

DAMASCUS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Monday, April 11, 2005

Damascus Township Municipal Building

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Gager at 7:02 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Turner Roth, Wyman Smith, Shannon Joyal and Abbey Richter, 4 students from the Damascus Elementary 8th Grade Class.

The following members of the Board were present: Chairman William Gager, Supervisor Stanley Kuta, Supervisor Fred Haase, Secretary Bonnie Rutledge, Solicitor Lee C. Krause and Zoning Officer Ed Lagarenne.

Chairman Gager introduced the 4 students from Damascus Elementary and stated that these students participated in the annual “*Supervisor for a Day*” program. Throughout the meeting the students participated by reading the items on the agenda and making mock motions for the business of the Township. It should be noted that while these students did participate in the meeting their motions will not be made a part of the record.

Open Floor: Chairman Gager opened the floor: Mr. Tom Kane asked if everyone for “meet the candidates” night was in attendance as he wanted to take individual photos of each person after the meeting.

Approval of March 9, 2005, March 21, 2005 and March 31, 2005 minutes – Upon motion made by Supervisor Haase and seconded by Supervisor Kuta the minutes of the March 9, 2005, March 31, 2005 and March 31, 2005 meetings were approved as presented. Motion passed with all in favor

Approval of Bills as presented - Motion made by Supervisor Kuta and seconded by Supervisor Haase to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried with all in favor.

Review and Authorization of Treasurer’s Report – Motion made by Supervisor Haase and seconded by Supervisor Kuta to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Motion carried with all in favor.

REPORTS

- **ZONING**– Mr. Ed Lagarenne reported since the last meeting he issued 3 political sign permits, 1 permit for detached garage, 1 new house, room addition and a set of driveway permits. He pointed out that anyone wishing to put up political signs would need a permit or face a \$500 fine. He stated there is a lot of permit activity and expects a lot of permits to be issued over the next month. He stated he expected a busy year.
- **Website** – Mr. Lagarenne reported an additional 500 hits on the website and stated that updated information regarding flood information has been posted. The litter pluck dates were noted as well. Mr. Kane asked the date of the litter pluck. Chairman Gager noted April 23 is the official date and there are bags, gloves and vests available.
- **Park Commission** – Chairman Gager reported 8 people attended the Park Commission meeting last month. Chairman Gager reported speaking to 1 electrician about running power to picnic pavilion. He reported some discussion regarding fundraising activities. There will be a joint meeting April 28 with members of the Community Center to coordinate activities. All are welcome to attend the meeting.
- **Maps for Final Approval** – Mr. Matern said there were no maps for consideration since the Board of Supervisors meeting fell before the Planning Commission meeting. Chairman Gager offered the floor to Attorney Ab Rutherford who appeared on behalf of the Price Family. Mr. Rutherford stated that a question arose regarding driveway access to the residual lands. Mr. Rutherford pointed out the map labeled it as “existing driveway”. Mr. Rutherford forwarded to Mr. Lagarenne copies of the deeds involved showing the deeded right of way to the Price property.

See attached copy of exhibit "A" showing the portion of the recorded deed pertaining to the driveway easement. Attorney Rutherford stated that the legal right of way exists in all 3 deeds. Chairman Gager stated that that information was not in the documentation provided by the surveyor. Mr. Rutherford asked the Board of Supervisors to approve the maps in light of the deeded right of way. Supervisor Kuta made a motion to approve the Price submission. Supervisor Haase seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

- *Recycling Report* – Mr. Marty Kunstmann reported a better month then the month prior. However, there is still room for more material and encouraged more individuals recycle to help the township.

Unfinished Business:

- *Road resurfacing/reclamation* – Supervisor Kuta stated that core samples have been taken and the Township is awaiting results from those samples.
- *Board of Auditors* – Chairman Gager stated as no one from the Board of Auditors was present the matter would be tabled until the May meeting.
- *Hollister Creek Contract* – Bill stated that this matter had been before the board at a special meeting and the same was taken under advisement to be awarded at a meeting the following week. In the interim the township was flooded so the matter has been tabled indefinitely until it is determined whether the project needs to be re-engineered.
- *New Laborer* – Chairman Gager stated that we lost a laborer over the winter and advertised for a replacement.

