

January 17, 2011 Joint Board of Supervisors Meeting With Tulpehocken Township and Bethel Township.

The Bethel Township Board of Supervisors joint meeting was called to order by Chairman Randall Haag at 5:44 p.m. in the Community Center located on the northeast corner of Route 501 and I-78. Chairman John Kintzer called Tulpehocken Township Board of Supervisors joint meeting to order at 5:44 p.m. in the Community Center. Those attending the meeting were Ron Whitmoyer, John Kintzer, Rick Kramer, Kathy Boltz, Randall Haag, Herb Zechman Jr, Ken Norton, Jayne Seifrit, Chief Kerschner, Chief Hepler, and Richard Garipoli, Jr.

The joint meeting was held to discuss the possibilities of regionalizing or merging Bethel Township and Tulpehocken Township Police Departments. Chairman Randall Haag introduced Richard Garipoli, who had been invited to attend the meeting and share information on merging/regionalization.

Rich Garipoli discussed advantages and disadvantages of merging/regionalizing the two departments. Some of the advantages discussed were; the need for less cruisers, reduce equipment such as computers, training would be easier, decrease in liability insurance, both police Chiefs are for it, and no additional costs for administration. The main disadvantage discussed was the loss of control by the Board of Supervisors. If the departments merge or regionalize the new department would be governed by a Commission. The Commission would not have to be Board of Supervisors; it can have citizens serving on the Commission. Rich Garipoli does recommend having citizens as well as Board of Supervisors on the Commission.

Rich Garipoli suggested having a Regional Police Study done. This would help determine the costs and benefits of merging/regionalizing. Ron Stern at the Governor's office will set the study up if the Boards wish to do so. When the study is performed information will be gathered from the Board and the Police. All things will be look into, such as contracts, pension, benefits, ect. The study is free and will take approximately 4 -7 months to complete. The savings on merging/regionalizing would be down the road probably after two years. Police Chiefs are progressive; the departments have been working together and are in favor of having the study done. The Bethel and Tulpehocken Township Board of Supervisors are in favor of having the study done.

Herb Zechman made a motion to have a regionalization study done. Motion second by Ken Norton, upon a roll call vote all three Board Members cast a yes vote on the motion. Rick Kramer made a motion to have a regionalization study done. Motion second by Ron Whitmoyer, upon a roll call vote all three Board Members cast a yes vote on the motion.

It was also discussed by the Board to have a lead secretary as a contact person for the Police Study. Ron Whitmoyer made a motion to appoint Kathy Boltz as the contact person for the Police Study. Rick Kramer second the motion, upon a roll call vote all three Board Members cast a yes vote on the motion. Ken Norton made a motion to appoint Kathy Boltz as contact person for the Police Study. Herb Zechman second the motion, upon a roll call vote all three Board Members cast a yes vote on the motion. Kathy will contact Ron Stern to set up the Police Study.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Herb Zechman Jr. made a motion to adjourn the joint meeting at 6:28 p.m. Ken Norton second the motion, upon a roll call vote all three Board Members cast a yes vote.

Ron Whitmoyer made a motion to adjourn the joint meeting at 6:28 p.m. Rick Kramer second the motion, upon a roll call vote all three Board Members cast a yes vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Boltz

Secretary, Tulpehocken Township