

November 7, 2007
Township Building

A regular meeting of the **PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE** was held tonight, Morton J. Simon, Jr. presiding. Members present were Commissioners Gerhard, Greenwald, McKeown, Portner and Muldawer. Also present was Ex-Officio member Swavola. Staff present were Bryan T. Havir, Assistant Township Manager; John O. Hoover, Director of Parks and Recreation; Michael Moonblatt, Fire Marshal; Ruth Littner Shaw, Main Street Manager, and David G. Kraynik, Township Manager. A Public Attendance List is attached.

Mr. Simon called the meeting to order.

1. Upon motion of Mr. Gerhard, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Report of the Property Supervisor for the month of October, 2007 was accepted.

2. Upon motion of Mr. Greenwald, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Report of the Public Information and Complaint Officer for the month of October, 2007 was accepted.

3. Upon motion of Mr. McKeown, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Report of the Main Street Manager for the month of October, 2007 was accepted.

4. Upon motion of Mr. Muldawer, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Staff Meeting Minutes dated September 25 and October 23, 2007 were accepted.

5. Mr. William Chambres, Chairman of the Twinning Committee, reported that for the last several months the Twinning Committee has been preparing its by-laws, a program, and a membership drive. Mr. McKeown suggested that before the by-laws are presented to the Commissioners, the committee implement its membership drive and allow the new members to participate in the process. In response to a question from Mr. Gerhard, Mr. Chambres stated that

there are currently six (6) active members, and there is a need for 20 members. Mr. Swavola questioned the lack of active membership. It was his opinion that it is pointless to have by-laws without sufficient membership. Mr. Chambres indicated that if the committee cannot increase its active membership, it might no longer be viable.

Upon motion of Mr. McKeown, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Twinning Committee was granted a six-month extension of the Sunset Provision of December 31, 2007 to June 30, 2008.

6. Upon motion of Mr. McKeown, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Twinning Committee Meeting Minutes dated October 3 and November 1, 2007 were accepted.

7. Upon motion of Mr. Gerhard, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Economic Development Task Force Meeting Minutes dated October 10, 2007 were accepted.

8. Upon motion of Mr. Muldawer, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Historical Commission Meeting Minutes dated October 11, 2007 were accepted.

9. Regarding a “No Place for Hate” campaign, Mr. Simon hoped that the Drug, Alcohol and Mental Health Committee could make a recommendation with regard to the Township’s participation in said campaign with the School District.

Upon motion of Mr. McKeown, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Drug, Alcohol and Mental Health Committee Meeting Minutes dated October 18, 2007 were accepted.

10. Library Director Carrier Turner delivered her Quarterly Report (see attached). She discussed the following:

- The progress of the Citizens' Committee. The Community Survey is receiving a lot of response. The committee may be able to make recommendations by March, 2008.
- The Library Newsletter will be mailed to residents before Thanksgiving.
- Improvements to the East Cheltenham Library will commence in late November, resulting in the closure of that library for approximately three (3) or four (4) weeks. Mr. McKeown suggested that Fox Chase Cancer Center be approached for the possible donation of the use of its van to help transport children to the library.
- Staff Development Day is planned for Monday, November 12. The libraries will be closed on that day.
- There has been a 15% increase in library use. The Glenside Library has had a 20% increase.

11. Ms. Diane Williams, 1812 Beech Avenue, LaMott, addressed the Committee regarding her concerns about the Homeowners' Housing Rehabilitation Program as it pertains to her home. A contract was signed in November 2005, and the work commenced on January 25, 2006. The work still has not been satisfactorily completed according to Ms. Williams.

