

Incorporated March 12, 1738

# TINICUM TOWNSHIP

*Bucks County*

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

163 Municipal Road  
Pipersville, Pennsylvania 18947

NICHOLAS C. FORTE, CHAIRPERSON  
VINCENT J. DOTTI, VICE-CHAIRPERSON  
GARY PEARSON, SUPERVISOR

### TINICUM TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTES OF THE MEETING FEBRUARY 19, 2013

Chairperson Nick Forte called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Vice Chairperson Vincent Dotti was in attendance with Supervisors Gary Pearson, Manager Linda McNeill, and Police Chief James Sabath. There were approximately eight persons in attendance including Liz Bowman from the Bucks County Herald and Chris Ruvo from the Intelligencer.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Forte led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **PUBLIC SESSION:**

Dotti said that the Board received a beautiful brochure for Founding Families Day on June 9th. He asked if this was the final brochure. McNeill said that she believed more information would be added as things progressed with the event.

#### **A. Old Business:**

#### **B. Reports from Police, Emergency Services & Public Works:**

Chief Sabath presented a report of traffic accidents for 2012. He said that the two highest locations for accidents were River Road and Route 611, followed by Dark Hollow and 113. He said that this was where the department tried to do the most enforcement. He said that 90 accidents for 2012 was an average year.

#### **C. New Business:**

#### Oath of Office/Loyalty Oath for Eric Voges and Jason Moffett to perform the duties of Fire Police Officers, Delaware Valley Volunteer Fire Company:

Forte administered the Fire Police Oath to new members, Eric Voges and Jason Moffett. Forte said that it was people like this that help make the community a "community".

Tinicum CSA: Meet Stefan Streit and John Crooke of Tinicum CSA who will be nourishing our community by providing fresh, delicious produce, grown ethically and sustainably at 1073 River Road, Upper Black Eddy. CSA = Community Supported Agriculture. In a CSA farm, members pledge their support for their farm at the beginning of the season and then come to the farm each week throughout the season to pick up a share of the harvest. Members enter a direct and mutually supporting relationship with their farm and their farmers, sharing the risk inherent in farming and fostering a vibrant local food community.

Forte welcomed Stefan Streit and John Crooke of the Tinicum CSA.

Crooke and Streit gave a brief history of themselves and said that they met in New York where they apprenticed for Sisters Hill Farm in Stanfordville, NY and were now operating a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) at Schneiderwind's farm on River Road. Streit said that they felt fortunate to farm

*Office Hours:* Mon. Tue. Thurs. Fri. 9am-5pm, Wed. 9am-Noon  
*Phone:* (610) 294-9154  
*Fax:* (610) 294-9889

in Tinicum and work with the Schneiderwinds. He said that they farm about six tilled acres of the farm with 45 different fruit and vegetable crops. He said that a CSA sell shares and people pick up their share of the crops during the harvest season (between May 25th through the first week of November). He said that full share customers pick up every week, and half share customers pick up every other.

Streit said that this year, they were hoping to sell 120 shares, meaning that between full and half shares, they would be growing for 180 families in the area.

Streit said that a CSA is different than a standard business model. He said that because they sold subscriptions, the members were committing to support them, whether it was a good season or a lousy one. He said that selling full and half shares let members choose what they will or can pay, and this made it available to a wider range of people. He said that the economics and goodwill are both a large part of a CSA and that the people that pay at the higher end of the range know that they are helping people at the lower end of the range.

Streit said that that this was relevant to the Township in land stewardship. He said that the goal was to leave the land in better condition than it was found. He said that the CSA used organic principles, but was not certified organic. He said that they do not use any synthetic pesticides or fungicides and don't have to worry about contamination. He said that they support local business and the dollars the CSA earns-it uses to buy things locally. He said that people bring their families to the farm and the children see how their food is grown and that CSA members have a vested interest in the land as well.

Streit said that they wanted to reach out further to the community and they met with Kathy Leichy of the Lord's Pantry. He said that they came up with a plan of the ways they have to put fresh produce on the tables of families that are in financial need. He said that they would have a program "Donate a Share" and people who can afford to, can purchase a share to be donated to people in need. He said that this is one small way to fill another niche of food security in the area. He said that the CSA has already sold some donated shares-which demonstrated the generosity of the local people.

Both Croke and Streit thanked the Board for welcoming them to the meeting and said that the community has warmly welcomed them in general.

Pearson asked if the season start on May 25th was farming, or harvesting. Croke said that the first planting date in the greenhouse was March 1<sup>st</sup>; and the first harvest distribution was May 25th. Pearson suggested that the CSA could also have a drop box for non-perishable items for the Lord's Pantry as well.

Forte asked how the CSA selected the vegetables-was there a formula for the area?

Croke said that the CSA in NY did double the number of people that this one was growing for. He said they use a combination of their plan, modified for the area and what grew well here as well as the past three years of crop plans from their predecessors on this farm.

Dotti asked about the varieties. Croke said they grow 15 or more tomato varieties, broccoli, beets, carrots, cabbage, arugula, spinach, ochre, and different types of kale and greens, as well as watermelons and cantaloupe. He said that the Schneiderwind farm had enough space for expansion in the future.

Dotti said it was remarkable that 180 families could be supplied with produce for six months on just six acres. He said that was 30 families per acre and that got him thinking about the open space we have. Croke said it was not a complete diet, but worked out to be 4-14 pounds per share, so it was a lot of food.

