

**REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING  
MARCH 6, 2006**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Paul Weiss, President  
Jerry Batcha, Vice President  
Arthur Murphy, Commissioner  
Thomas Nolan, Commissioner  
Michael Hudak, Commissioner

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Thomas Elliott, Township Solicitor  
Jon Hammer, Township Manager  
Doug Bruce, Assistant Township Manager  
Rich Kanaskie, Spotts, Stevens & McCoy – Township Engineer

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Weiss called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led those in attendance in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**GENERAL  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no general announcements this evening.

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR****JIM HANCHARICK  
3016 RAMBEAU RD.**

Mr. Hancharick commented regarding the burning issue and stated that he currently burns personal papers and does not see anything wrong with the current burning ordinance. Mr. Hancharick stated that the local landfill is 16 times higher than it was and he sees no problem with burning trees and shrubs. If the Township is going to recycle yard waste, Mr. Hancharick suggested that the Township look at what the City has at their recycling center. Mr. Weiss explained that the burning ordinance is just on the agenda for authorization to advertise the ordinance and people have been voicing their concerns regarding the burning issue.

**MYRON McROBBIE  
4190 ALDER RD.**

Mr. McRobbie stated he was present regarding the senior citizens and feels the Township only thinks of the youth and sports. Mr. McRobbie added that the amount of funds budgeted for the youth versus what is budgeted for the senior citizen programs is very short ended and noted that the funds budgeted for the senior programs only pays for entertainers. Mr. McRobbie further stated that he has talked to the Township Manager regarding the status of the Coolidge Building to see if that building could be utilized as a full-time senior center. If the Township feels they could not handle a full-time senior center, Mr. McRobbie stated the Bethlehem Senior Center indicated that it could become a satellite of their center. Mr. McRobbie pointed out that Bethlehem Township is the third largest community in Northampton County and does not have a senior center. Mr. McRobbie asked that he be kept abreast of the Board's decision regarding use of the Coolidge Building for a senior center.

**BARRY ROTH  
4323 CHETWIN TERR.**

Mr. Roth asked if the electronic sign in front of the Municipal Building could be toned down a bit and also questioned how many times bulbs are being replaced in the traffic lights. Mr. Roth commented regarding Ohio Street flooding and stated he does not feel \$500,000.00 is much for putting in piping to carry stormwater to the Kings Crossing detention pond. Lastly, Mr. Roth commented regarding the burning ordinance and does not want burning at all. Mr. Roth believes chimneas are not good and bon fires are not needed unless they are a tradition. Mr. Roth questioned what residents are supposed to do with branches over 4" in diameter and suggested that until there is a better collection plan the Board of Commissioners survey this issue further.

**ELLEN PASSARELLI  
1826 BIANCO PL.**

Ms. Passarelli stated that flooding is an issue in the Township and expressed her concern regarding the traffic signals at Southmont and the backup of traffic on Freemansburg Avenue.

**JOANNE CIMINATA  
1925 CABERNET**

Ms. Ciminata stated her concern regarding the lack of activities in the Township that residents can walk to and asked if the Township could consider adding a market place with a fountain, outdoor cafes, hotdog carts and possibly an arcade in the Field of Dreams for something to do rather than another baseball field. Ms. Ciminata also commented regarding the problems of traffic backup on Freemansburg Avenue/Route 33.

Mr. Weiss explained that the bridge at Freemansburg Avenue/Route 33 is not wide enough to add another lane but with new development improvements will be made to that area. Mr. Weiss also stated that with the development of the Field of Dreams and The Summit, the residents of Bethlehem Township will see something a lot different and feels Ms. Ciminata will see some of the things she is looking for. Mr. Nolan added that the plans for the Field of Dreams will be presented to the Board of Commissioners at their next Board of Commissioners' meeting.

Ms. Ciminata also asked whether the road to the boat ramp would ever be fixed. Ms. Ciminata was advised that the road has been fixed and is open.

**DORIS CORRELL  
3775 TIMOTHY LN.**

Ms. Correll thanked the Board of Commissioners for voting favorably for the Traffic Advisory Committee and asked how traffic accidents are reported to the newspapers. The Township Manager explained that the Police Department sends reports to the newspapers and the newspapers determine what is printed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon motion (Nolan-Batcha), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2006 regular public meeting as presented.

