

**LONDON GROVE TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING MINUTES
March 16, 2016 – 6:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Richard Scott Harper
David Connors
Michael Pickel
Richard Scott Harper
Raymond Schoen

STAFF PRESENT:

Steven C. Brown, Manager
Jacqui Guenther, Finance Director
2 audience member

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Scott Harper opened the meeting at 7 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

He asked for public comment and there was none.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Scott Harper opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and asked for public comment. One of the audience members asked what was the purpose of the meeting? Mr. Scott Harper replied that it was to discuss the affordability of contracting for police services. The resident stated that he would hate to see the Township spend additional funds on police when the State Police adequately cover the Township. Mr. Scott Harper said the Board is looking into the feasibility of it at this point. If it is believed that the Township can afford the service, there will be further discussions with the public. He went on to state that some of the Township's younger residents favor more police presence. The other resident at the meeting stated he believes the Board should first discuss the need before discussing affordability.

Mr. Brown discussed the memorandum that he and Ms. Guenther prepared. It was a broad overview of the major costs and projects facing the Township as well as the status of the 2016 budget. Major costs and projects were: new Public Works Department buildings, State Road sidewalk and contract police. There were a number of variables considered in the memo including the as of yet unknown cost of the new buildings, the sidewalk or the amount of the grants that may be received for the sidewalk.

Mr. Connors said he would like to work with Staff to prepare a three-year budget projection and include the debt for the Public Works buildings in the budget, rather than take it out of Capital Reserve. He also wants to update the Capital Improvements Plan. Mr. Weer stated that the Township should look at the cost of all public safety services including fire and ambulance, when examining police services.

It was noted that the “elephant” in the room was the unknown costs of the Public Works buildings and the State Road sidewalk. Mr. Pickel suggested that the cost of the new buildings could be capped to provide some certainty. Mr. Scott Harper said he would like to know the costs of those two projects before proceeding with the question of police services. Mr. Weer said that the Board should perform a needs assessment to help decide if the Township should move forward with police services. He said the Board should determine what its goals and expectations are. Mr. Pickel said that he believes police services are not a burning issue and the Board could wait a year until the New Garden and West Grove police departments merge and we would know the costs of the two capital projects.

The Board discussed and decided to: work on a needs assessment, possibly using a consultant, work on a three to five-year budget projection and update of the Capital Improvements Plan, include the cost of fire and ambulance services in that projection.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Brown
Township Manager