

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING

October 12, 2015

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

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**Council:** Sheldon Simpson ----- Chairman  
Lenore Bruno ----- Vice-Chairwoman  
Dean Eisenberger  
Marty Higgins  
Ron Trask

**Staff:** Karen Weiss ----- Manager  
Tom Speers ----- Solicitor  
Tim Creelman ----- Finance Director  
Tim Woodrow ----- Woodrow & Associates  
Chris Loschiavo ----- Public Works Director  
Joe Lawrence ----- Police Chief

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**Pledge of Allegiance** - The Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. and Mr. Simpson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**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.

**ANNOUNCEMENT - Executive Session held October 7, 2015** - Mr. Simpson announced that an Executive Session was held on October 7, 2015 in order to discuss litigation and personnel matters.

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

- a. Workshop Meeting September 8, 2015
- b. Regular Meeting September 14, 2015

Mr. Trask made a motion to approve the minutes without the necessity of reading. 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. Higgins, Mr. Simpson and Mr. Trask in favor.

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

Ms. Bruno made a motion to approve the departmental reports and bills. The motion was seconded by Mr. Trask; a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bruno, Mr. Eisenberger, Mr. Higgins, Mr. Simpson and Mr. Trask in favor.

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#### ADMINISTRATION

**a. 2016 Budget Meetings - October 19<sup>th</sup>, October 26<sup>th</sup>, November 16<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 p.m.-** Ms. Weiss announced the time and dates for the 2016 Budget Meetings as listed. The meetings will be held in Conference Room A in the Engineering Department.

#### **b. Pension Funds**

**1) State Aid -** Mr. Eisenberger reported that the Township receives an allocation from the State to help fund the Township Pension Plans. The allocation for 2015 is in the amount of \$611,650.22. The Township actuary has recommended that the funds be allocated as follows: 1) Police Pension Plan - \$329,350.12 and 2) Non-Uniformed Pension Plan - \$282,300.10. Mr. Eisenberger made a motion to accept the recommendation of the actuary and was seconded by Mr. Higgins. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bruno, Mr. Eisenberger, Mr. Higgins, Mr. Simpson and Mr. Trask in favor.

**2) Minimum Municipal Obligation -** Mr. Eisenberger reported that this item pertains to the amount that the Township must budget to contribute to the employee pension plans for 2016. The Township actuary has determined the following amounts: 1) Police Pension Fund - \$1,495,738 and 2) Non-Uniformed Employees - \$662,176 for a total of \$2,157,914. Mr. Eisenberger made a motion to budget the above amounts and was seconded by Mr. Trask. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bruno, Mr. Eisenberger, Mr. Higgins, Mr. Simpson and Mr. Trask in favor.

**c. Police Pension Resolution -** Mr. Eisenberger reported that the Township Actuary has determined that the Plymouth Township Police Officers must contribute 3% of their salaries, per contract to the Police Pension Fund for 2016. Mr. Eisenberger read the resolution and made a motion for approval. 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. Higgins, Mr. Simpson and Mr. Trask in favor.

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#### POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY

Chief Lawrence stated that the Police Department has received numerous requests for the installation of stop signs throughout

the Township. Chief Lawrence stated that the department uses various criteria to determine if the stop sign is warranted. According to PennDOT regulations, stop signs are not to be used to reduce speeds. There are certain parameters which must be met which were explained by Chief Lawrence.

Amy Karmanski - 10 Millcreek Road stated that she is concerned about speeding on the street and that something needs to be done. She stated that Millcreek Road is being used as a cut through. Chief Lawrence stated that the police department is looking into the timing of the light located at Germantown Pike and Arch Road which should help to alleviate that problem. The department will also step up its patrols for enforcement of speed on Millcreek Road.

Jacqueline Greco - 614 Renel Road stated that she has lived in the Township for thirty-one years and there were few stop signs in her neighborhood years ago. She would now like to see additional stop signs installed.

