

**North Middleton Township Board of Supervisors
Joint Municipal Meeting
March 11, 2009**

The joint meeting of the North Middleton Township Board of Supervisors, South Middleton Township, Carlisle Borough, Middlesex Township, Dickinson Township and West Pennsboro Township was held at the Township Municipal Building, 2051 Spring Road, Carlisle PA on March 11, 2009. Chairman Robert Reisinger called the meeting to order at 7:35am. Attendance: see attachment #1.

Chairman Reisinger turned the meeting over to Debi Ealer. Ms. Ealer welcomed everyone to the meeting. Ms. Ealer suggested the group go around the table and introduce themselves.

County Per Capita Tax

Steve Hietsch, Carlisle Borough, stated he would like to approach the County as group to possibly get rid of the Per Capita Tax. Mr. Hietsch explained that Carlisle Borough does not have the Per Capita Tax but Cumberland County still has it.

Supervisor Bucher ask if Mr. Hietsch knew how many people don't own any property but are paying the Per Capita Tax. Mr. Hietsch said he didn't know for sure but he could find out.

John Epley, West Pennsboro Township, stated that West Pennsboro dropped the Per Capita Tax. Barb Wilson, South Middleton Township, stated the South Middleton Township has also dropped their Per Capita Tax.

Mr. Hietsch stated that he will put together some information and provide it to all the municipalities.

Ron Reeder, Dickinson Township, stated that they only make around \$12,000.00 from the Per Capita Tax. Ms. Ealer stated that North Middleton Township received approximately \$30,000.00. Supervisor Bucher stated that the money would have to be made up. Mr. Hietsch said it would probably be made up through and increase in real estate taxes.

Joint Meeting Dates and Times

Mrs. Wilson stated that some of her Board members have an issue with the 7:30 am meeting time. Mrs. Wilson suggested a time in the evening to meet. Supervisor Reisinger stated that meeting in the evening could be a real issue. Tim Scott, Carlisle Borough, suggested meeting on a Saturday morning. Discussion was held regarding the meeting time. It was decided that the meetings would continue to be held in the morning.

Spring Road Bridge Project Update

Ms. Ealer briefed the group on the recent visit by Vice President Joe Biden and Governor Rendell to tour the Route 34 bridge. Ms. Ealer informed the group that the bids are to be received by April 30th. Notification will be during the third week in May. The plan is to proceed as soon as the Carlisle Area School District is done with the 2008-09 school year in June. The project should be done by the time winter sets in and all surrounding businesses have been notified.

Mrs. Wilson ask where the detour will be. Ms. Ealer stated it will all be state roads. The official detour will be Route 944 to Route 74 and into the Borough's western side. Ms. Ealer stated that

Creek Road is a concern. It does not have a good base. Signs will be posted on the road regarding no truck traffic.

Supervisor Reisinger stated that the Borough will have an issue with traffic and Middlesex will have an issue on Wolf's Bridge Road with trucks. Mr. Reeder inquired as to what the weight limit was on Wolf's Bridge Road. Mary Justh, Middlesex Township, stated it was 10 ton.

Supervisor Bucher stated that if the start time is June when do they expect to be finished. Ms. Ealer stated it was originally not to take one full school year. She said it could be four or five months. There is a concern in regards to the intersection of Longs Gap Road and Spring Road.

Mr. Reeder ask if it was going to be modular construction. Ms. Ealer stated it was.

Fire Tax

Supervisor Reisinger stated North Middleton Township has been exploring the idea for two years. Supervisor Shearer ask if any of the other municipalities have the fire tax. Mr. Reeder stated that Dickinson Township does have the fire tax. The tax is \$35.00 per house and it is earmarked specifically for fire service. Mr. Reeder stated that it has been received well by the residents of the township.

Mrs. Wilson stated that South Middleton has the fire tax which is currently .22 mills. There was initially a fear that it would cut back on donations to the firehouse but that has not happened. Mrs. Wilson stated that the firehouse must provide yearly audits which the township pays for. The firehouse owns everything, but if they default or disband everything comes back to the township. South Middleton has not received any negative comments from their residents.

Supervisor Bucher wanted to know what the maximum millage rate was. Mrs. Wilson state it was 4 mills. Supervisor Bucher ask if the firehouse still has fund raising events. Mrs. Wilson stated that they do.

Supervisor Shearer wanted to know what percentage goes to each firehouse. Mr. Reeder stated it is based on a three year rolling average and the amount of calls. It generally fluctuates 2% per year.

Ms. Ealer ask if there was any time limit on when the money needed to be spent. Mrs. Wilson replied that there was not a time limit.

Ms. Ealer inquired as to how West Penn handles their fire tax and fire department. John Epley stated that West Pennsboro gives the fire company money, pays for their fuel, maintains their property in the summer and this year they are doing a paving project for them that will cost approximately \$20,000.00.

Mrs. Wilson informed the group that there will be a meeting on March 21st at 10:00am with the State College COG. The State College COG will be there to explain how their tax works. Mrs. Wilson encouraged everyone to attend.

Dog Park Update

Steve Hietsch reported that they continue to search for a location. The Borough is currently exploring Valley Meadows Park, which is located in South Middleton Township but Carlisle Borough owns the property. Another option would be to give a section of Shaffer Park, which is

located in North Middleton Township. Discussion was held regarding the two areas referenced by Carlisle Borough.

Ms. Ealer informed the group of a joint recreation program with Carlisle Borough. Ms. Ealer stated that Sally and Andrea have worked really hard to get the program running. Mr. Hietsch stated that 16 or 19% of the participants of the programs are from North Middleton Township.

Projections with Current Economics

Supervisor Reisinger inquired if any of the surrounding municipalities are showing any signs of things turning around such as developments or businesses.

Mr. Epley stated that West Pennsboro currently has a developer who is developing a 300 unit apartment complex. Mr. Epley said that the developer is continuing with the project. Ms. Ealer stated that she has met with the developer and they seem very positive in proceeding with this project.

Ms. Ealer stated that the County Planning Commission is showing a reduction. The unemployment rate for Cumberland County is 5% and is considered best in the state.

Mrs. Wilson stated that 6 months ago South Middleton had thirteen plans. Currently six of them are stuck at DEP including the townships plan. The Earned Income Tax is good. The Board of Supervisors passed their budget but ask staff to hold off on any large purchases until later this year. The building permit count is down but there is five large commercial projects still going on.

Carlisle Borough gave an update on the proposed "road diet". Information is available on their website for anyone to view. Discussion was held regarding the proposed changes to the borough roads.

Supervisor Shearer recommended discussing the Earned Income Tax at the June meeting. Laura Portillo, Dickinson Township, inquired as to how the townships transition is going. Ms. Ealer stated things are going well.

Discussion was held regarding the Cumberland County Task Force and possibly eliminating or consolidating the group. After the discussion it was decided that the group would stay together.

Ms. Ealer inquired as to who will host the next meeting in June. It was decided that the next meeting will be held at the Middlesex Township Municipal Building on June 10 at 7:30am.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00am.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah A. Ealer
Township Secretary

Dana A. Billet
Recording Secretary