She reviewed a meeting with herself and Mr. Kraynik on October 22, 2007. According to Ms. Williams, the contractor claimed that he used all his paint but she found four (4) gallons after he left the job. She raised issues such as the contractor wanting a punch list when the contract was only 50% complete; she questioned why she should wait for his punch list when he had a contract; she was never a party to nor did she sign the second change order, and the contract states that she should be a party of any change order; she questioned the cost of \$260 to refinish the windows. In her opinion, the contract has been picked over as to what parts were selected and what parts were chosen to be ignored. She noted that under the terms of the contract, the Township is to receive \$50/day for every day that the contractor goes over 60-days. She inquired about the contractor's problems with his bond. Mr. Kraynik indicated that the bonding company will not give the contractor any more bonds because her job has been outstanding for so long. The consultant has been asked to put a value on the punch list items in case the Township has to get another contractor. Mr. Swavola stated that he,

Mr. Portner, Mr. Kraynik, Mr. Havar, and Mr. Thomas, the consultant want to meet at her home. At that time, they will do a walk-thru and review the punch list. Ms. Williams agreed.

12. Mr. Hoover reviewed proposed 2008 fee increases for the pools, playground programs and Kiddie Camp. It was Mr. Simon's opinion that it was not unreasonable to increase the Seasonal Family Membership to \$175 from the proposed \$170. This would change the differential between the Family Membership and the 1 Adult/1 Child membership (\$160) to \$15 instead of the proposed \$10. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Mr. Hoover reviewed the request to place pool applications on the Township's website. The current system requires an annual mass mailing of said applications. The applications are not being returned to the Township for processing in a timely manner, and residents are increasingly ignoring the deadline. The availability of the application on the website will save Staff time, postage, and make it more convenient for residents. Applications will be still be available at the Township Building.

13. Upon motion of Mr. McKeown, the Committee unanimously approved the downloading of Pool Applications on the Township's website as per Mr. Hoover's memorandum dated October 29, 2007 (see attached).

14. Upon motion of Mr. McKeown, and unanimously approved by the Committee, it is recommended to the Board of Commissioners fee increases for 2008 for Pools, Playground Programs and Kiddie Camp, as amended (see attached).

15. The Committee considered an extension of the Township's Transit Bus Service. Mr. Kraynik reported that the Township has received a letter from the new owner of the bus company, First Transit, indicating its intention and desire to adhere to all the terms and conditions of

the Township's contract with Laidlaw Transit Service. It is anticipated that the Abington Township Board of Commissioners will approve its contract on November 8, 2007.

Mr. Gerhard stated that he approved of the service but he could not approve a contract with a company that is in violation of Township zoning. He referred to the school buses that are operated by First Transit that are parked at Rices Mill Road and Glenside Avenue, which is a zoning violation. He recommended that this matter be tabled. It was Mr. Simon's opinion that said issue is not related to the transit bus service and was concerned that if the matter was tabled, it would jeopardize the service. Mr. Kraynik reported that the contract expires on January 1, 2008, and there is insufficient time for the Township to go through a bid process for a new bus company if this matter is tabled. Regarding the matter of the school bus parking at Rices Mill Road and Glenside Avenue, it was Mr. Greenwald's opinion that the property owner, and not First Transit, is the violator, and said matter is a separate issue.

16. Upon motion of Mr. Portner, and approved by the Committee, it is recommended to the Board of Commissioners a one (1) year extension of the Township's Transit Bus Service Contract to Laidlaw Transit Services, Inc., doing business as First Transit, in the amount of \$52,514, contingent upon Abington Township approving said contract extension (see attached). (AYES: Greenwald, McKeown, Muldawer, Portner Simon, Swavola; NAYES: Gerhard).

17. Under New Business: Mr. McKeown requested Staff to contact the School District regarding its compliance with state law regarding mandatory recycling. He requested that it be placed on the agenda for the next Liaison Committee meeting.

18. Under Citizens Forum: Ms. Williams requested that a representative from the County be present for the meeting at her property since the County is funding the Homeowners' Housing Rehabilitation Project.

There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Portner, and unanimously approved by the Committee, the meeting was adjourned.

David G. Kraynik
Township Manager

as per Anna Marie Felix