

**UPPER MORELAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**FINANCE & ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

November 19, 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 9:13 p.m.

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

Others: David Dodies, Township Manager and Dick Watt, Township Solicitor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Comm. McKenna accepted the minutes of the Finance & Administrative Committee meeting of October 8, 2007 into the record as submitted.

REPORTS:

Director of Finance:

Comm. McKenna announced the Board held a public work session for the 2008 budget. Everything is fully funded and there will be no tax increase next year.

Tax Enforcement Officers Report:

Comm. McKenna said we met the numbers for the 2007 budget, and the businesses have increased in Upper Moreland Township by 75, and we had 232 businesses terminated, which is just over 10%.

Earned Income Tax Report:

Comm. McKenna noted that collections are on track.

Comm. Booth said we are looking for another \$100,000 to \$200,000 in earned income taxes.

Mr. Dodies said it is less than that. It is about \$75,000 to \$100,000.

Comm. McKenna said there is a time delay with collections and we may not reach the projected number until February 15th.

Mr. Dodies replied that is correct.

Investment Activity Report:

Comm. Booth noted that all funds are invested accordingly.

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

List of Bills Payable:

There were no questions or comments.

Revenue & Expense Summaries:

There were no questions of the General Fund, Liquid Fuel Fund, Debt Fund, Escrow Fund or the Revolving Fund.

PERSONNEL:

Appointments/Reappointments:

Comm. McKenna said we have John Knauss for an appointment to the PRAC for a two-year term.

Comm. Crilly said we should move this appointment for action at our Regular Board meeting.

Comm. McKenna said we have Mark Gallagher for an appointment to the Police and Fire Civil Service Commission. He will speak to him about it.

Mr. Dodies noted there are no meetings scheduled for the Police & Fire Civil Service Commission in December so the appointment can be made in January.

Comm. McKenna said we have Kent Nelson for an appointment to the Upper Moreland-Hatboro Joint Sewer Authority for a 5-year term. He would like to move Len Spearing for the appointment of the Upper Moreland-Hatboro Joint Sewer Authority for a 5-year term.

Comm. Booth said he would like to move Kent Nelson for action too and the Board can make a choice at the next Regular Board meeting on December 3rd.

Comm. McKenna noted that it was mentioned to him that it would be best not to move two candidates forward because whoever is not chosen might be embarrassed.

Comm. Crilly said he would like to move Len Spearing forward, and generally the policy is to move one person for action as there is only one position available and whoever is not chosen may be embarrassed.

Comm. Booth said that is wrong. He was told that both candidates would be moved forward and he told several people that there will be no debate because it will be discussed on December 3rd. It is unfair to change it at this time because those who are not here this evening do not have a chance to comment on it. We should move both candidates forward.

Comm. Crilly said he opposed to that, and he has never agreed to anything along those lines. This Board has been trying to cooperate with the Sewer Authority for the last two years. We have asked them to enter into constructive dialog to discuss some of their challenges. Mr. Spearing brought to the Board's attention problems and deficiencies at the Sewer Authority and one of them is the blending of waste with other waters and some questionable metering of flow from Warminster and Horsham. We have been attempting to get honest answers from the Sewer Authority. And, time and time again, we have only received "tap dancing and long-winded answers" and, at the last meeting, he asked the Authority whether they are violating any DEP or EPA standards, and he received a 30 minute answer and then he asked if the Authority is in technical violation of any DEP or EPA standards, and the answer was, "yes."

DEP is not holding the Authority accountable for violating those standards, but that likely will happen. We asked for plans for improvements to address some of their challenges, and we have received no information. We sent a letter, dated September 19th, requesting a presentation with paper copies of information related to time schedules, funding levels and general overall plans.

We went to a meeting last Wednesday and did not receive any written confirmations. During the scope of the conversation, the Authority did not admit to any problems; however, when our Solicitor asked the Engineer for the Authority why they were expanding the facility, they responded, "because of the blending of the swirl concentrator practices, which are not acceptable to DEP or the EPA."

He is frustrated with the Sewer Authority, and he believes that someone who will be a "watchdog" for the Township should be on their Board to protect the Township's interest, and he believes Mr. Len Spearing will do that. This is not to reflect poorly on Mr. Nelson in any fashion whatsoever. He believes we need to change the dynamics of that Board, which requires an appointment of Mr. Spearing as a representative from Upper Moreland.

