

COLLEGE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 26, 1984  
4:00 PM

The College Township Council convened at 4:00 pm on Thursday, January 26, 1984, in the College Township Municipal Building for a Public Hearing and its regular meeting.

Members present: Gale L Dargitz, Max E Hartswick, Fred E Smith, Herbert W Stewart, Dolores A Taricani - Chairman

Others present: C Thomas Lechner - Manager  
Beulah L Houser - Administrative Assistant

PUBLIC HEARING

Himes Printing - Application for IDA Loan

Representing the IDA, Reed McCormick reviewed the applicant's project for which they were requesting an IDA loan of \$1,250,000. McCormick said the money would be used for expanding their present building by 5000 ft. and purchasing expensive equipment. This would necessitate employing 14 additional workers now in College Township and possibly as many as 20 in three years. The project will enable Himes to do contract printing which no one in the area is equipped to do now (the nearest places being Harrisburg and Pittsburgh).

The IDA had approved the loan application. Himes plans to get financial backing from the sale of public bonds. To do this, they must have an opinion from the Bond Council; then the bonds would remain tax free.

COUNSEL'S OPTION

However, according to McCormick, the Bond Council will not give that opinion at this time because of a bill pending before the U.S. Congress; House, Ways and Means Committee, which may limit the tax-free nature of Authority issues with the following restrictions:

1. Every new project must have 15 percent new bricks and mortar. The Himes project in meeting this requirement is marginal.
2. The amount of tax-free IDA bonds issued in one year must not exceed \$150 per citizen. It is undetermined at this point the boundary of the area in which these citizens reside. Counting the citizens of College Township would limit the IDA loans to approximately a million dollars, and one project would fill the quota for the year.

McCormick continued saying that few if any bond issues will occur if the Bond Council is required but Himes would like their project approved as far as it can go. The project will not go to closing until action is taken on the bill (and McCormick added that it looks like the program is in trouble).

Stewart then moved and Hartswick seconded that Council approve the IDA loan requested by Himes Printing. The motion carried unanimously.

At 4:15 the Public Hearing was concluded with Smith's motion and Hartswick's second for adjournment.

The regular meeting was called to order.

BUSINESS

1. Adoption of the Amended 1984 Budget. Adoption of Ordinance 83-A, Resolution 97-A, and Resolution 98-A

Chairman Taricani convened the regular meeting and asked Council to consider the Amended Budget. Since the Budget had been thoroughly discussed at previous meetings, Smith immediately moved that Council approve the Amended 1984 Budget as advertised; adopt Ordinance 83-A, retro-active to January 1, 1984, in order to repeal Ordinance 83, the Mercantile License and Business Privilege Tax; adopt Resolution 97-A, Appropriations, and Resolution 98-A, Tax Levy.

After Hartswick's second and the call for the question, the motion carried 4-1, Dargitz dissenting.

2. Temporary Parking Regulation, Resolution 99

This Resolution was adopted at the January 12 Council meeting. The only necessary action was Council members' signatures on the Resolution.

3. Decision on Ordinance Repealing the Occupancy Permit Fee

Taricani said this issue developed in the Code Committee on which Smith was serving. Smith explained that because there was sufficient revenue in this Department, they could recommend eliminating the fee by repealing Ordinance B-3176.

Smith added that the Committee was deliberating on retaining Section One on Finding of Fact in the Ordinance. He also said that a statement should be added announcing that the Ordinance will become effective March 1, 1984, contingent upon concurrence of the other Municipalities involved.

Taricani suggested they get another opinion on keeping the Finding of Fact statement in the Ordinance before Council takes action; therefore tabling the issue until the next meeting.

Smith inquired about the necessity of a Public Hearing and advertising, but Lechner indicated it was not necessary.

4. Traffic Signal Controller Replacement

Lechner reviewed the need for a new traffic signal controller at the Nittany Mall (Rt. 26 and Rt. 150 Intersection) saying that the present controller has given them persistent problems over the past year. Both the Borough Engineer as a consultant and a representative from Tel-Power, the company that maintains the

traffic signals, verified that the present equipment cannot be completely corrected; both advised Lechner to replace it. Lechner said that since an order takes from four to six weeks to arrive, if the present light fails completely, which is very likely, that intersection will be without a traffic signal for at least a month.

