

Chairman Nelson Brenneman called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Supervisors present: Dennis Luckenbaugh and Rodney Shearer. Present on behalf of the Township: Manager Sharon Kerchner, Solicitor Stephanie Kogut. Also present: Recording Secretary and roomful of citizens.

I. Minutes

Motion by Shearer, second by Luckenbaugh, to approve the minutes of the Reorganization meeting of January 7, 2019. All members voted aye; motion carried.

II. Treasurer's Report

A. **Motion** by Luckenbaugh, second by Shearer, to approve the Treasurer's Report for December 2018 and January 2019 as presented. All members voted aye; motion carried.

III. Police Report

Chief Bean gave the police report for December 2018 and January 2019. Of note, a pleasant surprise: from 2003 through 2018, crimes were down 47%. More calls per year meant, to Chief Bean, that more people were confident to call the police and the police were perhaps able to prevent some crimes from happening. Of course, managing costs is of paramount importance. Costs calculated on the possibility of decreasing personnel will be tabulated and presented.

IV. Fire Company Report

Tim Carr gave the fire company report for December 2018 and January 2019. Of note, \$12K was received from the state for equipment purchases. From an audience member, kudos to the department for responding to a lightning strike on Bentz Road. Question from the audience: how often do the police assist in fire calls? Roughly 78% in 2018, and overall, it's likely higher. There are indeed situations in which the fire department must wait to take action until a police officer arrives on the scene.

V. Permits, Plans, and Modules

Nothing at this time.

VI. Administrative Reports

A. Supervisors' Reports

1. York Water Company requested permission to place a "sample" station near the Township sign for the Company to drive by and collect a water sample. Perhaps a better location would be to the rear of the building on Lehman Road where the water spigot is located. Mrs. Kerchner will follow up and make that suggestion to the YWC.

2. Mr. Luckenbaugh reported on Met Ed's upgrading of the street lamps. There are free replacements available for 17 of the 19 lights in Stoverstown. There are choices of wattage of the replacement lights; Met Ed suggests using 50-watt replacements. **Motion** by Luckenbaugh, second by Shearer, to opt for the suggested 50-watt replacement LED bulbs for the street lights. All members voted aye; motion carried.

B. Manager's Report

1. **Motion** by Luckenbaugh, second by Shearer, to approve the distribution of the annual allocation of \$7,000 to the Spring Grove Ambulance per the 2019 Budget. All members voted aye; motion carried.

Motion by Luckenbaugh, second by Shearer, to approve the distribution of the annual allocation of \$7,000 to the Tri-Community Ambulance, per the 2019 Budget. All members voted aye; motion carried.

Motion by Luckenbaugh, second by Shearer, to approve the distribution of the annual allocation of \$3,000 to Windy Hill Senior Center, per the 2019 Budget. All members voted aye; motion carried

Motion by Luckenbaugh, second by Shearer, to approve the distribution of the annual allocation of \$1,000 to the Spring Grove Community Center, per the 2019 Budget. All members voted aye; motion carried.

Motion by Luckenbaugh, second by Shearer, to approve the distribution of the annual allocation of \$2,000 to the Glatfelter Memorial Library, per the 2019 Budget. All members voted aye; motion carried.

2. **Motion** by Shearer, second by Luckenbaugh, to accept Buchart-Horn's amendment to the annual engineering service agreement-fee schedule. All members voted aye; motion carried.

3. **Motion** by Shearer, second by Luckenbaugh, to advertise material bids for 2019; bid closing will be March 18 at 11 a.m., at which time the bids will be opened and read aloud in public. All members voted aye; motion carried.

C. Engineer's Report

No comments or questions on the submitted report.

D. Solicitor's Report

1. Attorney Kogut reported that the fireworks ordinance amendment was presented for Board to review; this issue will be discussed at the Board's March meeting.

VII. Old Business

Nothing at this time.

VIII. New Business

A. **Motion** by Luckenbaugh, second by Shearer, to accept, with regret, Craig Miller's resignation from the Recreation Board. All members voted aye; motion carried.

B. **Motion** by Luckenbaugh, second by Shearer, to appoint Les Scriven to the Recreation Board. All members voted aye; motion carried.

C. **Motion** by Brenneman, second by Luckenbaugh, to authorize the expense of one load of Diamond-Tex for the lower baseball field at the park, at a cost of \$1,090.00, per the request of the Recreation Board. All members voted aye; motion carried.