**PUBLIC HEARING  
ORDINANCE 01-06**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 04-02 AUTHORIZING MEMBERSHIP IN AN ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL SUBDIVISIONS KNOWN AS THE "TWO RIVERS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS" PURSUANT TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION ACT, 53 PA. C.S.A. 2301-2315, ACT OF DECEMBER 19, 1996, P.L. 1158, NO. 177, BY EXTENDING THE TERM OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BETHLEHEM'S PARTICIPATION IN THE SAID TWO RIVERS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS AND CLARIFYING THE PROVISION FOR WITHDRAWAL THEREFROM**

Mr. Nolan noted that Section I of this ordinance was amended from a fixed term of participation in the Two Rivers Council of Governments to an indefinite term or until such time as the Township withdraws therefrom.

There being no other comments or questions from the Board of Commissioners, President Weiss opened the public hearing for comments or questions from those in attendance. There were no questions or comments regarding this ordinance.

Upon motion (Nolan-Hudak), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to adopt Ordinance 01-06 as presented, amending Ordinance 04-02 relative to membership in the Two Rivers Council of Government.

**RESOLUTION R029-06**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXERCISE OF THE POWER OF EMINENT DOMAIN FOR THE ENTRY UPON, AND APPROPRIATION AND ACQUISITION OF, CERTAIN LANDS OF ROBERT T. QUIER AND SHIRLEY K. QUIER AND THE FILING OF A DECLARATION OF TAKING AND RELATED DOCUMENTATION FOR THE CONDEMNATION OF SAID LANDS OF ROBERT T. QUIER AND SHIRLEY K. QUIER, FOR PUBLIC USES AND PURPOSES, INCLUDING STREET WIDENING, TRAFFIC SIGNALIZATION, STORMWATER MANAGEMENT, AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS TO CERTAIN PORTIONS OF EASTON AVENUE AND OAKLAND ROAD IN CONNECTION WITH THE EASTON AVENUE AND OAKLAND ROAD INTERSECTION SIGNALIZATION PROJECT**

Upon motion (Batcha-Nolan), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to adopt Resolution R029-06 as presented, exercising the power of eminent domain and the filing of a Declaration of Taking of the lands of Robert and Shirley Quier for improvements connected with the Easton Avenue and Oakland Road intersection signalization project.

**RESOLUTION R030-06**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ATTENDANCE OF BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY CREW COORDINATOR CHRISTOPHER GRAF AT THE ZOLL DATA SYSTEM'S SUMMIT APRIL 25-28, 2006 IN WESTMINSTER, COLORADO**

Mr. Nolan questioned whether the Board has authorized similar trips in the past. The Township Manager stated that this conference is for training of the software system that the Township purchased for BTVFC. Mr. Hudak questioned whether Colorado was the only place available for the training or was there someplace closer. Mr. Nolan added that this is a budgeted item and that he would only ask that Mr. Graf provide feedback on the conference.

Upon motion (Nolan-Murphy), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to adopt Resolution R030-06 as presented, authorizing the attendance of BTVFC Crew Coordinator at the Zoll Data Systems Summit in Westminster, Colorado, April 25-28, 2006.

**RESOLUTION R031-06**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ATTENDANCE OF OFFICER DEAN WILSON AT THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS' TRAINING CONFERENCE JULY 16-21, 2006 IN LaQUINTA, CALIFORNIA**

Mr. Hudak questioned whether there was anything closer than California. Mr. Nolan noted that the cost to the Township is minimal for Officer Wilson to attend this conference and Mr. Batcha stated that Officer Wilson will be a keynote speaker at the conference because he is recognized nationally for the "Every 15 Minutes" program.

Upon motion (Nolan-Batcha), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to adopt Resolution R031-06 as presented, authorizing Officer Wilson to attend the National Association of School Resource Officers' Training Conference in LaQuinta, California July 16-21, 2006.

**RESOLUTION R032-06**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ATTENDANCE OF BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY MEMBERS DAVID OBER, JOE LASSO, TODD SEDLOCK, BILL BRINK, JITEST MEHTA, MIKE AUGUST AND BRIAN KELLY AT FIRE COLLEGE TRAINING MARCH 17-19, 2006 IN WILLIAMSPORT, PA**

Upon motion (Batcha-Hudak), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to adopt Resolution R032-06 as presented, authorizing the attendance of members of BTVFC at Fire College Training March 17-19, 2006 in Williamsport, PA.

