

CHARTIERS TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY DECEMBER 1, 2009

Harlan G. Shober, Jr. – Chairman called the regular meeting of the Chartiers Township Board of Supervisors to order at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 1, 2009. Mr. Shober asked all present to stand for the pledge of allegiance.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Attending this evenings meeting were Supervisors A. William Kiehl, Richard W. Metzler and Mr. Shober. Additionally in attendance were James Liekar-Solicitor; Samuel R. Stockton-Township Manager; Douglas Patterson-Township Engineer; Harold Ivery-Planning/Zoning Officer and Wendy Williams-Recording Secretary Edward Jeffries-Public Works Director was absent.

**VISITORS TIME**

Michael Altieri  
President-Chartiers Township  
Fire Department

“I’m here this evening to find out one reason why we are not getting an increase so I can go back to my membership at our next regular meeting to explain to them what the situation is. I was assigned the Treasurer, and me but he couldn’t make it tonight. Came to negotiate with you gentlemen. The last affair I didn’t know that is was going on. It wasn’t published in the paper. (Response: all dates we published at one time as a legal notice) We didn’t come. So, we didn’t know where we were at or where we stand. That’s why I’m here tonight. I’ve got a meeting coming up so I’ve got to have some information (Response: Board voted on basically to pass the tentative budget, which did not include an increase for the Fire Department. Township was down \$70,000 so it was cut in a lot of areas and the Board did not want to raise taxes with all the taxes being raised everywhere). What is your opinion of the Fire Department? Why don’t you want to raise or give us any more money? (Response: It isn’t that we don’t think anything of the Fire Department. It’s the fact that we feel that’s what we can afford right now. We’re spending over \$100,000 today the \$80,000 plus insurances. We’re at 2 mills of taxes now. The Fire Department requested 3 mills, which is another \$55,000. At this point in time we don’t have the money). Wait a minute that was a mistake there that was made, also. We asked you – you were giving us 80. We asked you for one mill. What would one mill be worth? We didn’t say put a mill tax on. I got crucified for it. I walked in to the store and someone said: What are you trying to do over there. You’re asking the Supervisors to put a tax on to give you some money. That isn’t what I said. What ever we said – I said it and so did Fred. We asked you to give us what was equal to one mill. Not to put tax on. We explained what our situation is. Where do you think we are going to be when we run out of funds we have? Our fund drive is down. We’re going to be lucky if we hit 17% (Response: I heard about this. Your statement we don’t do any other fund

raising really has hit a sad part among a number of people even other fire departments. They say, you know what - They're wanting more money but they are going to do anything to fund raise to try to help themselves out and that's the way it was taken from your statement.) How do you think we built that place over there? We had more people (50-60 people) we had carnivals, bingo, steak dinners, banquets and a Ladies Auxiliary. We made fifty bucks we were happy. You understand? Twenty of us guys put \$10.00 a piece to start that outfit and that's what we accumulated. People used to tell other fire departments - Why don't you be like those boys at Chartiers? (Question to Mr. Altieri: If the Township through its resources to do something that the hall would generate money - Would the Fire Department back us on it?). Like what? Give me an example. (Response: Manage it. Have someone manage it. Have events in it where you would make money as a fire department.) I wouldn't care. No. That's less work I would have to do. Anything you do to make money you have to pay taxes. You have to have someone keep a book. We have to hire, up here, the tax people. We got them working for us. When we had our bingo game we had to pay sales tax for hamburgers and hot dogs we sold. We had to buy a license, \$100.00 for the small games of chance. Everything we buy for that hall we have to pay taxes on sales tax. We buy chairs, we have to pay sales tax."

Mr. Liekar: "You don't have a sales tax number."

