

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES
November 4, 2013**

A Regular Meeting of the New Britain Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, November 4, 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. Also present were Township Manager Eileen M. Bradley, Township Solicitor Jonathan Reiss, and Township Engineer Erik Garton.

- 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 preservation and litigation.
- 4. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:** Mrs. Audrey Raffle, representing the Oxbow Homeowners Association, asked for the Board's continued support in the neighbor's appeal in the Skyline Tavern Zoning Hearing Board Appeal. She asked if the Board would be filing their brief on or before November 25, 2013 and if the Township had requested a transcript from the Zoning Hearings. Ms. Bradley stated that per the Court-ordered Briefing Schedule, the neighbors were scheduled to file by November 25; Skyline Tavern then had 15 days from that filing to file their brief and response to the residents' brief; the residents then had 15 days from that filing to respond to Skyline's brief; the Township then had 15 days from that filing to file their own brief and response to all. The Township had already registered its appearance and would file their brief in due time. Ms. Bradley added that it was the appellant's responsibility to request transcripts (the neighbors and Skyline). She reminded Mrs. Raffle that all of these briefs would be coming due over the holiday season and any of the parties could request an extension from the Court. Mr. Reiss added that the judge has an unlimited time to make a decision in this case.

5. Approval of Minutes:

5.1. Minutes of October 21, 2013 Board of Supervisors' Worksession:

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Cotton and carried unanimously, to approve the October 21, 2013 Minutes as written.

- 6. Departmental Reports:** There were no departmental reports at this time.
- 7. Consideration of Old Business:** There was no old business at this time.
- 8. Consideration of New Business:**

8.1. 2014 Budget Discussion: Ms. Bradley presented the 2014 Preliminary 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 EIT (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 added that there was presently a bill before the General Assembly that would allow municipalities to use open space funds for maintenance of open space and municipal parks, House Bill 1523 which has passed the House and is before the Senate. Until that bill becomes law, he believed the Board should suspend the OS EIT. Ms. Bradley stated that suspending the OS EIT would not affect millage rates in any way, nor would it change the 1.00% EIT for General Purposes currently paid by residents that is split with Central Bucks School District.

Ms. Bradley recommended that the Board table the 2014 Budget so that it could be advertised and approved at the Regular December 2, 2013 Meeting.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mrs. Haun, seconded by Mr. Bodden, and unanimously carried to table the Preliminary Budget and advertise for approval at the Regular Meeting of December 2, 2013.

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

10. Board of Supervisors Comments: Mr. Cotton expressed his concern with the low manhole covers along Butler Avenue between County Line Road and Schoolhouse Road. Mr. Cotton suggested that the Township write a letter to PADOT addressing this concern and asking them to fix the manholes.

Mr. Bodden thanked the staff for their time and effort in preparing the 2014 Budget.

11. Township Administration Comments:

11.1. Proposed Changes to the 2014 Fee Schedule: Ms. Bradley presented the Board with proposed changes to the 2014 Fee Schedule. Ms. Bradley stated that the Fee Schedule would be adopted on the January 6, 2014.

11.2. Zoning Hearings Scheduled for Thursday, November 21, 2013: Ms. Bradley tabled discussion of the Zoning Hearing applications for 721 Upper Stump Road and 145 Liberty Lane (Lot #20) to the Regular Meeting of November 18, 2013, so that staff may gather additional information.

11.3. Revised PADOT 202-7IT Project Documents Execution: Ms. Bradley stated that PADOT had requested resigning of the Video Sharing and Maintenance Agreement for Route 202 so that documents from 14 municipalities would have execution dated within the same 60-day period. To that end, she asked for adoption of Resolution #2013-22, authorizing the Township Manager to execute the Video Sharing and Maintenance Agreement.

MOTION: Upon motion by Mr. Bodden seconded by Mrs. Haun, the Board unanimously approved execution of Resolution #2013-22, authorizing execution of the Video Sharing Maintenance Agreement by the Township Manager.

11.4. Agreement of Purchase and Sale of Conservation Easement for TMP #26-004-063: Ms. Bradley stated that the Township had received a signed Agreement for Sale of Conservation Easement from Dr. Jay M. Springer, M.D. for 27.34± acres on TMP #26-004-063, previously known as the Weinman Property, for \$9,050.00 per acre, totaling \$247,427.00. Ms. Bradley also stated that the Township would be applying to the County to use some of their Open Space allotment to offset the cost of this purchase.

MOTION: Upon motion by Mrs. Haun, seconded by Mr. Bodden, the Board unanimously approved the execution of the Agreement for Sale of Conservation Easement on TMP # 26-004-063 for 27.34± acres for \$247,427.00.

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

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 7:38 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