Lowe (legal owner)

Chair Weber turned the meeting over to Vice-Chair Wollman who asked if there was any public comment. There was none and the meeting returned to Chair Weber.

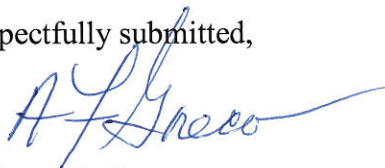
Chair Weber noted several exciting upcoming events, including:

- April 8th WRA Opening Day Parade and Ceremony, 8 a.m.
Begins at Centre Square Fire Company and ends at Wentz Run Park
- April 20th Earth Day at Prophecy Creek Park
- May 10th Business Breakfast at the Manor House, 8 a.m.
Business owners have been invited; there will be a State of the Township Address and an interactive exchange of ideas
- June 26th Golf Outing at Blue Bell Country Club, sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department, the Police Association and Centre Square Fire Company
Sponsorship opportunities are available
- July 14th Big Rig Round-Up, Wentz Run Park, 5 to 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 23rd Community Festival

Chair Weber asked if there was any old or new business to discuss. There was none. She noted that the Board met briefly in executive session prior to the public meeting and will return to executive session to discuss a matter of potential litigation and two matters of real estate.

There was no additional discussion. Upon motion by Mr. Conner, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Anthony F. Greco
Secretary