Lechner also said that the normal life span of a traffic controller is 10 years and the present one is 15-years-old. He added that it was the first of many in the Township that will have to be replaced.

The replacement options are either a two-phase controller, like the one at the intersection now, for \$5436, or a four-phase controller, that would allow for future expansion, for \$6400. Lechner went on to say that if PennDOT should close the Rt. 150 entrance to the Nittany Mall and divert traffic to Rt. 26, a left-turn, actuated signal would be needed at that intersection, and a four-phase signal could accommodate it.

Since that situation may not occur, Lechner recommended the two-phase controller. If another phase is needed in the future, he said, a Nema ~~controller~~ <sup>CABINET</sup> could be purchased for \$500 and installed.

Taricani expressed her concern about the equipment arriving in mid-March when they anticipated a cash-flow problem. Lechner responded that they had 30 days after the order arrived in which to pay.

Crouse-Hines, said Lechner, was a controller highly recommended by both Tel-Power and the Borough Engineer. Not only was the quality superior, but the servicing was very good.

Stewart commented that a local engineer should verify the situation. He said he couldn't imagine a controller taking six to eight weeks to arrive and thought there must be a distributor in Pennsylvania who could provide the equipment in less time.

Asked by Taricani if this were true, Lechner replied that other vendors were available, but Tel-Power does the maintenance on the present equipment. Lechner thought it was not advisable to bring in another company.

Much discussion ensued on the advisability of sending out for bids, but Council decided that on the basis of Lechner's assessment of the situation and the advice of the Borough Engineer and Tel-Power's consultant, the situation was within the realm of an emergency, and there wasn't time to conduct the bidding process.

Smith moved that the Crouse-Hines, two-phase controller sold by Tel-Power be used to replace the present traffic controller at the Nittany Mall. After Hartswick's second, the motion carried.

##### 5. Policy Statement Concerning the Handicapped

Summarizing the issue, Lechner said that the Office of Revenue Sharing has ordered all municipalities who receive Revenue Sharing payments exceeding \$25,000 but less than \$100,000 (this applies to College Township) to provide public notice of the Government's policy against discrimination of handicapped persons and to

designate it fully by January 17, 1984. (Lechner said he received the literature on January 16.)

Lechner read the statement "All recipients must complete structural changes for accessibility ex... in respect to transportation systems by October 17, 1986." An auditor, said Lechner, will check to see that we are in compliance with this policy.

Lechner asked Council to declare the Township's policy concerning the handicapped, and, to illustrate, he briefly reviewed Patton Township's.

Asked to specifically state what action was necessary, Lechner said not all requirements have been issued, but basically a ramp with a railing is needed at the Municipal Building's entrance and a wheelchair five-foot turning radius is needed in the restrooms.

Hartswick then moved that Council issue a public statement saying that College Township does not discriminate against the handicapped, and the Township will make appropriate accommodations for the handicapped as required by Law. Smith seconded the motion, which then passed.

Stewart inquired if Lechner was the person designated to carry out the requirements; Taricani replied that fact was inherent in the motion.

#### 6. Consideration of a Financial Advisory Committee

Taricani asked for Council's input on the idea of forming a new Financial Advisory Committee. If this were to be done, said Taricani, names of qualified people interested in serving should be considered, and a statement of intent should be formulated and given to the committee so they will know specifically what we expect and when we expect it.

Taricani mentioned two names of Township residents who had volunteered their services for this committee if it were to become active - John Zeigler, a former Councilman, and Norman Deno, a retired chemistry professor who now primarily works with investments.

To Hartswick's question concerning the number of members on the committee, Taricani replied that five had served on previous committees and that seemed to be a workable number.

Chris Exarchos, Township resident, suggested that the standing of the present Financial Advisory Committee be checked before a new one is formed. Taricani mentioned that several on last year's committee did not prefer to continue, so for that reason members on the 1983 Financial Advisory Committee could be released.

