

**WEST HANOVER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
7171 ALLENTOWN BOULEVARD, HARRISBURG, PA 17112
MONDAY, JULY 9, 2012**

WORKSHOP SESSION: 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER – 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Klein called the workshop to order at 6:00pm

ROLL CALL

Harold Harman, Supervisor
Jay Megonnell, Vice Chairman
Gloria Zimmerman, Supervisor

Adam Klein, Chairman
Don Steinmeier, Secretary-Treasurer

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

OLD TOPICS:

Ordinance 2012-12 SALDO Existing Tree & Vegetation Preservation- Ms. England began the discussion stating that there was a correction to the memo she wrote regarding the Ordinance. She explained that the hearing held on July 2, 2012 was continued until July 16, 2012 not closed as stated in the memo. She explained that this Ordinance is amending certain sections of Chapter 173 for subdivision and land development and therefore only applies to any land owner who wants to subdivide a tract of land into three or more lots.

Mr. Klein opened the floor to the supervisors to discuss there concerns and/or questions regarding the proposed Ordinance.

Mrs. Zimmerman brought up the following items: (1) Appendix A for native plant listings (2) Monitoring of construction activity in the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) (3) Definition of “adequate” for the TPZ (4) Who in the Township will authorize storage of materials and vehicles (5) Who in the Township will set fines and penalties for violations of the Ordinance. (6) Regarding topsoil a provision should be made to retain or dispose of the topsoil. Mrs. Zimmerman commented that there are too many items that are not defined in the proposed Ordinance.

Mr. Steinmeier had the following comments (1) The TPZ portion of the Ordinance needs revision (2) Tree removal and relocation needs revision. Mr. Steinmeier is in disagreement with the items regarding seeding, topsoil retention and the developers’ responsibility of controlling invasive species and noxious weeds during construction. He commented that he feels the Ordinance is very restrictive.

Mr. Klein stated that the Board has worked on this Ordinance for three years and that no developers have come to any meetings to voice their opinion. He said that the Township has always worked with developers. He brought up the amount of time and money that has been spent over the last three years on this Ordinance.

Linda Turns, 8000 Rabbit Lane- Ms. Turns commented that she sat on the Board for six years and never met with the EAC to discuss this Ordinance.

Bob Leonard, 7675 Devonshire Heights Road- Mr. Leonard commented that this Ordinance has been reviewed by the EAC, zoning office and Board at numerous meetings and workshop. He thinks there may be some behind the scene efforts to disrupt the process.

John Murphy, Alpha Consulting Engineers- Mr. Murphy stated that he just found out about the Ordinance last week. He thinks that this Ordinance is an opportunity where the Township can work with the developers to receive input and make a good final decision.

Forrest Troutman, Yingst Homes- Mr. Troutman, solicitor for Yingst Homes, thanked the Board for all that they have done and informed them that he just found out about the Ordinance last week. He presented a letter to the Board this evening regarding issues he believes they should consider regarding the proposed Ordinance. He commented on the following points (1) Appendix A, the thirteen paged document titled Native Plant Listings (2) The proposed language “Trees to be removed shall be mutually agreed upon between developer and township staff through a site visit.” (3) The definition of “SALDO”. He stated the comments from DCPC are different than what was advertised in the Paxton Herald and on the Township website. He does not disagree with the intent of the Ordinance he believes it needs some refinement.

MaryAnn Yahn, 325 Piketown Road-Mrs. Yahn commented that a fifty foot tree will not survive if moved.

Carol Buskirk, 6908 Fox Hill Road- Mrs. Buskirk stated she has been working on the Ordinance since 2000.

Ned Diehl, 7512 Sterling Road- Mr. Deal commented that the environmental people in the Township are out of hand. He said environmental regulations, have destroyed his farm and pond. He is tired with all the regulations that are being put on the residents. He stated he has a problem if trees have more rights than individuals.

Jim Clippinger, Attorney, for the Homebuilders Association of Metropolitan Harrisburg- Mr. Clippinger stated that he just found out about the Ordinance last week. He wants the best Ordinance for the Township and the developers. He thinks that the proposed Ordinance is vague in certain areas. He stated the Homebuilders Association of Metropolitan Harrisburg would like to participate in the development of the Ordinance.

Mark McNaughton, President, Homebuilders Association of Metropolitan Harrisburg – Mr. McNaughton suggested that the Township review the Municipal Planning Code as he believes sections of this Ordinance may be in violation of the code. He thinks that the Ordinance needs to be reviewed as developers do not want to remove trees; they want to preserve them to add value to the property. He reiterated the Homebuilders Association of Metropolitan Harrisburg would like to participate in the development of the Ordinance.

Bob Jones, 7887 Skyline Drive- Mr. Jones commented that he hopes the Board will work for the Township. If the Ordinance is passed as proposed it will hurt people who own land in the Township.

There was discussion that the hearing will continue on July 16, 2012 at 7:15p. The Board and Township Solicitor encouraged developers to attend the hearing if they would like their comments to go on public record.

Mrs. Zimmerman commented that all Ordinances need to be black and white. She stated the current Ordinance is not black and white.

NEW TOPICS

Presentation – John McNally, Senate Candidate- Mr. McNally commended the Board for listening to Township concerns and demonstrating leadership for the residents. He gave a brief overview of his upcoming campaign and encouraged residents to contact him with questions or concerns. His election headquarters is located at Suite 102, Olde Liberty Square. Mr. McNally addressed the issue of redistricting. He stated that new redistricting will not take place until 2014. The major goal is one man/one vote. If elected Mr. McNally stated he will take a regional approach regardless of the Township's district. Mr. Steinmeier provided Mr. McNally a list of local government problems. He urged his to help stop the unfunded mandates that are place on local government.

Carol Buskirk, 6908 Fox Hill Road-Mrs. Buskirk asked if Rob Teplitz who is Mr. McNally's opponent will make a presentation to the Township residents. Mr. Klein said Mr. Teplitz contacted him and if he is available he can address residents at the September workshop.

Discussion – Honoring Township Citizens- The Board would like to make a presentation to Earl Hoffman, Jr. for all his contributions to the Township. It was suggested that a presentation be made at the opening ceremony of community festival to be held on August 25th. Mrs. Zimmerman will confirm that Mr. Hoffman will be available.

OTHER WORKSHOP ITEMS/INFORMATION- Ms. England presented the Board with an email from Chief Shatto regarding issues with the air conditioning unit at the fire station. The problem will be repaired July 10th. Ms. England and Kyle Miller are scheduled for training to learn to program the thermostats. The fire company had to replaces fuses over the weekend to fix the problem; Mrs. Zimmerman stated they should be reimbursed for that cost. Mrs. Zimmerman suggested that all necessary repairs need to be completed by October. Mr. Megonnell and Mrs. Zimmerman suggested stronger controls of the contractors to have all issues resolved. Solicitor Yost suggested that a list of all warranties is obtained. The Board discussed the importance of keeping the Township in the loop of any issues that occur at the fire station.

ADJOURNMENT: 7:10 PM