

**COLLEGE TOWNSHIP REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, April 15, 2010**

ATTENDED BY -

COUNCIL: David W. Koll, Chair
Mary C. Shoemaker, Vice-Chair
Forrest J. Remick, Ph.D.
David P. Fryer
Daniel D. Klees

STAFF: Adam T. Brumbaugh, Township Manager/Secretary
Kent N. Baker, Township Engineer
Robert T. Long, Jr., Finance Director
John J. Franek, Jr., Zoning Officer
Mark Holdren, CRPA Sr. Planner
Mary E. Wilson, Asst. Township Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Koll called to order the April 15, 2010 Regular Meeting of the College Township Council at 7:00 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

None.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

SP-1 State College Borough Police Report – Chief T. King

Chief of Police Thomas King, State College Borough Police Department, gave a brief overview of police services provided to College Township from January through December 2009, highlighting:

- Calls for Service – 3,608 (3,537 in 2008);
- An increase in traffic citations – 1,821 (1,659 in 2008);
- A decrease in adult arrests – 173 (183 in 2008);
- An increase in Part 1 and Part 2 Crimes – 640 (582 in 2008);
- A decrease in reportable vehicular crashes – 108 (114 in 2008) with 87 injuries, zero fatalities;
- A decrease in burglaries – 13 (25 in 2008);

- College Township's refund of \$68,645 due to a reduction in the actual hourly rate and numerous grants that offset costs; and
- The need for residents to lock their parked vehicles to reduce the risks of falling victim to crime.

Chief King stressed the need for victims of any crime or witnesses to any criminal or traffic incident to report the incident to the police as quickly as possible.

Following discussion, Council requested that Chief King provide locations where public intoxication arrests were made, noting if the timing of these arrests coincided with football weekends.

MANAGER'S UPDATE:

Mr. Brumbaugh presented the April 15, 2010 Manager's Update highlighting 1) ongoing construction activity at the Trout Road Bridge; 2) the South Ridge-W. Branch Road developers' upcoming PennDOT Highway Occupancy Permit (HOP) application submission; 3) Public Works crews replacing ten-foot sections of split rail fencing; 4) the one-thousand overlooked Centre Region municipality addresses appealed to the US Census Bureau having been accepted by the Census Bureau; and 5) the Township's efforts to provide a bike connection at a location off Oak Ridge Avenue.

Council requested that staff 1) discover when the post office census forms will be mailed out; and 2) provide a copy of the sketches that are being developed for the South Ridge development HOP application, when available.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- CA-1 Minutes:**
- a. April 1, 2010 Public Hearing on Water Tanks.
 - b. April 1, 2010 Regular Council Meeting.
- CA-2 Incoming Correspondence:** /1: Letter from Centre County Planning and Comm. Development Office, dtd April 6, 2010, re: West Nile Virus Surveillance.
- CA-3 Request:** Funky Freezer Request for Waiver from Noise and Solicitation Ordinances.

**Mr. Klees moved to approve the April 15, 2010
Consent Agenda, as presented.
Mr. Fryer seconded the motion.
Motion carried unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS:

OB-1 Ordinance O-10-03, Property Maintenance and Fire Code

Following a duly advertised public hearing this date on the Centre Region Property Maintenance Code, Council received an overview of Ordinance O-10-03, Property Maintenance and Fire Code, from Dr. Walter Schneider, Director of Centre Region Code Administration. Ordinance O-10-03, Property Maintenance and Fire Code, repeals the 2006 Edition of the International Property Maintenance and Fire Code and adopts the Centre Region Building Safety and Property Maintenance Code, 2010 Edition, as amended, to be known as Chapter 152 – Property Maintenance and Fire Code. Dr. Schneider noted that this ordinance exempts College Township from §702.6.1 for three-story, one- and two-family dwelling units.

Mr. John Franek, Jr., Zoning Officer, was directed to determine how many three-story, one- and two-family dwelling units are in College Township.

Mr. Fryer moved to adopt Ordinance O-10-03, Property Maintenance and Fire Code.
Mr. Klees seconded the motion.
Motion carried unanimously.

OB-2 E. Branch Road Bridge Modifications

Mr. Kent Baker, Township Engineer, described the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's (PennDOT) plans to replace the existing East Branch Road Bridge adjacent to the Kissinger Open Space during 2012. PennDOT will make a presentation of this project at Council's June 17, 2010, Regular Meeting. Mr. Baker requested Council comments that could be forwarded to PennDOT to aid in their upcoming preparation.

The new bridge is proposed to be wider than the current bridge, with two eleven-foot-wide travel lanes and five-foot-wide paved shoulders. The widening will occur on the Kissinger Open Space side of the bridge only, as the Kissinger residence on the opposite side is an historic property. To accommodate the widening, there will be a relocation of approximately 250 feet of Slab Cabin Run. This project is anticipated to be constructed during the summer months to avoid any conflict with School District school bus routes. Mr. Baker explained that, although the proposed bridge will be somewhat wider than the current bridge, it was his recommendation that this be made even wider to accommodate safe pedestrian and bike usage.

