**Amity Township Board of Supervisors**

## **Meeting Minutes**

## November 16, 2011

## **Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag**

The November 16, 2011 meeting of the Amity Township Board of Supervisors, held at the Municipal Township Building, 2004 Weavertown Rd., Douglassville, Berks County, Pennsylvania, was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairperson Robert Yanos. The following were in attendance:

### SUPERVISORS

Robert R. Yanos, Chair

Terry Jones

Kim McGrath

Paul Weller

### STAFF

JoAnne Sowers Smith, Secretary/Treasurer

Charles E. Lyon, Township Manager

Kent Shuebrook, Chief of Police

Brian Boland, Solicitor/Kozloff Stoudt

John Weber, Engineer/LTL Consultants

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)**

None

**MINUTES**

Mrs. McGrath moved, seconded by Mr. Weller to approve the minutes of November 2, 2011. Motion passed 4-0

**FINANCE**

Mr. Weller moved, seconded by Mr. Jones and duly passed to approve the following disbursements:

  $ 73,521.71 General Fund (1)

 $ 52,052.32 Sewer Fund (8)

 $ 68,851.80 Fire Fund (4)

$ 10,787.85 Liquid Fuels (35)

$ 205,213.68 Total

**REPORTS**

***Fire Companies***

**Amity Fire Co-**Mr. Zomolsky reported that they had purchased the chassis for the new utility truck. He reported that he is working on diverting frivolous calls for mutual aid from other townships because of the cost of fuel. The Manager asked about the hot air balloon call. The fire companies were dispatched because they thought the balloon was coming down into power lines, the police were dispatched because the downed balloon was causing traffic problems.

**Zuazua Buffer Discussion**

Mr. Picardi, attorney for the Zuazua’s stated that there was a continuing problem with the buffer between their property and Vincenzo’s Restaurant. They proposed to replace the plantings with a solid fence for privacy. Mr. Weber stated that there still was money held in escrow for additional plantings which could offset the cost of the fence. Mr. Yanos stated he had no problem if the Manager could negotiate a deal with the Brutto’s to install a fence, but he didn’t feel that the taxpayers should have to pay for it. Mr. Jones stated he would be in favor of asking the Brutto’s to install a fence in lieu of landscaping.

 ***Planning Commission***

**Millard Waiver Request**

Mr. Simcox of Forino Co. asked the Board for a waiver for a second driveway. He stated it meets the dimensional requirements set forth by Mr. Weber. The Manager stated it was staff’s function to evaluate the dimensions for the waiver. Mr. Jones moved, seconded by Mr. Weller to grant the waiver for the second driveway. Motion passed 4-0.

***Roads***

Mr. Yanos moved, seconded by Mrs. McGrath to approve Mr. Howell-Clarke’s attendance at two LTAP classes. Motion passed 4-0. Mr. Howell Clarke asked the Board’s permission to not flood the tennis courts this winter because of damage to the courts. The Board agreed. Mr. Howell-Clarke will notify the fire companies and post the rink.

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT**

Mr. Boland presented the resolution for supporting the Morlatton Village Parking project. Mr. Jones moved, seconded by Mrs. McGrath to adopt the resolution. Motion passed 4-0. Mrs. McGrath moved, seconded by Mr. Jones to ratify the execution of the resolution to transfer the liquor license for Vincenzo’s. Motion passed 4-0. Mr. Yanos moved, seconded by Mr. Jones to authorize the advertising for the CPA firm for the annual audit of the Township’s accounts. Motion passed 4-0. Mr. Boland reported that a new bill had passed that increased the bidding thresholds for Township purchases. No bids are required for purchases up to $10,000, from $10,000 to $18,500 three telephonic quotes are required and bids are required for purchases over $18,500. These limits will be adjusted yearly according to the CPI.

**ENGINEER’S REPORT**

Mr. Weber reported that LTL had performed the annual inspections of the storm water facilities (MS-4) at the Villa and Hearthstone. Both were in good condition.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Monocacy Hill Resolution** Mr. Jones moved, seconded by Mr. Weller to adopt Resolution 11-08, closing Monocacy Hill during hunting season. Motion passed 4-0. Mr. Howell-Clarke will be certain the signs are posted.

EMPLOYEE/OFFICIAL REPORTS

**Manager** Mr. Lyon reported that the Lion’s Club had made several requests. The Rec Board tabled their flagpole request. They also would like to construct a second restroom/storage building at Amity Community Park at no cost to the Township. The Township staff would be involved in the design and inspection aspects of the project. It was the consensus of the Board to forward the item to the Licensing Committee. Mr. Yanos moved, seconded by Mr. Jones to purchase the 2012 infield mix allotment for Hill Road. Motion passed 4-0. Mr. Lyon reported that DBYS would like to construct dugouts on the lower field at Hill Road for safety reasons. Brian DeMild was present to report that the dugouts would be constructed with masonry and a permanent roof. DBYS would absorb all costs. Mr. Jones moved, seconded by Mr. Weller to approve the construction. Motion passed 4-0. The Manager stated he would like to name the unnamed road off Monocacy Creek Road, Stump Road, and the unnamed street in the Morlatton Village, Swede Lane. He would like to add these to the traffic ordinance when prepared. The manhole lining project is complete, Mr. Lyon stated he had photos if the Board would like to review.

**Chief of Police**

The Chief presented traffic detail information to the Board. He reported that service calls have remained the same. Aggressive driving details were performed on 422 in cooperation with the State Police. Mr. Yanos moved, seconded by Mr. Jones to repair or replace the spare taser at a cost of $650. Motion passed 4-0. The Chief reported that several officers had completed the mental health training at Penn State. Mr. Weller moved, seconded by Mr. Jones to approve the Chief’s attendance at the PA Chief’s “Doing More with Less” seminar. Motion passed 4-0. The Chief presented the Board with information regarding leasing. Mr. Jones stated he would rather purchase the car rather than lease, and he would prefer the SUV. Mr. Weller moved, seconded by Mr. Jones to purchase the SUV vehicle this year for $28, 459.61. Motion passed 4-0.

###### SUPERVISORS

Mr. Weller reported that the traffic light at 422 and Maplewood is working properly. The Manager reported that it was a programming problem.

Mr. Yanos asked the Manager to report on the health insurance policy. Mr. Lyon stated that a comparable policy has been found from the same company but the Township will realize a significant savings. He stated it requires new applications from the employees and there is a very short timeline to make the change. Mr. Jones stated he would like to pursue this policy and see if it can be changed. Mr. Lyon reported that the new agent is affiliated with National Penn Bank and the policy is outside the consortium.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Mr. Jones asked if there were sufficient reserves to cover any deficit in the budget. The Manager replied that there were. Mr. Jones moved, seconded by Mrs. McGrath to advertise the 2012 budget. Motion passed 4-0. Mr. Jones moved, seconded by Mrs. McGrath to authorize the payoff of the Haas farm. Motion passed 4-0.

**ADJOURNMENT & EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon a motion by Mr. Yanos and seconded by Mr. Weller and duly passed, the meeting was adjourned to executive session at 8:40PM to discuss contract negotiation updates.

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnne Sowers Smith

Secretary/Treasurer