

PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING

April 13, 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  
Lonnie Manai ----- Woodrow & Associates  
Joe Lawrence ----- Chief of Police

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

**Swearing in of Police Officer - John Fullerton** Mr. Eisenberger made a motion to approve the appointment of Officer John Fullerton to the Plymouth Township Police Department. 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.

Judge Francis Bernhardt presided over the swearing in of Officer Fullerton.

**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 - John Bruno** - Mr. Eisenberger read the resolution recognizing John Bruno who has faithfully served the Public Works and Building and Grounds Department since April 18, 1995 thereby completing twenty years of service. Plymouth Township desires to formally recognize Mr. Bruno for his diligent and valuable services rendered. Mr. Eisenberger made a motion to approve the

resolution 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.

### **Fire Companies Recognitions**

**1)Plymouth Fire Company No. 1** - Ms. Bruno read the Certificate of Recognition commending the following individuals for successfully completing national and state certifications and for the honor which their dedication brings to the Township.

Firefighter I - Dan Smith and Matt Kijak.  
Firefighter II - Rob Curll and Mike Killeen.  
Fire Officer I - Brandon Stocchi.  
Fire Officer II - Dave Luthy, Brett Stocchi, and Frank Heleniak.

Ms. Bruno made a motion to approve the recognition and 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.

Ms. Bruno thanked the fire fighters for the work that they do for the citizens of Plymouth Township.

**2)Harmonville Fire Company No. 1** - Mr. Higgins read the Certificate of Recognition commending the following individuals for successfully completing national and state certifications and for the honor which their dedication brings to the Township.

Firefighter I - Ian Blundin, Cedric Shaw and Alex Stivaletti.  
Fire Officer II - Andy Moletzsky.  
Vehicle Rescue Tech - Alex Stivaletti.  
General Requirements for Tech Rescue - Aaron Grewe and Craig Rager.

Mr. Higgins made a motion to approve the recognition 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.

Mr. Eisenberger thanked the fire fighters for their dedication and time in completing the training.

**3)Michael Gehman Plymouth Fire Company No. 1** - Mr. Simpson read the Certificate of Recognition whereas, Michael Gehman served as Fire Chief of Plymouth Fire Company No. 1 for six consecutive years from 2008 through 2014, and has been a member and a dedicated volunteer of the Fire Company since 1989, and has held different positions during his tenure including Deputy Chief, Assistant Chief, Captain and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and while serving as Chief, took delivery of Engine 43, Ladder 43 and Car 43. He is also currently serving as Assistant Fire Chief of Plymouth Fire Company No. 1. Plymouth Township Council commends Michael Gehman for his outstanding commitment to Plymouth Fire Company No.1 and expresses its

appreciation in helping to make Plymouth Township a better place to live. Mr. Simpson made a motion to approve the recognition 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.

Mr. Simpson thanked Mr. Gehman for his years of service to the Township.

**ANNOUNCEMENT - Executive Session held April 6, 2015** - Mr. Simpson announced that an Executive Session was held on April 6, 2015 in order to discuss litigation and personnel matters.

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

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| a. | Workshop Meeting | March 2, 2015 |
| b. | Regular Meeting  | March 9, 2015 |

Ms. Bruno made a motion to approve the minutes without the necessity of reading. The motion 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.

**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 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.

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#### ADMINISTRATION

**a. Bid Award - Township Building Roof** - Mr. Trask reported that a bid opening was held on April 1, 2015 pertaining to the Municipal building roof coating and repair. The low bidder withdrew his bid and staff is recommending that the bid be awarded to Jottan, Inc., the next lowest bidder in the amount of \$308,811. Mr. Trask made a motion to approve the bid award and 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. Appointment of Structural Engineer** - Mr. Eisenberger made a motion to approve the appointment of Traffic Planning and Design, TPD as the Township's new Structural Engineer. 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.

**c. Planning Agency Appointment** - Mr. Eisenberger made a motion to

approve the appointment of Tammy Harrison as the ninth Board Member on the Planning Agency. 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**

**a. Harmonville Check Request** - Mr. Higgins made a motion to approve the check request from Harmonville Fire Company in the amount of \$528,497 for the purchase of a new truck from the Township's Capital Account. 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.

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#### **PUBLIC WORKS/SEWER**

#### **ENGINEERING**

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

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

1) Expiration date August 15, 2015

**b.L.D. 14-4 Drive Time/1403 & 1425 E. Ridge Pike**

1) **Extension granted until July 31, 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.

**c. Escrow Release - ACTION**

1) **Tyson Homes - 1406 Colwell Lane** - Mr. Eisenberger stated that the Township is in receipt of a request from Woodrow & Associates approving the escrow release for Tyson Homes. The request is for \$27,879; however there are receivables that need to be paid to the Township in the amount of \$6,826.05, leaving a balance of \$21,052.95 for Tyson Homes. Mr. Eisenberger made a motion to approve the escrow release in the amount of \$27,879 to be split between the Township and Tyson Homes as described. 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.

**d. Extension Request - ACTION**

1) **Storage Partners of Chemical Road requested until May 20, 2015** - Ms. Bruno made a motion to grant the extension request 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.

**e. PlymouthTowne Indemnity Agreement** - Mr. Speers stated that approximately two years ago PennDOT required municipalities to be the permittee on Highway Occupancy Permits for improvements located within the State's rights-of-way. PlymouthTowne Apartments needs a Highway Occupancy Permit for improvements to Fairfield Road. By this agreement, PlymouthTowne Apartments will indemnify the Township from any cost of maintenance for any improvements. They will complete the improvements and not the Township. Mr. Eisenberger made a motion to approve the agreement 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. Norris Sales Waiver Request - ACTION** - This item was not ready for action and will be handled at the Council Meeting in May.

