



Jennifer Snyder <secretarygreggtownship@gmail.com>

Request for letters of support

1 message

Russell Brooks <rbrooks1432@gmail.com>

Mon, Feb 5, 2018 at 10:01 AM

To: Carol Gingrich <cgingrich53@gmail.com>, Scott Long <jsl4610@gmail.com>, Jim Zubler <zube337@gmail.com>, Erica Husser <ehusser@vt.edu>, Jamie Felker <jfelker@abundancellc.com>, Jen Snyder <secretarygreggtownship@gmail.com>, Chris Kunes <haskelholdings@earthlink.net>, Patricia Battaglia <psb126@psu.edu>, wes@amlogging.com, Chris Hosterman <chosterman@hotmail.com>, "Smith, Catherine" <SMITHCATH@ecu.edu>, Mary Kay Williams <marykay@mindshiftconsulting.net>

Good morning,

I am sending some documents to you for your consideration.

- 1) I sent a letter of support to the supervisors encouraging them to adopt the resolution regarding Meeting Policies and Procedures. If you agree that the policy would be a good one, please consider letting the supervisors know. I have attached a copy of my letter as well as the proposed Resolution R-18-2 and Meeting Recording Policies. Please write a brief letter stating in your own words why you support the resolution.
- 2) Joel Myers and I are in agreement that it is time to look at a reorganization/restructuring of the Old Gregg School operations. I have attached his letter and talking points supporting the change. Again, if you are so inclined, please share your views with the supervisors. You can do the by emailing you letter to Secretary Jen Snyder at secretary@greggtownship.org and she will forward to the supervisors.

Thanks for your consideration.

Russ

4 attachments



Gregg Township Resolution Letter February 1 2018.docx
21K



Advisory board recommendations--Joel.doc
35K



2Meeting Resolutions edited.pdf
51K



Old Gregg School Advisory Board - Talking Points.doc
31K

GREGG TOWNSHIP, CENTRE COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Meeting Policies and Procedures
Resolution No. R-18-02

NOW BE IT A RESOLVED that all regular and special meetings of the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Gregg, County of Centre, Pennsylvania shall be conducted according to the following order of business; however, it may be necessary to adjust the order of the business to accommodate schedules of the speakers or presenters, or to provide a time efficient manner to address all business:

CALL TO ORDER
PUBLIC COMMENTS
GUEST SPEAKERS/SUBDIVISION PLAN REVIEW
LIAISON REPORTS
SECRETARY/TREASURER/RIGHT TO KNOW OFFICER'S REPORT
ROADMASTER'S REPORT
OLD BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS
REVIEW OF CORRESPONDENCE
ADJOURNMENT

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that public comment at regular or special meetings shall be governed by the following rules and regulations:

1. All individuals shall treat one another with dignity and respect.
2. The Chairman of the Board, or Acting Chairman in the event of the Chairman's absence, shall preside over the public comment period, and shall:
 - a. Recognize individuals wishing to offer comment. Anyone wishing to address the Board, who has not been recognized by the Board, should first obtain recognition by raising his or her hand. Outside of the public comment period, the Board may, at its discretion, recognize that individual or party for comment.
 - b. Require such persons to identify themselves.
 - c. Rule out of order any comment the discernible purpose of which is to disrupt or prevent the conduct of the business of the meeting.
3. A period of public comment shall be held at each regularly scheduled meeting. The time allocated for the public comment period at each meeting is five (5) minutes per person with four (4) or fewer people wishing to make public comment, or three (3) minutes per person with five (5) or more people wishing to make public comment. In order to make this determination, a sign-up sheet is provided prior to the start of every meeting. There is no reason for anyone to interrupt or speak over another person. The exception is that the Board of Supervisors has the right to interrupt any speaker for the purpose of clarification or a question or to extend that speakers time at their sole discretion. In the event that there is insufficient time for public comment at the beginning of a meeting, the Board of Supervisors, at its discretion, may accept public comment at another time during the meeting, or defer the public comment period to a meeting held in advance of the next regular meeting, or until the next regularly scheduled meeting. If any official action is required or merited, for items not already on the agenda, an additional public comment period will be held.
4. All comments should be addressed to the chairman of the Gregg Township Board of Supervisors. Arguments between parties or the public are prohibited.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, regular or special meetings shall be governed by the following rules and regulations:

1. Individual or group outbursts, sarcasm, insults or intentional disruptions while others are speaking will not be tolerated.
2. All cellular devices must be turned off or silenced during public meetings.
3. All audio and video recording of the Gregg Township Open Meetings will abide by the Gregg

Township Open Meetings Recording Policy. (see attached policy)

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Supervisors reserves the right to amend these rules at any time either verbally or in writing. Violation of any of the aforementioned rules may result in the individual being asked to leave the meeting by a member of the Board of Supervisors. Additionally, a member of the Board of Supervisors can request an individual to leave the meeting when they do not observe the rules of reasonable decorum. If an individual refuses to observe the rules of reasonable decorum, the chairman may adjourn the meeting. In addition, he or she may request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct may pose a threat to the safety and welfare of those in attendance. Any violation of the above rules will be deemed interference with the orderly process of the meeting.

