

**LOWER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REORGANIZATION MEETING
JANUARY 4, 2010 MEETING MINUTES**

1) Public Meeting: Call to Order

- a) Supervisor Altieri called the public meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2) Pledge of Allegiance

3) Oath of Office:

- a) In her first official swearing-in ceremony, Judge Cathleen Rebar administered the Oath of Office to the following elected officials:
- i) Don Thomas was sworn-in as Supervisor of Lower Providence Township with his wife and children by his side.
 - ii) Colleen Eckman was sworn-in as Supervisor of Lower Providence Township with her husband and children by her side.
 - iii) Kirsten Deal was sworn-in as Tax Collector of Lower Providence Township with her husband by her side.

4) Roll Call:

- a) The following members were present: Supervisors Altieri, Brown, DiPaolo, Eckman, and Thomas.
- b) Also present were Police Chief Francis Carroll, Director of Special Projects and Technology William Roth, Public Works Director David Shaffer, Human Resources Coordinator Geri Golas, Community Relations Coordinator Denise Walsh, and Township Manager Joseph Dunbar.

5) Reorganization Items:

a) Appointment of Temporary Chairman – Temporary Secretary –

- i) **MOTION** – Supervisor DiPaolo made a motion to appoint Mrs. Altieri as Temporary Chairman. Supervisor Brown seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- ii) **MOTION** – Supervisor Brown made a motion to appoint Mr. Dunbar as Temporary Secretary. Supervisor DiPaolo seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

b) Election of Chairman –

- i) **MOTION** – Supervisor DiPaolo made a motion to appoint Mr. Brown as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for 2010. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 4-0-1. Supervisor Brown abstained from the motion.
- ii) Supervisor Brown thanked the Board for the vote of confidence, commenting that he is looking forward to working with staff, residents and the various boards and commissions this year.

c) Election of Vice-Chairman –

- i) **MOTION** – Supervisor Eckman made a motion to nominate Mr. DiPaolo as Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Thomas seconded the motion and closed the nominations. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- ii) **MOTION** – Supervisor Thomas made a motion to appoint Mr. DiPaolo as Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

d) Appointment of Solicitor and Fixing of Compensation –

- i) **MOTION** – Supervisor DiPaolo made a motion to appoint the firm of Fox, Differ, Callahan, Sheridan & McDevitt, LLP as Solicitor, and accept their fee schedule. Supervisor Thomas seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 4-1. Supervisor Eckman opposed the motion.
 - (1) Supervisor Eckman remarked that Mr. Sheridan has not previously represented a municipality, and Lower Providence is not the proper place for him to learn.
 - (2) Mr. Richard Sheehan, Esq., was present to represent Mr. Sheridan while he recuperates from surgery. Mr. Sheehan is of council to Mr. Sheridan's firm.

