**Amity Township Board of Supervisors**

**Meeting Minutes**

## December 5, 2012

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

The December 5th, 2012 meeting of the Amity Township Board of Supervisors, held at the Township Municipal 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

Kim McGrath, Vice Chair

Terry Jones

Richard Gokey

### STAFF

JoAnne Sowers Smith, Secretary/Treasurer

Charles E. Lyon, Township Manager

Kent Shuebrook, Chief of Police

Brian Boland, Solicitor/Kozloff Stoudt

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)**

None

**MINUTES**

Mr. Gokey moved, seconded by Mr. Yanos to approve the minutes of November 21, 2012. Motion passed 4-0.

**FINANCE**

##### Mr. Gokey moved, seconded by Mrs. McGrath and duly passed to approve the following disbursements:

$ 39,527.28 General Fund (1)

$ 13,378.92 Sewer Fund (8)

$ 2,358.00 Edu Fund (9)

$ 923.44 Liquid Fuels (35)

$ 56,187.64 Total

**REPORTS**

***Code Enforcement***

Mr. Gokey moved, seconded by Mrs. McGrath to authorize legal counsel to be present at an SMO violation hearing. Motion passed 4-0. The resident has a failed system and has refused to comply with a replacement order.

***Roads***

Mr. Howell-Clarke reported that the base repair project in Highmeadows will start on the 11th of this month. Mr. Yanos stated he thought the leaf collection was proceeding slowly. Mr. Howell-Clarke stated he was considering allowing residents to choose whether to have their leaves collected with the vacuum or to bag them as they had done in the past. Mr. Yanos stated this should be analyzed before next fall.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

***Pension RFP*** Mr. Boland presented the findings of fact and decision supporting the pension committee’s position to select PNC as pension trustee and to affirm the award for pension services to PNC for the township’s non-uniform and police pension plans. Mr. Gokey stated he felt National Penn made a point regarding using the same standards to evaluate the proposals. Mr. Boland said that PNC Institutional Investments had made a satisfactory response, rebuking those allegations. Mrs. McGrath moved, seconded by Mr. Gokey to authorize the execution of the decision and findings of fact. Motion passed 4-0. There is a thirty (30) day appeal period and a sixty (60) day transfer period. Mr. Boland stated that all bidders will receive a copy of the findings of fact from his office.

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT**

***Woodland Extraction Ordinance*** Mr. Boland stated that the meeting was the time and place advertised to hold a hearing to consider the adoption of this ordinance amending the zoning ordinance regarding woodland extraction regulations and tree ratio planting. He introduced eleven (11) exhibits into the record including the ordinance itself. There was no public comment. Mrs. McGrath moved, seconded by Mr. Gokey to adopt Ordinance 281 as presented. Motion passed 4-0.

EMPLOYEE/OFFICIAL REPORTS

**Manager** The Secretary reported that a second promissory note for radios for Southern Berks EMS was not forwarded to the Township by the management of SBEMS. It is significantly more than the one that was approved and included in the budget- $19,367. Additionally, the deadline to place the order with the County had passed. The Board discussed how many radios were included and the financing of said radios. Mr. Yanos stated he didn’t think it was fair to the residents and the employees of the Township to pay for these radios. Mr. Jones moved to take no action on this matter. He later withdrew his motion. Mr. Boland explained that the County claims that they own the radios and if any agency dissolves, the radios will revert to the County. The Board decided to take no action.

Projects are moving along at the WWTP. The flood pumps have been ordered and are expected in six to eight weeks. The preemption signals have been installed at 422 and Monocacy Creek and Limekiln Roads. Mr. Lyon reported that timing changes for 422 and Monocacy Creek Road have been sent to Telco. The Manager reported that he had received a letter from Senator Rafferty soliciting a possible capital project for inclusion in the Commonwealth’s Capital Budget that is compiled every (2) two years. He stated that the AWIP or the Overlay properties could qualify; however, he felt the AWIP project is not close enough to a start. The redevelopment assistance project must be at least one million dollars and requires a 50% match. Mr. Lyon stated he had talked to the Senator’s office and his staff felt that the overlay properties project was most suitable for submission. The Manager stated that community block grants and traffic impact fees could be used as the township match as well as private sector contributions. A business proposal, as prepared by the Manager, would be submitted to the Senator’s office. With his recommendation, it is then put on a list of projects, which may or may not be funded. Mrs. McGrath moved, seconded by Mr. Gokey to authorize the Manager to put together a proposal and submit to the Senator for the program. Motion passed 4-0. It was the consensus of the Board that funding for this project, if selected, would not come from property tax monies or from General Fund Revenues.

**Chief of Police** The Chief requested permission to sign up for Munici-bid to dispose of a police vehicle. It was the consensus of the Board to approve. Mr. Yanos discussed the Chief’s comments at the last meeting regarding the mileage being put on police vehicles. Mr. Gokey stated he had spoken to a service manager at a large vehicle dealer. The service manager thought that the Township could get more than 175,000 miles from a police vehicle. Mrs. McGrath agreed. She felt that if the suspension was weakened from mileage, it would be less expensive to replace the suspension than to purchase a new vehicle. She said she would like to see a spreadsheet with mileage and maintenance records on each of the vehicles.

###### SUPERVISORS

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mary Bompadre again asked the Board if she could keep her chickens. She felt the ordinance needed to be changed. Chuck Wadsworth, her neighbor, supported her position. The Manager stated the Township had received eight different complaints. Mr. Yanos offered to take the chickens. Mr. Gokey stated it was very expensive to change an ordinance. Mr. Rausher asked about the rural village zone. Mr. Yanos stated that staff had taken if off the agenda. If the Board wants to move forward with it, they would need to request that it be put back on the agenda. There was no direction to do so. Mr. Yanos asked about the number of horses allowed on the Farmingdale Farm.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION & ADJOURNMENT**

Upon a motion by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mr. Yanos the meeting was adjourned to executive session at 8:44 PM for personnel issues. Motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnne Sowers Smith

Secretary/Treasurer