

# MINUTES

## Antis Township Board of Supervisors Meeting

October 3, 2013, Antis Township Meeting Room

7:00 PM

### ATTENDANCE

#### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Raymond Amato, Robert Smith, Charlie Taylor, Kenneth Hostler, Charles Caracciolo II

#### VISITORS:

Joe Snyder, Resident; Bob Himes, Resident; Bill Plummer, Resident; Jeff Miller, Parkview Estates; C.J. Mayes, Parkview Estates; Adeena Harbst, Tyrone Herald; Chris Arseniu, Ordinance Enforcement Officer; Steve Shiffler, Road Foreman; Patrick Fanelli, Fanelli Willett Law Offices; Lori Del Biondo, Township Secretary-Treasurer; Lucas Martsof, Township Manager; Chris Dutrow, Township Engineer; Barry Leonard

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The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Raymond Amato, followed by prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

During Public Comment Period, Barry Leonard thanked the crew for removing an eight year old silt bag out of the drain near his home.

The September 5, 2013 Board of Supervisors Meeting minutes were approved on the motion of Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Taylor followed by a 5-0 aye vote.

#### Supervisor's Reports

1. Ray Amato

- Chairman Amato acknowledged the Hilltop Community Church who painted the buildings and trimmed trees at the Bellwood-Antis Community Park.

2. Bob Smith

- Supervisor Smith reported that Northern Blair has agreed to pay an additional \$320K to pay for excavating to install inspection ports on the laterals coming from private homes where they collect to the sewer mains as part of the Tipton repair project. It is the intention of Northern Blair to become more vigilant in determining who may be inappropriately generating I & I into the system because it increases the treatment costs at the Tyrone treatment plant. Northern Blair has scheduled a Special Meeting scheduled to enact a resolution to take action against those who are identified as putting I & I into the system.

3. Charlie Taylor

- Supervisor Taylor reported that as an authorized representative of the Township and the Borough he attended the Bellwood-Antis School Board meeting and requested that the

Board consider increasing the earnings threshold for the Flat Rate Income Tax to \$2,500 to be consistent with the Borough and the Township. He reported that the School Board took action to adopt that change. Lori Del Biondo reported that the Tax Collection Bureau has identified approximately 77 returns for the year 2012 that potentially inappropriately paid that tax and expects refunds to be issued to the involved parties by mid-November.

4. Ken Hostler

- Supervisor Hostler requested that the manager contact PennDOT to determine what is going on with the work at the railroad crossing in Tipton on SR 4021 and encourage Norfolk Southern to get the work completed.

5. C.J. Caracciolo

- Supervisor Caracciolo reported that citizens have expressed their appreciation regarding the extended hours at the compost site.

Attorney Fanelli presented information on the proposed Ordinance #5-2013 to amend the Local Services Tax from \$10 to \$52. The solicitor expressed that the tax is levied only on those individuals who work in the Township and would exempt those who earn less than \$12,000. Supervisor Smith commented that implementation of an increase to this tax has been discussed on numerous occasions over the last few years and he commended Supervisor Taylor and the manager in providing enough information for the Board to feel comfortable in the change. The Manager added that this tax should make the Township solvent eliminating the need to go to homeowners for increased property tax for a number of years. On the motion of Bob Smith, seconded by Charlie Taylor followed by a 5-0 aye vote, authorization was given to place the appropriate advertisements in preparation for consideration of adoption at the November meeting.

The solicitor gave an overview of how we should proceed with the codification process.

Mr. Martsof reported that the work on Watts Road has concluded and was reopened on September 27<sup>th</sup>. He also reported that the Township has made arrangements with a tree trimming service to clear the right-of-ways of dead branches and those that impair the visibility of motorists. The work will be concentrated to specific areas of the Township and look at other portions of the Township in subsequent years as needed. The manager requested an executive session to discuss a litigation matter.

Chris Dutrow reported that the plans for the Forshey Street Waterline Extension Project are complete and is ready to be advertised for construction bids. The waterline extension will service approximately 10 homes in the Pinecroft area at an estimated cost of \$156K. The waterline has been designed to the Altoona City Water Authorities' standards and will be dedicated to them upon completion. Mr. Smith commented that the project will be financed through CDBG funds. Authorization was given to the Township Engineer to advertise for construction bids on the motion of Supervisor Caracciolo, seconded by Supervisor Smith followed by a 5-0 aye vote.