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#### CODE ENFORCEMENT/HEALTH

**a. Cradles to Crayons Permit Fee Waiver Request** - Ms. Bruno stated that Cradles to Crayons is hosting an event on May 15<sup>th</sup> and May 16<sup>th</sup> at the Metroplex and they are requesting a waiver of the permit fees. Ms. Bruno made a motion to approve the fee 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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#### ZONING

**a. Zoning Hearings** - Mr. Eisenberger announced that the Zoning Hearing Board of Plymouth Township will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 20, 2015, commencing at 7:00 p.m., in the Plymouth Township Building on the following applications: 1) HUBERT REAL ESTATE, LLC, and 2) JOSEPH DELMONTE. KELMAN & MAGLIARI REALTY, LLC. Has been postponed until May. Any citizen of Plymouth Township or interested person may attend the public hearing and have an opportunity to be heard.

**b. Zoning Clean-Up Ordinance - First Consideration** - Mr. Speers stated that this Zoning Clean-Up Ordinance deals with the following: It limits the height of signs to 20" in the Commercial District, 15" in the Limited Commercial District and 10' in the area covered by the Historical District. It will limit the number and size of detached sheds and garages in various districts. Fences must have the finished side facing neighboring properties as well as be placed so as not to impede the free flow of surface water. Signs in the MUV District will be conforming. It will not

allow a Crematorium to be within 500' of a Residential District, Residential Use, School or Day Care facility. Retail services will be re-defined to exclude funeral homes or crematoriums. A crematorium will be allowed in a Limited Industrial District. Mr. Eisenberger made a motion to approve the first consideration of the ordinance 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.

**c. SALDO Clean-Up Ordinance - First Consideration** - Mr. Speers stated that the SALDO Clean-Up Ordinance pertains to the following: Requiring an electronic version of all plans; Requiring side lines of lot to be at right angles; Requiring that deeds for all right-of-ways shown on the plan be provided with the submission; A provision in the ordinance requiring an arrangement for continued maintenance of the public facilities in the right-of-way. Ms. Bruno made a motion to approve the first consideration of the ordinance 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. MUV Text Amendment Ordinance - First Consideration** - Mr. Speers stated that this item pertains to a request from an applicant that the Township review and make changes to the MUV District. It is a proposal that allows for the mix in the MUV to be a function of the Zoning District rather than each particular lot that is established under the MUV. In addition it will increase the size of the single store or commercial use from 10,000' to 15,000'. Mr. Trask made a motion to approve the first consideration of the ordinance 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.

**e. 2400 & 2410 Butler Pike Rezoning Ordinance - First Consideration** - Mr. Speers stated that this is a companion ordinance requested by the applicant with respect to expanding the MUV District. It is a map amendment that would expand the district to include 2400 and 2410 Butler Pike as part of the MUV District. There will be a public hearing regarding this on May 11<sup>th</sup> before the Township will adopt the change. Ms. Bruno made a motion to approve the first reading 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.

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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 for the Service and Devotion Monument.

**b. Plymouth Township Day - May 30<sup>th</sup> - 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. -**  
Mr. Trask announced that Plymouth Township Day will be held on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at East Plymouth Valley Park. All are welcome to attend.

**c. Bob Bigelow's Youth Sports Presentation - April 14<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 p.m. Township Auditorium -** Mr. Higgins announced that renowned speaker Bob Bigelow will be holding a Youth Sports Presentation on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Township Auditorium. All are welcome to attend.

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### PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

**a. Memorandum of Understanding - Ridge and Alan Wood Road -** Mr. Speers stated that this item pertains to an agreement with Montgomery County with respect to the improvements on Ridge Pike and Alan Wood Road. Ms. Bruno made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding 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.

**b. Intermunicipal Agreement/Lafayette Street over Ross Street -** Mr. Speers stated this item pertains to an Intermunicipal Agreement between the Township and the municipality of Norristown for the maintenance of the Lafayette Street Bridge. Costs will be split 65% -35% with Plymouth paying 65%. Mr. Eisenberger made a motion to approve the agreement 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.

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### MISCELLANEOUS/OLD BUSINESS

**a. Citizen Board Vacancies -** Mr. Trask stated that there are two Citizen Board vacancies as follows: 1) Building Code Appeals Board - Electrical background required, and 2) Property Maintenance Code Appeals Board. Anyone interested in serving on one of these boards can send a resume or letter of interest to Karen Weiss, the Township Manager.

Mr. Simpson mentioned that the Plymouth Road Bridge is closed due to no one's fault. A sinkhole has formed at the foot of the bridge. PADOT is moving quickly in an attempt to rectify the situation. Work is expected to begin within the next thirty days

and it is hoped to be completed by late August or early September.

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#### AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Estelle Ronderos, 155 Plymouth Road is concerned about the quality of life from the noise and lack of sleep if construction on Plymouth Road takes place during sleeping hours. Mr. Simpson stated that this is a State project so the Township is limited in their input regarding the construction. Mr. Simpson stated that the Township will contact the contractor requesting that construction be limited during sleeping hours.

Phil Harris, 143 Plymouth Road stated that Plymouth Township enacted the noise ordinance for the health of its residents. He asked that Council take this into account regarding the construction on Plymouth Road and to try to reduce the impact, particularly when it comes to sleeping hours.

Mr. Higgins mentioned that he has sent an email to Leslie Richards regarding this matter. In addition a meeting will be held regarding the bridge repairs on Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. at the bridge. All are welcome to attend.

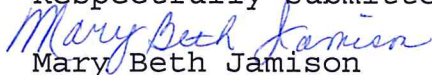
Mr. Higgins stated that he is also willing to meet with the residents of Plymouth Road regarding this issue.

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#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Regular Meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Mary Beth Jamison  
Recording Secretary