Stewart thought names of possible candidates should come from the Volunteer List as they usually do for committee selection. He suggested that candidates be screened, with 10 selected and that number narrowed down to five.

Taricani differed, saying that Council needed specific expertise and that a general list of volunteers would not likely provide candidates with those skills.

Favoring the idea, Smith said it was an opportunity to draw on others' experiences to review proposed projects, such as budgets; still the Council is bound only to consider their opinion. Smith suggested a cross-section of the Township be represented on the committee.

Asked for his opinion, Dargitz said it remained the same as nine months ago—that it was not a workable idea. Dargitz stated that Council has a set of advisors and a staff whose advice has not been heeded. He continued that Council had a responsibility to educate themselves, read the tax laws, and know what can and cannot be done in the way of developing revenue sources. Committees, said Dargitz, are a way of diffusing responsibilities. The last committee was supposed to produce their report in October and did not meet until December 22 for the first time for one hour.

Taricani countered his view saying that Congress calls on committees, but Dargitz replied that those committees consisted of themselves.

Taricani stated that was not necessarily the case, that Congress calls in experts for advise in areas beyond their expertise.

Disagreeing, Dargitz referred to the Borough Council who formed committees such as the Finance Committee, which is comprised of Council members.

Hartswick viewed any good advise from experts as not harmful. He said there were quite a number of people in the Township who could give valuable input on what could be accomplished.

When Taricani asked for a consensus on an approach to the situation, Smith suggested that Council members be prepared for the next meeting to formulate a charge and suggest well qualified people to staff the committee.

Taricani then declared the issue tabled until the next meeting when Council would discuss each member's input on the matter.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Council discussed a new Employees' Disability Insurance program for the Township which would expand the coverage from 26 to 52 weeks. Lechner said it had already been computed into the Budget, and asked Council members to sign it.

Smith had questions on several matters, among them was the issue of a strand of barbed wire that remained on a Township property after the owner had been notified to remove it. Taricani asked Lechner to follow up on the matter.

Smith also suggested a form of a monthly financial statement that he thought would be helpful to Council. It would consist of presenting the Budget in a simplified form, first in a simple graphic month-by-month in order to compare the actual revenues and expenditures with the Budget, and second in a digital form to identify unusual expenses or lump sums. Another section could be prepared at the bottom of the statement, he said, to identify upcoming major expenses for the next month.

Taricani asked if next month's projection of revenues and expenses, which

she requested, was now available. Lechner replied that it should be ready by the February 9th Council meeting, adding that the Budget preparation had consumed the time he would ordinarily have had for other work.

Lechner said he hoped to have a 12-month, cash-flow type presentation developed, but Taricani thought a month-to-month basis would be sufficient.

Smith emphasized again that a simple set of numbers would clue Council as to what's ahead and to know the status of the cash flow.

Dargitz chided Council about getting overly involved in the Manager's business. Taricani agreed, but said because of the Budget and financial problems, she did not want to be surprised on major expenses. The suggestions made, she said, were no reflection on the Manager, but added that next year she thought Council would like to have the Budget prepared in a different way. People do miss things in the present budget, said Taricani. It is very detailed for most people.

Lechner commented that it was one of his goals to broaden the financial reporting so Council can get more information.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:25 with business for the afternoon concluded, Hartswick moved, Smith seconded, and Council supported the motion for adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Thomas Lechner  
Secretary

CTL:jh:key

MANAGER'S UPDATE

JANUARY 12, 1984 MEETING

1. Request: Manager and Treasurer prepare a list of the current assessments on all Township businesses and give them to Council to review so it can be determined what action Council wants to take.

RESPONSE: A list was prepared and presented to Council members prior to the Council meeting of January 26, 1984.

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JANUARY 26, 1984 MEETING

1. Manager to follow up on the matter of strand of barbed wire still remaining on a Township property after the owner had been notified to remove it.

RESPONSE: This matter was checked out February 3, 1984.  
It appears that the barbed wire was removed prior to the above date.

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