

November 4, 2015
Curtis Hall

A regular meeting of the **PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE** was held tonight, Commissioner Ann L. Rappoport, Vice Chair, presiding. Present were Commissioners Holland, Norris, Sharkey, and Simon. Also present was Ex-Officio Member Portner.

Staff present were Alyson Elliott, Assistant Township Manager; Henry Sekawungu, Director of Planning and Zoning and Township Manager Bryan T. Havar. Also present was Joseph Bagley, Esq., Solicitor. A Public Attendance List is attached.

Ms. Rappoport called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m.

1. Upon motion of Mr. Portner, the Committee unanimously received the Report of the Property Supervisor for the month of October, 2015.
2. Upon motion of Mr. Portner, the Committee unanimously received the Report of the Public Information and Complaint Officer for the month of October, 2015.
3. Upon motion of Mr. Portner, the Committee unanimously received the Twinning Committee Meeting Minutes dated October 7, 2015.
4. Upon motion of Mr. Portner, the Committee unanimously received the Historical Commission Meeting Minutes dated October 8, 2015.
5. Upon review of the Staff Meeting Minutes, Mr. Sharkey noted that Staff reviewed and did not recommend a Textile Recycling Program and suggested that said program be presented to the School District for its consideration.

Upon motion of Mr. Portner, the Committee unanimously received the Staff Meeting Minutes dated October 13, 2015.

6. Upon motion of Mr. Portner, the Committee unanimously received the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Committee Regular Meeting Minutes dated October 15, 2015.
7. Upon motion of Mr. Portner, the Committee unanimously received the Economic Development Task Force Meeting Minutes dated October 20, 2015.
8. Upon motion of Mr. Portner, the Committee unanimously received the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Committee Meeting Minutes dated September 17, 2015.
9. The Committee considered a possible future reconfiguration of Standing Committees. These Committees being Parks and Recreation ("P&R"), Finance, Sinking Fund, Public Affairs ("PAC"), Building and Zoning ("B&Z"), and Public Works ("PW"). In this respect, Mr. Sharkey suggested the following:

- Merging the P&R Committee meeting into the PAC. Since the PAC meets every month, this allows additional time for the Committee to review P&R issues.
- Merging the B&Z Committee into PW. This would allow the Solicitor to attend only two (2) meetings instead of three (3) each month. Mr. Sharkey suggested that appeals reviewed by the B&Z Committee be limited to large scale and commercial zoning applications only. It was his opinion that the Committee sometimes ends up getting between neighbor squabbles over issues such as fences, sheds, etc. Additionally, applicants have to currently sit through Public Safety and PAC Committee meetings waiting for the B&Z meeting to commence. According to Mr. Sharkey, Cheltenham is the only Township that has a B&Z Committee that reviews zoning applications, and this is unnecessary.
- Merging the Sinking Fund Committee with Finance so that financial matters can be discussed on a recurring basis.
- The Zoning Code rewrite could be discussed for about 1½ hour meeting following each Board of Commissioners meeting.
- Committee meetings to be held at the Township Building. This would be a cost savings on energy and Staff time.

Mr. Bagley commented that the Home Rule Charter appears to be an early attempt to incorporate what is now law throughout the state.

Mr. Holland asked how the Commissioners would know when to become actively involved in an application.

Mr. Bagley noted that legally, neighbors must get advance notice of a zoning application, and usually discuss issues with their Commissioner.

Mr. Portner asked if a referendum would be required. Mr. Bagley responded that the Home Rule Charter gives the Board of Commissioners authority to dissolve committees.

Mr. Simon questioned if the annual reorganization of Standing Committees would be affected. Mr. Bagley responded that it would not, and Mr. Sharkey felt that any change be best done in July 2016 and effective with the new Township calendar. Mr. Simon felt that some major items could be discussed on an ad-hoc basis.

Mr. Norris believed the suggestion could lead to better efficiency; would cut expenses; having a monthly Finance Committee meeting provides more attention and transparency; he supported Committee meetings at the Township Building provided they were televised.

Ms. Rappoport suggested this be discussed with Staff; that Alternative Revenue, business recruitment and marketing be discussed at Finance.

The Committee unanimously agreed to discuss the matter over the next few months.

10. Under Old Business:

a. Ms. Rappoport believed there was confusion at the first workshop for the Draft Zoning Code, and the content of the November and December workshops needs to be reannounced.

Mr. Norris felt that the information provided at said workshop was repetitive and needed to be similar to the Flood Protection meetings at Glenside Hall. He believed that residents want to discuss certain neighborhoods and how the draft code affects their neighborhood. Mr. Havar stated that most of the changes are in the commercial districts and not in residential districts. More information will be forthcoming at future meetings.

Mr. Simon believed that having the County show the historic changes was important so as to understand the modifications over the years.

b. Ms. Rappoport asked for additional car bumper magnets. Mr. Havar reported that he had an additional supply.

c. **Recommendation to the Board of Commissioners:** Upon motion of Ms. Rappoport, it is recommended to the Board of Commissioners the adoption of a Resolution honoring Dr. W. Thomas London, Emeritus Professor at Fox Chase Cancer, for receiving a named Professorship for his contributions to the discovery and prevention of hepatitis B.

11. New Business: None.

12. Citizens' Forum: None.

There being no further business, upon motion of Mr. Sharkey, the Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.



Bryan T. Havar
Township Manager

per Anna Marie Felix



PUBLIC ATTENDANCE LIST
PRESIDENT'S BUDGET MESSAGE – 7:30 P.M.
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – 7:45 P.M.
PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – 8:00 P.M.
BUILDING AND ZONING COMMITTEE – 8:15 P.M.
Wednesday, November 4, 2015
Curtis Hall

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