New Business:

- *Use of Ball Field* – Chairman Gager gave a brief history of the construction of the ball field and stated that the Damascus Cardinals little league team wanted to use the ball field on Mondays and Thursdays. Supervisor Kuta made a motion to allow the Cardinals use the field providing proof of insurance is provided. Supervisor Haase seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.
- *April, 2005 Floods* - Chairman Gager stated there was a lot of road damage and the loss of a county owned bridge located on a Township Road. It was noted that the County would absorb the cost of that bridge replacement. Chairman Gager gave floor to the Township's Emergency Management Coordinator, Frank Brooks. Mr. Brooks stated that anyone who had flood damage to their residences should contact him through the Township office by noon so he can get the "ball rolling" for FEMA/PEMA funding. He gave a brief outline of the process associated with the requests for funding. He stated right now FEMA/PEMA are doing preliminary checks to assess damages along with American Red Cross to provide supplies to those in need. Mr. Tom Kane asked if the township qualified for funding and the extent of damage the township received. Mr. Kane asked if the county would be asking for damage estimates. A general discussion ensued. Mr. Brooks reminded those with flood damage to take pictures and document repairs with receipts.
- *Special Meeting for Planning Commission submissions* – Chairman Gager stated that because the Board of Supervisors meeting was moved to a date prior to the April Planning Commission meeting it was requested the Board hold a special meeting to review the submissions. Supervisor Haase made a motion to hold a special meeting for this purpose, date to be coordinated. Supervisor Kuta seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor. Meeting date to be scheduled and advertised.

Informational:

- *Great PA Cleanup* – Chairman Gager stated that the 2 coordinators for the clean up will be Marsha Dettloff and Bob Dexter. Cleanup will begin April 23, 2005 and conclude the 1st week of May. Mr. Kane asked for information on the Great PA Clean.
- *Meet the Candidates night* – It was noted that this would be held directly after this meeting adjourned.

- Chairman Gager stated that after the flooding the road closed signs, cones, etc. were stolen. He pointed out that these are placed for safety reasons and the loss of those items costs the township a good deal of money not to mention the safety issues it causes.
- Supervisor Haase asked about the cinders bid and wanted to know if that had been re-bid.

Citizen Input by Prior Request: NONE

Open Floor Segment #2: Mr. Franklin Kay stated he lives off the River Road and that he spoke with Mr. Bob Muller of the Conservation Office. Mr. Kay indicated that Mr. Muller felt his road was a good candidate for Dirt and Gravel road funds. Mr. Kay provided pictures of Jurgenson Road. Chairman Gager said he would look at the road.

Mr. Tom Kane asked what the Township would do for Tammany Flats. Chairman Gager stated that the road leading into the Flats was a private road. Mr. Kane stated that the National Park Service objected to the development of that land. Chairman Gager stated those homes were built prior to the local existence of the National Park Service.

Mr. Rolf Beck stated that Supervisor Kuta did not provide a copy of the PennDot specs to the inspector for the Atco Road job. Specs were provided to inspector later per Supervisor Kuta. Discussion continued with Attorney Krause interjecting. [Note: Mr. Rolf Beck at the May 16, 2005 Board of Supervisors Meeting requested these minutes be clarified to reflect that Mr. Beck provided the specs to the Inspector. By unanimous vote of the Board of Supervisors it is so noted.]

Beverly Sterner said she heard a rumor that the Damascus Forest was being used as a campground. Chairman Gager stated he would look into the matter. Mr. Frank Brooks asked if the township owned the property and if so could Triple F" hunting club post the property. Chairman Gager stated he would contact the president of that club and inform them that they must remove those signs.

Delores Keesler asked if the roads could be worked on before FEMA reviews them. Mr. Brooks said that the roads are being worked on presently and as quickly as possible. A general discussion ensued. Ms. Keesler reiterated that cones were disappearing along the roads.

Chairman Gager asked the students to comment on their day. Miss Abbey Richter gave a brief outline of her day including the damage she saw caused by the flood. She expressed surprise at the extent of the damage. Mr. Wyman Smith thanked the Board of Supervisors for allowing them to spend the day with them. Chairman Gager thanked Mr. Conroy of the Damascus School for allowing the students to come and Mr. Howard Schuchman for coordinating the program. Chairman Gager pointed out that we are one of the only townships within the Commonwealth of PA that participate in this sort of program.

Adjournment:

Motion by Supervisor Haase and seconded by Supervisor Kuta to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m. Motion passed with all in favor.