



# EAST WHITELAND TOWNSHIP

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## THE HEART OF GREAT VALLEY

### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS July 25, 2018 SPECIAL MEETING – 3:30PM Minutes**

Board Members in Attendance: Sue Drummond, Chair, Scott Lambert, Vice Chair, and Rich Orlow, Member. Staff in attendance: Joe McGrory, Township Solicitor, John Nagel, Township Manager and Cathy Kleponis, Finance Director

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Sue Drummond, at 3:40pm.

Chair Drummond opened the meeting with a discussion of the Township's 2019 Goals & Objectives, based on the 2018 Goals & Objectives. Originally, the Board of Supervisors established a long term set of goals in June 2016. Over time, these have been modified:

- Developing a Sustainable Funding Plan
- Managing Development & Growth
- Acquire Open Space, Develop Parks & Provide Recreational Programming
- Developing Renovated Municipal Infrastructure & Provide Comprehensive Services
- Citizens Involvement & Township Identity

With a new Board of Supervisors recently in place, Mr. Nagel recommended that these long term goals be revisited. As the 2019 Budget Workshops are held, these goals will be further revised.

Mr. Nagel introduced the recently issued Multi-Year Financial Management Plan. A number of specific topics were presented and discussed among Board and staff:

- Sustainable Services & Programs
- Added Value Services & Programs
- Active & Retirement Healthcare
- Pensions
- Capital Improvements
  - Municipal Building – Police & Administration
  - Infrastructure – Road Plan
  - Fleet Management Plan
- Tax Policy Options
  - Real Estate Tax
    - General Purpose
    - Homestead Exclusion
    - Special Purpose (Fire, Park & Recreation, Debt)

- Earned Income Tax
  - General Purpose
  - Special Purpose (Open Space Referendum)
- Sustainable Revenues

Mr. Nagel concluded by stating that our next public discussion of the plan will be at the next monthly Board meeting on August 8. If the Township is intending to change earned income tax rates for 2019, State statutes require the Township to vote on those in September. Immediately after, the Township would need to publicly notify surrounding municipalities of this rate change so that these municipalities can consider adjusting their respective budgets for 2019. Also, the 2019 Budget Workshops will begin in October, with Preliminary Approval to be considered in November and Final Approval in December.

Mr. Nagel reported that the Multi-Year Financial Management Plan was funded in part through a grant from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development. The grant requires the Township to acknowledge receipt and acceptance of the report. Mr. Lambert motioned to acknowledge receipt and acceptance of the Early Intervention Plan Report by PFM Group Consulting, LLC, seconded by Mr. Orlow and approved 3-0.

Under Public Comment, a number of residents and non residents expressed questions regarding the Bishop Tube property. Residents questioned whether the Township was interested in acquiring the property. Ms. Drummond responded that the Township expected that the site would be cleaned up before the Township would seriously consider acquiring the property. Stephen Schmidt asked the Board to respond with its position regarding a potential plan from the developer. Mr. McGrory stated that the Township would not be responding to a plan that has not yet been submitted. Mr. Schmidt asked which ordinances would apply to such a plan. Mr. McGrory stated that he would not comment on which ordinances would apply since a plan has not yet been presented. The residents asked whether an appraisal had been considered for the property. Mr. McGrory responded that an appraisal is in the works. The residents asked what basis would be (for value): cleaned up or not? Mr. McGrory responded that it would be based on a cleaned up site.

Maya von Rossum questioned whether the residents group could make recommendations on the consultants considered for the PEG work. The Board replied that recommendations would be accepted and considered. Ms. von Rossum also requested that the PPA be overturned. Ms. von Rossum stated that DEP was doing nothing for the short term or the long term to clean up the site.

Mr. McGrory stated that potential funding could come from a variety of public and private sources. Mr. McGrory asked Ms. von Rossum whether the Delaware Riverkeepers and private sources would support funding the cleanup. Ms. von Rossum stated that the Delaware Riverkeepers does not fund clean up of these sites.

An audience member requested that the Township consider a renewal energy resolution for the Township building. Another audience member requested that the Township renew its membership in the Valley Creek Restoration Partnership. An audience member requested that, in light of the gun shop robbery, that the Township investigate a notification system for residents with and without access to technology. Another audience member requested that agendas and minutes be timely provided on the Township's website. These above requests will be investigated by staff.

There was no Other Business.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45pm.

Respectfully,

John Nagel  
Township Manager