

COLLEGE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL  
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1984  
4:00 PM

The Organizational Meeting of the College Township Council was called to order by Chairman Dargitz on Tuesday, January 3, 1984, at 4 pm in the College Township Municipal Building.

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

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

BUSINESS

1. Election of Officers

Dargitz temporarily relinquished his position as Chairman to Lechner, who then presided over the nomination process. Dargitz nominated and Stewart seconded Dolores Taricani as Chairman of the 1984 Council.

Stewart then nominated and Smith seconded Gale Dargitz as Chairman; however, Dargitz stated he would decline the position if elected.

After Stewart's call for the question, Council voted 4-0 for Taricani's becoming the 1984 Chairman (Taricani abstaining) and 1-0 for Dargitz. Dargitz was appointed Vice-Chairman.

2. COG Committee Assignments

After assuming her new position as Chairman, Taricani directed Council's attention on the next item of business. She stated that the COG assignments were usually made by the Chairman in agreement with Council members. At this time, members agreed to serve on the following COG Committees:

Gale Dargitz - Finance and Personnel  
Max Hartswick - Transportation  
Fred Smith - Codes  
Herbert Stewart - Public Safety  
Dolores Taricani - Executive

Smith also agreed, at least temporarily, to serve as liaison to the IDA. Taricani emphasized that although not required, Council feels more comfortable having one of its members knowing exactly what business takes place at their meetings.

3. Appointments and Re-appointments to ABC Committee

Smith commented that many people serving on the Township's Authorities, Boards and Commissions had completed two terms which meant six to ten years in one position. He viewed that as long enough and that, in an effort to revitalize these committees, new people should then be given an opportunity to serve.

Hartswick suggested that Council evaluate the members first to determine the ones from who the Township benefitted the most.

Stewart inquired about the members who wanted to continue, but Taricani replied that people almost always wanted to continue. If a two-term limit is to be established as a policy, Taricani added, let's do so and persue the volunteer list for appropriate appointments at our next meeting.

Smith moved and Hartswick seconded that members who have served for two or more terms on Authorities, Boards and Commissions should be considered for replacement.

To Dargitz's question if the motion meant that these members were automatically replaced, Smith replied that Council try to replace them; however, if that proves unsuccessful, they should be re-appointed.

Stewart thought the policy would eliminate good people. Dargitz viewed it as a restrictive policy. Taricani stressed that members serving in one capacity could, after two terms, be asked to serve on another committee.

At that point a vote on the motion resulted in a 2-2 tie, with Taricani abstaining and stating that she needed some time to consider ramifications of the motion. (It was mentioned that if no more action was taken on the motion [at the next meeting], it would die.)

Council then focused on the professional appointments for the Township. One issue was the designation of a Secondary Engineer to be used in cases where the Primary Engineer had a conflict of interest.

Asked for recommendations, Lechner suggested Uni-Tec because they were most familiar with Township operations.

The motion to retain the present professional staff and to appoint Uni-Tec as the Secondary Township Engineering Firm as a back-up for Sweetland, the Primary Township Engineering Firm, was then made and passed unanimously; Stewart moved, Hartswick seconded. This establishes the following as the Township professional staff:

Reed McCormick - Township Solicitor  
Ben Novak - Township Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor  
Sweetland Engineering - Primary Engineering Firm  
Uni-Tec - Secondary Engineering Firm

4. Council Meeting Time

Council accepted the schedule for meetings (re: suggested Schedule of College Township Council Meetings for 1984 - Legal Notice), which designates 7:30 pm on the second Thursday of each month and 4:00 pm on the fourth Thursday of each month as regular meeting times with the exception of November and December when the fourth Thursday meeting is changed to the third Thursday.

Then Dargitz moved that Council forego all compensation for meeting attendance. With Stewart's second, the motion was unanimously approved.

5 & 6. Delegates to April PSATS Convention

Lechner indicated that the reservations to the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors should be made as soon as possible. Dargitz, Taricani and Stewart said they would not be attending. Taricani suggested this matter be postponed until the next meeting.

7. Financial Interest Statement

Taricani stressed that Council members must file the required Financial Interest Statements with the State and Township Governments.

8. Other Business

Lee Shields, Township resident, requested time to present his review and recommendations on the 1984 Budget. Shields stated that the largest increase in the Budget was Administrative Services which represented a 20-percent increase; he termed this runaway waste.

Shields specifically asked that two categories be re-examined: the \$10,000 decrease in Real Estate Transfer Taxes and the lack of increase in the Occupational Privilege Tax. Both, he said, were areas that Real Estate people considered as generating more revenue than determined in the Budget.

Shields estimated that with a revision in these two areas the 1984 Budget with the \$70,000 tax increase would leave a surplus of \$150,000. Without the tax increase, \$80,000 would be brought forward into 1985; and with only a 10-percent increase in Administrative expenses, a \$130,000 surplus would result. Shields then distributed copies of his fiscal recommendations.

Dargitz reiterated his feeling from past meetings: that it was disturbing to go through three months of budget preparation with no one appearing until "their particular ox gets gored." Dargitz added that they were continually presented with over-simplistic solutions to complex problems.

Shields pointed out that the new Council has to live with a controversial Budget prepared by an old Council. He recommended that this Council pass a resolution which fixed a ceiling on the Budget and that they appoint a committee of professional people to produce a Budget within these boundaries. He added that since an amended Budget must be advertised and filed by February 15, action should commence quickly.

Both Smith and Hartswick said they needed more in-depth background on Budget items. Hartswick then suggested Council amend the Budget. (Although it was not determined if this were an actual motion, it later died for lack of a second.)

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A discussion ensued on Shield's statement that a motion was necessary to amend the Budget to start the process. Dargitz countered this saying that under Section 826 of the Home Rule Optional Plans, it is stated that during the month of January, Council may request the Manager to submit an amended Budget to Council in the same manner as the adoption process.

It was finally agreed that a Budget Work Session was necessary before any action could be taken and that session was then scheduled for January 4, 1984 at 7:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Dargitz then moved that Council adjourn at 5:00 pm, Stewart seconded, and Council concurred.

Respectfully submitted

Thomas Lechner  
Secretary

CTL:jh:key