e) Appointment of Special Council and Fixing of Compensation –

- i) **MOTION** – Supervisor DiPaolo made a motion to appoint William J. Brennan, Esq., as Special Council in accordance with the resolution provided. Supervisor Thomas seconded the motion.
 - (1) Supervisor Altieri asked if this vote was for the appointment and the resolution combined? Chairman Brown indicated that it was.
 - (2) Mrs. Altieri commented that she was not aware of this resolution until last Friday. Legal matters are typically discussed during Executive Session to ensure they can make an informed decision. Mrs. Altieri questioned what discussion occurred to create the final draft of this resolution, who participated in the discussions, was there an executive session and if so was she not invited, who authorized the appointment of Mr. Brennan and who authorized preparation of the draft resolution?
 - (3) Chairman Brown commented that he discussed this matter with Mr. DiPaolo. Mrs. Eckman and Mr. Thomas were not yet sworn in, and they could not execute executive session.
 - (4) Mrs. Altieri asked why she was left out of the discussion? Mr. Brown stated that he could talk to any Board member individually on any matter. He stated that Mrs. Altieri has done this in the past.
 - (5) Mrs. Altieri stated that she has never put together a resolution.
 - (6) Public Comment:
 - (a) Mr. William Fox, 2650 Audubon Road, council for J.P. Mascaro & Sons, asked what was in the resolution?
 - (i) Mr. Brown read the resolution seeking a legal review on trash hauling matters. The resolution appoints William J. Brennan of Butera, Beausang Cohen & Brennan as Special Council.
 - (ii) Mr. Fox stated that he faxed in a letter to the Board today. Three sitting Board members are involved in a lawsuit with Mascaro so they have a conflict of interest. In any matters directly or indirectly involving J.P. Mascaro & Sons he is requesting that Mrs. Eckman, Mr. DiPaolo and Mr. Thomas recuse themselves from voting.
 - (iii) Mr. DiPaolo noted that a similar issue was brought up last year, and the Board Solicitor at that time, David Onorato, stated that there was no conflict for him to vote.
 - (7) **MOTION VOTE** – The motion *passed* 3-2. Supervisors Altieri and Eckman opposed the motion.
- f) Appointment of Secretary to Board of Supervisors –
 - i) **MOTION** – Supervisor DiPaolo made a motion to appoint Mr. Joseph Dunbar as Secretary to the Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Altieri seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
 - g) Appointment of Treasurer to Board of Supervisors –
 - i) **MOTION** – Supervisor Altieri made a motion to appoint Mr. Joseph Dunbar as Treasurer to the Board of Supervisors. Supervisor DiPaolo seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
 - h) Appointment of Assistant Secretary to Board of Supervisors and Appointment of Assistant Treasurer to Board of Supervisors –
 - i) Chairman Brown noted that there is no requirement to fill the Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Secretary positions so they will remain vacant at this time.
 - i) Appointment of Consulting Engineer and Fixing of Compensation –
 - i) **MOTION** – Supervisor DiPaolo made a motion to reappoint Chambers and Associates as Consulting Engineer. Supervisor Altieri seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
 - j) Appointment to Vacancy Board (one (1) One-year term) –
 - i) **MOTION** – Supervisor Eckman made a motion to appoint Marie Dotts to the Vacancy Board for a one-year term. Supervisor Thomas seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
 - k) Appointment to Library Board of Directors (two (2) Three-year terms) –
 - i) **MOTION** – Supervisor DiPaolo made a motion to nominate Margaret Martinez and Catherine Lawlor-Fennell to the Library Board of Directors, each for a three-year term, as recommended by the Library Board. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
 - l) Appointment to Parks & Recreation Board (one (1) Five-year terms) –

- i) **MOTION** – Supervisor DiPaolo made a motion to appoint Elizabeth Sorgini to the Parks & Recreation Board, for a five-year term. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- m) Appointment to Planning Commission (three (3) Four-year terms) –
 - i) **MOTION** – Supervisor DiPaolo made a motion to appoint Naomi Satterwhite, Susan LaPenta, and Mike Comroe to the Planning Commission, each for a four-year term. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 4-1. Supervisor Altieri opposed the motion.
- n) Appointment to Zoning Hearing Board (one (1) Five-year term) –
 - i) **MOTION** – Supervisor DiPaolo made a motion to appoint Nancy McFarland to the Zoning Hearing Board, for a five-year term. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
 - ii) Supervisor DiPaolo read a resolution appointing two alternates to the Zoning Hearing Board, Mr. Robert Hardt, and Mr. Tom Borai, each for a three year term.
 - (1) **MOTION** – Supervisor DiPaolo made a motion to adopt the resolution. Supervisor Thomas seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 4-1. Supervisor Altieri opposed the motion.
- o) Appointment to Sewer Authority (one (1) Five-year term) –
 - i) **MOTION** – Supervisor DiPaolo made a motion to reappoint Charles Rose to the Sewer Authority, for a five-year term. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- p) Appointment to Lower Providence Township Municipal Authority (one (1) Five-year term) –
 - i) **MOTION** – Supervisor Eckman made a motion to appoint Kathy Eskie to the Municipal Authority, for a five-year term. Supervisor Thomas seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- q) Appointment to Lower Perkiomen Valley Regional Sewer Authority (one (1) Five-year term) –
 - i) **MOTION** – Supervisor DiPaolo made a motion to appoint LPT Sewer Authority member Fred Walker to the Lower Perkiomen Valley Regional Sewer Authority, for a five-year term. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- r) Appointment of Traffic Engineer –
 - i) **MOTION** – Supervisor Altieri made a motion to reappoint the firm of McMahon & Associates as the Township’s Traffic Engineer, and accept their fee schedule. Supervisor DiPaolo seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- s) Appointment of Environment and Landscape Architectural Consultants –
 - i) **MOTION** – Supervisor DiPaolo made a motion to reappoint the firm of CMX as the Township’s Environmental Consultant, and accept their fee schedule. Supervisor Thomas seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
 - ii) **MOTION** – Supervisor Eckman made a motion to appoint the firm of Thomas Comitta Associates as the Township’s Landscape & Planning Consultant, and accept their fee schedule. Supervisor DiPaolo seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- t) Appointment of Township Lighting Consultant –
 - i) **MOTION** – Supervisor DiPaolo made a motion to reappoint the firm of Suburban Lighting as the Township’s Lighting Consultant. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- u) Appointment of Labor Attorney –
 - i) **MOTION** – Supervisor DiPaolo made a motion to appoint Scott Blissman with the firm of Reed Smith LLP as the Township’s Labor Attorney. Supervisor Thomas seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- v) Appointment of Minutes Secretary to Various Boards –
 - i) **MOTION** – Supervisor Eckman made a motion to reappoint Jeanne Bortulin as the Minutes Secretary to various boards. Supervisor Altieri seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- w) Appointment of Actuary for Township pension plans, Township employees pension plan and the defined contribution (401k(a)) plan –