IX. General Public Comment

The following spoke in favor of keeping the Police;
Debra Flynn, Charles Benjamin, Christine Reimold, Jean Hedrick, Bob Daugherty, Bill Kaiser, Karen Daugherty, Sue Miller, Kelly Rohrbaugh, Terry Rohrbaugh, Luann Markle, Jim Crawford, Thomas Ledden, Bernice Fuhrman, Carol Davis, Fred Mula, Darryl Hoffman, Albert Buckingham, John Menges III, Kyrstie Menges, Jean Gerberick, Connie Seitz, Stacey Farrell, Mike Spangler, Bill Trimmer, Paul Hershey, Eric Hartman, Jeri Jones, Ken Hoffman, Jean Ann Heim, Leroy Reinhart, Darlene Schwartz, Michele Emenheiser, Jackie Rutledge.

General Public Comment continuation

Sharon Butt, in favor of keeping the police. Also, why doesn't the fire department have the Narcan drug to dispense? Fire Chief, Tim Carr explained that it involves training, and there's a shelf life to it, plus the cost.

Brian Butt, noted that there's enough speeding on Stoverstown Road now; what will that be like with no visible police deterrent?

Supervisor Rodney Shearer noted that the Township Board of Supervisors have no intentions to eliminate police protection for the township residents.

Paul Cusumano, wants to have local police. When will the decision be made? The Police Board just started gathering numbers.

Tom Steele, just a couple of questions, respectfully. Since NCT sent a letter of intent to withdrawal effective Jan. 2019, does that mean we don't have police coverage now? Mr. Brenneman clarified, Yes, we have police protection till the end of the year. Chief Bean reiterated where the parties are in the negotiation process. The basic way to cut cost is to cut personnel, you cut personnel, you cut service. Not necessarily as the manager the direction I'd like to go, but we are an expensive venue like a lot of things, so we are trying to be even less expensive as we are now.

Luke Young, I just moved into the township recently, but I echo what everyone's concerns are and that I also believe keeping the police local is positive thing.

Robin Baummer, confirmed the current police protection is from SWRPD. What other options are being checked? West Manchester, NYCPRD, and Pennsylvania state police.

Willa Lefever, re-proposed again that a survey of all township residents to be conducted as soon as possible.

Tanya Crawford, question on the Township handout, states that there are 37 Townships in York County in which NCT being the 5th highest tax millage, does this include Boroughs? Mr. Luckenbaugh responded, "No". Since we are a Township, I only compared with townships. Ms. Crawford also asked, if the 83.58% is from real estate property taxes? Also, discussed the percentage of property tax figures; if the Township must raise taxes, it can only raise property taxes, no other taxes.

Rebecca Keagy, keep police. She appreciates their monitoring and enforcement of speeding on this road.

Lisa Dennis, urged the Board to find a resolution. She knows the Board members have a difficult job, and she appreciates their efforts.

Colleen Ledden, wanted to see what's going on. Learning about the situation.

Larry Lehman, keep police as is. He had an incident at his house and was very satisfied with the police response, etc. And, why not conduct a survey of the township residents? Tell what the decision is based on. Mr. Brenneman noted that the police were not very helpful in resolving some issues in the past. Mr. Shearer noted that the Board members have nothing to gain by changing the police coverage. This isn't anything new. It didn't just happen yesterday. Just look at Township minutes from several years during budget time, as well as Police Board minutes. The Township tried to make the department be fiscally responsible, to spend within their means.

Cindy Lehman, keep police as is, not a watered-down version of police coverage.

John Rebert, asked why not report on what happened at the police board meeting? Also, he doesn't agree with the number of hours that are being cut. That won't offer enough protection. From Mr. Shearer – there was agreement at the meeting to draft another budget and to have an actuarial study done. Mr. Rebert feels that the study is being done “to offer early retirement to the police officers.” Mr. Rebert is dissatisfied with having to ask about the results of the police meeting. Attorney Kogut noted that reporting of that nature is not the Board of Supervisors' job; it's the job of the police board.

Keith Reimold, noted that if it's just financial concerns that are being examined, that might be okay, but there's peace of mind at work here, too. Keep the police.

Darlin Heiner, in favor of keeping the police, she sees what they do.

Charles Stark, noted that the sewer fund has increased by 190K. He feels NCT has the highest sewer rates in the county. When will the bond be paid off and will there be any relief for NCT residents who have been paying for this? Still owe \$10 million on the bond. Mr. Stark – feels that the residents are paying for the mistake that was made in the figuring of the rates.

Brent Hoffman, asked did he read that the money saved for police force would go to the ambulance services? The Township did contribute more money to the ambulance services recently. Also, oil and chipping on Walters Hatchery Road failed; yes, the Township is aware of this, and it will be redone at no charge because of the failure. Mr. Shearer noted that after they re-do the oil and chipping, we are going to overlay with fog seal. Also note that the new stones that will be used, are green, so you'll have green roads for a few weeks or so.

Ron McCullough, Chairman of the Board with Tri-Community Ambulance, noted that police department provides an excellent service and work well with ambulance personnel. He feels that the Township is getting a good price for the service.

