

Warrington



Township

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TOWNSHIP MANAGER
TIMOTHY J. TIEPERMAN

April 7, 2010

MEMO TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FROM: TIMOTHY J. TIEPERMAN
RE: **MANAGER'S REPORT**

- A. Bucks County Tax Collection Committee: On March 25, 2010 the Bucks County Tax Collection Committee (TCC) convened in Warwick Township to take action on a numbers of items as required by Act 32. The Committee approved a set of bylaws and the appointment of a management committee. Since the State requires the appointment of a countywide collector by September 15, the Committee has scheduled a series of meetings over the next few months to prepare an RFP and interview collector candidates with an anticipated appointment in late August. Each municipality receives a weighted vote on all TCC deliberations based on population and the amount of earned income tax collected. Warrington's weight is 2.5% and its corresponding assessment is \$1,875.00 based on a budget of \$75,000. The TCC is entitled to a very modest DCED grant of \$5,000 to help offset some start-up costs. I am seeking the Board's consent to authorize the attached Resolution (Attachment A).
- B. Palomino Project: Shortly after the awarding of the Palomino basin project, the Township received correspondence from DEP raising some additional issues that the Township must address before final permitting is granted to this project. The department is requiring some modifications to the dam's emergency spillway and the outlet structure to meet the 100-year storm event test. Officials are also requiring the removal of the top slab of the outlet structure's vault. Our engineers advise me that these required modifications, while unexpected, should not prevent the dredging portion of this project. Staff is attempting to resolve the DEP issues while the dredging work is underway, so that the originally intended scope of work can be completed under the current contract. Although, the difficulties in resolving unsettled PADEP/ACOE permitting issues continue, it is still anticipated that the project construction will be initiated in May. Staff will be working with CEC officials to schedule a neighborhood meeting to discuss the project scope and timeline. (Attachment B).
- C. Maple Avenue: The lion's share of the Maple Avenue project is winding down. On April 6 the contractor completed the paving of Maple Avenue. The new street markings/line painting is in place. I had reported at the last meeting that PennDOT is imposing some additional ADA enhancements to convert the "pork chop" islands into a walk-through design as well as requiring additional handicap ramps at intersections affected by the project. Staff reviewed a change order proposal from the contractor, Pedrick Site Work and Excavating, and approved a \$5,050 change

order for the walk-through islands (ramps 1 & 3), which Staff believes reasonable. I am seeking the Board's ratification of this change order. We are seeking alternative proposals for ramps 2 & 4 from another contractor and will have a recommendation shortly. (Attachment C).

D. Energy Deregulation: With state rate caps expiring at year's end, Staff is researching alternatives to minimize the budgetary impact on Township utility accounts in 2011. PECO rates are anticipated to rise by 15-25%, which has prompted some Bucks County consortium members to consider joining a "Municipal Utility Alliance." Local governments and municipal authorities are now legally permitted to enter into joint purchasing programs, which could result in favorable pricing. The Pennsylvania League of Cities/Municipalities has already competitively bid this service has invited any interested municipalities to participate in this state-wide alliance. Our water/sewer utilities comprise the majority of Warrington's overall utility costs. Mr. Achenbach recently arranged a separate meeting with Mr. Larry Abramowitz, retired PECO executive and Warrington resident, to obtain a better understanding of the merits of these types of alliances. He believes pursuing this type of arrangement is in the Township's best interests. Attached is a boilerplate agreement with Constellation Energy, the firm retained by the League of Cities which I have asked Solicitor Casey to review. (Attachment D)

E. ACOE Meeting – Redstone: Staff met with recently with Army Corp (ACOE) representatives and the Redstone developer to evaluate some of the open space encroachment areas identified by ACOE officials and to identify mutually acceptable remedies to effectuate the development's final dedication to the Township. We are working with the Corps in developing an overall signage plan to designate better the regulated open space areas.

F. Board Goals: The majority of Board members have forwarded me their 2010 goals. I am currently reviewing and categorizing them and will incorporate them into a draft copy for a coherent discussion.

G. Board and Commission Updates:

1. Environmental Advisory Committee:

i. Earth Day Activities: Saturday, April 24, 2010 is Earth Day. At 9:00 a.m. there will be a solar panel ribbon cutting at the township building. A light breakfast will be served. From 9:30 to noon, members of the CBS Environmental Club and German Honor Society will be planting at the township basin. Other volunteers will be installing a butterfly garden at the Twin Oaks Day Camp. A Penn State master gardener will oversee the plantings. Prior to Earth Day, public works crews will be stabilizing the township building and Guinea Lane basins.

ii. 2010 Summer Interns: Attached is an April 7, 2010 memorandum from Fred Suffian outlining the job descriptions for 3 student interns to collect, digitize and inventory trees using the Township's GIS equipment. (Attachment G)