

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES
December 2, 2013**

A Regular Meeting of the New Britain Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, December 2, 2013 at the Township Administration Building, 207 Park Avenue, New Britain Township, PA, beginning at 7:05 p.m. Present were Supervisors: Chair A. James Scanzillo, Vice Chair Robert V. Cotton, Members Helen B. Haun, William B. Jones, III, and John A. Bodden, Sr.. Also present were Township Manager Eileen M. Bradley, Township Solicitor Peter Nelson, and Township Engineer Craig Kennard.

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Scanzillo called the Meeting to order.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. Scanzillo led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Announcements:** Mr. Scanzillo announced that the Board had met prior to this meeting in Executive Session to discuss personnel issues, land acquisition and litigation.
4. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:**
5. **Approval of Minutes:**
- 5.1. **Minutes of November 18, 2013 Board of Supervisors' Regular Meeting:**

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Haun and carried unanimously, to approve the November 18, 2013 Minutes as written.

6. **Departmental Reports:** There were no Departmental Reports at this time.
7. **Consideration of Old Business:**
- 7.1. **Budget 2014 Adoption as Resolution #2013-23:** Ms. Bradley presented the 2014 Budget. The Budget reflected millage rates consistent with 2013, with no millage increases. Key revenue sources include Earned Income Tax (EIT), which continues to increase gradually since 2012. Increase in expenses include a 2.5% non-uniform increase, legal expenses for Labor issues for 2013 Police Labor Contract negotiations, and a pension increase of 63% since 2009. In addition, cost of fuels, oils, road paving materials, salt, and federal and state unfunded mandates continue to grow. Capital Expenditures include two new police cars, mandated radios for Police and Emergency Response personnel, 150,000 kW Emergency Generator, \$1,810,000.00 for bridge repairs and replacement of New Galena Bridge. Park and Recreation expenses include completion of improvements at West Branch Park and paving of driveways and parking lots at North Branch Park. Total Debt Service for FY2014 is \$367,200.00 that includes \$235,580.00 for the Public Works Building loan that matures in 2026, and the proposed \$2 million loan for the bridge project that would yield a debt service of \$131,620 over 20 years.

Available funds for land acquisition in the Open Space Fund are currently over \$3.2 million. If the Township were able to purchase easements on all proposed preservation properties listed in our Open Space Plan, there would still be funds remaining. At present, money received as Open Space Earned Income Tax (OS EIT) can only be used for acquisition. Ms. Bradley recommended suspending the 0.125% OS EIT Rate for 2014, therefore reducing the tax rate for working New Britain Township residents.

Mr. Bodden asked if there was a possibility of the Township obtaining any funds from the new Transportation Bill pass by the PA General Assembly to help offset the cost of the New Galena Bridge replacement. Ms. Bradley stated that it seems like the funds will trickle down from State, to county, and then if anything is left over to local municipalities. Mr. Bodden suggested that the Township talk to the County and request that if they receive funding from the new bill that they help with the cost of the New Galena Bridge since the bridge is used by the County to enter a County park. Ms. Bradley added

that Mr. Cotton is going to reach out to Senator McIlhinney for assistance in acquiring funding for the bridge, while the Township continues to reach out to the County and other elected officials.

Mr. Cotton complimented everyone on a job well done with completion of the 2014 Budget.

MOTION: Upon motion by Mr. Bodden, seconded by Mrs. Haun, the Board unanimously approved Resolution #2013-23, adopting the 2014 Final Budget.

7.2. Tax Levy Resolution #2013-24:

MOTION: Upon motion by Mr. Cotton, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board unanimously approved the 2014 Tax Levy Resolution #2013-24.

7.3. Ordinance #2013-12-01, Open Space EIT Tax Rate:

MOTION: Upon motion by Mr. Bodden, seconded by Mrs. Haun, the Board unanimously approved Ordinance #2013-12-01, suspending the 0.125% Open Space Earned Income Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2014.

8. Consideration of New Business:

8.1. Resolution #2013-25, PECO Green Region Grant Application for Veterans Park: Angela Benner and Chairman of the New Britain Township Veterans Committee Marco Tustanowsky presented a conceptual sketch plan to the Board for Veterans Park. Veterans Park is a 62-acre lot located at the corner of New Galena Road and Walters Park. The park will be a passive park to be constructed in multiple phases with the first phase consisting of a trail, gazebo, ceremonial area, parking lot, tot lot, trees, and meadows. At this time, the Veterans Committee is requesting approval of Resolution #2013-25, authorizing application to the PECO Green Region Grant for a \$10,000 grant for installation of trees and trails.

MOTION: Upon motion by Mr. Cotton, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board unanimously approved Resolution #2013-25, authorizing application to the PECO Green Region Grant for Veterans Park.

9. Consent Agenda: There was no Consent Agenda at this time.

10. Board of Supervisors Comments: Mr. Cotton expressed his concern for the manholes located on Butler Avenue from County Line Road towards Schoolhouse Road. Mr. Cotton stated that they sit lower than the road and are unsafe for anyone traveling on the road. Mr. Bodden asked that the Township contact the Sewer Authority asking them to place risers on the manholes, making them level with the road.

11. Township Administration Comments:

11.1. Zoning Hearings Scheduled for December 19, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.: Ms. Bradley announced that the Zoning Hearing Board would consider the following applications at their next meeting. It was her recommendation to take no action on the applications.

A. The Application of Joseph Saglimbeni, 18 E Cornwall Drive, TMP #26-008-167, RR (Residential) Zoning District, for a variance to maximum impervious surface coverage (maximum is 25% existing is 26.1%, proposed is 29.7%).

B. The Application of John Hafner, 1052 New Galena Road, TMP #26-004-074-004, WS (Watershed) Zoning District, for a dimensional variance to allow an existing shed to remain within the 15' setback area. The actual shed is 10' 10" from the side property line.

11.2. Approval of 2014 Meeting Schedule:

MOTION: Upon motion by Mr. Bodden, seconded by Mrs. Haun, the Board unanimously approved the 2014 Meeting Schedule.

12. Solicitor and Engineer Comments: There were no Solicitor or Engineer Comments at this time.

13. Other Business: There was no Other Business at this time.

14. Public Comment: There was no public comment at this time.

15. Payment of Bills:

15.1. Bills List dated November 25, 2013 for \$78,572.71:

MOTION: Upon motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Haun, the Board unanimously approved the Bills List dated November 25, 2013 for \$78,572.71.

15.2. Bills List dated December 2, 2013 for \$9,670.33:

MOTION: Upon motion by Mrs. Haun, seconded by Mr. Bodden, the Board unanimously approved the Bills List dated December 2, 2013 for \$9,670.33.

16. Adjournment:

MOTION: There being no further business or comment, a motion was made by Mrs. Haun, seconded by Mr. Bodden, and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

A. James Scanzillo, Chair

Robert V. Cotton, Vice Chair

John A. Bodden, Sr. Member

Helen B. Haun, Member

William B. Jones, III, Member

Attest: _____
Eileen M. Bradley
Secretary/Manager