

**UPPER MORELAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**FINANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

July 9, 2007

CALL TO ORDER – Comm. McKenna called a meeting of the Finance & Administrative Committee of the Board of Commissioners of Upper Moreland Township to order at 8:36 p.m.

ROLL CALL – Comm. McKenna, Chairman took roll call. Present: Commissioners Richard Booth and Michael Crilly.

Others: David Dodies, Township Manager, John Crawford, Assistant Township Manager, and Robert Kerns, Township Solicitor

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Comm. McKenna accepted the minutes of the Finance & Administrative Committee meeting of June 11, 2007 into the record as submitted.

REPORTS:

Finance Director:

There were no questions.

Tax Enforcement Officer's Report:

Mr. Crawford noted that the tax collections are going well.

Earned Income Tax Collector Report:

Mr. Crawford said that we are 50% of budget.

Comm. Booth said a constituent informed him that their April 15th check didn't clear for 60 days by Berkheimer and that is a long time. Is this Berkeimer's policy?

Mr. Crawford replied it not their policy, and that constituent should contact them directly.

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

Revenue and Expense Summaries:

General Fund

Mr. Crawford said revenues are on schedule and expenditures are a little behind.

Comm. Booth said the revitalization account is at 76%, will we come close to budget?

Mr. Crawford replied yes.

Comm. Booth said there is a credit in the Pension fund, is that the police contribution to the Pension Fund?

Mr. Crawford replied no. For the General Fund, we received a \$22,000 check so the real estate transactions are moving along and we will probably exceed budget this year.

There were no questions of the Debt, Liquid Fuels, Escrow or Revolving Funds.

PERSONNEL:

Comm. McKenna noted there are no appointments and there is still a vacancy on the ZHB for an alternate position.

OLD BUSINESS:

Township Solicitor's review of existing Township ordinances relating to cell towers, billboards and signs:

Solicitor Kerns said he sent in an amendment to the cell tower ordinance, and we are looking at possible location changes for the map. He will come back to the committee with a recommendation on the cell tower ordinance next month.

Comm. Booth asked about the billboard ordinance.

Solicitor Kerns replied we will do all three ordinances at one time.

Comm. Booth said he would like to get a setback from Rt. 611 so we do not have a billboard right on Rt. 611 at the Turnpike.

Solicitor Kerns replied he will change the ordinance and tie that into the map.

Comm. Booth said he would like no billboards within 50 feet from any apartment building.

Solicitor Kerns said we can add that to the map.

Public Comments:

Kip Fitzpatrick said other Townships have billboards 150-200 feet from a residence.

Comm. Booth suggested making it 100 feet.

Solicitor Kerns said he asked some of the Board members to look at locations for billboards and bring their comments to him before revising the ordinance.

Comm. Crilly asked for the timeframe of when the ordinances will be completed.

Solicitor Kerns replied September/October.

Comm. Crilly said that a copy should be sent to the ZHB and APA.

Kevin Spearing asked about a special exception for the construction of cell towers and the transfer from one party to another.

Solicitor Kerns replied he needs to review the transcripts on that matter.

Jonathan de Jonge commented there are restrictions on billboards in residential areas.

Consideration of Storm Water Utility Authority:

Comm. Booth said he was at a convention where the Deputy Secretary of DEP was there along with John Hines, who is the Executive Director of Water Planning and, during the portion of the meeting relating to the storm water utility authority, he asked for their opinion of a Storm Water Utility Authority for inter-municipalities, and he (Mr. Hines) did not feel First Class Townships can do this; however, they were considering asking legislators to introduce legislation to allow us to do it.

Solicitor Kerns said whenever an Authority is put together, we have to know where the funding will come from.

Comm. Booth said if several municipalities did this; they all have different zoning codes, which would create a problem. Should this item remain on the agenda?

Solicitor Kerns replied only to lobby the legislators who wish to see this happen.

Comm. Booth said perhaps we can write a letter to our legislators asking them to initiate legislation themselves or support it whenever DEP starts it.

Solicitor Kerns said it should be clearly laid out what the Township is looking for before going to work on a project that the Board may not like the end result.

Comm. Crilly asked could we expand the existing Authority.

Solicitor Kerns replied no.