- i) **MOTION** – Supervisor DiPaolo made a motion to appoint Charles Friedlander of Municipal Finance Partners Inc. as actuary for Township pension plans; Township employees pension plan and the defined contribution (401k(a)) plan and accept his fee schedule. Supervisor Altieri seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

6) Resolutions and Ordinances:

- a) A resolution authorizing the appropriate Township Officials to affix signatures on checks:
 - i) **MOTION** – Supervisor Altieri made a motion to adopt the resolution. Supervisor DiPaolo seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- b) A resolution designating depositories for Township funds:
 - i) **MOTION** – Supervisor DiPaolo made a motion to adopt the resolution. Supervisor Altieri seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- c) A resolution to establish the amount of the Treasurer’s Bond at \$600,000 and the Secretary’s Bond at \$100,000:
 - i) **MOTION** – Supervisor DiPaolo made a motion to adopt the resolution. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- d) Certification of delegates and voting delegate to PSATS Annual State convention –
 - i) **MOTION** – Supervisor DiPaolo made a motion to appoint Chairman Brown as the voting delegate at the convention, and all attending Board of Supervisors members as delegates. Supervisor Eckman seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.

7) Board Liaison Appointments:

- a) Chairman Brown announced the following Board Liaison appointments for 2010:
 - i) Sewer Authority – Mr. Brown
 - ii) Planning Commission – Mrs. Eckman and Mr. Thomas
 - iii) Pension Committee – Mr. DiPaolo
 - iv) Library Board – Mr. Thomas
 - v) Parks & Recreation Board – to be filled at a later time

8) Other Business:

- a) Discussion and consideration on 2010/2011 equipment rental bid #09-05:
 - i) Mr. Dunbar explained that because the results of the first equipment rental bid were not as successful as they would have hoped, staff is recommending that the Board reject the bid and authorize a new bid for the rental.
 - ii) **MOTION** – Supervisor Altieri made a motion to reject the bid and authorize a rebid. Supervisor DiPaolo seconded the motion. The motion *passed* 5-0.
- b) Chairman Brown announced that the Board would hold an Executive Session after this meeting to discuss legal and personnel matters. He also announced that this special meeting, starting at 6:00 p.m. was advertised, as was a regular meeting for 7:30 p.m. There is no need to hold the additional regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. this evening and it should be cancelled.
 - i) **MOTION** – Supervisor DiPaolo made a motion to cancel the regular meeting scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Supervisor Altieri seconded the motion.
 - (1) Supervisor Eckman asked if it was acceptable to cancel the regular meeting this way? Mr. Sheehan stated that it was OK to cancel the meeting, as there is nothing to discuss, and that they can post a notice on the door to that effect.
 - (2) **MOTION VOTE** – The motion *passed* 5-0.
- c) Supervisor Eckman thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting, and hopes 2010 will be a prosperous year for everyone.
- d) Supervisor DiPaolo welcomed the new Supervisors aboard.
- e) Chairman Brown also wished the new Supervisors well and wished everyone a healthy and prosperous New Year. He stated that anyone in attendance who was reappointed to a Board should see Denise Walsh to be sworn in after the meeting.
- f) Supervisor Altieri welcomed the new Supervisors aboard.

9) Adjournment:

- a) The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

10) Other Comments:

- a) Mrs. Kirsten Deal congratulated the new Board members and wished them good luck.
- b) Mr. Doug Hager, 820 Mourning Dove Road, congratulated the new Supervisors. He worked on their campaigns, along with several other successful campaigns, and stated that the residents wanted change and spoke. He urged the Board to be their own person and make decisions based on what is in the best interests of the Township.
- c) Mr. Craig Dininny congratulated the new Board members and wished them well. He remarked that the next year would not be an easy one in the current economic climate.
- d) Chairman Brown commented that they would try to do a better job of having people properly use the sound system during meetings.

Next Business Meeting: January 21, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph C. Dunbar, Secretary