ENACTED AND ORDAINED this Eighth day of February, 2018.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Douglas P. Bierly

Keri Miller

ATTEST:

Jennifer Snyder, Secretary/Treasurer

Charles W. Stover

Gregg Township, Centre County
Board of Supervisors
Recording of Open Meetings Policy

Overview: The implementation of audio and video recording of the Board of Supervisors' meetings will serve several purposes within the Township including the following: 1) to improve residents' understanding of Township decision making; 2) to improve the transparency of the decision making process; and 3) to extend the reach of information regarding decision making to residents unable to attend public meetings.

Rule 1 Official Recording of Open Meetings

- A. Audio/Video Recording: All open meetings of the Board of Supervisors may be audio and/or video recorded by an individual or company hired by the Board of Supervisors, from time to time to produce an authorized video recording of the meeting for the Township. Board of Supervisor executive sessions will not be recorded.
- B. Custody of Official Tapes: All Township audio and video recordings produced under this Rule shall be kept by the Township Secretary in accordance to the Municipal Records Manual AL-24 (2).
- C. Policy Distribution: The Township Secretary shall make copies of this policy available to the public at all regular and special open meetings of the Board of Supervisors.
- D. Minutes: Any recording made of any Open Meeting shall not supersede or replace the minutes of said meeting as the official record of the meeting.

Rule 2 Rules of Procedure for Public Audio/Video Recording of Open Meetings

- A. Policy: It is Gregg Township's policy to comply with the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act and to cooperate with representatives of the print and broadcast media, and with other members of the public who wish to record public meetings of the board, so long as the recording of the meeting is not disruptive to the meeting and does not violate the rights of the members of the public.
- B. Rules of Procedure:
 - a. Recording Permitted: Any person may record the Township's open public meetings subject to the following rules. "Recording" is a nonofficial duplication of sound or image by any mechanical means, including photography, audio recording, or videography. A person wishing to record an open public meeting should give notice to the Township Secretary, either before or at the start of the meeting, ***so that those not wishing to be recorded have the opportunity to leave the meeting.*** At the start of any meeting that is to be recorded, the Township Secretary shall notify the audience that the meeting will be recorded.
 - b. Executive Sessions: Executive Sessions are closed to the public and are not recorded except as required and authorized by the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act.
 - c. Audio Recordings: Anyone making an audio recording of the meeting must visibly display the recording device and locate the device in a stationary position while the Board is in session. The audio recorder shall be located in a position that does not obstruct the view of the members of the public of the Township officials present at the meeting.

- d. Video Recording and Photography: All members of the audience using video recording equipment or photography equipment during the meetings of the Board of Supervisors shall set up in or behind the last row of seats, and clear of any doorways, in an area designated by the Board of Supervisors for video recording equipment. Members of the audience using handheld video recording equipment or photography equipment must visibly display their recording or photography devices and may locate them in a stationary position in the last row of seats of the meeting room, provided they do not disrupt the surrounding members of the audience.
- e. Disruption of Meetings: Any member of the public who is recording the meeting shall restrict his or her movement while using the recording equipment or take other steps that are deemed necessary to preserve the decorum of the meeting and facilitate the conduct of business. Anyone taking photographs of the meeting shall, likewise, restrict his or her movement during a meeting session so as not to disrupt the business of the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors may impose additional rules or limitations on any recording, as it deems necessary or appropriate to preserve the orderly operation and decorum of the meeting as long as rules or limitation are in compliance with the PA Sunshine Act.
- f. Tripping Hazards/Tripods: To prevent a tripping hazard from extension cords, individuals using recording equipment shall have their own power source or use an outlet designated by the Board of Supervisors if one is available. The Board of Supervisors may designate an outlet to be reserved for the official Township video recorder. Tripods shall be positioned so as to not create a tripping hazard for the audience. Loose wires shall be contained under a tripod.
- g. Use of Chairs or Benches: People recording the meetings shall not stand on chairs or benches, or use chairs or benches as equipment tables.
- h. Special Accommodations: Any requests for special recording accommodations must be made to the Township Secretary at least two (2) business days before the meeting. The Board of Supervisors may grant other special accommodations by motion at a meeting if a need is demonstrated for a special accommodation.