Comm. Crilly said he met with the President of Hatboro Council, John Zygmunt, and discussed the issue of a Storm Water Authority and he (Mr. Zygmunt) said they are in support of that concept. We explored a funding stream from the Authority to the Township for storm water projects that are of maximum priority, which would be an immediate solution to funding some of the storm water projects.

Solicitor Kerns said the Authority by necessity and by DEP's requirement has to find a way to develop programs to take out the inflow and infiltration from the system.

Comm. Crilly said we recognize we are the only body that can have oversight of the Authority and it is in our best interest to address these storm water challenges. Mr. Zygmunt suggested having a public meeting whereby the Sewer Authority would present both Boards and the public what they perceive the challenges are and we would specifically require them to address odor and acidity. We would also require them to propose projects to be laid out in a comprehensive fashion to affectively address the challenges including project timelines and budgets.

He believes, if they were to take that approach in an open forum that would give us the information we need to decide whether to extend their charter beyond one-year. That would give us a sense of whether they are committed to addressing the odor and capacity problems that are presently plaguing the Authority. He feels a public meeting would be a good approach and we could have it at the Upper Moreland High School. Our Board and Hatboro Council would have to write a letter to the Sewer Authority saying this is what we want them to do and when.

Comm. Booth suggested asking the Authority to bring forth their capital budget before the public meeting so the Board can review it.

Comm. Crilly agreed, and said that the Finance & Administrative Committee can write the letter to the Sewer Authority.

Comm. Booth asked would a meeting date be proposed in that letter.

Comm. Crilly replied sometime at the end of September, but let them decide what date is convenient for them. As part of the inflow and infiltration fees, there seems to be differences of opinion from the Solicitor for the Sewer Authority as well as the Solicitor for Hatboro Council as to whether this is doable. He asked our Township Solicitor to enter into discussions with the other two solicitors to explain his rationale as to why we see this as being something we can expect from the Sewer Authority. We should suggest to members of the Sewer Authority Board to enter into discussions about fees that would be paid to the Township and Hatboro. He feels this is solvable before the end of this year.

Comm. Romaniello said regarding the water quality that was sampled by Temple University's Center for Sustainable Communities, there is an indication that DEP and the EPA has a technical limit of the number nutrients going into the water. Right now, there are 15 and 20 milligrams per liter of phosphate and nitrates going into the stream.

Solicitor Kerns said the TMDL (Total Maximum Discharge Limits) for all streams will be applicable for all watersheds. The new limits next year will be more stringent. The water companies want the sewer authorities to clean the water and make it more drinkable than what they put in your taps.

Comm. Booth added he was with a representative from the Board of the Philadelphia Water Dept., and they say the Pennypack has the best water quality of any suburban streams. He suggested asking the Sewer Authority's Engineer about the water quality.

Comm. Crilly said water quality should be addressed by the Sewer Authority at the public hearing.

Comm. McKenna said he would like to see money be used for inflow and infiltration problems instead of chasing unrealistic values that the DEP has put on us.

Solicitor Kerns said DEP does more than enough to make sure the authorities adhere to their permits.

Public Comments:

Kevin Spearing said a public meeting is a fantastic idea and should be labeled as "consideration for extension charter."

Comm. Crilly said we will have our Solicitor enter into discussions with the Solicitors from the Sewer Authority and Hatboro Council. We will send a letter to the Sewer Authority in August. Comm. Booth will speak to members of the Sewer Authority about infiltration and inflow fees to both municipalities and we want them to address water quality and make a request for their capital budget and a date for a public hearing.

NEW BUSINESS:

Consideration of Township donation to Montgomery County Lands Trust:

Comm. Booth said we will hold off on this until October/November and remove this item from the agenda.

OTHER FINANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

Comm. Booth said the Police Pension Board has written pension policies; shouldn't that come before the Board of Commissioners for approval?

Solicitor Kerns replied yes.

Comm. Booth said the Township Investment Policy and the Police Pension Policy should be approved by the Board and that should be placed on the agenda for next month.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

Charlie Acker said previously, Comm. Booth asked for a copy of how much money has been spent on revitalization; is that a public record?

Comm. Booth replied yes, and there is a copy in the Township Manager's office.

There were no Commissioner Comments.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. Elizabeth Vile