

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING

April 9, 2012

Plymouth Township Council held its Regular Meeting at the Plymouth Township Building. The following officials were in attendance:

Council: Sheldon Simpson ----- Chairman
Lenore Bruno ----- Vice-Chairman
Dean Eisenberger
Vince Gillen
Maria Weidinger

Staff: Karen Weiss ----- Manager
Tom Speers ----- Solicitor
Lonnie Manai ----- Woodrow Associates
Joe Lawrence ----- Chief of Police
Karen Franck ----- Parks & Recreation Dir.
Phil Brady----- Asst. Parks & Recreation
Director
Ken Amey ----- Planner

Pledge of Allegiance - The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mr. Simpson at 7:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Simpson asked for a moment of silence for the firefighters who lost their lives today, for their efforts and dedication to our country.

Belvoir and Sandy Hill Roads Resident Meeting - Mr. Simpson announced that prior to the Regular Council Meeting this evening, a meeting was held at 6:00 p.m. with residents regarding intersection improvements at Belvoir and Sandy Hill Roads.

Public Comment

Mr. Simpson asked if there was any public comment pertaining to any of the items advertised on the agenda and there was none.

20 Years of Service Resolution - Phil Brady - Ms. Weidinger read

the resolution honoring Phil Brady who has faithfully served the Parks and Recreation Department since April 27, 1992 and has therefore completed twenty years of service. Plymouth Township Council desires to formally recognize the diligent and valuable service rendered by Phil Brady and publicly expresses its appreciation. Ms. Weidinger made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Ms. Bruno. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bruno, Mr. Eisenberger, Mr. Gillen, Mr. Simpson and Ms. Weidinger in favor.

Service and Devotion Monument - Mr. George Gunning presented a sketch plan for a Service and Devotion Monument which will be constructed on the corner of Germantown Pike and Walton Road. The monument will honor all those who have served in the armed forces, fire, police and emergency management services. The monument will recognize past, present and future citizens of the Township for their tireless dedication and devotion to making Plymouth Township a premier place to live, work and play. The monument should be completed sometime in the near future.

Zach Hoover - Narcissa Road Sewer Project - Zach Hoover, Chief of Staff from Senator Leach's office was present this evening regarding the grant for the Narcissa Road Sewer Project. The DEP Grant money cannot be used to reimburse the residents as promised. Mr. Hoover stated that the grant could be re-written to direct the funds toward another Township sewer infrastructure improvement and then the Township could use other Township funds to reimburse the residents from the Township's General Fund. Mr. Simpson asked why the Senator's office couldn't distribute the money directly to the residents and Mr. Hoover stated that they could not. Mr. Eisenberger made a motion to table action on this matter in order for Council to obtain a legal opinion on this issue. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bruno; a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bruno, Mr. Eisenberger, Mr. Gillen, Mr. Simpson and Ms. Weidinger in favor.

Doug Bellenger, 2775 Narcissa Road stated that while he understands Council's concerns he submitted a payment for the sewers with the intent of having his money refunded at some point.

Beekeeping Issue - Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Schaffer, 1435 Sandwood Road were present this evening to discuss the issue of beekeeping on their property. According to the Plymouth Township Zoning Code, this is an agricultural use which is permitted in that district. The beekeeping Association would like to have a presentation regarding this issue prior to moving forward. Mr. Simpson asked that any audience member who is interested in listening to the presentation to move into Conference Room B.

Bernard Brady, 1433 Sandwood Road stated that this is unacceptable and he does not want bees in his backyard.

Ms. Bruno asked if the Township could restrict agricultural activities in residential areas and Mr. Speers responded.

Patricia McArthur, 1427 Sandwood Road expressed her concerns regarding beekeeping in the neighborhood.

**ANNOUNCEMENT - Executive Session held March 12, 2012
Executive Session held April 2, 2012**

Mr. Simpson announced that Executive Sessions were held on March 12, 2012 and April 2, 2012 in order to discuss litigation and personnel matters.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Chairman Simpson called for the approval of the minutes.

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| a. Workshop Meeting | March 5, 2012 |
| b. Regular Meeting | March 12, 2012 |

Ms. Bruno made a motion to approve the minutes without the necessity of reading and was seconded by Mr. Gillen. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bruno, Mr. Eisenberger, Mr. Gillen, Mr. Simpson and Ms. Weidinger in favor.

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS AND BILLS: Chairman Simpson called for the approval of the departmental reports and bills.

Ms. Weidinger made a motion to approve the reports and bills and was seconded by Ms. Bruno. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bruno, Mr. Eisenberger, Mr. Gillen, Mr. Simpson and Ms. Weidinger in favor.

ADMINISTRATION

a. Emergency Services Board Member - Mr. Simpson stated that Mr. Gillen has resigned as the Council member on the Emergency Services Board. Mr. Simpson then made a motion to appoint Vice-Chairman Bruno as the new member. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gillen; a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bruno, Mr. Eisenberger, Mr. Gillen, Mr. Simpson and Ms. Weidinger in favor.

POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

PUBLIC WORKS/SEWER

ENGINEERING

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

a.L.D. 11-3 Plymouthtowne Apts/Fairfield & Sandy Hill Roads

1. Expiration Date June 12, 2012

b.Escrow Release - ACTION

1. L & S Demo - Mr. Eisenberger stated that the Township is in receipt of correspondence from Woodrow Associates recommending the release of escrow funds for L & S Demo in the amount of \$32,432.00. Mr. Eisenberger made a motion to approve the escrow release and was seconded by Ms. Weidinger. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bruno, Mr. Eisenberger, Mr. Gillen, Mr. Simpson and Ms. Weidinger in favor.

2. Belvoir Estates - Mr. Eisenberger stated that the Township is in receipt of correspondence from Woodrow Associates recommending the release of escrow funds for Belvoir Estates in the amount of \$59,479.25.

Mr. Eisenberger made a motion to approve the escrow release. Mr. Speers stated that the developer has outstanding fees due to the Township in the amount of \$8,379.08 and that the release of the escrow funds should be subject to the payment of these fees. Mr. Simpson asked that Mr. Eisenberger withdraw his motion which he did.

c.Waiver of Land Development - ACTION -

1. Kennedy Collision - Mr. Speers read the resolution for the waiver of land development for Kennedy Collision. Mr. Ross Choate from Kennedy Collision was present and agreed to the resolution as read. Ms. Bruno made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Gillen. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bruno, Mr. Eisenberger, Mr. Gillen, Mr. Simpson and Ms. Weidinger in favor.

CODE ENFORCEMENT/HEALTH

ZONING

a.Zoning Hearings - Mr. Eisenberger announced that the Zoning Hearing Board of Plymouth Township will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 16, 2012 commencing at 7:00 p.m., at the Plymouth Township Building on the following application: 1) SAMUEL MONASTERO. Any citizen of Plymouth Township or interested person may attend the public hearing and have an opportunity to be heard.

b.Brandywine Decision - Mr. Speers read the Decision and Order giving approval for the Conditional Use for Brandywine's project at 134 Plymouth Road . Rob Lewis was present on behalf of the applicant and agreed to the order as read. Ms. Bruno made a motion to approve the order and was seconded by Mr. Gillen. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 4-1 with Ms. Bruno, Mr. Eisenberger, Mr. Gillen and Mr. Simpson in favor. Ms. Weidinger was opposed.

Tammy Harrison, 111 Meetinghouse Lane asked a question regarding Judge Albright's decision on the Brandywine matter which was explained by Mr. Speers.

c.Rapoza Settlement Agreement - Mr. Speers read the Settlement Agreement authorizing him to settle this matter. Mr. Eisenberger made a motion to approve the agreement and was seconded by Ms. Weidinger. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bruno, Mr. Eisenberger, Mr. Gillen, Mr. Simpson and Ms. Weidinger in favor.

PARKS AND RECREATION

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

MISCELLANEOUS/OLD BUSINESS

a.Citizen Board Vacancy - Ms. Weiss announced that there is currently an opening on the Building Code Appeals Board. The applicant must have a background in plumbing.

c.Service and Devotion Monument - This item was discussed earlier in the evening.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Dave Urban stated that he does not want to see the Narcissa Road sewer issue put to rest. He would like it to be resolved in favor of the residents.

Fran Wesselt, 468 Jefferson Street commented on JFK Park and the fact that it may be being use inappropriately by visitors.

Approximately thirty-five residents were present pertaining to the honey bee issue. The following residents spoke on this matter.

Josephine Fields, 1411 Sandwood Road asked a question on agricultural zoning which was explained by Mr. Speers.

Ms. Bruno stated that she has concerns regarding the keeping of the honey bees.

Walt Fitzgerald, 280 Shadynook Road, Harleysville spoke about the honey bees and explained that they are much less likely to sting than other types of bees.

Russ Palummo, 416 Hallman Avenue mentioned that he was stung approximately four to five years ago by a bee hive and that he is concerned about children and pets. He is not in favor of the bee hives.

Rich Connolly, 16 Valley Creek Road stated that he is proud to be a resident of Plymouth Township and that he is happy with the way that Council is handling the beekeeping issue.

Jim Bobb, Shearer Road, Lansdale stated that he is in favor of the bees hives and that he can provide information to those who may be afraid of the bees.

Joe Flanagan, 303 Sherwood Drive and 115 Archbishop Drive stated that he is not concerned about the beekeeping.

Ms. Bruno stated that she believes the bee hives are too close to residential properties.

Mark Antune, President of the Montgomery County Beekeepers Association welcomed residents to come to a meeting in order to be educated about the keeping of honey bees. He also encouraged residents to read information at www.montcobeekkeepers.org.

Les Shemp, East Norriton believes that the bees will have a minimum impact on the surrounding areas.

Marie Crawford, 1850 Pennlyn Blue Bell Pike is in favor of the bee keeping. She believes the honey bees to be vitally important to farming and the food supply and that they are not a danger to society. She encouraged learning about the bees and the difference between honey bees and yellow jackets and wasps.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Following the Regular Meeting, a Hearing and Meeting were convened pertaining to Cold Point Village.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Beth Jamison
Mary Beth Jamison
Recording Secretary