Council comments included 1) direction to staff to provide details relative to the procedures and lining that will be utilized in the stream relocation; 2) inviting emergency response services representatives to attend the June 17 presentation; 3) support for widening the bridge to incorporate pedestrian and bike usage, including offering some easements for this purpose;

and 4) a request for an explanation on how the stream relocation will impact the beneficial reuse water infiltration field.

Staff will invite the University Area Joint Authority (UAJA) to the June 17, 2010, PennDOT presentation to ensure UAJA has a full understanding of this project.

This matter will return to Council on June 17, 2010.

OB-3 Mt. Nittany Elementary School – Traffic Impact Study; Discussion

Mr. Brumbaugh, Township Manager, forwarded correspondence from the State College Area School District (SCASD), dated April 6, 2010, relative to the simultaneous but separate projects involving the installation of a new traffic light at the intersection of Warner Boulevard/Brandywine Drive/Mary Elizabeth Street and the proposed construction of a new Mt. Nittany Elementary School on Brandywine Drive. The SCASD accepts the responsibility for obtaining any necessary PennDOT Highway Occupancy Permits and for installing highway improvements at the above-referenced intersection as a separate project from its development of the elementary school. It is anticipated that the highway improvements would be completed by August of 2011, but stressed that it cannot guarantee the completion of the traffic signal prior to the opening of the school. Mr. Brumbaugh offered a draft response letter to the SCASD for Council's comments and/or approval.

Council requested a copy of the Department of Education's criteria that requires these two projects to remain separate.

**Mr. Fryer moved that the language of the draft letter is acceptable pending a confirmation that the April 12, 2010, date quoted of the "Mt. Nittany Elementary School – Letter of Assurance for Highway Improvements Installation" is correct and acknowledge that the State College Area School District intends to design, bid, and install highway improvements as a separate project from the Mt. Nittany Elementary School construction project.
Dr. Remick seconded the motion.
Motion carried unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS:

NB-1 Overhead Signs at The Friends School; Whitehall Road

Mr. Ronald A. Seybert, Jr., Trans Associates, addressed Council's questions and concerns relative to the design of proposed traffic signals and flashing warning devices along Whitehall Road at The Friends School. PennDOT determined that the installation of these devices is justified. The current design proposes the use of solar panels with battery backup

to power the warning devices. Mr. Seybert noted that, in order for these signs to be included within the Whitehall Road widening project, College Township must agree to accept ownership and maintenance responsibilities of these signs. Without the Township's acceptance, this warning device would be stricken from the road-widening project.

Council believed the flashing signs reflecting walkers were somewhat misleading, as there are no walkers leaving the school premises. Council requested 1) PennDOT's justification for the sign; 2) to be advised of ongoing maintenance costs; 3) details on other possible signs that might be used; 4) that the State College Borough be contacted by staff to inquire into their participation considering the proximity of municipal boundaries; and 5) staff to gather additional information and arrange for a presentation from PennDOT on this matter.

NB-2 Agreement for Financial Advisor Services

Mr. Robert T. Long, Jr., Finance Director, presented the 'Agreement for Financial Advisor Services', which College Township hopes will result in potential savings from refinancing the General Obligation Note, Series of 2009, and the General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2003. Concord Public Financial Advisors served as Financial Advisor to College Township for both debt issues referenced above. It was staff's recommendation that Council approve the initiation of a financial services agreement with Concord Public Financial Advisors for advisory services for a three-year period. Mr. Long expressed that this would ensure that a qualified advisor is continually evaluating savings opportunities, keeping College Township informed of new opportunities, and would be available to assist with any of College Township's financing needs.

Following discussion regarding call periods and the preference for at least a three percent net savings, Council took the following action.

Mr. Fryer moved to authorize entering into the Financial Advisor Agreement for Services between Concord Public Financial Advisors and College Township.
Mr. Klees seconded the motion.

Ms. Shoemaker inquired as to whether or not this agreement would preclude College Township from utilizing Concord Public Financial Advisors for any other purposes besides what is mentioned within the agreement, and staff responded that Concord Public Financial Advisors would perform fee free until College Township enters into any new debt or refunding current debt. Staff agreed to ask the township solicitor to confirm that the agreement does not establish any exclusivity on matters College Township would choose to direct to providers other than Concord.

Motion carried unanimously.

STAFF AND ABC INFORMATIVES:

No comments.

