

RICHLAND TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

January 20, 2010

PUBLIC MEETING

The Richland Township Board of Supervisors meeting held at the municipal building on Wednesday, January 20, 2010 was called to order at 7:00 PM. by Chairman, Herbert C. Dankmyer. There were fifteen people present in the audience. The Officials present were:

Herbert C. Dankmyer, Chairman	Barton D. Miller, Supervisor
Raymond P. Kendrick, Vice Chairman	Dean E. Bastianini, Township Manager
George P. Allen, Supervisor	Tina L. Shaw, Recording Secretary
John A. Marshall, Supervisor	Charles Means, Esquire

Mr. Kendrick made a motion to approve the minutes from the Supervisors' Organizational meeting of January 4, 2010. Mr. Allen seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

Mr. Dankmyer asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak. No one came forward.

Mr. Kendrick acknowledged, and moved to approve the December Financial Statement which was included in the meeting packet. Mr. Allen seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

Mr. Allen made a motion to approve the bills payable. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Forestwood Drive Traffic Calming Report

Mr. Robert Goetz, P.E. presented the Forestwood Drive Traffic Calming Study. Mr. Goetz explained the procedures for conducting the study and the rationale for the recommendations. He explained that the purpose of this meeting was to present the results of the study and to receive citizen input. Copies of the report were sent to Richland EMS and the Richland VFD. Neither organization had responded.

Traffic and speed counts were performed on December 15, 16 and 17, 2009 at four locations. Two meet the threshold for traffic calming.

- Between Community Center Drive and Westwood Drive
- Near Greenspring Drive.

Two other locations did not:

- Between Edgehill and Vineyard and
- Between Arborwood and Woodhill

Mr. Goetz noted that the resident's application for traffic calming identified speeding as the primary concern in the neighborhood. He said the most effective devices for speed reduction are speed humps and raised cross walks. Since there are no crosswalks delineated in the neighborhood speed humps are perhaps the only traffic calming solution. Studies have shown that a 12 foot long speed hump, 3-4 inches high can reduce speeds by 8 mph. Speed humps should not be installed where grades exceed 8% nor should they be located more than 5 feet from the nearest driveway and 20 feet from an intersection. After eliminating sections of Forestwood Drive which did not meet the criteria the following four locations were recommended. Mr. Goetz used a large map to show the audience the locations.

- Between 321 and 319 Forestwood Drive
- At 336 Forestwood Drive
- Between 341 and 343 Forestwood Drive
- Between the Richland Youth Center and 349 Forestwood Drive.

Since the Forestwood-Vineyard Drive intersection did not meet the criteria for traffic calming a separate evaluation was performed to determine if sufficient sight distance was available for vehicles turning out of Vineyard Drive. The evaluation concluded that there was insufficient minimum stopping site distance at the intersection, and that it would be appropriate to install stop signs, with all-way plaques, on both the north and southbound approaches of Forestwood Drive.

The following residents either asked questions or spoke in favor of the measures to slow traffic in the area: Mr. Robert Lusnak, 310 Forestwood Drive; Mr. Lynn Ford, 356 Forestwood Drive; Ms. Annette Robinson, 108 Applewood Drive; Mr. Nicholas Raczewicz; 347 Forestwood Drive; Mr. Michael Raczewicz; 347 Forestwood Drive; Mr. Wallace Edsall, 322 Forestwood Drive; and Ms. Nancy Forsythe, 348 Forestwood Drive. Topics discussed included: a) how the Township defined what a consensus of residents was; b) how speed humps effect plowing and snow removal operations; c) whether speed humps are dangerous if hit at a high rate of speed; d) what measures are taken to ensure the speed humps do not negatively effect stormwater drainage and e) what other measures could be taken to improve traffic safety on the street.

Mr. Dankmyer and Mr. Kendrick questioned whether installing stop signs would be an equally effective means to control speeding. The Board authorized Trans Associates to measure the site distance at the local intersecting streets before deciding whether to proceed with traffic calming measures. The result of the site distance evaluation will be discussed at a future meeting which residents will be invited to attend.

#### Richland Road, Walcott Drive, Ben Miller Road Traffic Study

Mr. Goetz also reported on the traffic-speed counts his firm obtained in December for the Richland Road-Walcott Drive-Ben Miller Road intersection. The 85% speed for southbound motorists was

measured at 35 mph. This speed warrants the installation of a stop sign on Richland Road due to inadequate stopping distance for southbound motorists. Mr. Allen made a motion authorizing the advertisement of an ordinance establishing an all-way stop intersection. Mr. Kendrick seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

Mr. Kendrick made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 1 of 2010 appointing Mr. George Allen as the second alternative voting delegate to the Northern Allegheny County Regional EIT Committee. Mr. Marshall seconded the motion and it was approved by all.

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Bastianini reported on various topics including: 1) Chatham University's hiring of a "blue ribbon" team of consultants to prepare a master site plan for a School of Sustainability on the Eden Hall farm property. The study is scheduled to be completed next summer. 2) Completion of the pipe installation work on the Route 910 Sanitary Sewer Project. Pending satisfactory testing connection notices will begin to be mailed in February. 3) Implementation of the private well water meter replacement and remote upgrading program. He also requested an executive session following the public meeting to discuss a matter of potential litigation.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Means reported that the State has adopted a new set of uniform building codes effective December 31, 2009. The new code requires all new multi-family homes to be built with sprinkler systems. In 2011 the Code, unless amended, will require sprinkler systems in all single family homes as well.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD**

Mr. Kendrick noted that the asphalt overlay installed on Middlesex Street by the contractor working for the Breakneck Creek Authority is in disrepair and needs to be corrected. The Township will notify the Authority of the problem.

At Mr. Kendrick's suggestion the Board instructed Mr. Bastianini to write to Allegheny County requesting that a speed limit study be performed on Meridian Road.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8:20 p.m. The Supervisors adjourned to an executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina L. Shaw  
Recording Secretary