Mr. Altieri: "Sure we have a sales tax number. But it isn't for the Fire Department. It's for the Social Hall. (Response: Aren't your chairs for the Social Hall?). Sure that's for the Social Hall. We told the man we're making money so we can buy fire equipment. He said we didn't care. I don't I'm at. I don't know what I'm doing. (Response: We want the Fire Department to survive) I don't know how we are going to do it. (Response: That's why we need to sit down together and start planning). I don't know how we are going to do it. (Response: Be a little inventive and come up with some resources. Come up with a plan.) The \$80,000 went with light, gas, water and truck payment. That wipes out your \$80,000. What's the rest of the money? What? - The fund drive, bingo. What we got from the State for the property they took off us helped pay for that job on the outside of that building and the rest came from what we worked for. I'm getting tired of getting criticized in fixing that building up. I've heard it from a lot of people. (Response: You didn't hear it from us). They should have let the building fall down in a pile and let the fire trucks sit under the pile. We did a whole lot of things there. We did a beautiful job. We insulated that whole building hoping that it would cut the cost down. (Response: I have not heard criticism here guys.) Well I heard it. They are shooting at me. I'm full of holes. I'm getting sick and tired of it. I'm going to go back to the guys and say you just don't have the money budgeted for us. (Response: That's exactly right. We'll set up a meeting with us and your Board) I don't know. I'll tell them that. That's up to them guys. The majority wins not me. (Response: If a response doesn't come back then there's nothing more we can talk about). I'll tell them. I'll recommend we do it. The fire departments, for years, all over don't like to get involved with people overhead. Look how much trouble they had in Canonsburg with the Borough Council. I mean why do they want to give us a hard time. We're done raising money I'm telling you. I don't know how we can do it. This idea of looking for workers - we used to go knocking on doors but we had to go to a municipal marketing outfit to send out the letters. That's 100% and what comes in. Your lucky you

get 20% back. I don't know, we're about done this year at the end of the month. December it will be over with. Sometimes at the beginning of the month they will find a letter sitting on the desk. They'll say, "Oh, we forgot to send the fireman their check. (Response: Just don't misunderstand we are all proud of our Fire Department. There's only so much money without raising the tax millage and taking it out somewhere else. You have us down for \$138,000. We'll \$43,000 should not be. I know you have to put it in there. (Response: In and out from the State). Compensation you have to pay that. Liability on the trucks - \$4,700. The 43 you can't put that down because you don't know what you are going to get because last year we got 42. The year before that we got 47. (Response: 45). Yah, 45 - it's deceiving. We can't go and buy a truck with that money. We can't buy gasoline for the trucks. We can buy a pair of boots, or a helmet. (Did you get any grants this year?). To put in for a grant, you put in for what you want. No. We didn't get anything yet. We put in for new radios. They had to go in for the high band. That was over \$20,000. We put in for that. But I don't know whether we got it for that. We haven't got it yet. With grant money, they want paid, you can't wait until the grant money comes in. We apply for grants when we can get them. (Response: Are you applying for any LSA money this year?) No, we didn't do it. We got turned down twice. We're not going through it again. They're not going to give it to us. (Response: Each year they're changing the rules a little bit). Just like that case there. You put in for it last year. If you got it we could have used it to pay for the building this year. If you put in for it this year you're not going to get it next year. You don't get it tomorrow. They say: okay we're going to give Chartiers a couple \$100,000. It might be a year and half from now before you get it. (Response: It would be next summer some time). We cannot wait gentlemen! (Response: I would like to answer the question you asked of all three of us. I would like to give you my answer. We started a budget process sometime ago. You came to the second meeting and at the end of that meeting and at that time I had no information to make any judgments about what kind of money to give to the Fire Department. At the time you came to the meeting we were \$70,000 out that we had to make-up somehow in our budget. There wasn't enough information to make a decision whether we could give to the Fire Department. 1) I wasn't going to increase taxes no matter what. 2) The request came in late and I had no information to make a decision. 3) I understood from the discussion that there were no active fundraisers going on. I had a spreadsheet that showed expenses from the Fire Department and when I added up the money we gave the Fire Department and other income they receive from the State the difference seems to be \$40,000 on a parking lot was identified. I drove over there and looked at that parking lot and the parking lot didn't look like it needed replaced to me~~new to me~~. I have no idea if you applied for Homeland Security Grants. I know there is a bundle of money that the Government is giving away for all emergency responders. For 31 years I've worked in the field of occupation safety health most of the time working with firefighters throughout the country. Was involved in the response to 911, anthrax attacks and other issues that took place at the Pentagon and I can tell you there is no one here more than sympathetic in the need of fire departments and firefighters then I would be, but I just had no knowledge of information that was going on with the fire department in such short notice that would make a well informed decision. I think what needs to be done, that's been suggested, then the Fire Department Officers get together with the Township because if there are really issues with inability to do fundraisers today. We need to work

together to try to find out how we can continue to make the Fire Department the best it can be. That's my reasons for why I'm not in favor for increasing funds). This is the third year we haven't got an increase. (Response: Wait a minute you went from 72 to 80). No, it went from 60 to 80. (Response: It went from 72 to 80 because you got \$8,000 more last year). The information you got. What do you mean about a parking lot. (Response: I was given a sheet of paper that showed expenses of the department and it had 2009 on it.) That was probably talking about getting the parking lot resurfaced. (Response: It was something about a parking lot \$40,000 and the difference in the expenses and the difference in the revenue and the expenses and on that sheet was about \$40,000 which would be equivalent to whatever was being asked for on the parking lot. To me I thought I don't have enough information to make a more informed decision, but it seems so like the gaps that the parking lot didn't look like it needed to be done, for what it worth that's my ~~perspective~~<sup>erspective</sup>. I'm a friend of all firefighters. If there is a way that we can partner we definitely want to consider it). I hate to keep harping on the fact that I've been there since day one. I'm the last guy left – active fireman yet 1957. I'm the last guy. The guys name on the wall over there – those were the guys that built that place. Those are the ones over there that built that social hall. We made money. There's no two ways about it. If you took what this Township gave that department over the 50-years you would get astonishment. Believe me, I would like to find that number somewhere. I can't find it anywhere. The first year we got \$150.00. Take it from there – we are \$85,000 in the hole and they gave us \$150 bucks. I'm just saying – I understand the situation. I now nobody likes to raise taxes. There's no problem there. We try to do it the easiest way out. Top it off on a bingo game. I'll give you another instance. How many people from Chartiers Township come to bingo? (Response: 20). You're lucky for 20. Out of 140 people you're lucky for 20. The bingo player patronized it because we had a good bingo. We gave away a lot of money. We'd make \$1,000. We get 150 people in there we would make \$1,500 a week. We didn't need too much from you guys then. You know what I mean. We saved our money to do what we did, you understand. That's where we are at. They keep saying they want to see the books and that's wrong! How come the fire department doesn't show the Township their books? What do you want to see? I'll show them to you. There might be a bunch of zeros. That's how that building got done. What we got from the State and what we needed to put in with it to do that job. I don't give a shit (excuse me Wendy) what anybody says I'm proud of that. I was there every day with them. I got guys coming up saying: What are you going to do when it starts falling off the walls. Someone like that I just ignore them. I've had enough of it. (Response: When you go back to the Fire Department with the message from tonight's meeting let them know that the door is wide opened). I'll tell them that and they can form a committee. Whatever they want to do. The only thing I don't want to see is that door getting closed over there. That's when you can put my name on that plaque over there. Response: No. We need to provide fire protection). Well, I'm going to tell you something Gentlemen we've got a good outfit over there. There are letters from people we did jobs for and we can't come back enough. Through all my experiences, I hate to take up your time, the times we went out on fires and the guy can't wait to get his wallet out "How much do I owe you guys?" That guy didn't send any money in an envelope. The guy that wants to pay you on the spot, he didn't send you nothing. That doesn't bother me. Now we are going to push over 200 calls this year. I told you guys that. That's s four calls a week. Four times a week

somebody has to go down to that building whether it's one guy or ten guys. Somebody has to go there. Down by the Pie Shop five and half hours to pump water. Those are non-fire calls. Those are things people don't see. I asked a guy "What would you do to get the attention of the public?" He said: "Why don't you open the doors down there to let people see what you have? When we used to give chairs to people for parties, a guy come in and said gee I didn't know we had fire trucks like this. I thought we just had junky stuff. We bought what we needed for fires. Every piece of equipment we have in that garage we need."

Vera Koziel  
829 W. Grant Street  
Houston, PA.

"Are there "Leash Laws" for dogs still in effect?" Mrs. Koziel has German Shepherds that she walks twice a day (4 and 5 in the morning and once after the school buses go in the morning). A dog got in a scuffle and pulled her down to the ground. The Police Department and Animal Control are to be notified.

Also, fire pits being burned and homes being so close together. Mrs. Koziel was advised if there is a continued concern of burning to contact the Police Department.

Hickory Alley – Potholes need to be addressed.

Ted Sankey informed the Board that his project on the "Gulf War Memorial" is completed and has passed is Scout Rank and is now an Eagle Scout.

Mr. Sankey was commended for the work that was done on the memorial. A certificate is to be presented to Mr. Sankey at a later meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MUIUTES:** (Posted on Bulletin Board)

A motion was made by Mr. Kiehl and seconded by Mr. Metzler to approve Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting minutes of November 17, 2009. Motion carried.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

**Township Manager – Samuel R. Stockton**

Refunded \$600.00 to Houston Borough for tap-in fee paid by resident at 357 East Pike Street. Refunded remaining \$400.00 to resident at 357 East Pike Street.

Met with Scott Fieta of PA DOT concerning the storm water issue in the parking lot.

Met with Jay Roessler of Energy Source SC concerning a back up generator quote.

Met with Mark West Land Agent Scott, Scott Olsen and members of the Tractor Pull Association, concerning the Ullom Road Property ROW, and clear cutting by the Association.

In contact with Tom Fedula of PA DOT concerning a permit to access Old Hickory Ridge Road (S.R. 4047) for the clear cutting operation.

Completed and submitted the LSA Grant application for the Ball Field in Arnold Park.

Police Department furnace needs \$1,041.13 in repairs. Request authorization for repairs in that amount.

### **Correspondence of Note:**

Received a letter from Senator Stout stating he is confident that the local share funds will reach 12 million dollars for this round of funding, however, only 2/3 of the funding will be available to the Roundtable for distribution. 1/3 of the funds will be distributed to each municipality on a quarterly basis through DCED at a rate of \$25,000 plus \$10 per capita, not exceed 50% of the municipalities current budget. Projects are job training, community improvement, and other projects in the public interest, reasonable administrative costs and infrastructure.

Notice from PA DOT that State Police Fines and Penalties payment in the amount of \$3,995.86 will be paid December 1, 2009 by direct deposit. These funds may be used for general fund purposes. These funds are distributed in June and December.

Received notice from Collective Efforts, Civil and Environmental Engineers, on behalf of the Canonsburg-Houston Joint Authority, of their intent to submit an application to the PADEP for the Chartiers Township Parallel Interceptor.

### **Planning/Zoning – Harold Ivery, Jr.**

Mr. Ivery presented the Devitis Subdivision – The Board requested an easement for a future cul-de-sac.

A motion was made by Mr. Kiehl and seconded by Mr. Metzler to approve the John Devitis Subdivision. Motion carried.

The Shirley Miller Subdivision – There are two structures that need to be moved. The structures are presently sitting on separate lots. Mrs. Miller wishes to combine both lots.

A motion was made by Mr. Kiehl and seconded by Mr. Metzler to approve the Shirley Miller Subdivision contingent plan in accordance with all Zoning Ordinances. Motion carried.

### **Township Engineer – Douglas Patterson**

Indiana Avenue Storm Sewer – Have received agreement, required bonds, and insurance from Stewart Contracting Inc. Township will need to sign Agreement copies. Copies have been delivered to Mr. Stockton. Have revised the storm line through the Restaneo property. Contacted Stewart Contracting Inc. regarding easement problem and he will maintain pricing if he can order materials this year. Need to know which option Township is going with to issue construction drawings. Notice to proceed will be issued when easements are in place.

It was the consensus of the Board that the Contractor could order his material for the project.

McGovern Road Culvert Replacement – Notice of award has been sent to Tedesco Construction Company. All bonds, signed agreement and insurances from Telescope Construction Company. Preliminary construction easement drawings have been prepared. Working with culvert manufacturer on final design.

**P**a~~u~~tsch Property Line Shift – A plan has been revised to add 13.5 acres to Arnold Park through a donation by Pa~~u~~tsch Brothers Inc. Revised plan has been submitted to Washington County Planning Commission for their review. The wetland delineation will be completed by week of December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Interceptor has been sold. Wider is getting inquiries from HRG. They are questioning the easement on the current interceptor. They haven't been able to obtain drawings or anything. We are providing them with drawings of easements back in 1965.

#### **Solicitor – James Liker**

No report

#### **SUPERVISOR REPORTS**

**Mr. Shober** – No report

#### **Mr. Kiehl:**

Commended the Parks and Recreation on Light up Night. They received the cooperation of the School District. They had a good crowd.

Mr. Kiehl referenced an article in the paper regarding the proposed baseball field (~~w~~What the ~~s~~School district is going to pay and what the Township is going to pay). It was clarified that the Township is providing the property to house the field and they (school district) are providing the money to build the ball field. There is nothing else agreed to. The Township has applied for an LSA Grant allowing the construction of a road.

Mr. Liker was in contact with Mrs. Rizzo the School's Solicitor requesting an agreement however as of this date has not received anything.

**Mr. Metzler:**

The Library Board, at their meeting last evening, voted to amend the Bylaws in the manner Mr. Liker recommended that municipalities contributing more than 15% of the total municipal contributions will appoint the members. As tradition, the Board decided to continue to give Houston Borough one (1) member even though they don't meet the criteria. It was decided the School District would appoint four members. The Township would approve two members. The Borough would appoint one member. There were seven names identified of people who agreed as board members. Those names will be presented to the School District and Township and Houston Borough. By the end of December all members will be appointed per State requirements.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A motion was made by Mr. Kiehl and seconded by Mr. Metzler to authorize payment of invoices (General Fund: Checks 24098-24124: \$62,987.89; Fire Hydrant Fund: Check 1365: \$3,399.45; Sewer Fund: Checks 2259-2263: \$2,301.48; Arnold Park Fund: \$119.83; Liquid Fuels Fund: Check 1371: \$1,951.80; Municipal Improvement: \$34.00 Total All Funds: \$70,794.45). Motion carried.

-A motion was made by Mr. Kiehl and seconded by Mr. Metzler to authorize 2009 Real Estate refund in the amount of \$42.44. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Kiehl and seconded by Mr. Metzler to authorize 2007 and 2008 Non-Resident refunds in the amount of \$4,087.81. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Kiehl and seconded by Mr. Metzler to authorize 3<sup>rd</sup> quart Non-Resident refunds in the amount of \$4,419.27. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Kiehl and seconded by Mr. Metzler to exonerate the Earned Income Tax Collector from the delinquent tax list as submitted. The tax list will be sent to the delinquent tax collection agency upon approval. Motion carried.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

Discuss Winter Maintenance Agreement for Miranda Homes – During the discussion it was mentioned the fee was extremely low. It was noted that -and let Miranda Homes did not make a request for winter road support. request this. Mit was agreed that if a request



is made that we should get an accurate measure of the road length and the charges for services can be proportional to the cost per road length. ~~leage is to be measured.~~

Discuss conceptual Paternal Property ROW access onto Allison Hollow Road. Mr. Paternal wants to know if conceptually the Board is okay if it could be done to have some kind of access if someone would buy the property wants to put an access in they can pay to have it surveyed. They would make sure that there is enough room based on our ordinances and not crossing people's property – would we have an issue. The property is zoned residential and it is being advertised commercial. How would we rezone that particular lot from what it currently is? They would have to come before us for special consideration. Approving his access on that road would be contingent upon what we actually do with that lot. Mr. Liekar commented if the Township conceptually agrees I think you are going to put the Township in a bind in the future. The Board decided that it could not provide Mr Paternal with the information that he requested.

Discuss Canonsburg Elks requests for hearing to move liquor license from Canonsburg to Comcast building in Chartiers Township.

A motion was made by Mr. Kiehl and seconded by Mr. Metzler to authorize the Solicitor to advertise a hearing for December 15<sup>th</sup>. Roll Call: Mr. Kiehl: yes; Mr. Metzler: yes; Mr. Shoher: abstained (Mr. Shoher is a member of the Canonsburg Elks). Motion carried

A motion was made by Mr. Kiehl and seconded by Mr. Metzler to approve the request from the Relay to waive the meeting room fee for January 9, and February 6, 2010 for scrap booking event. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Kiehl and seconded by Mr. Metzler authorizing the Manager to place an employment ad for an additional police officer. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Kiehl and seconded by Mr. Metzler approve the Midland Sewer Project Resolution necessary for the Act 537 application (This is recommended by Nichols & Slagle Engineering) Motion carried.

A motion was made buy Mr. Kiehl and seconded by Mr. Metzler to table the proposed fence ordinance until December 15<sup>th</sup>, as submitted by the Solicitor and reviewed and recommended by the Planning Commission. Motion carried

Discuss proposed traffic signals for the Meadow Lands Interchange Traffic signals will be linked together. One suggestion was that One Township be responsible for the signals. The second suggestion by PENNDOT was that we each take care of own, but the issue doing that would be using the same company to repair them. If South Strabane agrees to take over the operation – Chartiers Township will agree to it. If not costs have to be pro-rated.

Mr. Metzler sent an email message expressing an interest forming a residents committee to gather facts for the Township on the environmental and public health

concerns with gas drilling and process operations in the Township. Mr. Metzler's concern is that we need to have facts so we can understand what our role will be in the future in protecting the public. His interest is giving guidance on the right way of going about establishing a resident committee who can help collecting facts relating to environmental and public health concerns. A question was posed: If you establish a committee who enforces it? EPA and DEP currently control the gas drilling. The Township set up something with DEP and EPA expressing the Townships' concerns. Mr. Metzler is to follow up with the EPA and DEP and Range Resources.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

The Board went into executive session at 9:04 p.m. to discuss personnel issues. The Board reconvened at 9:20 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Mr. Kiehl and seconded by Mr. Metzler to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 p.m. Motion carried.

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Richard W. Metzler  
Secretary

Wendy Williams, Recording Secretary