

**MINUTES OF THE HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
HELD ON DECEMBER 11, 2012**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Miller, at approximately 7:00 P.M. with the opening statement that the meeting had been duly advertised and met all the requirements of the Sunshine Law. Also present were: Deputy Mayor Hamilton, Councilman Kula, Councilman Cicerale, Councilman Ross, Manager Marianne Smith, Clerk Jane Bakalarczyk and Township Attorney Fred Semrau of Dorsey & Semrau

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Waiver – North Church Gravel Soil Removal Operation

Stephen Goodbody of SunLight General Capital, Cadence Bowden of Gabel Associates and Tim Barber, construction contractor were present to discuss the Hardyston Township Board of Education solar project. Mr. Goodbody stated that a number of trees on North Church Gravel's property adjacent to the Board of Education would have to be cut down in order to allow adequate sunlight for the solar project to be feasible.

Township Manager stated that North Church Gravel is required to maintain the existing tree line along the edge of the property line between all adjoining property owners to serve as a buffer to the noise and visual impact of the soil removal operation as a condition of their soil removal operation. She stated that a waiver from the requirement to maintain a 50 feet buffer in order to allow the Hardyston Board of Education to remove the trees is being requested. She stated that both North Church Gravel and the Hardyston Township Board of Education are amendable to the removal of the trees. She stated that the builder/owner would replant Flowering Magnolia trees along the property line, and that said trees shall be not less than 7 to 8 feet tall at time of planting and spaced not less than 15 feet on center to act as an aesthetic buffer to the soil removal operation. Council asked that this item be placed on the regular meeting agenda to follow for consideration.

B. NYS&W Request for Support for Improvements/Grant

Township Manager stated that a request for a resolution in support of the Rehabilitation of Main Track Between MP 40.0 and MP 50.0 Project has been received from the New York, Susquehanna and Western Railway Corporation. Council asked that this resolution be placed on the regular meeting agenda to follow for consideration.

C. Support for A-2753 and S-1923 – Direct Payment of Energy Taxes to Municipal Governments

Council agreed to have the Township Manager prepare a supporting resolution to be placed on the December 18, 2012 meeting agenda.

D. Future Development of Wheatsworth Road Property

Township Council will discuss this item at a future meeting when the Township Engineer is present.

E. Wellness Programming

Township Manager stated that the Township has an opportunity to apply for a grant through the health insurance fund to get biometric screenings for employees. She stated that the application would need to be submitted by the end of the week. Council agreed that the application should be submitted and that it would be a benefit to employees as well as the Township.

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F. Littell Center Partners/Fees

Township Manager stated it is likely that Hamburg Borough would be interested in joining the shared service agreement for use of the Littell Center. Currently, the shared service agreement is between Hardyston Township and Franklin Borough. She stated that recommendations have been made for the fees to be charged for use of the Littell Center to non-partnered town organizations.

G. Financial Status Report

Township Manager stated that the Township is closing out the year pretty strong. She stated that most delinquent taxes are expected to be paid before the end of the year. She also stated that police tests are being run next week, since one of the newest members of the police department has resigned to take a position elsewhere.

H. Appointments

Township Council discussed positions that need to be filled on the various boards. Township Manager stated that a letter of interest was received from a resident to fill a position on the Zoning Board. Council asked that the interested party be invited to the next meeting to meet with the Council.

PUBLIC COMMENT (in accordance with P.L. 2002, c.80): A motion was made and seconded to open the meeting to the public. All in favor. Motion carried. No public comment. A motion was made and seconded to close the meeting to the public. All in favor. Motion carried.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: No further comments.

ADJOURNMENT: At approximately 7:35 p.m., a motion was made by Ross to adjourn seconded by Kula. All in favor. Motion carried.

Jane Bakalarczyk, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk