

**SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**November 6, 2014 – 7:00 P.M.**  
**Solebury Township Hall**

**MINUTES**

Attendance: James Searing, Chair, Paul Cosdon, Vice-chair, Edward McGahan, Jr. and Helen Tai. Dennis H. Carney, Manager, Gretchen K. Rice, Assistant Manager, Michele Blood, Finance Director and Jonathan J. Reiss, Solicitor were also in attendance.

Absent: Robert Heath, Jr.

The meeting was called to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Bills Payable dated October 31, 2014

**Res. 2014-158 – Upon a motion by Mr. Cosdon, seconded by Mr. McGahan, the list of Bills Payable dated October 31, 2014 was unanimously approved as prepared and posted.**

Approval of Minutes – October 15, 2014 – Approval of the October 15, 2014 Minutes of meeting with DEP was deferred at the request of the Chair.

Approval of Minutes – October 21, 2014

**Res. 2014-159 – Upon a motion by Ms. Tai, seconded by Mr. Cosdon, the Minutes of October 21, 2014 were unanimously approved as written and posted.**

Announcements

- The Board announced an Executive Session held prior to the meeting regarding personnel, litigation and land preservation.
- The Board announced that a public Budget Work Session was held at 4:30 p.m. prior to this meeting.
- James Bishop has submitted his resignation from the Environmental Advisory Council.

**Res. 2014-160 – Upon a motion by Mr. Cosdon, seconded by Mr. McGahan, the resignation of James Bishop from the Environmental Advisory Council was accepted.**

Public Comment – No early public comment was offered.

PRESENTATION – Robert Bowers and Gary Emmanuel of O'Brien & Gere updated the Board on the Ingham Spring project to breach the dam, providing an overview of the project and associated construction activities. Also discussed was the anticipated timeline for permitting and the Township's plan to allow the stream to find and establish its own natural course. A letter of approval from the Army Corp is expected within two weeks.

Following the presentation there was public comment about saving the fish, sediment accumulation and controlling invasive plants. The Township agreed to look into these issues.

#### OLD BUSINESS

2015 Budget Discussion – A draft 2015 Budget was presented based on discussions at the 4:30 Budget Work Session, that reflected a 2.5 mil increase. This increase included a .25 mil increase in the fire tax, a commitment for an additional \$140,000 toward the trail linkage project and a \$2,000 contribution to the SPCA.

Discussion focused on the request from the Free Library of New Hope-Solebury to increase the library tax by a .25 mil.

Mr. McGahan suggested that the Township increase taxes by 3 mils rather than raise taxes year after year, noting that 2015 is also a Police Bargaining Agreement contract year. He could support giving additional money to the library if the total tax was raised by 3 mils.

Both Mr. Cosdon and Mr. Searing opined that the Township should maintain a minimum reserve fund balance of 1.6 million.

Ms. Tai motioned to increase the library funding to .5 mils. No second was offered.

Caryn Black of Chapel Road questioned the use of tax dollars to support the library when most everyone, especially kids, access information, including books, electronically on their hand-held devices.

Mr. Cosdon suggested that any additional funding for the library be in the form of a one-time \$30,000 contribution from the General Fund rather than a tax increase. He further suggested providing \$10,000 of the \$30,000 up-front in January, and condition the remaining \$20,000 upon matching fund-raising by the library.

Brian Keyes, Eleanor Miller, Barry Fetterolf, Jerry Ruddle and Kevin Morrissey expressed support for increased library funding.

Ms. Tai noted that .5 mil equates to \$12.50 per resident adding that the Board has just agreed to increase Parks and Recreation funding.

Mr. Searing responded by stating that the additional funding for parks is specifically for the trail project and without the additional commitment the Township would lose \$1.5 million in grant money.

Mr. Searing stated that he is not opposed to an increase, but the 100% increase being requested is really large, especially considering that the citizens of Solebury pay \$176,000 for County library services..

**Res. 2014-161 – Upon a motion by Mr. McGahan, seconded by Mr. Searing, it was agreed to increase the funding for the Free Library of New Hope-Solebury in the 2015 Budget by \$30,000.**

**In Favor: Mr. McGahan, Mr. Searing, Ms. Tai**

**Opposed: Mr. Cosdon**

**Motion carries.**

**Res. 2014-162 – A motion was made by Mr. McGahan, seconded by Mr. Cosdon that the General Fund millage be increased by 2.675 mils, the fire tax be increased by .25 mils and the library tax be increased by .125 mils.**

**In favor: Mr. McGahan and Mr. Cosdon**

**Opposed: Mr. Searing and Ms. Tai**

**Motion fails.**

**Res. 2014-163 – Upon a motion by Mr. Searing, seconded by Mr. Cosdon, it was unanimously agreed to draft the proposed 2015 Budget to reflect an increase to the General Fund Tax Millage by 2.375; the Library Tax Millage by .125 mils; the Fire Tax Millage by .25 mils and increase the contribution to the SPCA to a total of \$2,000.**

2015 Budget – Authorization to advertise for adoption December 16, 2014

**Res. 2014-164 – Upon a motion by Mr. McGahan, seconded by Mr. Cosdon, it was unanimously agreed to advertise the proposed 2015 Budget with revisions as noted, for adoption at the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors scheduled for December 16, 2014.**

#### NEW BUSINESS

Amendment to Traffic Ordinance 2012-003 – Authorization to advertise – The Board proposes to reduce the speed limit on Honey Hollow Road to 35 mph and make Old Windy Bush Road between Aquetong Road and Windy Bush Road a one-way road heading north.

**Res. 2014-165 – Upon a motion by Mr. Cosdon, seconded by Mr. McGahan, it was unanimously agreed to authorize the Solicitor to advertise an Amendment to Traffic Ordinance 2012-003 for adoption on December 16, 2014 as proposed.**

Ordinance Amending the Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance (SALDO) – Authorization to forward to Solebury and Bucks County Planning Commissions for review.

Mr. Searing requested clarification or definitions for the references of O&M and BMP. The Township Solicitor will revise as necessary.

**Res. 2014-166 – Upon a motion by Mr. McGahan, seconded by Mr. Cosdon, it was unanimously agreed to forward the Ordinance Amending the Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance to the Solebury Township and Bucks County Planning Commissions for review, with revisions as noted.**

Proposed Board of Supervisors' Letter to DEP – The Board reviewed a draft letter to DEP in response to DEP's letter of September 11, 2014 regarding technical deficiencies within the New Hope Crushed Stone Quarry Operation. With some minor grammatical revisions, the Board was satisfied with the draft.

The Board also directed that the letter be copied to Senator McIlhinney and Representative Petri.

**Res. 2014-167 – Upon a motion by Mr. Cosdon, seconded by Mr. McGahan, it was unanimously agreed to finalize the letter to DEP regarding the technical deficiencies within the New Hope Crushed Stone Quarry operation as detailed in DEP's letter of September 11, 2014, with revisions as noted.**

SUBDIVISIONS/LAND DEVELOPMENTS/CONDITIONAL USES – no applications were reviewed.

Public Comment

- Sharon Otto, Realtor, and Joan Moloney of Centre Bridge, addressed the Board regarding the Neebe/Moloney matter. Upon advice from the Township Solicitor, since this issue is a matter of litigation and all parties are represented by legal counsel, the Board did not engage in discussion.

Adjournment

**Res. 2014-168 – Upon a motion by Mr. McGahan, seconded by Ms. Tai, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted  
Gretchen K. Rice  
Assistant Manager  
Secretary/Treasurer