OTHER MATTERS:

1. Mr. Fryer asked for a status report on the Valley Trucking case, and staff responded that Valley Trucking has been advised that College Township will not extend the May 15, 2010, deadline for the completion of necessary site improvements.
2. Mr. Fryer advised that several verbal complaints from Lemont residents had been issued to him relative to truck noise on Pike Street. Staff confirmed that it had received no such complaints.
3. Mr. Fryer noted excessive noise today, and staff reported that the noise came from the University's gas turbines. Staff was directed to advise the developer of numerous complaints and to check the dB level emanating from this site.
4. Ms. Shoemaker inquired into a possible zoning violation on Hickory Road, and Mr. Franek advised that office-type activities at the reported location are not permitted. Staff previously checked into this and deemed it unfounded. Ms. Shoemaker further requested that incidents of street parking against the flow of traffic be investigated on this same Township road. Mr. Baker will monitor to determine if any change is needed.
5. Dr. Remick noted that the lowered bikepath stop signs are now more visible to the vehicular traveler than they were previously, and discussion ensued on a remedy, including the possibility of painting the opposite side of the sign to indicate it was for the bikepath only.
6. Dr. Remick advised that the Township has no authority over gas turbine power plants except to regulate noise they produce. Staff was requested to inquire if the excessive noise is a result of there not yet being any building or other shrouding around the structure.
7. Chair Koll reported that CATA now has a software application in iPhones that can track CATA buses. This application could help bus passengers see how much time they have before their bus arrives at their stop.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Meeting with CRCOG Executive Director, April 15, 2010: Mr. Fryer reported that the agenda for the next Executive Committee meeting was drafted.

Finance Committee, April 13, 2010: Mr. Fryer reported that the Finance Committee discussed the CATA Budget, which had to be reworked due to the closure of the Bank of

America facility and the resulting reduction of revenues. The Committee addressed the budget format and was advised of the resignation of the COG Finance Administrator, Ms. Kathy Ulinski, effective in August 2010.

Public Safety and Finance Committees Joint Meeting, April 13, 2010: Messrs. Fryer and Koll reported that the joint meeting of the Public Safety and Finance Committees considered the fire station capital items and how they would be handled. A policy is being developed supporting development costs being borne by the resident municipality and subsequent maintenance costs following turnover then being assumed by the Centre Region Council of Governments.

Mr. Jim Steff, Centre Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) Executive Director, stated that additional clarification was needed but that it was assumed that if a current fire station were to be expanded to enhance municipal needs, those expansion costs would be borne by the municipality. However, if the expansion was to fill regional needs, the costs would be the responsibility of the CRCOG.

Transportation and Land Use Committee, April 5, 2010: Mr. Klees reported that the Transportation and Land Use (TLU) Committee discussed the agenda for the upcoming joint meeting with the Centre Region Planning Commission in May and also continued its discussion of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) that affects the Centre Region. Due to recent state-wide funding shortfalls resulting from the Commonwealth's inability to toll Interstate 80, very few Centre Region transportation improvement projects will be able to move forward for the next decade or two. The exception is the previously approved widening of Whitehall Road, which will still move forward.

Parks Capital Committee, April 15, 2010: Mr. Klees reported that the Parks Capital Committee reviewed the grant application for Whitehall Road Regional Park and authorized staff to move forward with the grant application based on a full-participation scenario. The Committee then discussed and took action on the development of the three regional parks (Oak Hall Regional Park, Whitehall Road Regional Park, and Hess Fields). This will go to the General Forum for discussion based on a total project cost of \$8,000,000 to \$10,000,000 on 20- to 25-year financing and up to two times the current municipal contributions.

Human Resources Committee: Ms. Shoemaker reported that the Human Resources Committee received a presentation on incentives that would encourage COG staff members to increase their physical activity and also reviewed the annual staff performance review program.

Public Services and Environmental Committee: Dr. Remick reported that the Public Services and Environmental Committee held a meeting with Mr. T. Richards, Director of Penn State's Institute for the Environment, to learn in general what is being done in the energy environment at the University. The Committee discussed with municipal managers the fixed-price vs. variable-price options of bulk purchasing of electricity, and five providers of electricity have been interviewed for this acquisition. Each governmental entity, whether it is UAJA, a municipality, school district, or COG, would have to decide whether or not to

enter into its own bulk electricity agreement with the selected provider. The COG position supported the services of Premier Power Solutions. The Committee recommended to the General Forum that the COG Executive Director be authorized to enter into an agreement for bulk electricity on behalf of the COG Offices.

Mr. Brumbaugh reported that quotes would be forthcoming from providers, and that data will be forwarded to College Township Council in May 2010 together with a detailed presentation for Council's consideration and action.

Public Safety Committee: Chair Koll stated that the Public Safety Committee concluded their first phase of interviewing area emergency medical providers and determining how they function and interact with other area providers of emergency services. As an example of feedback collected, the Committee's meeting with the Mt. Nittany Medical Center revealed that the hospital would find it most helpful to have a police officer on duty at the hospital during game days to assist with situations that arise at those busy times.

On the Code side, the Committee discussed changing the policy to establish an end date to an open permit that has not been activated by the applicant for longer than one year. The Committee will next be identifying financial public safety impacts of large events on the local municipalities. Suggestions on how to minimize these impacts will be forwarded to the General Forum for consideration.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Koll adjourned the April 15, 2010 Regular College Township Council Meeting at 9:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam T. Brumbaugh

Adam T. Brumbaugh
Township Manager/Secretary