**RESOLUTION R033-06**

**A RESOLUTION AWARDING THE CONTRACT FOR THE COLD IN-PLACE ASPHALT RECYCLING PROJECT TO E.J. BRENEMAN**

Mr. Nolan noted that the cost for recycling of the streets and roads is slightly higher than budgeted but the Municipal Park driveway is under budget.

Upon motion (Nolan-Batcha), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to adopt Resolution R033-06 as presented, awarding the contract for the cold in-place asphalt recycling project to E.J. Breneman at a cost of \$326,062.50 for streets and roads and \$57,000.00 for the Municipal Park driveway.

**RESOLUTION R034-06**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ATTENDANCE OF INVESTIGATOR STEPHEN MALITZKI AT THE DUI SOBRIETY CHECKPOINT CONFERENCE MAY 17-19, 2006 IN STATE COLLEGE, PA**

Upon motion (Murphy-Hudak), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to adopt Resolution R034-06 as presented, authorizing the attendance of Investigator Stephen Malitzki at the DUI Sobriety Checkpoint Conference May 17-19, 2006 in State College, PA.

**MOTION**

**A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER TO ADVERTISE AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE 2-93, "THE BETHLEHEM TOWNSHIP AIR POLLUTION CONTROL ORDINANCE," AND AMENDING ORDINANCE 03-04, AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE PENNSYLVANIA UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE, PURSUANT TO THE PENNSYLVANIA CONSTRUCTION CODE ACT, 35 P.A. 7210.101-7210.1103, AND THE REGULATIONS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY IMPLEMENTING THE SAID ACT AT PENNSYLVANIA CODE, TITLE 34, "LABOR AND INDUSTRY," PART XIV, "UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE," CHAPTERS 401-405, BY PROVIDING FOR REGULATIONS RELATING TO OPEN BURNING**

Mr. Hudak stated that he is opposed to repealing the burning ordinance at this time because the Township has nothing in place to accommodate the recycling of shrubs, tree roots and branches larger than 4" in diameter. Mr. Hudak added that he sees no need to stop burning right now. He has received many calls from residents asking what they are to do with yard waste that is not accepted at the recycling center and he has no answers to their question. Mr. Hudak suggested that this motion be tabled until the fall when people can hopefully be accommodated.

Mr. Batcha stated that he would not be opposed to Mr. Hudak's idea, however, if the Board goes that route, he would like input from the Public Works Director that if a resident cannot take their yard waste to the recycling center would it be feasible to impose a fee for the Township to periodically pickup the yard waste.

Mr. Nolan noted the intent of the motion and stated that the denial of grant funding made this issue surface. Mr. Nolan stated that the Township is no longer a rural area; however, the Township owes its citizens an answer to what

to do with the side issues of disposal. Mr. Nolan recommended that if the Board receives additional information in a reasonable timeframe (before fall) that the motion be untabled at that time.

Upon motion (Hudak-Batcha), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by roll call vote to table the motion to advertise the ordinance repealing the Bethlehem Township Air Pollution Control Ordinance.

**MOTION**

**A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER TO ADVERTISE FOR BID THE TRAFFIC LINE PAINTING PROJECT**

Upon motion (Murphy-Batcha), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to authorize the Township Manager to advertise for bid the traffic line painting project.

**MOTION**

**A MOTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP MANAGER TO EXERCISE THE TOWNSHIP'S LEGAL RIGHTS AGAINST THE LETTER OF CREDIT FOR THE VINEYARD PHASE 4 BASIN IF THE SAME IS NOT RENEWED PRIOR TO ITS EXPIRATION DATE OF MARCH 13, 2006**

Upon motion (Murphy-Nolan), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to authorize the Township Manager to exercise the Township's legal rights against the letter of credit for the Vineyard Phase 4 basin if the same is not renewed prior to its expiration date of March 13, 2006.

**PURCHASE ORDER APPROVALS**

Upon motion (Batcha-Nolan), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to approve all purchase orders as presented.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**TWO RIVERS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

Mr. Nolan commented that he has e-mailed the draft minutes of the last COG meeting to members of the Board to review and offer input.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion (Batcha-Nolan), the Board of Commissioners unanimously voted by voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Todaro  
Recording Secretary