

RICHLAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

October 21, 2009

PUBLIC MEETING

The Richland Township Board of Supervisors meeting held at the municipal building on Wednesday, October 21, 2009 was called to order at 7:40 PM. by Chairman, Herbert C. Dankmyer. There were 11 people present in the audience. The Officials present were:

Herbert C. Dankmyer, Chairman

Raymond P. Kendrick, Vice Chairman

George P. Allen, Supervisor

Brian M. O'Malley, Supervisor

John A. Pasquinelli, Supervisor

Dean E. Bastianini, Township Manager

Tina L. Shaw, Recording Secretary

Mr. Allen made a motion to approve the minutes from the Supervisors' Road Tour and Public Meetings of October 7, 2009. Mr. O'Malley seconded the motion and it was approved by all. Mr. Pasquinelli abstained from voting.

Mr. Dankmyer asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak. Mr. Ashwani Chaddha, 115 Applewood Drive came forward. Mr. Chaddha elaborated on a letter from Mrs. Annette Robinson, President of the Orchard Park Neighborhood Association, regarding the Township's policy requiring sanitary sewer customers, on private wells, to replace or upgrade their water meters at their own expense. Mr. Chaddha expressed the Association's opposition to the policy, stating that it does not conform to generally accepted practices for utilities, and discriminates between two classes of homeowners: those on public water and those on private wells. He requested the Supervisors to discontinue the policy and suspend any further action at this time. Mr. Chaddha thanked the Board for the opportunity to express the Association's position.

Mr. Bastianini responded that the changes to the water meter policy for private well customers of the sanitary sewer system was not on the Supervisors' agenda this evening. The Township Solicitor has been authorized to prepare an ordinance which would revise the policy. When the ordinance is ready it will be advertised and residents will have an opportunity, at a future meeting, to share their concerns and perspectives on the matter.

Mr. Kendrick acknowledged, and moved to approve the September 2009 Financial Statement which was included in the meeting packet. Mr. Allen seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

Mr. Kendrick made a motion to approve the bills payable. Mr. O'Malley seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Mr. Kendrick wondered why the number of traffic citations issued by police officers in 2009 had dropped significantly from 2008 levels. Mr. Dankmyer suggested that the question be asked of Chief Amann at the next Police Board meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Barbara Tommasone, Office Administrator, RTMAAC

A letter stating that due to a 33.42% increase in the cost of reading the private well water meters of sanitary sewer customers the Municipal Authority will increase its quarterly charge for reading the meters to \$575.85 effective January 2010. Mr. Bastianini stated that the Municipal Authority does not charge the Township for meter readings of public water customers.

NEW BUSINESS

Following an explanation of the purposes for a Comprehensive Recreation and Open Space Plan Mr. O'Malley made a motion to appoint the following individuals as members to the Plan's Study Committee.

Dean Allen	100 Applewood Dr.	Dave McSwigan	4502 Grandview Dr.
Dave Battista	4005 Ewalt Road	John Pasquinelli	3860 Kim Lane
John Baxter	204 Kayla Court	Joe Phillips	542 Madison Dr.
Mike Beachley	6036 Van Velsor Dr.	Justin Renda	240 Corey Dr.
Laura Hillock	503 Windmill Court	Annette Robinson	108 Applewood Dr.
Dan Hughes	4020 Dickey Road	Donna Snyder	5857 Valencia Road
Anton Krysa	4056 Circle Dr.	Jean Vaccarello	142 Wedgewood Dr.
Cathy Marks	1016 Creekvue Dr.		

Mr. Allen seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Kendrick reported that he and Mr. Bastianini had met with representatives of Allegheny County to address safety concerns which the Board has regarding the quality of the resurfacing work performed on Meridian Road. The County has pledged to try to address most of the problems before winter and to come back next Spring to remill a section of the road.

Mr. Pasquinelli asked Mr. Bastianini to request that PennDOT to investigate the deteriorated condition of the concrete island located at the Route 8/Northtowne Square traffic signal. The island has been extensively damaged and needs to be repaired. The other Board members concurred with Mr. Pasquinelli's concerns about the hazard posed by the spalling concrete.

Mr. Pasquinelli stated his disappointment over how the School District is maintaining the Eden Hall Upper Elementary School property. He said that although the intent of the landscape design may have been to create a natural environment not removing dead trees and allowing weeds to grow to the edge of the road simply demonstrated poor maintenance practices.

Mr. Kendrick picked up on the discussion and stated his opinion that the School District was remiss in leaving so many interior and exterior building lights on all night long. He said the lights were unnecessary, a waste of tax dollars and energy and not good for the environment. He believes the School District should utilize motion detector lights for security, and that by 10:00 p.m. all architectural and landscape lighting should be turned on.

Both Mr. Pasquinelli and Mr. Kendrick expressed their opposition to the School District's decision to allow students to walk and to from school. Prior to approving the School Planning Commission members asked if the District intended to install a sidewalk along Ridge Road for walkers. Representatives of the District responded that since there would be no walkers sidewalks would be unnecessary. Now that the situation has changed Township officials have met with District representatives to discuss the situation and to request that the District evaluate the current policy and consider hiring a consultant to make a recommendation on the establishment of a reduced speed/school zone.

Mr. O'Malley thanked everyone who had volunteered to serve on the Study Committee for the Recreation Plan. Mr. Dankmyer added his thanks and said that it was great to see so many people willing to participate and so much enthusiasm.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina L. Shaw
Recording Secretary