

WEST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
MARCH 9, 2011

Township Supervisors:

Mr. Edward G. Meakim, Jr., Chairman  
Dr. Robert S. White, Vice-Chairman  
Mrs. Patricia B. McIlvaine, Member

Township Officials:

Mr. Casey LaLonde, Township Manager  
Ms. Jeanne Denham, Finance Director  
Mr. Richard Craig, Township Engineer  
Mr. Raymond D. McKeeman, Zoning Officer

A regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of West Goshen Township was called to order by Chairman Edward Meakim at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9, 2011 at the West Goshen Township Administration Building. Mr. Meakim opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Captain Joseph Gleason gave the Police Report for the month of February 2011. Captain Gleason also stated that the West Goshen Township Police Department was hosting Skate-a-Rama at Iceline on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

Ms. Andrea Testa, Fire Marshal, gave the Fire Marshal Report for the month of February 2011. Ms. Testa also gave the report for Good Fellowship Ambulance Company and the Goshen Fire Company.

Mr. John Beswick, Building Official, gave the Building Inspection Activity Report for February 2011.

Mr. Meakim opened the floor for public comment.

Reverend Ralph Mero, 1215 Eagle Road, presented a letter from the West Chester Library, thanking the West Goshen Township Board of Supervisors for their \$2,500 contribution for 2011.

Mr. Meakim announced that the Board of Supervisors held an executive session regarding personnel issues on March 9, 2011.

Mr. LaLonde stated that the Chester Ridley Crum Watershed Association was hosting a "Health Yards, Healthy Streams" seminar on Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM at Rustin High School. The topic is how to create an environmentally sustainable and attractive residential yard.

On motion by Mrs. McIlvaine, seconded by Mr. Meakim, the Board approved the Board of Supervisors minutes dated February 9, 2011. Dr. White abstained.

On motion by Mr. Meakim, seconded by Dr. White, the Board approved the Treasurer's Report dated February 28, 2011 for the General Fund, the Sewer Revenue Fund, the Waste and Recycling Fund, and the Capital Reserve Fund, as well as the bills to be paid from the General Fund, the Sewer Fund, the Capitol Reserve Fund and the Waste and Recycling Fund.

On a motion by Dr. White, seconded by Mr. Meakim, the Board approved the Final Land Development Plan for a 2,300 square foot building addition for the Chester County SPCA located at 1212 Phoenixville Pike.

On a motion by Mr. Meakim, seconded by Dr. White, the Board approved Resolution 05-2011 for placement of 25 mile per hour speed limit signs on Kirkland Avenue.

On a motion by Mr. Meakim, seconded by Dr. White, the Board approved the Final Land Development Plan for a 1,200 square foot bath house at the Roslyn Swim Club.

Dr. White stated that through the diligent work of the Jeanne Denham, the Finance Department and the various Township Department Heads, the Township's budgeted 2010 deficit of \$1,500,000 was reduced to a deficit of \$132,000. Dr. White thanked the Township staff for their work in reducing the deficit.

Bob Stratton, 816 Spruce Avenue, asked about the proposed Pennsylvania budget spending cuts and their effect on Township funding. Mr. LaLonde responded that the proposed budget will not have a direct impact on state funding to the Township, as we receive so little currently. The Township only receives Liquid Fuels taxes as funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, and the proposed budget does not interfere with those taxes.

Mr. David Leinbach of Kaiser Construction provided a history of the new Streets Building, currently under construction adjacent to the existing Township buildings. Mr. Leinbach stated that Kaiser Construction was first hired to conduct a feasibility study for a new facility based on current usage and needs of the Township residents and Streets Department capabilities, and now serves as the Construction Manager. He stated that once the feasibility study was concluded, a schematic design was put out to bid to architects and mechanical engineers to design the building. The project was designed to be very energy efficient, such as the use of radiant floor heating, skylights and translucent sidewalls. The skylights and translucent sidewalls allow enough natural light into the facility so that during normal daytime operations, no artificial lights would be needed. In addition, all artificial lighting that would be required for nighttime operations are on motion sensors, meaning that unless an employee is in a specific area, the lights are not utilized. Mr. Leinbach stated that the building's design is intended to produce a structure that will last many decades.

