

February 27, 2012 Joint Board of Supervisors Meeting With Tulpehocken Township and Bethel Township.

The Tulpehocken Township Board of Supervisors joint meeting with Bethel Township was called to order by Chairman John Kintzer at 7:00 p.m. in the Tulpehocken Township Municipal Building located at 22 Rehrersburg Road, Rehrersburg PA. Bethel Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Herb Zechman. Those attending the meeting were John Kintzer, Rick Kramer, Gary Deck, Kathy Boltz, Randall Haag, Herb Zechman Jr, Carl Kauffman, Jayne Seifrit, Chief Kerschner, Chief Hepler, and other interested persons.

The meeting continued with the pledge to the American Flag.

Chairman John Kintzer commented that the joint meeting is being held to discuss the regionalization. At this time Chairman John Kintzer turned the meeting over to Chairman Herb Zechman.

Board Make Up – The police study suggested having three Board Members for the governing of regional police department. John Kintzer commented that he would like to see an even amount from each township plus one citizen from each township. Randall Haag commented that a larger board would bring a lot of opinions, and suggested the board be made up of people from each township and that one Supervisor from each township be on the Board. Gary Deck commented that one Supervisor from each township and filling the rest with residents from each township is a good idea. John Kintzer also commented that it may be hard to find people willing to fill the positions for the Board. Chief Kris Kerschner said that he has had people approach him and are willing to serve on the Board.

John Kintzer commented that Marion Township is currently getting 60 hours per month of police coverage now and that Marion has mentioned to him that they are interested in more hours of coverage. After some discussion Gary Deck suggested sending a letter to Marion asking if they would be interested in participating in the regionalization. Randall Haag made a motion to authorize Kathy Boltz to send a letter to Marion Township asking if they want to be a part of the regional police. Gary Deck second the motion, upon a roll call vote all Board Members cast a yes vote. Carl Kauffman commented that if Marion Township does join the Board should then include a Marion Township Supervisor and a resident.

John Kintzer questioned if it is economical to continue contracting police coverage to Strausstown Borough. This was discussed briefly along with questioning if any other surrounding townships would be interested in participating in the regionalization to provide police coverage to their residents. Randall Haag made a motion to amend the previous motion; now authorizing Kathy Boltz to send a letter to Strausstown Borough, Upper Tulpehocken Township, Jefferson Township, and Marion Township asking if they are interested in the proposed regionalization between Bethel and Tulpehocken Township. Gary Deck second the motion, upon a roll call vote Randall Haag, Herb Zechman, Carl Kauffman, and Gary Deck cast a yes vote. John Kintzer and Richard Kramer cast a no vote. John Kintzer commented that sending out the letter to surrounding municipalities is jumping in too fast. Randall Haag says we will have to see what happens if they want to participate, gather info and readjust the study.

Building Location – Bethel Township is in the process of developing a new township office behind the Bethel Community Center on Klahr Road. The design of the new building will be able to house five policemen, an office for the Chief, an office for a secretary, and will have the square footage suggested in the police study. Chairman Herb Zechman asked the Tulpehocken

Township Board of Supervisors if they would approve this proposed building to be a centralized location for the regional police station. Tulpehocken discussed the location and agreed that if the surrounding Municipalities join the regionalization this is not a centralized location. John Kintzer also commented that Marion Township will continue to receive coverage under the contract and that this is not a centralized location.

Resident Lenny Mays suggested looking into renting space at the Tulpehocken School District administration building. It was discussed that this had been researched and was too costly.

Randall Haag asked the Tulpehocken Board of Supervisors if no other municipalities join the regionalization would Bethel's proposed Township Building on Klahr Road be an okay location. Tulpehocken's response at this time was no, this is not centralized.

At this time Chief Kerschner mentioned a property for sale on route 501 and the owner is willing to negotiate a price for a police station. He asked that the Board Members talk to the owner. The police are in favor of the regionalization for officer safety and to provide a more quality service to the residents.

Budget/Cost sharing – It was discussed that the regionalization will be saving Tulpehocken funding for their police department and will be costing Bethel Township. Bethel is willing to cover the cost to build the building needed for the regionalization at the earlier discussed location and in return split the cost of the expenses and revenues from the regionalization 50/50. Randall Haag commented that Bethel Township has invested two years in financing a building and does not want to through it away; there is enough room for a police station for Bethel and Tulpehocken Township. Randall Haag also commended Herb Zechman for doing a good job in designing a practical building. Bethel would like to get this off the ground; they are serious and want to get it started.

Next Meeting – Randall Haag made a motion authorizing Jayne Seifrit to advertise the next meeting for the purpose of police regionalization on April 30, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. to be held at the Tulpehocken Township municipal building. Rick Kramer second the motion, upon a roll call vote all Board Members cast a yes vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Resident Dennis Royer had two questions for the Board. The first one being; has Bethel Township involved the Police Chiefs with the layout of their new building? Chairman Herb Zechman replied that yes the Police Chiefs have been involved. The other was if the police contracts between the two townships are comparable? Zechman replied that yes they are comparable and very similar. Mr. Royer is a retired police officer and stated that it is tough to be out on duty on your own and that he is in favor of more coverage and officer safety.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Randall Haag made a motion to adjourn the joint meeting at 8:41 p.m. John Kintzer second the motion, upon a roll call vote all Board Members cast a yes vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Boltz

Secretary, Tulpehocken Township