

## **MINUTES OF THE HARDYSTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING HELD ON JUNE 11, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kula 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 Miller, Councilwoman Hamilton, Councilman Verrilli, Councilman Cicera, Manager Marianne Smith, Clerk Jane Bakalarczyk and Township Attorney Fred Semrau of Dorsey & Semrau.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

#### **A. Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments**

Township Manager stated that Township Planner Carrine Kaufer has been working on two proposed amendments. One amendment is to bring the Township into compliance with the Highlands Act and the other involves a zone change which the Planning Board has been addressing through a Master Plan amendment relating to Assisted Living along Route 94 in the Commercial Recreational Zone. Township Planner discussed both proposed zoning ordinance amendments with the Council. It was the consensus of the Council to place both ordinances on the regular meeting agenda to follow for the Council's consideration.

#### **B. Emerald Estates Developer's Agreement – Developer Request for Amendment**

Township Manager stated that the Developer of Emerald Estates on Wheatsworth Road is requesting an amendment to the Developer's Agreement between the Developer and the Township. She stated that the letter requests an amendment to postpone the Developer's obligation to construct the four affordable housing units agreed to by the Developer until later in the project. After discussion with the Township Planner and the recommendation of the Planning Board attorney, it was the consensus of the Council to deny the request.

#### **C. 2014-2015 Liquor License Renewals**

Township Manager stated that all the paperwork is in order for renewal. It was the consensus of the Council to place this item on the regular agenda to follow for the Council's consideration.

#### **D. Special Assessment Commission Appointments**

Township Manager stated that positions need to be filled to comprise the newly created Special Assessment Commission. The Council suggested that the Township Manager reach out to a few potential candidates to see if they would be interested in being appointed to the position.

#### **E. North Church Technical Center Water System Compliance Upgrade/Special Assessment Status Report**

Township Manager stated that a letter has been mailed to all of the affected property owners advising them of an informational meeting regarding this project. She stated that the meeting has been scheduled for June 17, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. at the Hardyston Municipal Building.

#### **F. LOSAP – Proposed Language for Public Question**

Township Manager stated that the Township Attorney has re-drafted language to appear on the November ballot to increase the annual contribution for the volunteer firefighters and first aid squad members and provided the Council with the draft for their review. Township Attorney stated that he also sent a draft copy to the Fire Department for their comments.

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- G. Ridgefield Commons – Bond Resolution – Proposed Agreement FIA First Indemnity of America Insurance Company

Township Manager stated that the draft agreement that the Township Attorney is preparing is almost complete for Council review.

- H. Hardyston Township First Aid Squad Prospective Financial Restitution

Township Manager stated that the First Aid Squad had a bond in place for the Treasurer and that she has been informed that they have received \$10,000 from their insurance company for the claim filed with regard to the former Treasurer. A discussion was held as to how the money the First Aid Squad receives for restitution will be handled.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS:** Councilman Miller thanked everyone for their compassion and sympathy shown upon the recent passing of his mother. He especially wanted to thank the Police Department, the Fire Department, the First Aid Squad, the Planning Board, the Zoning Board, the Economic Development Commission, the Township Council, and the town attorneys, for flowers and thoughts. He stated that he is proud to be part of a community that really cares.

Councilman Cicerale asked the Township Attorney if he had an opportunity to look into the issue with the Canistear Road underpass located in West Milford. Township Attorney stated that he has done some research and there were meetings a few years ago between West Milford and the Susquehanna Railroad to ask them about expanding the bridge. He stated that Susquehanna Railroad responded saying that the bridge itself is safe and that it would be very costly to expand it, and that they have no intention of doing so. The Council asked the Township Attorney to draft a resolution asking for the bridge to be evaluated.

**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. Resident Martin Schweighardt of Crystal Springs stated that he received a call back from Susquehanna Railroad regarding the bridge at the intersection of Gingerbread Castle Road and Route 23 which is located in Hamburg Borough. Mr. Schweighardt stated that he was told they would start making repairs to the cracks, etc. in the concrete, but did not give him a specific start date. He also stated that he has still not been able to contact anyone at the County offices with regard to the advertising on the County buses that he had discussed with them. Township Manager stated that she will reach out to the County on his behalf. A motion was made and seconded to close the meeting to the public. All in favor. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:** At approximately 8:00 p.m., a motion was made by Hamilton to adjourn seconded by Verrilli. All in favor. Motion carried.

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Jane Bakalarczyk, RMC/CMC  
Municipal Clerk