



DAMASCUS TOWNSHIP
MEETING MINUTES OF:
March 16th, 2009

Meeting called to order @ 7:00 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Jeffrey R. Dexter.

Attendance: [x] Jeffrey R. Dexter, [x] Charles Grady, [x] Jason Roberts,
[-] Dolores Card, [x] Ed Lagarenne, [/] Jeffrey M. Finlay,
[x] Marty Kunstmann, PC, [x] Howard Schuchman, ZHB [x] Bob Dexter,
[x] Dolores Kessler, UDC Representative, [x] Dora Faye Henry, and
[x] Karyle A. Woods, BOS Secretary and Open Records Officer.

OPEN FLOOR: **AGENDA** Items only. Three minutes per speaker.

- NONE

ACTION ITEMS:

- **Minutes of February 16th, 2009:** Chuck Grady made a motion to approve the Minutes, Jason Roberts seconded that motion. Chairman Dexter called for a vote: and the Minutes of February 16th, 2009 were approved unanimously.
- **To take action on the expenses incurred during the previous months:**
 1. **Expenses of February 2009:** Chuck Grady made a motion to pay the expenses of February 2009, and Jason Roberts seconded the motion. Chairman Dexter called for a vote, and the motion to pay the expenses was approved unanimously.
- **To review and take action on the Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer's Report of February 16th, 2009; Chuck Grady made a motion to approve the February 16th, 2009 Report, and Jason Roberts seconded the motion. Chairman Dexter called for a vote and the motion was approved unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Vacancies [2 Alternates]** are needed to fill out the roster for the Zoning Hearing Board. Chairman Dexter, and Howard Schuchman- Chairman of ZHB, agreed that a second advertisement would be placed in *The Wayne Independent* requesting letters of Interest in those vacancies on the Zoning Hearing Board, in April or May 2009.
- **Tax Anticipation Note Update:** All of the paperwork is prepared to sign for the Note; and an appointment has been made for the signing at the Dime Bank, Damascus, Pa. branch.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Bid Openings:** Please see Spread Sheet attached to these Minutes.

NEW BUSINESS Continued.

- **Chairman Dexter announcing a Special meeting on Monday, March 23rd, 2009, at 7:00 PM to review 2 categories of prices for items bid, with the Northern Wayne Council Of Governments, and the COSTARS Program prices.**
- **Chesapeake Energy Corp. of Oklahoma City. OK- landsman, Mr. J.C. Westbrook, Jr. made a presentation before the Board of Supervisors, referencing the Township properties. He indicated that with the permitting issues- this would be a slow development process; he offered \$1,000.00 per acre, and 14% Royalties on the total 130 acres of Twp. Property. The BOS were handed sample contracts and other brochures about Chesapeake Energy Corp. Residents in attendance were also given Contracts and Handouts on the Chesapeake Energy Corp., Mr. Westbrook, Jr. also discussed the “Spudding” of a well in Oregon Twp., to be drilled in April or May 2009. Mr. Westbrook, Jr. invited residents to contact him after the meeting ended, with any additional questions or remarks.**
- **Spring Clean Up campaign was discussed by Chairman Dexter and Bob Dexter- who will be retiring from the coordinator position, tentatively scheduled for April 25th, 2009 – May 9th, 2009. Chairman Dexter accepted responsibility for coordinating this year’s clean up efforts and Bob Dexter was thanked for his many years of leading this successful effort in the Township. Chairman Dexter will contact Ms. Dawn Kidder to verify the actual dates of the Clean Up this year. The April 25th, 2009 date was published in the *Township News* publication. Bob Dexter noted that his group was comprised of 93 Adults and 44 Youngsters on the South side of the Township, no numbers were available for the North side of the Township.**
- **A proposed Land Swap was discussed by Ed Lagarenne and Howard Schuchman, Mr. Schuchman has some reservations about the proposed “swap” and its ramifications for his access road, which runs behind his home. Chairman Dexter suggested that the proposed “Swap” would not benefit the Township’s Tax roles. This was just conversation, as the “Swap” was raised to the Zoning Officer, and had to be brought to the BOS for airing, as there is no procedure [PSATS] for “Swapping lands.**
- **Chairman Dexter discussed the Conservation funding grant, which is available to pick up shore litter on the Delaware River. He is talking to the Scout troops in the area about a day long effort. After some comments by Bob Gross, Chairman Dexter indicated that this effort was a good way to expose the Scouts to the educational, ecological and social benefits of doing this clean up effort along the Delaware. The Federal funding for this program will pass through the Township, if the grant is awarded to Damascus Township, to pay the Scouts, and other Non-Profit organizations- as a fund raiser for the Troops and other groups, who participate in this effort. Chuck Grady made a motion to pursue the Grant funding for the clean up effort on the Delaware River. This motion was seconded by Jason Roberts. Chairman Dexter called for a vote, and the motion was approved unanimously.**
- **Zoning, Buildings & Codes Report: See attached report.**
- **Parks & Recreation: No Report**

REPORTS: Continued.

- **Emergency Mgt: No Report**
- **Zoning, Buildings, and Codes: See Attached Report.**
Note: Ed is requesting that the Ordinances be reviewed by the Township Solicitor, for compliance with the Court interpretations of provisions, as outlined in the recent Legal Briefs sections of the *Township News, [and other sources] publications by PSATS. Also discussed were zoning regulations for Property Maintenance: - Codes for appropriate Fire Alarm installations [Landlords only]; - Proper egress for Rental properties- Exists only; Health and Safety [Garbage] issues; Septic systems designs; and Electrical systems. Chuck Grady asked that Ed Lagarenne propose measures to the Planning Commission for review and action. Bob Gross stated that Insurance companies and state laws cover these concerns.*
- **Damascus Planning Commission: A proposed Road Opening Ordinance, is in its second draft and is being finalized for review by the BOS and the Twp. Solicitor- Mr. Jeffrey S. Treat, Atty. The Comprehensive Plan's Conservation Subdivision is being worked on in the committees assigned to investigate various aspects of a Conservation plan for the Township are still in Committee for work and review – Planning Commission. Wayne County Planning Dept. is holding a series of three seminars for Planners; PC is sending four members to this training.**
- **UDC Report: The Delaware River Basin Commission has imposed fines of \$70,000.00 on drillers in Oregon and Clinton Townships for lack of appropriate permits. The DBRC has a tremendous back log [three or four months] for permitting; and New York State has called for a Moratorium on the issue of Exploratory Wells. Grant process for Computer purchases doesn't work well; and the UDC itself is experiencing budget woes, and has to reapply for funding on a monthly basis, instead of a quarterly basis. There is discussion in the UDC about the need for a coordinated Emergency Flood Warning system for the Delaware River region: Coordination of the Railroads and the Fire Companies. There was some discussion about the Methane Gas/ Water contamination situation, which was referenced in the *Wayne Independent*;**
- **Parks & Recreation Report: No Report until spring.**
- **Roads Report: The roads are experiencing spring thawing conditions; The roads crews are being working on the emerging potholes, and spring flooding/ storm water mgt. issues.**
- **ZHB Report: There are no matters before the Board; however, Howard Schuchman- Youth Programs Coordinator spoke about the tentative schedule for two Damascus Twp. Programs: Supervisor For A Day- Monday, Aril 20th, 2009; and the Local Politics class for 4th Graders- Names of Students and program [9:00 AM – 2:00 PM] specifics will be announced.**
- **Food Pantry Report: Ms. Henry reported 41 Families were served, two new families were added, and have been helped with their needs. Chairman Dexter asked residents to please consider making donations to the Pantry; The Damascus School held a Basketball Tourney and donated dry and canned goods and money, to the Food Pantry coffers, as a fund raiser. The additional Food stuffs were very welcomed.**

- **The Damascus Recycling Program’s Bob Dexter reported that there was good activity at the Recycling Center. He will be checking with the State Pa. Clean Up Office for details of the Damascus Township Litter Pluck. He also indicated that Coordinators would be needed to take over his responsibilities for the spring campaign. Chairman Dexter was handed the files that Bob Dexter has accumulated over the years of his service to that program.**

OPEN FLOOR: Second segment continued.

- **Bob Dexter indicated that a new coordinator will be needed for the two sectors of Damascus Township.**
- **A resident, Bill Gager, inquired about the progress on the Cell Tower[s] issue. Chairman Dexter discussed the “rumors” that the three tower deal was a “done deal”, but there is no movement that we are aware of at this time. Bill indicated that there was interest in our participation in the Agility Program; Chairman Dexter will contact them.**
- **Bob Dexter raised the issue of Plowing the access for the Damascus Township Ambulance Corp. After some discussion of other people who used to plow the access, Chuck Grady indicated that the Roads Dept. would make sure that the access was open, as other sources for this service seem to have dried up.**

Hearing no further comments, Chairman Dexter asked that Chuck Grady make a motion to adjourn the meeting; this motion was seconded by Jeffrey R. Dexter. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

These Minutes are respectfully submitted by: Karyle A. Woods, Secretary.

SIGNED by the Board of Supervisors:

Jeffrey R. Dexter, Chairman

Charles Grady, Vice Chairman

Jason E. Roberts, Supervisor

Karyle A. Woods, Secretary