Chris Dutrow recommended replacement of the corroded storm sewer pipe located downstream of Inlet 7 (the pipe that crosses under Sunrise Court). Due to the Township not having the capability of doing the recommended work, it was advised that we seek the services of a qualified contractor. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$13,000 and therefore does not meet bidding requirements. Supervisor Smith moved to authorize the manager to solicit price quotes for the project. The motion was seconded by

Supervisor Caracciolo followed by a 5-0 aye vote.

Mr. Miller a resident of Sunrise Court inquired as to what would be done to remedy the sinkhole in his yard. It was clarified that the impending repair in the area of Inlet 7 is a separate issue from the sink hole that has developed in his yard. Exploration of the area by the Township Engineer revealed no defects in the storm water pipe that would contribute to the formation of a sinkhole. Mr. Miller was advised again that we have not been able to determine a problem with the storm water pipe in this area. Mr. Hostler responded that we cannot take on a responsibility that is not ours and pass the cost onto the taxpayers of the Township for an issue that may be an act of God. Supervisor Taylor responded that no one has been able to demonstrate that there is a defect in our storm water system.

Due to his inability to attend the Planning Commission meeting, Supervisor Smith provided a report based on the minutes. He reported that Robert Himes attended the meeting and inquired about subdividing two parcels of land. He was advised to refer to the Subdivision Ordinance and present his proposal in sketch phase. Mr. Dutrow confirmed that the sewer system as described by Mr. Himes would be considered public sewer under the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance and therefore could establish a minimum lot size of ½ acre. Note was made that there are still issues with respect to the right-of-way.

Mr. Smith also presented the Harold & Bernese Fleig Small Flow Treatment Facility Planning Module, property code 3-19-49-1 located along Riggles Gap Road, Antis Township. The intent is to construct a home and a small flow treatment facility upon the property. Supervisor Taylor inquired as to whether the financial security in the amount of \$2K was adequate. The secretary responded that it was the amount established and recommended by Luke Helsel and approved by the Board several years ago. On the motion of Supervisor Smith, seconded by Supervisor Taylor, followed by a 5-0 aye vote, the Harold & Bernese Planning Module was approved. In a separate motion, Supervisor Smith moved that approval be contingent upon the language in the Maintenance Agreement being acceptable to the Solicitor. The Solicitor responded that although there is ambiguity in using the term “shall be provided” it is clear from the context that the obligations belong to the property owner. It was the consensus of the Board that this particular agreement is acceptable as submitted but in the future we should refrain from accepting agreements with ambiguous language. Given this, Supervisor Smith rescinded his motion.

The Treasurer’s Report was approved on the motion of Supervisor Caracciolo, seconded by Supervisor Taylor followed by a 5-0 yes roll call vote.

Bills in the amount of \$24,029.96 to be paid from the General Fund, \$9,198.70 to be paid from the Capital Reserve Fund, \$2,299.67 from the State Fund, and \$7,078.20 from the Fire Hydrant Fund were approved on the motion of Supervisor Hostler seconded by Supervisor Caracciolo followed by a 5-0 yes roll call vote.

CDBG bills in the amount of \$975.46 were approved on the motion of Supervisor Hostler, seconded by Supervisor Caracciolo followed by a 5-0 yes roll call vote.

Based on the recommendation of the Manager, approval was given to adjust the Earned Income Tax (EIT) distribution beginning with Fiscal Year 2014 as follows:

Equipment Fund from 15% to 10%  
Capital Reserve Fund from 6% to 11%  
General Fund to remain at 79%

Approval was granted on the motion of Ken Hostler, seconded by Charlie Taylor followed by a 5-0 aye vote.

In regard to the request for a financial donation from the Friends of the Charlottesville Cemetery, it was the consensus of the Board to have a letter drafted indicating that the Board may be willing to entertain supporting this cause provided they could demonstrate the correct steps are being taken to comply with Federal and State laws and regulations for soliciting funds and operating a cemetery. It was added that the group is to be commended in its efforts to establish for the perpetual care of the cemetery.

Trick or Treat night was scheduled for October 31 from 6-8 PM on the motion of Supervisor Caracciolo, seconded by Supervisor Hostler followed by a 5-0 aye vote.

The Board went into executive session at 8:20 PM with the meeting adjourning at 9:00 PM.

Submitted by:  
Lori Del Biondo  
Antis Township Secretary-Treasurer