

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES
January 11, 2010**

A Workshop Meeting of the New Britain Township Board of Supervisors was held on January 11, 2010 at the Township Administration Building, 207 Park Avenue, New Britain Township, PA, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Present were Supervisors: John A. Bodden, Chair, Helen Haun, Vice Chair, William B. Jones, Robert Cotton and James Scanzillo. Also present were: Eileen M. Bradley, Manager; Cathy Kichline, Assistant Manager; Wayne Fultz, Superintendent Public Works; Susan Federsel, Treasurer; Robert Scafidi, Police Chief; John B. Rice, Solicitor; and Craig Kennard, Township Engineer.

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance: Mr. Bodden called the meeting to order and led the Board, staff and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Announcements from the Chair: Mr. Bodden announced an Executive Session would be held at the conclusion of the Work Session to discuss personnel matters.

3. Approval of Minutes of the January 4, 2010 Board of Supervisors re-organization meeting:

MOTION: Upon motion of Mrs. Haun and seconded by Mr. Jones, the Board unanimously approved the January 4, 2010 Re-organization minutes.

4. Public Comment: There was no public comment.

5. Treasurer's Report: 2009 Preliminary Year End Report: Ms. Bradley summarized the December 2009 Revenue & Expense Report. Ms. Bradley informed the Board that the total revenues came in at 96% of anticipated and total expenditures came in at 96% of anticipated. Ms. Bradley also informed the Board the 2010 beginning balance is off approximately \$100,000 due to many January invoices paid in December 2009. Staff would continue to closely monitor all expenses.

6. Amendment to Sign Ordinance: Ms. Bradley presented recommendations from the Planning Commission with regard to amendments to the sign regulations as found Section 27-2600 of the Zoning Ordinance. Among the recommendations from the Planning Commission specific to agricultural signs is to allow a maximum of 4 off-premise signs which must be permitted showing the exact location of placement; and permitting off-premise signs to be placed at the intersection where the agricultural entity is located for directional purposes. The Planning Commission also recommended a temporary business sign be permitted along the road frontage for a maximum of 7 days, three times per year for special sales and events; allow one off-premise directional sign for a business within 400' of an arterial road.

Mr. Cotton commented that while he is in favor of regulating signs that pop up on the roadways, we must be careful in crafting this ordinance so that the ordinance is not overly burdensome to our local businesses.

Mrs. Haun questioned the attorney whether we can limit these types of signs to local businesses. Mr. Bodden commented it has always been the Township's intent to help our local businesses, but at the same time we try hard to keep the Route 202 corridor uncluttered.

Mrs. Leslie Bilotta commented that local businesses should be able to advertise off-premises.

Ms. Susan Gross commented that she objects to placing a restrictive number on agricultural signs. In her particular business, she needs to get customers to a remote location and restricting the number would prohibit customers from finding her winery.

The Board took the comments under advisement and directed staff to continue working on the proposed amendment.

7. Introduction of Jake Brakes: Ms. Bradley informed the Board that a letter was received from Senator McIlhinney's office requesting the adoption of a Jake Brake Ordinance along the Route 202 corridor. A Jake Brake is an add-on engine brake for diesel engines that can be very noisy when applied. Some communities are limiting the use to daylight hours.

Mr. Cotton commented that the new Route 202 Parkway is intended to alleviate truck traffic on the existing Route 202.

8. Veteran's & Service Recognition Awards: Ms. Bradley received a letter from a local resident who would like the Board to recognize local servicepersons' family members who are at home minding the house, children and working while their loved one is serving their country. The letter states that these are the true heroes. Mr. Scanzillo commented that while it may be difficult to identify everyone who is serving in the military, it is not impossible to do. He suggested New Britain Township post a notice on the TV, web site and next newsletter. Mr. Cotton suggested a special committee. Mr. Jones suggested we contact the National Guard.

Ms. Bilotta thought Butler Elementary may have this information since the students just conducted a food drive for local military families.

9. Veteran's Committee Update: Ms. Bradley informed the Board that the first meeting of the year was held this past week. The committee would like to install 5 medallions representing each of the 5 armed forces on the back of the monument, which faces the park. Ms. Bradley also informed the Board that an Eagle Scout will be building and installing benches for his Eagle Scout project.

10. Hough Associates Agreement; Prepare PA DEP Recycling Grant Application: Ms. Bradley presented the agreement with Hough Associates to prepare the township's 2009 904 Performance Grant application. Hough Associates will collect the recycling data from the haulers and businesses and prepare the application for a cost of \$5,000.00. This has resulted in a significant increase in our grant award the past few years.

MOTION: Upon motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Cotton, the Board unanimously approved the agreement with Hough Associates.

11. Board of Supervisor Comments: Mrs. Haun commented that there will be a Water Resources meeting in February.

12. Administration Comments: None

13. Solicitor & Engineer Comments: Mr. Kennard informed the Board that he is working on a draft update of the Neshaminy Creek Act 167 Plan.

Mr. Kennard also informed the Board that the Maurer tract will be on the agenda of the next Board of Supervisor's meeting agenda as a revised final. The applicant has revised his plan from on-lot sewage system to public and added 3 lots. The Planning Commission is recommending a trail connection at the cul-de-sac to connect to the existing trail in Chalfont Borough.

Mr. Rice informed the Board that the Township has received the Bucks County Planning Commission's review of the SALDO amendment. The Bucks County Planning Commission is suggesting language be incorporated to include a requirement that all submissions be consistent with the Township's Act 537 Plan.

The Board directed the Solicitor to incorporate this language into the amendment and re-submit to the Bucks County Planning Commission.

14. Public Comment: Ms. Gross thanked the Board for listening to her comments regarding the posting of agricultural signs.

15. Executive Session: The Board went into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues.

16. Adjournment:

MOTION: A motion was made by Mrs. Haun and seconded by Mr. Scanzillo to adjourn to Executive Session at 10:00 a.m.

NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

John A. Bodden, Chairman

Helen B. Haun, Vice-Chair

Robert V. Cotton, Member

William B. Jones, Member

A. James Scanzillo, Member

Attest: _____

Eileen Bradley
Secretary/ Manager

