

Amity Township Board of Supervisors
Meeting Minutes
January 3, 2012

Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag

The January 3, 2012 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
Kim McGrath, Vice Chair
Paul Weller
Terry Jones
Richard Gokey

STAFF

JoAnne Sowers-Smith, Secretary/Treasurer
Charles E. Lyon, Manager
Kent Shuebrook, Chief of Police
Brian Boland, Solicitor/Kozloff Stoudt

Nomination/Election of Temporary Chairperson

Motion by Mrs. McGrath, seconded by Mr. Jones, to open the floor for nominations for Temporary Chairperson. Motion passed unanimously. Mrs. McGrath, seconded by Mr. Jones, nominated Brian Boland as temporary Chairperson. Motion passed unanimously.

Nomination/Election of Temporary Secretary

Motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mrs. McGrath, to open the floor for nominations for Temporary Secretary. Motion passed unanimously.
Mrs. McGrath, seconded by Mr. Jones, nominated JoAnne Sowers-Smith as temporary Secretary. Motion passed unanimously.

Nomination/Election of Chairperson

Motion by Mrs. McGrath, seconded by Mr. Gokey, to open the floor for nominations for Chairperson for the year 2012. Motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. McGrath, seconded by Mr. Gokey nominated Robert Yanos.

Motion by Mr. Gokey, seconded by Mr. Jones, to close the floor for nominations for Chairperson for the year 2012. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Yanos was duly appointed Chairperson for year 2012.

Nominations/Election of Vice Chairperson

Motion by Mr. Yanos, seconded by Mrs. McGrath, to open the floor for nominations for Vice Chairperson for the year 2012. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Weller, seconded by Mr. Jones, nominated Kim McGrath.

Motion by Mrs. McGrath, seconded by Mr. Gokey, to close the floor for nominations for Vice Chairperson for the year 2012. Motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. McGrath was duly appointed Vice Chairperson for the year 2012.

Slate of Appointments for 2012:

Upon a motion by Mr. Jones, seconded by Mrs. McGrath and unanimously passed, the following slate of appointments was affirmed as presented:

Secretary/Treasurer	JoAnne Sowers-Smith
Assistant Secretary	Kathie Benson
Assistant Treasurer	Jean Szvetecz
Township Manager	Charles E. Lyon
Roadmaster	Alistair Howell-Clarke
Planning Commission Secretary	Kathie Benson
Pension Actuary	Redmond Consulting Ltd
Pension Administrator	Investors Trust
Pension Trustees	Charles E. Lyon
	JoAnne Sowers-Smith
	Kathie Benson
Solicitor	Kozloff Stoudt
Alternate Solicitor	Paul Ober & Associates
Zoning Board Solicitor	Buckley, Brion, McGuire, Morris & Sommer, LLP
	LTL Consultants
Township Engineer	Steve Loomis/LTL Consultants
Code Enforcement Officer	Steve Loomis/LTL Consultants
Zoning Officer	Steve Loomis/LTL Consultants
Sewage Enforcement Officer	Long & Barrell
Appointed Auditors	Fulton Bank, National Penn Bank, Sovereign Bank
Township Depositories	Terry Jones
	Charles E. Lyon, JoAnne Sowers Smith
Emergency Management	James Munda
Deputy Emergency Mgmt	David Wentzel, Robert Hoeverler
Fire Marshal	Paul Weller
Environmental Advisory Council	James Elliot
Planning Commission	Kathie Benson
Vacancy Board	JoAnne Sowers-Smith
Recycling Coordinator	Charles E. Lyon
Open Records Officer	Charles E. Lyon
Assistant Open Records Officer	Arro Consulting
RATS Liaison	Steve Loomis
Sewer Engineer	Terry Jones
BCO	Paul Weller
Fire Company Liaison	Gail Fronheiser
Safety Committee	
Assistant Tax Collector	

Bond Limit Recommendations

Secretary/Treasurer	\$6,000,000
Asst. Treasurer	\$6,000,000
Secretary III	\$100,000

Mr. Jones asked if staff could email various groups in the Township to recruit members for the Recreation Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Yanos stated that at the last meeting, he was arguing the opposite opinion from what was reported in the News of Southern Berks in regards to eliminating staff positions. He stated that he felt if all staff was to remain, the budget should be revised to reflect that, and that the \$200 payment to the Teamsters was only once this year.

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

None

MINUTES

Mr. Jones moved, seconded by Mr. Weller to approve the minutes of December 21, 2011. Motion passed 5-0.

FINANCE

Moved by Mr. Gokey, seconded by Mr. Weller and duly passed to approve the following

disbursements:	\$ 90,853.52	General Fund
	\$ 48,065.09	Sewer Fund
	\$ 1,450.26	Fire Fund
	<u>\$ 7,424.56</u>	<u>Liquid Fuels</u>
	\$147,793.43	Total

REPORTS

Code Enforcement The December report was presented to the Board for their review.