Mr. Eisenberger stated that Council needs to get recommendations from the police department and that a meeting will be set up with the Township traffic consultant.

Mr. Higgins agreed that a meeting will be scheduled with the traffic consultant in order to come up with other possible solutions.

Rick Schickling - 111 Boulder Road mentioned how motorists do not obey the right turn only at the traffic light at Germantown and Chemical Road. He asked for vigilance there. Mr. Schickling also asked for an update on the Germantown and Launfall intersection. Mr. Simpson stated that the Township traffic consultant has been working on this with PennDOT. Mr. Higgins believes that Hallowell Road should be made a right turn only. The consultant's study recommended another traffic signal at Hallowell.

Jim Pritz - 3117 Jolly Road stated that it appears that the residents who wanted the speed sign installed on Jolly Road are not getting it. There are two blind spots on Jolly Road and the speed sign is going elsewhere. Mr. Higgins said he does not recollect any promise to put the speed sign on Mr. Pritz's block. Two areas have been identified as being critical. The longest stretch between stop signs, with a dip in the road has been identified as the best location for the speed sign. He suggested that other possible solutions for Jolly Road will be explored with the traffic expert, to make things better.

Carolyn Nickels - 3110 Jolly Road stated that the residents were promised a speed sign on Jolly Road. The residents have been requesting it for six years and that they want it on their block. She believes that putting a speed sign at Timberfare Circle is not the right place for the sign.

Dave McEvoy - 3123 Jolly Road stated that people are speeding at his end of Jolly Road and he has lost two mailboxes as a result.

Mr. Eisenberger asked that the residents on Jolly Road need to be patient and to allow the Police Department and the traffic unit to do their studies and obtain advice from the Township consultant.

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### **PUBLIC WORKS/SEWER**

Ms. Bruno made a motion that the Township take responsibility for the storm sewers in the street rights-of-way at the Kennedy Crossing development. Mr. Eisenberger asked that the motion be amended to contain the stipulation that this would not include storm sewer facilities on private properties, or the detention basin. Mr. Trask seconded the motion; a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bruno, Mr. Eisenberger, Mr. Higgins, Mr. Simpson and Mr. Trask in favor.

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### **ENGINEERING**

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#### **SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT**

##### **a.L.D. 14-1 Erb/121 North Lane**

1) **Expiration date February 15, 2016 - 2016 - ACTION** - Mr. Speers stated that this item pertains to the plan for the construction of five new single homes to be built at 121 North Lane. The developer will be charged fees as read. In addition, the developer will comply with the reports of the various consultants, Planning Agency and the Montgomery County Planning Commission. A Homeowners Association will also be formed. Mr. Trask made a motion to table action on the land development. The motion was seconded by Mr. Eisenberger; a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bruno, Mr. Eisenberger, Mr. Higgins, Mr. Simpson and Mr. Trask in favor.

##### **b.S.D. 15-1 Driscoll Tract/Plymouth Road at Johnson Road**

1) **Expiration date November 30, 2015**

##### **c.S.D.15-2 Lynda Drive Subdivision**

1) **Extension requested to April 27, 2016 - ACTION** - Ms. Bruno made a motion to grant the extension and was seconded by Mr. Trask. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bruno, Mr. Eisenberger, Mr. Higgins, Mr. Simpson and Mr. Trask in favor.

##### **d.L.D. 15-1 WAWA/E. Ridge Pike & Diamond Avenue**

1) **Extension granted to November 10, 2015 - ACTION** - Mr. Eisenberger made a motion to approve the extension and was seconded by Mr. Trask. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0

with Ms. Bruno, Mr. Eisenberger, Mr. Higgins, Mr. Simpson and Mr. Trask in favor.

**e.Extension Requests - ACTION -**

1) **PlymouthTowne to December 31, 2015** - Mr. Eisenberger made a motion to approve the extension request and was seconded by Ms. Bruno. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bruno, Mr. Eisenberger, Mr. Higgins, Mr. Simpson and Mr. Trask in favor.

