

**HARDWICK TOWNSHIP PLANNING BOARD
FEBRUARY 12, 2009**

There was the reorganization meeting and regular meeting of the Hardwick Township Planning Board on Thursday, February 12, 2009. The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Alfia Schemm. She led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance. She stated that proper notice of this meeting has been given in compliance with the "Open Public Meetings Act".

SWEARING IN OF BOARD MEMBERS:

Robert Morgenstern, Esq. administered the oath of office to Mayor Kevin Duffy, James Perry, Betty Jane Lindsay, Jim McKim, Richard Woods, and Rick Krause.

ROLL CALL: The following Planning Board Members were present: Mayor Kevin Duffy, Jim Perry, Betty Jane Lindsay, Jim McKim, Richard Krause, Rick Woods, Lori Gold, and Walter Ribitzki. Also Present: Engineer Ted Rodman, Attorney Robert Morgenstern, and Secretary Alfia Schemm.

REORGANIZATION:

Election of Chairman

Secretary Schemm called for nominations for Chairman. Ms. Lindsay made the motion to nominate Walter Ribitzki. Motion seconded by Mr. McKim. Secretary Schemm asked if there were any other nominations. With there being no other nomination, Mr. Perry made the motion to close the nominations. Motion seconded by Ms. Lindsay. In a roll call vote, all were in favor of electing Walter Ribitzki as Chairman.

Election of Vice Chairman

Chairman Ribitzki called for nominations for Vice Chairman. Chairman Ribitzki made the motion to nominate James McKim as Vice Chairman. Motion seconded by Mr. Carrazzone. Chairman Ribitzki asked if there were any other nominations. With there being no other nominations, the nominations were closed. In a roll call vote, all were in favor of electing James McKim as Vice Chairman.

Chairman Ribitzki reviewed the Board's current and traditional billing procedure to the Applicant's escrow account. He stated that an Applicant has questioned the procedure and Attorney Morgenstern reviewed what transpired where he provided a revised billing to the Applicant, eliminating meeting time, without speaking to the Township. He also stated that the Township's Fees and Escrows may be too low and that the Township may want to address that in the near future. The Board then went on to discuss the Township's present billing policy.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

In a motion made by Mr. Perry and seconded by Mr. McKim, the Planning Board went into Executive Session to discuss: Threatened Litigation.

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Planning Board of Hardwick Township, Warren County, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of and action upon the hereinafter-specified subject matter.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows: Threatened Litigation.
3. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public at the conclusion of each individual specified subject matter.
4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Date adopted: February 12, 2009

Time: 7:50 p.m.

A motion was made and seconded to come out of Executive Session and resume the regular meeting. In a voice vote, all were in favor.

REORGANIZATION-Continued:

Appointment of Board Professionals

Chairman Ribitzki made the motion to appoint Robert Morgenstern as the Board Attorney. Motion seconded by Ms. Lindsay.

Discussion on the motion: The Board asked if Attorney Morgenstern is comfortable with the Township’s current billing procedure. Attorney Morgenstern stated that he will bill as per the Township’s procedure. In a roll call vote, all were in favor.

Mr. Perry made the motion to appoint Ted Rodman as the Board Engineer and Heyer and Gruel as the Board Planner. Motion seconded by Mr. McKim. In a roll call vote, all were in favor.

Appointment of Board Secretary

Mr. Perry made the motion to appoint Alfia Schemm as the Board Secretary. Motion seconded by Mr. McKim. In a roll call vote, all were in favor.

Designation of Meeting Dates, Time and Place and the Official Newspaper

Mr. Perry made the motion to designate the 2nd Thursday of the month as the Board Meeting dates, commencing at 7:30 p.m., at the Hardwick Township Municipal Building and to designate the NJ HERALD as the official newspaper and the EXPRESS TIMES as the secondary newspaper. Motion seconded by Mr. McKim. In a roll call vote, all were in favor.

MINUTES APPROVED:

Copies of the minutes of the meeting of November 13, 2008 were distributed to all Board Members prior to the meeting. Mr. McKim noted a minor typo graphical correction and Mayor Duffy clarified that the Township did have problems in the recent past in filling vacancies on the Boards; however, the vacancies have now been filled.

Ms. Lindsay made the motion to adopt the minutes as amended. Motion seconded by Mr. McKim. In a roll call vote, all were in favor, except for Mr. Perry, Mr. Krause, and Mr. Woods, who were not present at the November meeting and abstained.

BILLS:

The following vouchers were submitted for payment:

Verizon-escrow refund	\$3136.00
Rodman Associates-Nov/Dec General	386.75
Dolan & Dolan-Hyde & Katz	47.85
Dolan & Dolan-COAH	985.95

Mr. Perry made the motion to approve the bills. Motion seconded by Ms. Lindsay. In a roll call vote, all were in favor.

OTHER:

The Board discussed cost saving measures and Mr. Perry asked if the Board Professionals need to attend all of the Board Meetings, especially when there may not be any applications. He also asked if the Board has submitted a requested budget. Board Secretary Schemm stated the Board has submitted a requested 2009 budget. The Board also discussed the present Fees and Escrows are whether they are sufficient and Board Attorney Morgenstern distributed two Fee/Escrow Ordinances from other Townships.

Board Secretary Schemm stated that there is a Mandatory Classes being held at SCCC for Board Members that may still need to take it.

Board Engineer Rodman stated that there has been some discussion regarding removing the condition that requires the proposed trail on the Township Property within the Lime Kiln Development. Board Attorney Morgenstern stated that the Resolution would have to be amended to remove that condition if the trail is not going to be constructed.

Chairman Ribitzki reviewed the COAH correspondence and Mr. McKim asked if the Township should consider having future Applicants sign an escrow agreement so that there is no future question on the Township’s procedure.

ADJOURNMENT:

In a motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned. All were in favor.

Respectfully Submitted:

Alfia Schemm
Board Secretary