

**October 26, 2010 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 6:00 p.m. in the Community Center located on the northeast corner of Route 501 and I-78. Chairman Ronald Whitmoyer called Tulpehocken Township Board of Supervisors joint meeting to order at 6:00 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, and other interested persons.

The joint meeting was held to discuss the Police Departments. Randall Haag commented that the purpose of this meeting is to explore doing something with the police departments in each Township. Randall would like to look into a police merger, regionalization, or cross coverage of Bethel and Tulpehocken Township. Randall had been involved with the county police study and commented that State Police coverage would be costly as well as a longer response time for State Troopers to respond to calls due to the geographic location. He feels if the Townships could combine departments to provide better coverage and save financially it would be a benefit to each Township. Both departments are in need of upgrading equipment and now may be a good time to combine.

Chairman Ron Whitmoyer asked for clarification on what Bethel is asking for, a merger, regionalization, or cross coverage. Randall commented that he would like to discuss all of them. At this time, Chief Kerschner of Tulpehocken Township commented that he would prefer regionalization, cross coverage is difficult. It was also discussed that Tulpehocken Township currently contracts police service to Marion Township and the Borough of Strausstown. Ron would also like to see a comparison on a merger. It was discussed there is no information available at this time.

Herb Zechman Jr, commented that it will be costly to depend on State Troopers if the county policing goes through and would like to look into a regional police force. Also that he has talked to others, and was told if you do it to save money you will be disappointed, but what you do get is better coverage.

John Kintzer commented that he wants to look into it further and include the Police Chiefs and the Board of Supervisors from each Township and would also like to see a committee formed with community people on it.

Ken Norton commented that it would be nice to have someone lay out the options.

Rick Kramer is willing to look into this and would like to see more coverage.

There was discussion on contacting Bryan Ross, Chief of Police for Spring Township or Richard Garipoli, who both have experience in combining Police Departments and setting up a meeting with one of them, the Police Chiefs, and the Board of Supervisors. It was also commented that the County Commissioners would be willing to help and have knowledge and experience with this.

Ken Norton made a motion for Bethel and Tulpehocken Townships to further investigate with consultants and experienced persons for mergers or regionalization of police departments. Motion second by Herb Zechman, upon a roll call vote all three Board Members cast a yes vote.

John Kintzer made a motion on behalf of Tulpehocken Township, to commit with Bethel Township to look into more studies of a police merger. Motion second by Rick Kramer, upon a roll call vote all three Board Members cast a yes vote.

Chief Kerschner and Chief Hepler will make contact with the Mr. Garipoli or Mr. Ross and set up a joint meeting with both the Boards. Both Police Chiefs are in support of investigating a merger or regionalization.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Randall Haag asked for public comments at this time. Some comments that had been offered to the Board of Supervisors were; if it is cost effective and provide better coverage it would be beneficial to look into. Comment was also made to research for possible funding for this matter.

### **ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

Herb Zechman Jr. made a motion to adjourn the joint meeting at 6:40 p.m. Ken Norton second the motion, upon a roll call vote all three Board Members cast a yes vote.

Rick Kramer made a motion to adjourn the joint meeting at 6:40 p.m. John Kintzer second the motion, upon a roll call vote all three Board Members cast a yes vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kathy Boltz*

Secretary, Tulpehocken Township