

Record of Proceedings: February 11, 2014
West Chester Township Board of Trustees - Regular Meeting

Convene: President Lang convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.
Roll Call: Mr. Lang, Mr. Welch, and Mr. Wong responded.
Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Mr. Burt Young, Board member of the Beckett Ridge Homeowners Association, and repeated by those present.

Mr. Lang noted that he, as a member of the Butler County Emergency Management Association Board, needed to leave at approximately 6:30 or 6:35 for a quarterly BCEMA meeting. Consequently he asked that they open the first section of Citizen's Comments to comments concerning the second reading of the Stagge residence resolution, and follow that with the Board addressing that resolution in as much as the resolution must be addressed by the full Board, before he needed to leave. When asked, neither Mr. Wong nor Mr. Welch objected to Mr. Lang's proposed agenda modification.

Citizen's Comments

There were no citizen's comments.

Second Reading & Vote on Pending Resolutions & Vote on Emergency Resolutions

Mrs. Boyko introduced the resolution saying, "Resolution No. 03-2014, Resolution approving a Major Change to the Beckett Ridge PUD for case #MC04-13 – Stagge Residence", adding that the resolution noted all the previous dates it was recommended by the Butler County Planning Commission, the West Chester Township Zoning Commission, and the date of the public hearing before this Board. She then read the resolution as follows:

"Now therefore be it resolved that on the basis of the above actions and findings, the West Chester Township Board of Trustees does hereby concur with the recommendation of approval of the West Chester Township Zoning Commission and does hereby approve the proposed Major Change to the Beckett Ridge PUD for the aforesaid application with the following conditions...", noting that the resolution contained three conditions.

MOTION made by Mr. Welch, seconded by Mr. Wong, to approve Resolution No. 03-2014.
Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Presentations

There were no presentations.

Action Items – For Approval by Motion

MOTION made by Mr. Welch, seconded by Mr. Wong, to approve the Trustee Meeting Minutes of December 17, 2013. Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION made by Mr. Welch, seconded by Mr. Wong, to approve payment of bills.
Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Mrs. Boyko submitted the following requisitions greater than \$2,500:

Requisitions – Greater than \$2,500.00

1. Adm \$29,552.92 Frost Brown Todd LLC – Legal services through December 31, 2013
(various depts.)
2. Fire \$4,788.00 VFIS of Ohio – Renew 3 year Accident & Sickness Insurance policy

MOTION made by Mr. Welch, seconded by Mr. Wong, to approve payment of requisitions 1 through 2. Discussion: Mr. Welch asked if the legal bills are available to the public as public records. Mrs. Boyko said yes, if properly redacted. Mr. Lang asked if item 2 was a benefit negotiated with the bargaining unit. Mrs. Boyko said it was not part of the contract, but a part of the tradition of the industry. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Personnel Items

Mrs. Boyko introduced the next item by noting that Nancy Conlon was promoted from the subject position last fall, thereby creating the opening, and the position has been redefined as part-time such that the Township will realize a \$10,000 per year savings. She noted that the motion, as it reads below, was predicated on Felicia successfully completing applicable testing and procedures, however Felicia had already fulfilled that requirement.

MOTION made by Mr. Welch, seconded by Mr. Wong, to hire Felicia Krutka in a part-time capacity to the vacant position of Administration Receptionist effective February 18, 2014 at the hourly rate of \$11.13 with a one (1) year probationary period and contingent upon successful completion of applicable testing and procedures Discussion: Mr. Lang observed that Felicia came to the Township from a temporary agency working in the police department and showed incredible competence. Motion carried unanimously. Audrey Reshard then introduced Felicia to the audience. Felicia expressed her appreciation for the opportunity and introduced her husband, Jack.

Mrs. Boyko introduced the next item saying the fire department was currently 9 part-time members short of their allotted compliment.

MOTION made by Mr. Wong, seconded by Mr. Welch, to hire three (3) part-time Firefighter/EMT's to fill vacant positions effective February 13, 2014, at the hourly rate of \$15.92 with a one year probationary period and contingent upon successful completion of applicable testing and procedures: Andrew Wilkens, Cody Haag and Alex Harper. Discussion: Mr. Welch asked what constituted "part-time". Mrs. Boyko said it varies, but averages less than 30 hours per week, generally around 24 hours, with consideration given to the Affordable Care Act. He also asked if they float (their assignments), and she said they're stationed continuously at one station if possible. Otherwise they're assigned as needed. She said their assignment needs are based on staffing needs. Mr. Welch and Mr. Lang recognized the applicants for their exceptional qualifications. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Business Items

MOTION made by Mr. Wong, seconded by Mr. Welch, to approve license agreement between West Chester Township and **The Community Foundation of West Chester/Liberty** for the use of a portion of Township property, 9285 Centre Pointe Drive, and ancillary and adjacent public roadways for the production and presentation of the Shamrock Shuffle 5K/10K – Walk/Run and Block Party (Saturday, March 8, 7-11 a.m.) and authorize the Township Administrator to execute said agreement Discussion: Mr. Lang noted the events' growth and its charitable cause. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MOTION made by Mr. Welch, seconded by Mr. Wong, to not object to a liquor permit transfer from Wine Rack of West Chester, Inc. to Mundy Morning, Inc., DBA The Wise Owl Wine Bar, 6206 Muhlhauser Road & Patio Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Mrs. Boyko introduced the next item saying there were over 12,000 linear feet of curbs to be replaced as part of the repaving program, and they've budgeted it for \$367,000.

MOTION made by Mr. Welch, seconded by Mr. Wong, to advertise for 2014 curb replacement program Discussion: none. **Motion carried unanimously.**

First Reading of Resolutions & Reading of Emergency Resolutions

There were no first readings of resolutions or readings of emergency resolutions.

Citizen's Comments

David Warne, 8640 Rupp Farm Drive, said he was at the meeting with others to express their concern about coyotes in the area. He showed pictures on the overhead projector of coyotes in the area, describing his observations as well as that of others. He said he wanted to see what steps were available to them and what the Board, "as stewards of the community", might be able to do to lend them some assistance or leadership relative their concerns.

Mark Simonovich, 5839 Owl Nest, expressed concern about coyotes in the area. He said their pack was getting larger and getting closer. He expressed concern about their presence around a path near his back yard, saying these coyotes did not have a healthy fear of people, that someone might take "matters in their own hands", as well as other related concerns. He commented he believed the ODNR told him that hunting and trapping coyotes was not against the law because we're a township. He said he was not going to do that, but expressed concern that somebody might. When Mr. Lang asked if he was aware of anyone's pets in the neighborhood missing, Mr. Simonovich said he was aware of someone toward the top of Beckett Ridge that witnessed their dog attached on Christmas Day and knew of someone else who's cat went missing. He thought he heard of someone that saw a coyote at their back sliding door. In response to Mr. Wong's question as to whether there were any documented incidents of coyotes attacking humans, he said he didn't know. Rather, Mr. Simonovich said the gentleman from the DNR indicated he would be happy to come there and publically comment on coyotes.

Jack Weiss, 5779 Old Forest Lane, related several personal experiences with neighbors and coyotes, including how a neighbor lost a small dog to a coyote attack. He's afraid to take their Yorkie out. He said they're looking for a resource to find out how other communities have addressed coyote problems. He concluded by saying their concern was that coyotes were getting more aggressive and that the coyotes are in their own back yard.

Dennis Bender, 8227 Bent Tree Drive, said that the issue with coyotes was not just Beckett Ridge. They discussed the issue at the Beckett Ridge HOA meeting the previous month and they went to their attorney for options. The attorney said they shouldn't get involved because it wasn't in their charter as an HOA, and that it was a Township issue. He added that another dog was taken over the weekend on Old Forest, and the coyotes were just multiplying themselves out. He thought the issue everyone was getting to was, when will it be a little toddler?

Candace Marshall, 8684 Rupp Farm Drive, said their first experience with coyotes was in November when her children saw them pass their window. She related several other stories about sightings around her home and during the day. She said the DNR advised her that coyotes are a problem when they're no longer afraid of people, and believed that was the current situation. She asked if the Township could tranquilize them.

(Fiscal Officer note: At 6:29 p.m. Mr. Lang excused himself to attend the Butler County EMA meeting, and noted that Mr. Welch, Board Vice President, would be in charge of the meeting.)

Burt Young, 8513 Eagle Ridge Drive, noted occasions he's witnessed the presence of coyotes, and his concern was that someone will try to shoot them, risking injury to humans.

Discussion Items & Trustees Comments

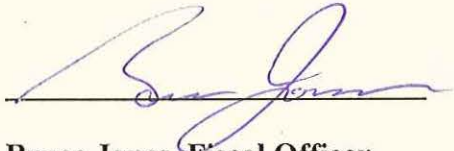
Mr. Welch asked Mrs. Boyko if she had any history or comments regarding coyotes. Mrs. Boyko said coyote complaints were more prevalent on the east side in the past. She understood that coyotes self-regulate their population in their territory, reproducing less as the population expands. She said the Township has had representatives from the ODNR speak in the past, and termed eradication as being complicated, both legally and as a policy matter. She said property owners can discharge firearms on their property with proper licensing and under proper conditions. Mrs. Boyko also said property owners or the HOA can use a trapper. She said they do not recommend using our police officers to address the presence of coyotes for liability purposes. She said Mr. Brett Beatty, a wildlife expert for the ODNR would be speaking at 7:00 p.m. on March 26th in Township Hall on wildlife management, focusing on coyotes, as part of the West Chester University program. She suggested deterrent behaviors. There were additional comments about this matter.

Mr. Wong noted that Machu Picchu would be the subject of an upcoming Armchair program at Township Hall.

Adjournment

Motion made by Mr. Wong at 6:44 p.m., seconded by Mr. Welch, to adjourn the meeting.
Discussion: none. Mr. Welch and Mr. Wong voted affirmatively.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bruce Jones", written over a horizontal line.

Bruce Jones, Fiscal Officer

Approved,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "George Lang", written over a horizontal line.

George Lang, President