Pearson asked how residents could contact the CSA if they want to reach out and help. Croke and Streit gave the website address and their telephone numbers as follows:

website: tinicumcsa.com, Stefan Streit: 507-923-7703, John Croke: 215-630-2172

Croke said that they were excited to be here and doing something different with agriculture in the community. He said that this was a beautiful place to do this and he felt fortunate to have the opportunity. Forte thanked them for coming.

Liz Bowman asked if extra goods would be available at a farm stand. Crooke said that right now, they were concentrating on the CSA and the farmer he learned from concentrated more on simplicity and spending the time on the farm, keeping the fields cared for and weeded, but he loved the farm stand atmosphere as well.

Bowman asked if the CSA was inviting volunteers to weed. Crooke said that the members could help, but were not required to. He said people were always welcome to stop by.

Pearson asked when they would be on site regularly. Crooke said that right now they were on site regularly, but working more on planning and the website. He said they would be in the field from approximately April 1st.

Plumstead Township Board of Supervisors Request for Fire Police personnel assistance for traffic control duties on March 10, 2013 between the hours of 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. during their Annual Groveland 5K Run.

Motion by Forte, seconded by Pearson, to approve the use of the Fire Police for the Plumstead Board of Supervisors on March 10th. Voted upon and passed.

**1) MINUTES:**

Motion by Forte, seconded by Pearson, to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of February 5, 2013 as written. Voted upon and passed.

**2) TREASURER'S REPORT & BUDGET RECAP:**

Motion by Forte, seconded by Dotti, to accept the Treasurer's Report and Budget Recap for January 2013. Voted upon and passed.

**3) PAYROLL REPORT:**

Motion by Forte, seconded by Dotti, to approve the Payroll Report for the period of January 26, 2013 and ending February 8, 2013. Voted upon and passed.

**4) DISBURSEMENTS:**

Motion by Forte, seconded by Pearson, to approve the below listed disbursements:

General Fund: Delguericco's Disposal Service \$148.00; Harrow Wash Station \$42.00; Earth Link \$19.95; Swamps Auto Works \$765.20; Gary Bickel's Garage \$182.45; United Inspection Agency, Inc. \$815.00; Staples \$459.97; Met-Ed \$20.87; Met-Ed \$376.72; DDL Court Reporting Service \$160.00; Harris and Harris \$4,880.00; Keystone Municipal Engineering \$1,922.80; Courier Times, Inc. \$622.15; Met-Ed \$157.24; Selective Insurance \$11,797.00; Beers. John Jr. \$250.88; Brandt, Jeremy R. \$102.04; Bucks County Association \$300.00; Safeguard Business Systems \$108.08; Earth Link \$43.90; Eagle's Peak \$14.10; Bucks County Consortium of Municipalities \$150.00; VISA \$390.15; Keystone Municipal Services Inc \$2,460.00; TN Techs LLC \$223.20; Gary Bickel's Garage \$83.75; Law Enforcement Exec Dev Assoc. \$50.00; Bucks County Police Association \$300.00; YIS/Cowden Group, Inc. \$44.15; eftsps \$2161.59.

Payroll Fund: Payroll for pay period ending 2/8/13; eftsps Fed \$6064.21 State \$ 867.45

State Fund: PPC Lubricants \$455.40; Plumstead Materials \$3350.45; GTS Welco \$17.59; Vanderlely's \$44.38; Wehrung's \$191.31.

Open Space Fund: DVRFA \$14909.94, Groundwater Management: Mary Lennon \$518.50.

Voted upon and passed.

**5) A. PLANNING:**

**B. SUBDIVISION & LAND DEVELOPMENT:**

**6) ZONING:**

**7) POLICE:**

**8) PUBLIC WORKS:**

**9) ZONING HEARING BOARD APPLICATIONS:**

Forte announced the following:

Hearing Continued to March 28, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. #5-2012 Property Owner William Edmonds: Appeals from the action of the Zoning Officer and a Stop Work Order and in the alternative to the appeal of the Zoning Officer's action, Requests a Variance from Tinicum Township Zoning Ordinance Article VIII, Section 804.20 and Section 806 (c) and Article XIII, Section 1302. This property is identified as Tax Parcel No. 44-25-19-1 with an address of 2 Bridge Five Lane, Erwinna, PA and is a .55 acre +/- tract located in the Residential Agricultural (RA) Zoning District. The Planning Commission will review this application prior to the Hearing during their meeting of November 27, 2012 at 7:45 p.m.

**10) MISCELLANEOUS:**

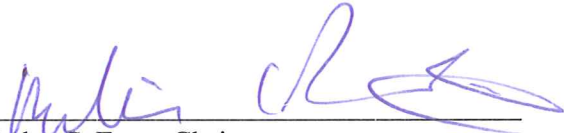
**11) ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Forte, seconded by Pearson, to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. Voted upon and passed. The next meeting of the Board of Supervisors is scheduled for Tuesday, March 5, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in the Township Building.

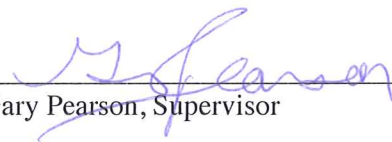
TINICUM TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

Attest:

  
Linda McNeill, Township Manager

  
Nicholas C. Forte, Chairperson

  
Vincent J. Dotti, Vice Chairperson

  
Gary Pearson, Supervisor