Scott Lackey, keep police for personal safety; how about when vandals get into mischief in some farmer's field late at night? The farmer must call the state police from an hour away. Ask the residents what they want.

Larry Wildasin, keep police; as former fire chief, he waited an hour for the state police. Regional force many times were on scene before the fire department.

Phil Gerberick, here to learn and observe, cheap is not good when it comes to protecting your family and home, keep police. Also noted, although he can sympathize with Board members, in their roles and positions.

Gwen Lehr, had incident at her house; good response time from SWRPD.

Diane Kirk, is new to the area, we are here to learn, feels we need local cops.

Scott Kirk, a retiree of a fire department, knows the necessity of having local police

Mike Acierno, keep police; officer goes through his development 3-4 times per week.

Philip Farrell, confirmed currently in contract with SWRPD? Yes, until end of year; actually, it's Articles of Agreement. Did the Board have any say in the hiring of a new officer?

Police Board did, yes. Mr. Farrell noted that Mr. Shearer's on the Police Board and supposedly approved the hiring of a new officer, and now he wants to pull the funding out.

Mr. Luckenbaugh explained how the police board and NCT representation on that board works.

Todd Zeigler, asked if the cost to withdraw has been calculated yet? Not yet; in process. Discussion was held on state charging municipalities for police protection. State police are stretched, so they need money. Also, he noted that Mr. Shearer has been opposed to the police from the start.

Pat Craig, cautioned against removing police presence; he feels that there will be worse behavior within the Township, not better. Keep as is.

Todd Boyer, urged the Board to consider response time in making a decision.

Pat Mulrooney, supports SWRPD; noted that costs will continue to rise. It's a cost of doing business. Removing personnel not the answer. Not an option. Find another solution.

Bonita Trapnell, I understand your frustration with; if we all would have attended more of the meetings, we would have more information, but we can't all be informed on everything, so I appreciate the work you do, but asked for respect from the Board, all we did was come here to say we like the police department.

Jean Heim, I respect the needs to balance the budget, and the difficulties involved in that, we all have homes, but I also like the safety and security with having a local police department.

Dave Heim, asked how much would the taxes rise? None right away, but if the first ten years are any indication, it will double in the next ten years. Hopefully the Chief will take that into consideration when looking at the overall costs, and work something out. Supports local police.

Jane Lemmon, both the police and Porters fire company are a stone throw away, and that her concern is what the response time will be.

Danielle, is learning about the situation; loves the idea of a survey.

Larry Baugher, agrees to a survey, keep police hours as is; thanks to fire department, thanks to the Township, it is a tough job.

Ed Swartz, let the police do their job; what is the cost per household for police protection? It would be 84 percent of your property tax. Feels that there's something else going on between the police and board members, based on his view from the audience.

Rod Gladfelter, thanks to police for response time to burglary the other night. Also follow up call after the incident. Please keep.

Kelly Fuhrman, keep police; Also, increased costs indicate growth of the township, so of course costs will rise. Received great service from police department. Also appreciates the job that the Board members are trying to do for the Township. How about a survey?

Clint Fuhrman, this sounds like costs are the only factor. Don't make the decision on cost only; please factor in response time. Survey, yes. Feels percentage of costs equal the number of calls, as presented by the Chief in the Police Report at the beginning of the meeting.

Fritz Allison, appreciates the job the Supervisors are trying to do, and keep the police as is. They offer great response time and are great professional people.

Robert Rebert, II, this is nothing new. Distracted driving is scary now. Has had to deal with state police and had never had a bad response from the state police. Thanks to the Supervisors for watching the tax dollars. Cost is everything to him.

Cathy Martin, noted that the Township will have no control over state police protection; state police personnel don't know NCT at all. Look at other ways to cut costs.

Mr. Brenneman noted that a sticking point is health insurance coverage for police spouses that also work somewhere else and are afforded health insurance coverage where they work. Mr. Brenneman also noted that he has talked to many people that oppose to keeping the police, but are hesitant to speak aloud, for fear of retaliation.

X. **Announcements**

- A. The Recreation Board will meet on February 25, 7 p.m.
- B. The Planning Commission will meet on February 26, 7 p.m.
- C. The Southwestern Regional Police Board will meet on March 13, 7 p.m., at police headquarters.
- D. The Board of Supervisors will meet on March 19, 7 p.m.

At 8:39 p.m., the Board *recessed* to an Executive Session.

At 9:38 p.m., the Board *reconvened* with no action taken.

Motion by Luckenbaugh, second by Shearer, to adjourn. All members voted aye; motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Kerchner,
Township Secretary/Manager

Julie B. Maher,
Recording Secretary