2) **Dunkin Donuts to December 31, 2015** - Mr. Higgins made a motion to approve the extension request and was seconded by Mr. Trask. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bruno, Mr. Eisenberger, Mr. Higgins, Mr. Simpson and Mr. Trask in favor.

3) **Drive Time to December 31, 2015** - Mr. Eisenberger made a motion to approve the extension request and was seconded by Ms. Bruno. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bruno, Mr. Eisenberger, Mr. Higgins, Mr. Simpson and Mr. Trask in favor.

**f.Waiver Request - ACTION**

1.**Instech Laboratories, Inc. - 450 S. Gravers Road** - Mr. Speers stated that this item pertains to a waiver of land development request from Instech Laboratories, Inc. to construct a loading dock on the property and an additional 180 square feet of space. The developer will pay any legal and engineering fees incurred. All necessary permits will be obtained and the developer will comply with reports from the Township Engineer and Dave Conroy, Zoning Officer. In addition, the resolution must be accepted by October 30<sup>th</sup>. There are no traffic, recreation or sewer fees required. Paul Loughnane from Instech Laboratories, Inc. was present and agreed to the resolution as read. Ms. Bruno made a motion to approve the waiver request and was seconded by Mr. Trask. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bruno, Mr. Eisenberger, Mr. Higgins, Mr. Simpson and Mr. Trask in favor.

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**CODE ENFORCEMENT/HEALTH**

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**ZONING**

**a.Zoning Hearings** - Mr. Trask announced that the Zoning Hearing Board of Plymouth Township will hold a public hearing on Monday, October 19, 2015, commencing at 7:00 p.m., in the Plymouth Township Building, 700 Belvoir Road, Plymouth Meeting, PA on the following applications: 1)WAWA, INC., Butler Pike. Any citizen of Plymouth Township may attend the public hearing and have an opportunity to be heard.

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**PARKS AND RECREATION**

**a. SDM Bricks and Pavers** - Ms. Bruno announced that there are currently bricks and pavers available for purchase for those who want to honor a loved one who has served in the armed forces. In addition, the Parks and Recreation Department is still seeking monetary donations from businesses.

Ms. Bruno mentioned that the Plymouth Meeting Historical Society is having financial difficulties. Ms. Bruno made a motion that Ms. Weiss and the Township Solicitor explore the possibility of purchasing the Historical Society properties. The motion was seconded by Mr. Trask; a roll call vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0 with Ms. Bruno, Mr. Eisenberger, Mr. Higgins, Mr. Simpson and Mr. Trask in favor.

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## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

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### MISCELLANEOUS/OLD BUSINESS

**a. Citizen Board Vacancies** - Mr. Higgins announced that there are openings on the Citizens Boards as follows: 1) Building Code Appeals Board - Electrical background required, 2) Property Maintenance Appeals Board, 3) Environmental Advisory Board and 4) Parks Recreation and Shade Tree Advisory Board.

Anyone interested in serving on one of these boards can send a resume or letter of interest to Karen Weiss, the Township Manager.

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## AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Kathy Drozd - 3111 Jolly Road stated that the residents on Jolly Road were promised a permanent flashing speed sign close to Township Line Road. She believes that Timberfare Circle is also in need of one. If the speed sign is not going to be installed, she is requesting that a speed bump be installed so both directions will be affected. Mr. Simpson said a meeting has been scheduled with the traffic engineer and asked for the time to get an expert opinion.

Carolyn Nickels - 3110 Jolly Road asked if any traffic studies were done at this location other than the information gathered by the speed trailer. Ms. Nickels was advised by Chief Lawrence that studies are only being done when the speed sign is there.

Mr. Simpson asked that the residents give Council time to meet with the traffic consultant, the Township Manager, and the Chief to look into the situation. It will take approximately four to six weeks and then the findings will be explained. Council is trying to determine the best location to install the stop sign on

Jolly Road in addition to other areas in the Township that are being requested.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Mary Beth Jamison*

Mary Beth Jamison  
Recording Secretary