Streets/Parks Mr. Howell-Clarke reported that the leaf collection had been completed. They will have a better plan for next year. Mr. Yanos moved, seconded by Mr. Weller to approve his attendance at an LTAP seminar on “Managing Utility Cuts”. Motion passed 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Blanks Ag Security Request Mrs. McGrath moved, seconded by Mr. Jones to approve waiting 6 months and then passing a resolution to include the Blank’s farm by deemed approval in the Ag Security Area. Motion passed 5-0. Mr. Boland will research when the Township’s seven year approval period is up.

Digester RFP Mr. Jones moved, seconded by Mr. Weller to approve sending out the RFP for rehabilitation of the Digesters to suggested engineering firms. Motion passed 5-0.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Mr. Boland stated he had an item for executive session.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 12-08 Fee Schedule Mr. Jones moved, seconded by Mrs. McGrath to approve Resolution 12-08 amended fee schedule for 2012. Motion passed 5-0.

Tax Collector Auditor Mrs. McGrath moved, seconded by Mr. Weller to approve Reinsel, Kuntz, Leshar as Tax Collector Auditor for 2011. Motion passed 5-0.

Zoning Hearing Recommendation – Regina McLaughlin Mr. Weller moved, seconded by Mr. Jones to recommend that the Zoning Hearing Board approve the applicant’s variance request. Motion passed 3-2. Mr. Yanos and Mrs. McGrath opposed.

Resolution 12-09 Appointed Auditor Mr. Weller moved, seconded by Mr. Jones to adopt Resolution 12-09 appointing Long & Barrell as auditors for the Township funds for 2011. Motion passed 5-0.

EMPLOYEE/OFFICIAL REPORTS

Manager. Mr. Lyon reported that Monarch Fire Company had been cleaning out storm drains on eastbound 422 near the intersection of 662 that are owned by PennDOT. He stated that he advised the company to report if the drain is clogged to PennDOT. Mrs. McGrath moved, seconded by Mr. Weller to advertise the Brown’s Mill Road project without prevailing wages for a January opening. Motion passed 5-0. Mrs. McGrath moved, seconded by Mr. Gokey to accept the resignation and ratify the payment of 1 week’s pay plus two weeks’ vacation pay to David Marburger. Motion passed 5-0. Mr. Gokey moved, seconded by Mrs. McGrath to ratify the elimination of the custodian position. Motion passed 5-0. Mr. Lyon reported that the sediment bar under the Valley Road Bridge has been removed without incident. The River Bridge Road projects will be delayed due to a hit on the Pendi survey for red bellied turtles. The turtles will be fitted with tracking devices and a phase II study may have to be performed if the turtles travel near the pier. The Manager reported that the Teamsters contract was executed. Mr. Boland needs to submit dates for Police negotiations. Mr. Lyon reported that the County has posted their bridges for weight limits. A draft proposal from Larry Ward, regarding the Morlatton Village Parking project was received. Mr. Ward would like to have a meeting with one Supervisor present. Mrs. McGrath volunteered. The Monocacy Creek PCE water line project is nearly complete. The final property, the Goodfellow Riding Club, agreed to connect. A final reimbursement request will be submitted to DEP. A stormwater problem in Sunrise Hills was discussed. Mr. Lyon stated that there was no way to address the problem without putting in a storm drainage system. Mr. Yanos was concerned about using taxpayer money for such a localized issue. Additionally, the project would require all the residents to agree. Mrs. McGrath suggested contacting the affected residents to ascertain their interest and to get an estimate of the project cost. Mr. Lyon pointed out that the residents could be assessed a portion of the project cost. A license committee meeting has been scheduled. The Township is now signed up for participation in PennBid. The Manager asked the Board if they would like to reconsider resurrecting the Village Commercial Zone, perhaps in the Amityville area. After discussion, Mr. Jones moved, seconded by Mr. Gokey to give direction to the Planning Commission to investigate and identify areas that could be zoned Village Commercial in conjunction with the Joint Comp Plan and allow expenditures of professional fees up to \$2,000. Motion passed 5-0. Mr. Lyon expressed his thanks to everyone for their efforts last year.

Chief of Police The Chief presented traffic details to the Board. Mrs. McGrath requested times for the details. Mr. Yanos asked if any citations resulted.

SUPERVISORS

Mr. Jones welcomed Mr. Gokey back to the Board. Mr. Gokey thanked the Board for not raising taxes in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Thomas Kirchner announced the Elected Auditor’s meeting would be held January 4th at 5PM. Mr. James Elliot commended the Board for their running of the Township.

ADJOURNMENT & EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion by Mr. Weller and seconded by Mrs. McGrath and duly passed, the meeting was adjourned to executive session for personnel matters at 8:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnne Sowers-Smith
Secretary/Treasurer