Reverend Ralph Mero, 1215 Eagle Road, asked for the building's completion date. Mr. Leinbach responded April to the middle of May, depending on weather. Reverend Mero asked if geothermal was investigated as a heat and cooling method. Mr. Leinbach responded that we did investigate geothermal, but the cost was prohibitive at around \$250,000 and that the long-term functionality of geothermal is now in question, especially given this small construction site. Reverend Mero asked about solar panels. Mr. LaLonde responded that the Township applied for grants, but did not receive any funding.

Reverend Mero asked about change orders. Mr. Leinbach responded that the Construction Manager (Kaiser Construction), the Architect (Ralph C. Fey Architects) and the Mechanical Engineer (Hofmeister Engineering) were required in the Request for Proposals for Professional Services to provide a flat fee price for services. School District and some municipal construction projects allow for a percentage basis of the overall project cost. This project does not allow for a percentage basis fee for professional services, so any change orders are strictly monitored, but do not cost additional professional fees.

Mr. Hank Whalen 688 Normandy Court, asked about the soil change order. Mr. Leinbach explained that soils tests were conducted, but as the use was previously as an athletic field, the soil conditions were not good for a building. Soils were removed and replaced with more suitable soils.

Township Engineer Rick Craig provided an update of a plan to improve the Louis E. Close Pistol Range, located on South Concord Road. Mr. Craig stated that the shooting range has been in continuous operation since approximately 1962 and has only been utilized by members of law enforcement of the greater West Chester area. Mr. Craig gave his qualifications as Township Engineer, certified NRA Firearms Instructor and certified Police Department Firearms Instructor.

Mr. Craig presented plans to install shooting range upgrades that will surpass current National Rifle Association (NRA) shooting range guidelines. He presented a plan to install 3'x3'x6' cast concrete "bin blocks" at an overall height of 9' for a distance of 180' on each side as the sidewalls for the shooting area of the range. Current NRA guidelines suggest a height of 8' and wall thickness of 8" is preferred. This construction will surpass the NRA guidelines.

Mr. Craig presented a plan to increase the soil backstop from the current approximately 25' to an average height of 30'. Current NRA guidelines suggest a backstop of 18' is sufficient. This construction will surpass the NRA guidelines.

Mr. Craig presented a plan to add a "bullet catcher" construction on top of the 30' high soil backstop. The backstop will be 6' in length and be installed jutting out from the top of the soil backstop to stop any possible skidding of rounds from traveling up the backstop and out of the range. This construction will meet or exceed the NRA guidelines.

Mr. Craig presented a plan to add security fencing to surround the immediate shooting range with 6' tall chain link fencing with an additional three strands of barbed wire on the top of the fence. In addition to the security fencing immediately surrounding the shooting range, a 10' stockade fence will be added to the north side of the property, adjacent to the driveway to provide a visual barrier for the entire range.

Mr. Craig presented a plan to install overhead "baffles" to stop rounds from leaving the range at specific yardage intervals. The baffles will provide overhead coverage for Officers firing from these specific yardages. While situated under the baffles, the shooting Officers will not be able to fire their weapons into the sky, precluding any rounds from leaving the range. The baffles will be constructed from timber with gravel placed inside the cavity of the roof compartment of each baffle. The combination of the timber and gravel will stop any type of round currently fired at the range.

Mr. Craig stated that all of the improvements will meet or exceed the guidelines as established in the latest NRA range guidebook.

In addition, the Township has signed a contract with the NRA to have one of their certified range inspectors inspect the improvements and provide comment.

Finally, Mr. Craig stated, with the Board's approval, that a design to permanently enclose the range also be investigated for funding perhaps in the 2012 budget as a phase two.

Dr. White asked how much all of these phase one improvements would cost. Mr. Craig estimated that the improvements will cost between \$50,000 and \$60,000.

Ms. Tracey Whalen, 688 Normandy Court, asked about the proposed fences' interference with the floodplain in the area. Mr. Craig responded that a flood study was conducted when the Sewer Authority expanded the adjacent sewer plant. The study showed that only a small section of the shooting range, precisely the southeast corner, well away from the proposed fencing, was in the floodplain.