Comm. Booth said he was told by the Chairman of this committee that we would advance both candidates forward and it would be discussed on December 3rd and he appealed to the Chairman.

Comm. McKenna said he will honor what he said to Comm. Booth, and we will move both candidates forward and consider them at our next Regular meeting. He asked for any Commissioner comments.

Comm. Martin said these problems need to be resolved as our future depends on it.

Comm. McKenna asked for any public comments. There were none.

Comm. McKenna said the appointment of Glenn Brown on the Vacancy Board for a two year term will be filled at the Organization meeting by the newly appointed Commissioners.

OLD BUSINESS:

Extension to the Charter for the Upper Moreland Township-Hatboro Joint Sewer Authority:

Mr. Dodies said last year, the Board voted to extend the charter for one year and the Authority has requested a 25-year extension.

Comm. McKenna said he would agree to one year.

Comm. Booth agreed on one year, at any given time, we can withdraw the charter.

Mr. Dodies said the direction from the committee would be to direct the Solicitor to draft a resolution for a one year charter for the Sewer Authority to be acted on at the December 3rd Board meeting.

Comm. McKenna asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Comm. Booth asked Mr. Dodies to inform Hatboro of the Board's decision when it is made.

Comm. McKenna asked for any public comments. There were none.

Consideration of Storm Water:

Mr. Dodies said this item is related to the meeting with the Authority.

Comm. Crilly said storm water is a problem in Upper Moreland; however, he does not see this being addressed any time soon as there are other issues to sort out.

Comm. Romaniello said at the multi-regional meeting, a suggestion was made that Horsham, Hatboro and Upper Moreland Township and Township Managers can work together and discuss what the Pennsylvania Environmental Council can do for us.

Comm. McKenna asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Comm. Martin commented that a Storm Water Authority was a good idea and we should follow through with it.

Comm. McKenna asked for any public comments.

Jonathan deJonge commented that storm water is the result of uncontrolled development, and it is time for this Township to update their Comprehensive Plan so it can be addressed. The Township has neglected to update the Comprehensive Plan since 1969.

Comm. Booth replied the State is in the process of requiring new storm water regulations, and originally they were supposed to be in effect, April 1st, but it has been delayed by the State for another 6-8 months. The storm water regulations they are recommending are quite drastic as infiltration is key.

Comm. Romaniello commented that the Comprehensive Plan was discussed at the budget workshop and it will not be funded next year.

Letter to neighboring communities proposing a formation of consortium of municipalities to adopt shared policies concerning sex offender regulations:

Comm. McKenna said we will continue this matter.

Comm. Booth asked about the State's progress.

Mr. Dodies replied we received a letter from Senator Greenleaf about two pieces of legislation on the table at the General Assembly that will be currently addressed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Consideration of recommendation from Nick Scull and Arthur Adams to proceed with borrowing funds for rehabilitation of carriage house at Boileau Park with the Township guaranteeing loan and obtaining a tenant for the carriage house, whose rental payments will fund loan payments:

Comm. McKenna said this item will be removed from the agenda until we get a definition from the PRAC concerning the Boileau property.

OTHER ITEMS:

Proposal for survey of Township/Shopping Center Boundary – Bonnet Lane:

Mr. Dodies said this is placed on this committee to be moved to the full Board for funding.

Comm. Booth asked what is the purpose of this survey?

Mr. Dodies replied to delineate the line behind the shopping center and Boileau Park.

Comm. McKenna said in this case, shouldn't the burden fall on the owner of the shopping center to pay for the survey.

Mr. Dodies replied we can try to take that approach.

Comm. Booth said we need to know where our park boundaries are.

Comm. McKenna said we will move this for action at our next Regular Board meeting. He asked for any public comments. There were none.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

John Sheppard, President of the Board of Bucks/Mont Meals on Wheels, thanked the Board of Commissioners on behalf of his Board and the volunteers for their past and future support for our program.

Comm. McKenna said we appreciate your service to the residents of Upper Moreland Township, and that is why the Board of Commissioners increased your funding.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

There were none.

Finance & Administrative Committee Meeting

November 19, 2007

ADJOURNMENT: 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. Elizabeth Vile