

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES
August 20, 2012**

A Regular Meeting of the New Britain Township Board of Supervisors was held on Monday, August 20, 2012 at the Township Administration Building, 207 Park Avenue, New Britain Township, PA, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Present were Supervisors: Chair William B. Jones, Vice Chair A. James Scanzillo, Members John A. Bodden, Robert V. Cotton and Helen B. Haun. Also present were Township Manager Eileen M. Bradley, Township Solicitor Peter Nelson and Township Engineer Craig Kennard.

- 1. Call to Order:** Mr. Jones called the Meeting to order.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. Jones led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 3. Announcements:** Mr. Jones announced that the Board met in executive session at 6:30 to discuss land acquisition, personnel and litigation issues.
- 4. Public Comment:** There was no Public Comment at this time.
- 5. Approval of Minutes**

5.1. Minutes from July 16, 2012 Board of Supervisors' Regular Meeting:

MOTION: A motion was made by Mrs. Haun, seconded by Mr. Scanzillo, and unanimously carried, to approve the July 16, 2012 Minutes as written.

6. Departmental Reports:

- 6.1. Code Enforcement:** Mr. Teschner presented the Code Enforcement Report for July 2012.
- 6.2. Police Department:** Chief Scafidi presented the Police Report for July 2012.
- 6.3. Public Works Department:** Assistant Superintendent Ryan Cressman presented the Public Works Report for July 2012

7. Consideration of Old Business:

7.1. Central Bucks Regional Police Participation Discussion: Ms. Bradley presented a presentation highlighting a PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Regional Police Feasibility Study. The Regional Department would cover 63 square miles, encompass five municipalities, and serve a population of 54,790. The five participating municipalities are New Britain Township, New Britain Borough, Doylestown Borough, Doylestown Township, and Plumstead Township. The Department would consist of 66 officers, 9 clerical staff, with 40 vehicles. Ten to fifteen officers would be on duty each shift, covering nine proposed patrol zones. Detectives and Administration would work out of Doylestown Township and Patrol Officers would work out of Plumstead Township. Expenses for the new Department would be distributed throughout all five municipalities through a formula based on Population, Calls for Service, Part One Crimes and Road Miles. New Britain Township would be responsible for 18.4% of expenses. Year one projected payroll costs are \$8.76 million and \$1.3 million for everything else (electric, insurance, rent, etc.). Payroll figures are based on the highest paid salary and benefits for each position throughout the five municipalities.

No revenue is projected for the Year One Budget. Per the report, New Britain Township's projected savings over our existing Department would be \$136,119.

The DCED Report calls for construction of a new centralized Police Facility of 18,000 square feet within five years of formation of the Department, however, the Report does not reflect the cost of this major capital expenditure, or the ongoing debt service. A new facility could cost anywhere from \$5 to \$10 million dollars, with the Township contractually obligated to pay one fifth, or 20% of that cost. The merger will require the combination of five or more different Police Pension Plans and as of this date, no actuarial analysis has been done as to the impact of combining pension plans, or the costs of inactivating plans and creating new pension plans. The report calls for turnover of all municipally owned Police equipment, materials and vehicles. Although this turnover is not equivalent over the five municipalities, no credit is given for anything turned over. The Regional Department would need to negotiate a new contract to combine five different Collective Bargaining Units.

Detectives and Patrolman working out of different locations make a disjointed Department that must cover large distances to get to their patrol zones and to respond to calls for service. The distance from border to border from Plumstead to New Britain Township is up to 20 miles and the distance from Doylestown Township to New Britain Township is up to 7 miles. Response times to areas of New Britain Township would be dramatically extended and the continuity of service to our residents will be reduced. Patrol zones seem to be concentrated in the Doylestown Area, where 49% of the combined population resides and 57% of the combined Call for Service and 67% of the combined Part One Crimes occur. An argument can be made that the 15 officers on duty will not be in New Britain.

The proposed Regional Contract gives each municipality ONE vote on the governing committee. New Britain Township would be giving up our autonomy and would have less ability to institute fiscal restraint, a long-standing policy. Should New Britain join the Regional Department, and then decide to pull out, the Township would be contractually obligated for 20% of any capital debt service on this proposed building and that financial obligation could easily be equivalent to one mill of taxes per year over the life of the debt. If New Britain Township decides to leave after joining, they would need to start the former department over with all new vehicles, equipment, uniforms, guns, etc.

Mr. Dolan of Indian Creek Way asked if the number of officers listed in the Report included chiefs and Chief Scafidi responded stating that the numbers include everyone; Chiefs would be reassigned to other police duties. Mr. Dolan asked if the Report was proposed for economic reasons only. Ms. Bradley stated that the DCED Report calls for a fully accredited department. There are many aspects that are good, but there are also negative ramifications. Mr. Dolan also asked what the downside was to not join the proposed Regional Department. Mr. Bodden stated that the Board has not found a downside to retaining our current Department yet and they have not seen anything that benefits the residents.