Mr. Hank Whalen, 688 Normandy Court, asked for documentation from someone outside the Township regarding the floodplain. Mr. Whalen also stated that the soil berm located adjacent to the sewer plant, on the access drive to the shooting range, was in the floodplain as well. Mr. Craig reiterated that a flood study was conducted as part of the sewer plant expansion several years ago and that the berm was not in the floodplain and that only a small section of the southeast corner of the shooting range was in the floodplain.

Mr. Daniel Nece, 857 Shaumont Drive, asked about the status of the proposed county shooting facility. Captain Gleason responded that bids are out for Phase I, mostly for training rooms; Phase II is fire department training areas and is scheduled for 2012; with Phase III, Police shooting range, etc., not scheduled until 2014.

Mr. Mark Phillis, 689 Normandy Court, asked if any other sites in the Township or outside the Township were considered. He asked if the West Chester Area Emergency Response Team needs to train at this range.

Mr. Phillip Corvo, 863 Empress Road, presented several slides about the history of the Louis E. Close Pistol Range.

Mr. Scott Clark, 322 Box Elder Drive, stated that the Police need this training and this facility.

Mr. Lou Macauley, 827 Halvorsen Drive, asked Mr. Craig if he was a licensed Engineer. Mr. Craig responded that is a licensed Professional Engineer in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Mr. Macauley asked who would be responsible for an accident at the shooting range. Mr. LaLonde responded that the Board of Supervisors, the Township and the Police Department would be responsible for an accident at the range.

Ms. Dawn Anderson, 825 Halvorsen Drive, wants to see the range improved for safety reasons. She asked if the other municipal users of the range would be charged for that use. Dr. White responded that that is an option.

Mr. Will Morrison, 1119 Windsor Drive, mentioned the recent Microtel shooting and that the training received by Sgt. Carroll at this range most likely saved his life.

Mr. Robert Field, Schoolhouse Lane, stated he was a lifetime resident. He stated that residents need and demand services and the Police force needs training. He stated that West Goshen Township needs this shooting range.

Ms. Kathy McKenzie, 685 Normandy Court, stated that no one is disputing the fact that the Police need training, but asked where other law enforcement agencies train.

Mr. Al English, 1104 Nottingham Drive, asked what type of material would be placed on the top of the baffles. Mr. Craig responded that the top of the baffles will be constructed of timber.

Mrs. Shirley Colvin, 830 Spruce Avenue, stated that this shooting range issue has been discussed for four years; and asked why these improvements are being discussed now. Captain Gleason responded that the complaints over the past four years have been noise related, but recently safety concerns were raised, so the Township is responding to those safety questions.

Mr. Hank Whalen, 688 Normandy Court, stated that he wants the Police Department to train in a safe environment. He stated that there are twelve other training locations including the Delaware County range. He went on to state there are plenty of places to train and that no improvements can truly safeguard a range.

Mr. Tom Keyer, 683 Normandy Court, stated that he does not like the rhetoric and asked that we tone down the negative rhetoric. He stated that he is concerned that the proposed improvements would not be followed through and would like a commitment by the Board of Supervisors to follow through on the proposal by Mr. Craig. He stated that he is very confident in the West Goshen Township Police Department, but wants the range improved.

On a motion by Dr. White, seconded by Mr. Meakim unanimously approved the expenditure of between \$45,000 and \$60,000 to construct the phase one shooting range improvements, as proposed by Mr. Craig, with the intention of designing a permanently enclosed range in 2012.

Mr. Hank Whalen 688 Normandy Court, suggested that an outside consultant be hired by the Township to design the temporary improvements and asked that the Board consider doing so. The Board responded that Mr. Craig is more than qualified to design these improvements.

Mr. Mark Phillis, 689 Normandy Court, asked if the Board had considered moving the range to another location inside or outside the Township. Mr. Meakim responded that the Board has not considered moving the range to another location, especially outside the Township, as the West Goshen Township Police Officers need to be immediately available for service calls while training.

Mr. Meakim opened the floor for public comment.

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. Meakim, seconded by Dr. White, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Casey LaLonde  
Township Secretary