

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 11, 2008**

A regular meeting of the New Britain Township Board of Supervisors was held on February 11, 2008 at the Township Administration Building, 207 Park Avenue, New Britain Township, PA, and beginning at 7:00 p.m. Present were Supervisors: A. James Scanzillo, Chair; Robert V. Cotton, Vice-Chair; and members John A. Bodden, Sr.; Helen B. Haun and William B. Jones. Also present were: Robert Bender, Interim Manager; Cathy Kichline, Assistant Manager; John B. Rice, Township Solicitor.

1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Scanzillo called the meeting to order.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. Scanzillo led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Announcements from the Chair:** None
4. **Public Comment:** There was no public comment.
5. **Approval of Minutes from January 28, 2008 Public Meeting:**

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Cotton, and unanimously carried, to approve the February 11, 2008 minutes as written.

6. **Consideration of Old Business:** There was no old business to discuss.

**7. Consideration of New Business:**

**7.1. Authorize transfer of \$3,946 from Capital Equipment fund to General Fund:** Mr. Bender indicated to the Board this request was for the purchase of four defibrillators for use in various departments. Upon motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Bodden, the Board unanimously authorized the transfer of \$3,946 from Capital Equipment fund to General fund.

**7.2 Authorize Lease Agreement for Konica/Minolta Bizhub C451 copier:** Mr. Bender presented the lease agreement to the Board. The lease agreement is on state contract C9020. The lease option of \$474.22 per month includes 405,000 copies, labor, parts, and supplies. Upon motion by Mrs. Haun, seconded by Mr. Bodden, the Board unanimously authorized the lease agreement for a Konica/Minolta Bizhub.

**7.3 Adoption of Ordinance 2008-2-1; Roadway Sign Ordinance:** Mr. Bender presented the proposed Roadway Sign Ordinance that provides for the removal and enforcement of nuisance signs. This ordinance is not meant to target our local businesses and non-profit organizations, but is intended to provide a safeguard against illegally posted signs which block traffic visibility and become a public nuisance or hazard. Solicitor Rice stated that the Ordinance had been advertised on February 4, 2008 and is an amendment to Chapter 19 of the Township Code which regulates overhead banners. Mr. Cotton and Mr. Jones both commented that there has been a great improvement in the appearance of the township since we have been removing these signs. There was no public comment. Upon motion by Mr. Bodden, seconded by Mrs. Haun, the Board unanimously approved Ordinance 2008-2-1; Roadway Sign Ordinance.

**8. Board of Supervisors Reports**

Mrs. Haun reported that she had attended a Water Resource Meeting to review the areas to be included in the state water plan. Since the state required only two areas to be included, the committee condensed the three areas into two areas comprising of the same region. Mrs. Haun also indicated six areas have been identified in the Delaware River Basin Study including the Neshaminy and Brandywine creeks.

Mr. Cotton mentioned that there will be a Rt. 202 Task Force meeting next Wednesday and the Army Corps of Engineers may have their review completed this month.

**9. Township Administration Comments:** None

**10. Solicitor and Engineer Comments.** None

**11. Other Business:**

- Mr. Bender presented the CBREMS 2007 Annual Report and requested that the Supervisors review it and get back to him with any questions.
- Mr. Bender presented a revised tree-planting schedule to the Board recommended by the Planning Commission, Willie Wilson, and Cynthia Anstey of the LPEAC. It was noted that the revised planting schedule includes more diversification in plantings and includes mostly species native to our area. Mr. Bender reported that the Planning Commission and professional staff is recommending the Board modify the Subdivision Ordinance to reflect the inclusion of these species. Mr. Bender reported that the Planning Commission has asked that we also communicate with the developers of the Maurer tract to encourage the inclusion of these species in their proposed plantings. Finally, Mr. Bender requested feedback from the Board

as to their opinions regarding the waivers that would be needed for the Maurer Tract to substitute these species prior to ordinance amendment.

Mrs. Haun commented that Willie Wilson is a plant pathologist. She advised that the proposed native species provide color, texture and are visually pleasing. Mrs. Haun recommended support of a waiver request for this purpose. Mr. Bodden agreed with Mrs. Haun’s comments. Mr. Jones stated support for the idea of getting more native species into our SALDO. Mr. Cotton stated support for encouraging the alternate landscaping plan on the Maurer Final plans.

Upon motion by Mr. Bodden, seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board unanimously authorized Solicitor Rice to prepare a draft amendment to SALDO modifying the planting schedule in the SALDO to include the species as listed in Mr. Wilson’s report.

**12. Payment of Bills:** Upon motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Haun the Board unanimously approved the bills list in the amount of \$44,153.18.

**13. Public Comment:**

**Theresa Browngold** of Ferry Road stated support for the proposed ordinance change and thanked the Supervisors for their continued efforts towards improving the environment.

**Robert Showalter** of Iron Hill Road commented upon his downhill neighbors recent earthmoving. Mr. Showalter then asked the Board to not discuss any issues involving potential litigation involving the cutting of trees. The Board indicated that they were not familiar with the issue. In response, Mr. Bender advised the Board that he had received a complaint from Mr. Showalter earlier in the day regards the earthmoving. He reported that he had contacted the downhill property owner, Vito Braccia, and that he had confirmed that Mr. Braccia had a valid Conservation District Earthmoving permit and that to the best of the township staffs knowledge, the earthmoving did not violate any township ordinance. Mr. Bender also noted that he had asked the township engineer to review the situation and confirm that all was in order.

**Vito Braccia** of Ferry Road next addressed the Board, stating that Mr. Robert Showalter had illegally cut down 20 or more trees some as large as 18” in diameter on the Braccia property, which had in turn created the erosion and storm water problems about which Mr. Showalter was inquiring. He stated that the illegal removal of the trees and underbrush by Mr. Showalter had damaged the Braccia property and that the removal of the trees had created erosion additional drainage problems which created the need for him to revise his grading plan. He stated that he did obtain a permit from the Conservation District for the work. He then offered revised grading plans to the township, at which time Solicitor Rice asked him to submit the plans through the administrative office during normal business hours.

Mr. Braccia and Mr. Showalter then attempted to debate the issue before the Supervisors, at which time the Chairman and the Solicitor told both parties that their private dispute should not be discussed at the public meeting and that the township would follow up upon the complaints from both sides, terminating the discussion.

**14. Adjournment:** Upon motion by Mr. Bodden, seconded by Mr. Jones the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

**NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
A. James Scanzillo, Chair

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Robert V. Cotton, Vice-Chair

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John A. Bodden, Sr., Member

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Helen B. Haun, Member

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William B. Jones, Member

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cathy Kichline  
Secretary/Assistant Manager

Minutes approved on: \_\_\_\_\_