Mr. Bodden questioned the accuracy of some of the information in the Report and suggested that perhaps formulas should have been based on square miles. Mrs. Haun stated that the Township Supervisors work hard to keep costs down; a regional department acquiring a new building would be a huge expense. Mr. Cotton stated that our Officers know our roads and residents, and have a great response time. If the Township were to regionalize, it would be a disservice to our residents.

MOTION: Upon motion of Mr. Bodden, seconded by Mr. Cotton, and unanimously carried, the Board decided to withdraw from the Regional Police Study Committee; thanked the DCED and the remaining Regional partners for their hard work.

8. Consideration of New Business:

8.1. Proposed Housekeeping Ordinance: Ms. Bradley presented an ordinance amending Chapter 27, Zoning, clarifying inconsistencies between the Table of Uses and the Text of the Use Regulations in each District. The Use Table does not match the text of the ordinance in several places, due to typographical and clerical errors. Amending this ordinance will correct those inconsistencies and will not create any substantive changes.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Scanzillo, seconded by Mrs. Haun, and unanimously carried, to forward the proposed ordinance to the Bucks County Planning Commission for approval and to authorize advertisement for adoption at a public meeting.

8.2. Roberts Technology Addition and Request for Waiver of Land Development: Appearing for the Applicant, Roberts Technology, was Mr. Robert Cheatle, Jr., owner, and Mr. Cassiola of Monogram Construction. In 1999, Roberts Technology was granted Land Development approval for a building that included a future expansion of 16,000 square feet. Roberts Technology was seeking to construct 8,000 square feet, and seeking waiver of Land Development based on the prior approval.

Mr. Cheatle stated that Robert Technology is a film and packaging machine distributor, not a manufacturing company. The addition would be strictly warehouse use and would not increase the number of employees, currently 20. The Applicant was requesting that 30 required parking spaces be allowed in reserve. Mr. Cotton asked if there is high volume of trucks on a daily basis. Mr. Cheatle responded that there are only about six tractor-trailers a day.

Mr. Kennard recommended approval of Waiver of Land Development, based on compliance by the Applicant with the August 15, 2012 review letter from Gilmore.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Bodden, seconded by Mr. Scanzillo, and unanimously carried, to approve Roberts Technology's request for Waiver of Land Development based on compliance with Gilmore & Associates review letter dated August 15, 2012; the recording of an exhibit outlining the approval subject to Township approval.

8.3. KEMA PowerTest Addition: At the request of the Applicant, this issue was tabled to a future meeting.

9. Consent Agenda: There were no Consent Agenda items.

10. Board of Supervisors Comments: There were no Supervisor comments at this time.

11. Township Administration Comments:

11.1. Recycling Drop-Off Container: Ms. Bradley stated that New Britian Township had been presented with the opportunity through Newman and Company and United States Recycling to offer a drop-off recycling service to their residents for cardboard and paper, at no cost to the Township, and the possibility of increasing grant funding. Ms. Bradley stated that a location had been selected at the Public Works facility, and staff was ready to move forward with the Boards approval.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mrs. Haun, seconded by Mr. Bodden, and unanimously carried, to contract with Newman and Company and United States Recycling for a dumpster to offer drop-off cardboard and paper recycling to their residents, at no cost to the Township.

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

13. Other Business: There was no Other Business.

14. Public Comment: Mr. and Mrs. Dolan thanked the Board and the Township for painting lines along the shoulder of Park Avenue by the North Branch Park entrance, prohibiting vehicles from passing on the right shoulder.

15. Payment of Bills:

15.1. Bills List dated August 2, 2012 for \$140,066.61:

MOTION: Upon motion by Mrs. Haun, seconded by Mr. Bodden, the Board unanimously approved the Bills List dated August 2, 2012 for \$140,066.61. This includes \$54,160 for Fire and Ambulance Tax Distribution.

15.2. Bills List dated August 16, 2012 for \$115,024.94:

MOTION: Upon motion by Mr. Bodden, seconded by Mrs. Haun, the Board unanimously approved the Bills List dated August 16, 2012 for \$115,024.94. This includes \$54,329.12 for health insurance and \$12,544.78 for escrow distributions.

16. Adjournment:

MOTION: There being no further business or comment, a motion was made by Mrs. Haun, seconded by Mr. Scanzillo, and unanimously carried, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

William B. Jones, Chair

A. James Scanzillo, Vice Chair

Robert V. Cotton, Member

John A. Bodden, Member

Helen B. Haun, Member

Attest: _____
Eileen M. Bradley
Secretary/Manager