C. Violation and Penalties:

The Board of Supervisors may take whatever action deemed necessary for any violations in accordance with Gregg Township Board of Supervisors resolution R-18-02.

Disbanding the Old Gregg School Advisory Board and creating a new board to address Recreation, Health and Welfare using Gregg Township Facilities

To: Gregg Township Board of Supervisors
From: Kathryn and Joel Myers
Subject: Old Gregg School – Committees and boards
February 5, 2018

Background

Gregg Township Supervisors purchased the old Gregg school building from the Penns Valley School District for \$1.00 in 2007. The Old Gregg School Advisory Board was formed to assist the supervisors in managing the building. The primary purposes were to maximize income from the school as well as creating a community center for Gregg Township residents and others. Within the past ten years the OGSAB exceeded expectations in their management of the facility.

Discussion

Currently the facility could be managed with the Gregg Township Secretary/Treasurer handling the administrative aspects of operating the building. This would include scheduling which will be handled on the new web site making it available to the public. Maintenance can be carried out by the part time building manager whose primary job can be to provide routine maintenance and to provide short and long term recommended repairs along with cost estimates and suggested priorities. The BOS can then take action on these recommendations. Based on this discussion, there is no longer a need for the Old Gregg Township Advisory Board as it exists. We applaud the efforts of this committee on which I had the privilege to serve for about 4 years.

Conclusion

At this point in time, a new committee should be formed with different goals and objectives. They can provide guidance and develop programs and activities in the areas of recreation, health and welfare for the building, playground and ball field. They can provide coordination of programs and activities with the Penns Valley Youth Center, YMCA and other agencies and groups. They would be responsible for determining and directing funding raising activities. Another responsibility that should be addressed would be to provide input and support for the Tri Municipal Park where ground will be broken this year for the beginning phases of the park.

Note: Current members of the advisory board should be asked if they would like to become members of the new board. This board should have its own charter and objectives with an understanding that they will make recommendations to the board of supervisors.

We would urge the BOS to take the necessary actions to move forward in the direction we have described.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Kathryn and Joel Myers
868 Sinking Creek Road
Spring Mills, Pa. 16875

February 1, 2018

Gregg Township Board of Supervisors
106 School Street
Spring Mills, PA 16875

Re: Resolution No. R-18-02

I am writing in support of your adoption of the above resolution and the accompanying Open Meetings Recording Policy.

I would offer the following points:

- 1) To insure transparency in government the meetings are open to the public. They are not, however, public meetings. The citizens have an opportunity to observe the board addressing issues and items that come before them. The citizens are not entitled to participate in the deliberations of the supervisors except at the discretion of the chair.
- 2) The duly elected officials function as “representatives” of the citizens. Gregg Township is not a popular democracy in which every decision is a plebiscite.
- 3) Adequate means are provided for people to express their views through the structured public comment process; the opportunity for written comment; and finally, the ballot box.
- 4) In a time when many members of the public are unaware of the civic process, they combine that lack of knowledge with a sense of entitlement that their grievances must be heard in the time and manner that they choose. We have a wonderful tradition of protest. That does not extend to disrupting meetings and intimidating and harassing others.

The supervisors have responsibility to conduct business on behalf of all of the citizens and not just a vocal, disruptive few. I fully endorse the adoption of the resolution.

Sincerely,

Russell P. Brooks

Talking Points for

Disbanding the Old Gregg School Advisory Board and creating a new board to address Recreation, Health and Welfare using Gregg Township Facilities including Tri Municipal Park

1. The old gregg school advisory board has accomplished its goals and objectives to maximize income to the school and to create a community center for the residents of Gregg Township
2. Administratively the Old Gregg School can be handled by the Gregg Township Secretary/Treasurer
3. Maintenance can become the primary task of the part time current building manager who can make recommendations directly to the board of supervisors.
4. A new committee can be formed to provide oversight of the facilities relevant to maximizing programs and activities relevant to recreation, health and welfare.
5. This committee could coordinate activities and programs with the YMCA and other groups and organizations.
6. This group could develop and direct fund raising activities to support the Township Facilities
7. The Tri Municipal Park will be breaking ground and moving forward with developing facilities this year. This committee could provide inputs to assist in planning activities, programs and facilities at the park as it is developed. The park is in the final stages of forming a nonprofit organization in order to raise funds and carry out on going business in a more timely fashion. In the future it will be Tri Municipal Park Inc.

Please contact me if you have any questions concerning this subject. Since I have been on this committee and have worked closely with it for my past 7 years as a supervisor I feel confident that this is the way to go for overall efficiency in the operation of our facilities. Thank you Joel 574-1319