

MINUTES OF THE HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 14, 2015

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 Cicerale, Councilwoman Hamilton, Councilman Verrilli, Councilman Kula, Manager Marianne Smith, Clerk Jane Bakalarczyk and Township Attorney Fred Semrau of Dorsey & Semrau.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Construction Code Fees

Joe Butto, Construction Official and Pat Stefanelli, Building Sub-Code Official provided the Council with a draft ordinance amending the fee schedule for their review. The ordinance was placed on the regular meeting agenda that followed for Council consideration.

B. Permits, Licenses and Bond Reductions

1. Beaver Run Farms – Soil & Quarry

Township Engineer stated that upon his inspection of the site, it appears that there has been minimal excavation work done within the area permitted for soil removal permit during the past year. He stated that it also appears that there has been little or no rock excavation done within the portion of the Hardyston site permitted for quarry activities. He stated that he found both the soil and quarry operations to be in good condition and in conformance with provision of the applicable ordinances and therefore recommends the issuance of the annual renewals for both the soil and quarry operations.

2. Eastern Concrete Materials, Inc. - Quarry

Township Engineer stated that upon his inspection, the site remains in compliance with the approved plan and has no objection to issuing the annual operating license for quarrying on this property.

3. North Church Gravel, Inc. – Soil

Township Engineer and the Council discussed a letter received from Lan Associates requesting a one year extension to the existing soil removal permit for North Church Gravel, Inc. Township Engineer stated that this letter explains that due to the slow market during the recession the amount of soil removal did not meet the expectations of the applicant. In addition, the applicant is obtaining rights to Block 62, Lot 34.01 and would like to insure the new soil removal plan properly addresses this new acquisition. Township Engineer recommended that the one year extension be granted for the soil removal permit and that the annual license be renewed.

4. Shotmeyer Brothers, Inc. - Soil

Township Engineer stated that upon inspection, the operation is in general conformance with the approved plan and soil removal ordinance and has no objection to renewing the annual operating license.

5. Central Auto Liquidators, Inc. – Junkyard/Auto Auction

Councilman Verrilli recused himself from this discussion. Township Engineer stated that based on his findings during the site inspection, he recommends that the annual license be renewed conditioned upon the recommendations in his letter to the Township Council dated January 5, 2015. He also recommend that the Council adopt the updated map prepared by Surveyor Donald P. Sweeney, P.L.S. as the official junkyard area map for future reference.

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At this time, Mayor Miller opened the meeting to the public for comment on the above issues. Santo Verrilli identified himself as a member of the public and spoke about the height of the fence on the front of the road of the junkyard. Township Engineer said he believed it is 6 feet high. Township Engineer also stated that according to the Township ordinance, the fence cannot be higher than 6 feet without a variance. Mayor Miller closed the meeting to the public.

6. Shotland Bauer, LLC for Cloverdale West – Phase 1C

Township Engineer stated that a bond reduction request has been received from Shotland Bauer, LLC for Cloverdale West – Phase 1C. He stated that since the temporary cul-de-sac originally included in site improvements relating to Cloverdale West – Phase 1C is no longer needed, he has no objection to the bond reduction.

7. Update on Ridgefield Commons Compliance

Township Engineer stated that the developer has informed him that he has finally straightened out his financing and is working on some of the “punch lists” that were provided by the homeowners.

C. Interview – Zoning Board Appointment – Robert Cook

The Council met with Mr. Cook and discussed his interest in becoming a member of the Hardyston Zoning Board. This appointment was placed on the regular meeting agenda that followed for Council consideration.

D. Summit Lake Special Assessment Commission Update

Township Attorney stated that an informational meeting with all residents that will be impacted by the special assessment will be set for February 19, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the municipal building.

E. Financial Status Report

Township Manager stated that the Township is financially stable.

F. Emergency Medical Service Status Report

The Council discussed the hiring of a consultant to determine how to proceed with emergency medical services within the township due to the dissolution of the First Aid Squad.

G. Generator Bid Status Report

Township Manager informed the Council that the bid for the generator for Fire House #1 will need to be re-bid due to deficiencies in bids previously submitted. She stated that the re-bid date has been set for February 11, 2015.

H. Affordable Housing Update

Township Manager stated that the process of selling the 6 units is moving along. She stated that an ordinance has been placed on the regular agenda to follow allowing the Township to go into contract on one of the units.

COUNCIL COMMENTS: None

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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. Russell Law, member of the Hamburg First Aid Squad expressed concern with the number of rigs available for calls, since they are covering for Hardyston until the Township comes up with a permanent solution for emergency medical services due to the dissolution of the Hardyston First Aid Squad. Township Manager stated that the Township will draft an agreement for the use of one of the Township rigs.

Laura Marchese, a reporter for The Advertiser South, inquired about emergency services coverage within the Township. Mayor Miller stated that the Hardyston First Aid Squad has been out of service since December 19, 2014. He stated that since that time the Township has had mutual aid agreements with Sparta Township, Hamburg Borough and the Milton First Aid Squad is also helping out. A motion was made and seconded to close the meeting to the public. All in favor. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: At approximately 8:30 p.m., a motion was made by Cicerale to adjourn seconded by Verrilli. All in favor. Motion carried.

Jane Bakalarczyk, RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk