

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MINUTES – DECEMBER 9, 2009

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on December 9, 2009. Mr. Maloney called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. noting that this will be the last meeting of the year for the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Caiola called the roll.

Those present:

Board of Supervisors:        Matt Maloney, Chairman  
   Ron Smith, Vice Chairman  
   Greg Caiola, Secretary  
   Pete Stainthorpe, Treasurer  
   Jason Simon, Supervisor

Others:                            Terry Fedorchak, Township Manager  
   David Truelove, Township Solicitor (joined meeting in  
   progress)  
   Vincent Magyar, Township Solicitor (left meeting in  
   progress)  
   James Majewski, Township Engineer  
   Kenneth Coluzzi, Chief of Police

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Richard Johnson, Evergreen Road, asked about the cost of construction permits in the Township. He stated the Pennsbury School District completed a \$13 million renovation at Oxford Valley School in Falls Township, and then started a \$13 million renovation of a school in Lower Makefield. He stated the fees for the Falls Township project were \$59,000 and Pennsbury has paid Lower Makefield Township \$259,000 for the same size project. He asked why Lower Makefield's fees are more than four times those of Falls Township. He stated Falls Township only charged the School District its out of pocket costs which were \$59,000 when normally they would charge \$120,000. Mr. Maloney stated the Board did receive information on this, discussed it, and asked Mr. Fedorchak to see what had been done in the past with regard to permits for the School District. He stated this review is still taking place since they have been working on other issues; and they will continue to look into this. He added that Falls Township is in a very different financial situation in terms of its ability to offer discounts for its services than is Lower Makefield. Mr. Johnson asked why Lower Makefield's costs are so much higher than Falls' costs. He stated the amount being charged by Lower Makefield is clearly excessive particularly when the same taxpayers are being charged. He stated when the School District looks to do a project, they look at costs; and the question comes up why should they do a project in Lower Makefield when it is so much more expensive to do so

than anywhere else. Mr. Johnson stated many people are present this evening concerned about services; and he feels the only way the Board can provide services other than to raise taxes, is to raise ratables. He stated if the Board makes it an undesirable and expensive place to do business, it will be difficult to raise ratables. He stated he is disappointed that Mr. Fedorchak did not respond to Dr. Long three months ago; and he hopes that at some time, the Board will address this question.

Mr. Johnson stated he also knows that the Township is a "green" community, and he questions why there are two Police cruisers stationed at the Christmas tree farm on Saturday and Sunday spewing greenhouse gases into the air as their engines are running. He asked if the Township is being paid for this. Mr. Maloney stated the Board does not direct the Chief as to how to run his Police organization. He suggested that Mr. Johnson discuss this issue with Chief Coluzzi.

Mr. Harold Koopersmith, 612 B Wren Song Road, expressed concern with the state of the Country. He thanked Mr. Simon for his leadership on the Board of Supervisors as this is his last meeting adding he was distressed that Mr. Simon would not be running for Supervisor. Mr. Koopersmith stated he will be preparing his own Budget and will present it to the Board of Supervisors at their January 20, 2010 meeting.

Ms. Kathy Paracimo, Knightsbridge Drive, stated she was present at a prior meeting asking about "no standing" signs in the fire zones, but noted that this was not included in the Minutes for that meeting. It was noted that it was included in the Minutes that will be approved this evening. It was noted these have not been posted yet on the Website as they had not yet been approved by the Board, and what Ms. Paracimo was reading was only a Summary which does not include all the details. Ms. Paracimo asked that there be increased Police enforcement in the shopping centers particularly during the holiday season.

Mr. Dave Shuster, Bluestone Drive and President of Big Oak White Tail Management Association, stated their group is incorporated in Pennsylvania as a non-profit and is fully insured. He stated their group is conducting the managed public hunt in the Five Mile Woods. He stated their group is composed of volunteers who have passed background checks, proficiency tests, and extra bow-hunter education classes. He stated their individuals have invested a lot of personal time and money and gone above what is required in order to hunt in Pennsylvania. He stated with the exception of a few protestors, they have not had any incidents while in the Five Mile Woods adding that while their members have followed the rules, at times the general public has not as they have observed several dog walkers and horseback riders at times in the Five Mile Woods. He stated their members have conducted themselves professionally and ethically with no safety concerns. Mr. Shuster stated they have proven that they can remove deer safely. He stated they were not present on November 30 to participate in the discussion of the deer update; and at that time it was noted that twenty-seven deer had been removed from



the Five Mile Woods at no cost to the Township. He stated the Township has now expanded the sharp shoot locations to seven, and their program would have been able to remove more deer had they been give more locations than only the Five Mile Woods. He stated the original target number to be removed was 200 deer by the sharpshooters. He stated Big Oak White Tail Management has another cycle to go, and they could bring their number up to thirty or more deer removed. He asked why they would not expand the public hunt if they are expanding the sharp shoot. He stated they have proven themselves to be reliable and safe. He stated the public hunt was needed to get the Permit which the Township was successful in obtaining, and they know that the Township wanted to try to get by with the minimum public hunt necessary. He stated now that the Township has expanded the locations from three to seven, he feels the same logic should apply; and the public hunt should be expanded.

Mr. Shuster stated the PGC requirements state, "In order for the properties to be enrolled in the sharp shoot, they need to be open to public hunting. Section 147.322 – Application for Deer Control Permit states, "Public land within the proposed boundaries shall be open to lawful public hunting unless otherwise prohibited under this Title or is otherwise authorized by the Director. Private land within the proposed boundaries may be closed to public hunting at the landowners' discretion; however, if closed, deer control activities may not occur thereon." Mr. Shuster stated Mr. Fedorchak provided him documentation today which indicates the Deer Permit states under Item #4, "This Permit is valid only in conjunction with an active hunting program which is to be implemented to the fullest possible extent on the project area." Mr. Shuster stated time is running short, and he feels they have been somewhat left out of the entire process and that it is unfair and possibly a violation of the Game regulations to limit the public hunt to one location. He requested that the Board grant approval for public hunts on additional locations as their members have proven themselves to be safe and reliable, and the Permit requirements may require this.

Mr. Walt Gordon, 473 Liberty Drive, stated he is present on behalf of a number of residents who did not show up tonight. He stated he does not want anything from the Board of Supervisors and does not want them to build a Senior Center, build a Community Center, or buy more land. Mr. Maloney stated Mr. Gordon's comments seem to indicate that he is discussing Budget issues; and since this is an Agenda item, he would ask that he wait until this matter is being considered later on the Agenda as Public Comment is reserved for items not on the Agenda.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Caiola moved and Mr. Smith seconded to approve the Minutes of November 18, 2009 as written. Motion carried with Mr. Maloney abstaining as he was not present for the entire meeting.

**PRESENTATION OF THE HISTORY OF LOWER MAKEFIELD BOOK**

Ms. Kaaren Steil, Ms. Rosanne Friehs, Mr. Ken Martin, Historic Commission, and Ms. Pat Miiller, Historical Society, were present. Ms. Steil stated in February of this year, Mr. Fedorchak attended one of their meetings and suggested that the Historic Commission begin to write an account of the Township's history. She stated since that time in excess of 350 volunteer hours have been invested in conducting, transcribing, and completing more than twenty-five oral histories, the scanning of personal family photos, deeds, and preserving newspaper articles found in scrapbooks. She stated the research papers of Township historian, Ralph Thompson, were also contributed. She presented this evening two books of source material to Mr. Caiola, the Historic Commission Supervisor liaison; and she asked that they be shared with all those interested. She stated the books will be available in the Township Office Monday through Friday from 9 to 4. She stated they would be interested in receiving additional oral histories, and a copy of the questions asked can be obtained at the Township Office. She stated personal photos will be scanned and returned. Ms. Steil stated on Sunday, November 15, they had a live cable presentation of a brief look at the early history of Lower Makefield Township which was a joint effort between the Historic Commission, Historical Society, Greg Caiola, Zachary Rubin, Dave Kelliher, and Becky Cecchine. She stated this presentation is presently replayed daily at 10:00 on the Township Cable Channel. She stated copies of the DVD are also available.

Mr. Maloney thanked all those who were involved in this project. Mr. Caiola stated he appreciates the Historic Commission and the Historical Society working together on this project.

**DISCUSSION AND MOTION ON MILLAGE TAX INCREASE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING ADDITIONAL RECREATIONAL VENUES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PARK & RECREATION 2015 VISION PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON MAY 20, 2009**

Mr. Dave Fritchey, Chair of the Park & Recreation Board, was present. Mr. Maloney stated in May, 2009, as part of a request for five year Plans, Mr. Fritchey made a presentation with the Park & Recreation Director, Donna Liney, and discussed the projects that had been planned for a long time, but had not been funded.

Mr. Fritchey stated there has been tremendous growth in Lower Makefield Township over the past thirty years. He stated the first significant decision concerning the Park system was made in 1979 when the Township purchased the Five Mile Woods Nature Preserve and protected the last bit of coastal plain biome in southeastern Pennsylvania. He stated the deer hunt is part of the maintenance of the Five Mile Woods because the deer have been eating a significant number of the plants. Mr. Fritchey stated in 1981



Community Park and the Community Pool were dedicated. In 1989, the front 60 acres of Macclesfield Park were dedicated. Kids Kingdom was dedicated in 1992. In 1997 the rear 30 acres of Macclesfield Park were dedicated. The Lower Makefield Softball Complex was dedicated in 1999. The Makefield Highlands Golf Course was dedicated in 2004. Phase I of Memorial Park was completed in 2006 and includes the Garden of Reflection.

Mr. Fritchey stated in 1995 the National Recreation Park Association promulgated standards for recreation for communities of various sizes; and the minimum standard that was adopted was ten acres per 1,000 residents to meet core active recreation needs. He stated this is a National standard recognized by planning professionals throughout the Country. Mr. Fritchey stated in connection with this, the Township retained the services of a consulting group to look at the Township to see where the population growth was going, assess what existed in the Park system in 1995, and to make recommendations as to how the Township should move forward in a logical fashion to provide appropriate levels of recreational venues. He stated one of the comments they made was that they were looking for other communities like Lower Makefield to compare to; and they indicated that Darien, CT, was an example of what can go wrong if development happens too quickly without proper planning for recreational needs. He stated in Darien it became necessary to condemn private residences in order to have sufficient recreational facilities to meet the needs of that community. He stated the Lower Makefield Board of Supervisors in the 1990s was farsighted enough to do something before problems developed.

Mr. Fritchey stated core acreage recommendations were made; and to serve the needs of 33,000 residents, 330 acres of active recreation land was needed. He stated in addition, they were also advised that the Township needed to make a distinction between a community park and an athletic complex. He stated athletic complexes are complexes of fields that are designed for high-intensity use by Leagues, and a community park is a park that is designed more for families than for extensive athletic competitions and is designed to support pick-up games, spontaneous activities, and is not Permitted out all of the time but is available for anyone to have an opportunity to participate in athletic activities. He stated this is also a place that would provide for community gatherings and have pavilions, provide a venue for family picnics, block parties, corporate picnics, etc. He stated it was emphasized that they should have a community park of approximately 65 to 70 acres, and that it should be built in the northern end of the Township. He stated they were able to purchase the Vargo Tact in 1997, and they began to plan for what is now known as Memorial Park. He stated they had an extensive planning process that involved all of the neighbors, and they came up with a Plan for a community park that would memorialize those from the past and provide for the needs of those in the present. He stated when 9-11 occurred, it was a natural fit that the 9-11 Memorial would go into this Park.

Mr. Fritchey stated they looked at what they had in terms of acreage for active recreation. He stated there are 92 acres at Macclesfield Park, and Community Park, Stoddart baseball, and Roelofs Softball Complex provide another 32 and 23 acres, as well as several pocket parks in neighborhoods which constitute an additional 17 acres. Therefore there are 164 of the 330 acres of active recreation space that national planning standards say should be available for a Township of the current population. Mr. Fritchey stated Memorial Park has 63 acres, the Snipes Tract has 33 acres, and the Samost tract has 22 acres so this would be another 118 acres. Mr. Fritchey stated those three Parks are currently incomplete. He stated there is a Plan which has been approved by the Board of Supervisors for Memorial Park which is the community park, and they would not be considering Permitting this except as a last resort. He stated a Sketch Plan has been approved by the Board of Supervisors for the Snipes tract and very little needs to be done to complete the planning process to implement this Park. He stated it has been proposed to serve additional needs for soccer fields as well as a skateboard facility which would provide a safe place for this activity as opposed to the streets where many children currently participate in this activity. Mr. Fritchey stated the Samost Tract is between the baseball and softball complexes across from the Municipal Building, and this is a 22-acre tract. He stated for this tract there have been discussions about installing additional ball fields along with tennis courts. He stated they have not finalized this Plan as there were not funds available to proceed with the Plans that had already been approved.

Mr. Fritchey stated the proposal before the Board of Supervisors this evening would provide money necessary to complete these three Parks. He stated they have spent over \$5 million purchasing real estate which has lain fallow for more than a decade while an entire generation of children has gone through the School system. He stated if the proposal were to be adopted, it would result in a bond issue which would provide the money to substantially complete the three Parks and effectuate a reasonable build out of the Park system to include both active recreation in the form of athletic complexes which are desperately needed by the athletic associations and also provide what has been recognized by every Board of Supervisors for the last decade a family park at Memorial Park to meet family needs.

Mr. Maloney stated he understands that the Park & Recreation Board has supported these Plans for some time, and he asked if there has been recent discussion. Mr. Fritchey stated they did discuss this matter last evening at their Park & Recreation meeting. He stated they are an advisory Board to the Board of Supervisors and normally they do not take a position on spending matters. He stated the Park Board was asked what they felt about spending; and while it was not a unanimous decision, it was six to one that they felt they should move ahead and spend the money at this time. He stated the one person who was opposed was opposed to spending money at this time since these are hard times. He stated the rest of the Board felt that while these were hard times, there were times in the past when times were good and the Board of Supervisors did not approve a tax increase to get the Parks built. He stated historically they did not have to raise taxes to



build the parks because there were fee-in-lieu monies contributed by developers to provide for the recreational needs of the houses they were building. He stated they are now only halfway through building the park system, but the fee-in-lieu money is no longer available because of the cap put on growth as a matter of public consensus through the preservation of open space. He stated they will therefore have to raise taxes to complete building the parks. Mr. Fritchey stated they can also get Grants; and while they have received some Grants, they are usually \$100,000 to \$500,000, and would not be \$5 million. He stated they can also accept donations; but if a corporation were to make a donation, they would probably want something in return.

Mr. Fritchey stated there are now a number of Supervisors who are willing to raise taxes to a small degree in order to complete the park system. He stated the Park & Recreation Board feels that the park system is one of the great amenities of the Township. He stated he feels the Township has a better park system than any other Township in the area, and it is something that adds to the property values, provides great opportunities for our children, and provides recreational activities for ourselves. He stated he feels it is one of the reasons why they moved to Lower Makefield. He stated the current Park system costs approximately \$60 per family per year, and he feels this is one of the truly great bargains in the Delaware Valley. He stated if the proposed Plan were to proceed, it would result in an additional \$40 more per year. Mr. Fritchey stated \$40 a year amounts to approximately six value meals at Burger King, and he stated he does not feel there are too many people in the Township who will starve missing six burgers over the course of a year.

Mr. Truelove joined the meeting at this time, and Mr. Magyar left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Fritchey stated they now have the opportunity to make a great park system even better and provide more opportunities for our children and do more for our community and our property values. He stated the Park & Recreation Board feels that what stands between the people of Lower Makefield and completion of the park system are fear, timidity, lack of confidence in the future, and a lack of vision. He stated communities that believe in themselves are confident communities and have a sense of permanency and expect to have a future and be able to sell their properties for more than what they bought them for. He stated while these are tough times, there have been times much worse than what anyone is suffering now. He stated fear is the only thing that is preventing this from being done. He stated this vote is an opportunity for the Board to do something to provide even greater recreational opportunities for our families in general and for the children in particular. He stated it is an opportunity to sustain and enhance property values, enrich the fabric of the community, make Lower Makefield an even better place to live than it is now, and an opportunity to express confidence in the future of Lower Makefield Township. He stated if the Board votes for this there will be some who will oppose the Board because they raised the taxes and they may vote against them

in the future; but if they have the courage to vote for this, they will reaffirm their own community and cast a vote they will always be proud of.

Mr. Maloney stated to the extent that they accept that this will be a project that will be funded through debt, they will never find a time when they will not put this burden on taxpayers through a recession since a debt at this level will take approximately twenty years to pay off. He stated if they had done this in good times, they would have locked in debt and have this level of taxation through bad times as well. He stated there are economic signs indicating things are getting better. He stated the economy is also cyclical and approximately every five to eight years there is a recession.

Mr. Maloney stated that given the number of people present who wish to speak to this issue, he would ask that those interested in speaking limit their comments to three minutes once public comment on this issue is opened.

Mr. Stainthorpe stated he serves as the Supervisor liaison to the Park & Recreation Board and holds Mr. Fritchey in the highest regard and recognizes that his words come from the heart. He stated the Board has been involved in this for a number of years, and he feels they would all like to see them more forward. Mr. Stainthorpe stated he is disappointed about how this matter was brought before the Board of Supervisors. He stated he feels Mr. Fritchey's speech should have been made in August when they had the presentation on Park & Rec and serious discussion should have begun then. He stated the Board of Supervisors in preparing a Budget has a series of Budget workshops, and one of those meetings was dedicated to Park & Rec; and there was no mention of moving forward with these fields and no discussion for or against at that time. He stated this matter was brought up the night that the Board of Supervisors was voting to advertise the Budget, and he does not feel this is open government or the right way to handle an issue like this. He stated he does not feel they have given the proper consideration to borrowing \$6 million. He stated when you add the interest over twenty to twenty-five years, this would be \$10 to \$11 million, and this is not something that should be done in two meetings.

Mr. Stainthorpe stated he appreciates all those who have attended the meeting this evening. He stated over the past two weeks he has received approximately 500 e-mails in favor of doing this but they were all exactly the same e-mail and came from a website – change.org. He stated he did save what he felt were the “thoughtful” e-mails where people wrote individual e-mails, and there were fifty in favor of proceeding with the Parks and fifty against.

Mr. Stainthorpe stated he is not against moving ahead with some of these projects; however, he has not heard anyone explain why they need the fields. He stated he would like to know if children are being denied the opportunity to play because there are not enough fields. He stated he recognizes that there are scheduling difficulties with regard



to the fields, but he does not feel they are insurmountable. He stated he does not feel there has been enough real discussion about sharing fields with the Schools. He stated he feels creatively they can work with the School District to make their fields better before they commit to \$6 million. He stated he has also been told that they are wearing out Macclesfield and need to give the fields time to rest; and while he recognizes this, he would like to know how many fields they need in order to give Macclesfield the proper rest. He stated they have been told that they should move ahead because there are Plans in place, however, he feels that what was a need five years ago may or may not still be a need now.

Mr. Stainthorpe stated these are difficult economic times; and while for most people in the Township \$40 may be a pizza or a meal at Burger King, there are people in the Township on fixed incomes where this is a weeks' worth of food. He stated he does want the children to have good opportunities adding that his own family benefited from the Township athletic opportunities, but he feels they need to carefully consider exactly what is needed. He stated there is not a Sketch Plan for the Samost Tract, and he cannot justify borrowing any money for a tract of land for which there is not a Plan. He stated they need to have a more thorough discussion about what they want to do about the proposed tennis center at the Samost Tract. He stated he has not been told by PAA exactly how many 90' fields are necessary. He stated all they have heard is they need more fields and they need them now. He stated in these economic times, he does not feel it is the time to proceed, and he will not support this at this time and feels it is an irresponsible decision that is being made too quickly and does not belong as part of the Budget discussion and should be done separately. He stated he would be willing to have this discussion separately to consider what is really needed. He stated he will have to vote no on this matter if it is considered this evening as it has been set up.

Mr. Simon stated this is an opportunity to consider Plans that have been discussed for decades. He stated the Board will hear from those opposed and for this Plan. They will discuss ball fields that the Township owns that are "worn to the bone" and that children are not able to participate and play actively. He stated over 500 residents took the time to sign a petition and notify the Board of Supervisors that they were in favor of this, and he feels those voices need to be counted along with those who took the time to write individual letters. He stated the idea of sharing School fields and using other facilities will be discussed this evening at length. He stated those who need the fields have explored this option, and yet still have a problem with scheduling, access, and field maintenance. He stated this involves giving our children opportunities and developing a sense of community and a sense of self. He stated there will never be a good time to do this. He stated prior Boards have not had the "guts" to make this decision and move forward. He stated there is an opportunity now to take advantage of a market condition to make this happen. He stated the expansion of the facilities will also allow for more adult participation in the community and more access to non-Permitted fields.

Mr. Simon stated on February 27, 2007 there was a special Town Hall meeting held where every user group was invited to come in, discuss the status of their programs, what was necessary in order for them to be able to move forward, and how they impacted the community. He stated they did not discuss winning or losing but instead talked about how these programs help the children be built into fine young people. Mr. Simon stated he is concerned about the bitter opposition on this issue.

Mr. Simon stated a few weeks ago the Board decided to eliminate from the Budget consideration, the possible abolishing of the leaf collection program; and it was indicated that the public should expect that costs would go up for this. He stated there seemed to be a tacit agreement in the room that this would be okay. He stated now they are discussing the need for more recreational facilities. He stated YMS and PAA represent a percentage of the user groups that would benefit from the expansion of the fields. He stated football, lacrosse, and the Frisbee Club would have access to these fields as well so that they could expand their Clubs. He stated he feels they should move forward on this and have confidence in the ourselves, the economy moving forward, and have confidence that they are doing something and leaving something behind as the Supervisors before them bought the fields and bought them at a time when it was satisfactory to their population. He stated there are 35,000 people living in the Township, and 55% of the homes were built after 1980. He stated there are 10,000 citizens who are under the age of nineteen. He stated he is very excited to be able to take the opportunity to leave something tangible behind which will be utilized by the children and will add to the intrinsic value of the living experience in Lower Makefield. He stated he fervently believes in proceeding with this project.

Mr. Caiola stated he is interested in hearing from the user groups, the Citizens Budget Commission, and the residents. He stated in the Budget process, they have been doing their best to try to get down to the smallest increase possible. He stated he would also like to know what the user groups are willing to do to partner with the Township. He stated he recognizes that there are a number of senior citizens who have felt slighted by not having a Senior Center, and he stated the Board is still working on this. He stated there is a direct correlation between a strong education program and a strong recreational program as to how much your house is worth. He stated if they do not go forward with this at this time, they do need to continue the conversation.

Mr. Smith stated this issue has caused him distress and has impacted a personal friendship. Mr. Smith stated he served on the Park & Recreation Board for many years with Dave Fritchey, and they pushed through a number of projects that are existing today. Mr. Smith stated there were many people who did not want some of these fields. He stated he has also worked on many projects with Donna Liney including Community Pride Day and the Veterans Parade. He stated he resents the e-mails he received attacking people involved in YMS, which he has been involved with for twenty years.



Mr. Smith stated YMS and PAA have done many great things for the community over the last twenty years. He stated he also was very involved in the discussions regarding planning Memorial Park working with adjacent residents on what would be in that Park such that it would be half active and half passive with no scheduled, organized sports. He stated he feels they may need to revisit this decision, but he feels the neighbors of that Park would have to be brought into this process again. Mr. Simon stated he is concerned that there are now different parts of the Township polarized against each other. He stated it is incorrect that the Township is subsidizing everything that YMS and PAA do. He stated YMS and PAA and other organizations have raised monies and provided volunteer hours.

Mr. Smith stated on November 18 some on the Board of Supervisors agreed to advertise the Budget with the elimination of leaf collection service and move that money to build new ball fields. He stated he opposed that Motion. He stated there was then a subsequent “firestorm,” and the Board then agreed to reverse that decision. He stated at the last meeting of the Board on November 30, the Board was left with a decision whether or not to impose a local services tax. He stated this has been discussed for over two years; and while he sees the wisdom in that tax, he opposed it on November 30 due to the fact that some Board members had already accepted a .4 mil increase without the additional 1 mil for Park & Rec now being considered. He stated this would be a 1.4 mil increase and when added to the local services tax, this would result in three additional taxes, and he was against this. He stated he feels there will be a three to two vote this evening, but he feels this is wrong at this time.

Mr. Smith stated he feels the Board should consider whether they should raise taxes in a recession to build additional athletic facilities in the amount of \$6 million. He stated he fought against user fees for YMS for years and was part of the decision to purchase the Snipes Tract to eventually build facilities. He stated the Snipes parcel is across from Elm Lowne on Dolington Road, and one part of that parcel was reserved for a firehouse which was never built. He stated he feels they must consider what takes priority – an additional firehouse in the northern end of the Township or additional athletic fields. Mr. Smith stated on November 18, the Board was told by the Presidents of YMS and PAA about the need for more fields. He stated a short time later, the Board was considering eliminating the leaf collection, building the ball fields, and raising the taxes in addition to the .4 mil increase. He stated they were told that they had cut the Budget as much as possible. He stated they are now considering really raising taxes in order to provide these ball fields; and he does not agree with this approach.

Mr. Smith stated the President of YMS indicated they had 2000 participants and the President of PAA indicated they had 1500 participants. He stated they also indicated that their numbers are “surging.” He stated he asked the Park & Recreation Director for the numbers of those involved as he was not aware of any waiting lists for PAA or YMS.

Mr. Smith stated he was provided the following numbers from Ms. Liney:

Lower Makefield Football Association – from 2007 to 2009 their numbers have declined going from 307 residents and 288 non-residents in 2007 to 294 residents and 245 non-residents. He stated this represents 52% - 55% residents and 48% - 45% non-residents. He stated this equals a high number of non-residents wanting the Township to build more ball fields.

Mr. Smith stated for PAA in 2007 their spring numbers for residents were 1233 and this year they were 1078. He stated in 2007 they had 199 non-residents and this year they had 179 non-residents. He stated this shows their numbers are declining. He stated for fall baseball in 2007 there were 197 residents and 72 non-residents, and in 2009 there were 210 residents and 89 non-residents. He stated for the year their totals are 83% to 84% residents in PAA. He stated in the fall PAA has a program where approximately 40% of the players do not live in Lower Makefield Township. He stated it does not appear that the numbers are “surging,” and in fact are declining.

Mr. Smith stated YMS runs a fall program and a spring program. He stated in 2007 for the fall program there were 1550 residents and 250 non-residents, in 2008 there were 1504 residents, and 381 non-residents, and for 2009 1578 residents, and 314 non-residents. He stated the numbers seem stable and he is not aware of any waiting list to get into the YMS program. He stated for the spring program YMS had 1778 in 2007, 1825 in 2008, and 1639 in 2009. He stated they have approximately 83% residents playing in the spring. He stated he does not feel that these figures show that the numbers are surging.

Mr. Smith stated he has received the on-line e-mail noted by Mr. Stainthorpe asking that they keep this in the Budget and were advised by YMS and PAA that they are going to be looking at the Boards vote closely. Mr. Smith stated he agrees that there should be new fields and agrees that there is a desperate need for a 90' field. He stated PAA also indicated that there were problems with the fields last spring because of rainouts and poor drainage on the fields at Stoddart. He stated he questions if this is a reason to build new fields and suggested that they discuss repairing what they now have which he feels many people would be in favor of.

Mr. Smith stated building infrastructure is investment for the future and he is in favor of this. He stated they have been told that this is also an attraction to bring in new families to the Township, but feels they should also remember that there is another constituency group that is not present tonight in force, and they are the people who do not play sports and the Senior citizens who also live in the Township; and he feels it is time to build a community center with Senior facilities which is also an investment in the future. He stated all of the Supervisors have indicated that they feel they should build a Senior Center at some point in time, and he will continue to work for this. Mr. Smith stated he



feels that before they build additional ball fields, he would like to revisit the Community/Senior Center issue. He feels they need a new business plan in order to discuss this. He stated he cannot tell the Seniors, who cannot be present tonight because they do not drive at night, that they are going to build more ball fields, but not build a Senior Center.

Mr. Smith stated the Board received comments from many of the residents who indicated the Board should hire the Police Officers now, and he feels this is 100% correct. He stated they were told at the last Board meeting, that if they did not have the local services tax, they would not be able to hire the Police Officers; but he feels that they should hire the Police Officers and insure public safety before they talk about anything else. Mr. Smith stated three years ago he voted to raise taxes in order to hire three new Police Officers. He stated he feels what is most important is public safety and then roads. He stated the three Police Officers now being considered are not additional Officers – they are replacement Officers. Chief Coluzzi has indicated he would time these so that the Police Officers are on-line, and there would be no lapse in public safety.

Mr. Smith stated he wants the residents to understand there are upcoming Township expenses including a large pension hike, additional costs related to the Dalgewicz/Golf Course condemnation, and costs related to the Aria Hospital situation. He stated residents will also be faced with a hike in electric rates.

Mr. Smith stated he was challenged by some of his colleagues to come up with items that could be cut; and he asked Mr. Fedorchak two weeks ago what had been cut, and he indicated that it was Community Pride Day and the Veterans Day Parade. He asked what else had been cut from what was originally a \$1.5 mil increase without the ball fields to the \$.4 currently considered. Mr. Smith stated he personally was challenged to come up with some potential items; and he had previously indicated that rather than mail out the Newsletter, they could put it on-line or hand it out at the Township Building rather than have the expense of mailing. He also suggested that they sell Elm Lowne now. He stated they should also sell the Satterthwaite property on the Patterson Farm with the same restrictions in place that are being put on the sale of the Elm Lowne property. Mr. Smith stated he feels the Satterthwaite House is a “money pit.” He stated there was a three to two vote to proceed with a sharp shoot rather than the bow hunt which could have been done for free and saved the Township \$60,000. Mr. Smith stated he feels there are things that can be cut, and they could then build ball fields so that there would not be a tax increase. He stated he does not feel it should be pushed through as they are now proposing.

Mr. Smith stated four years ago he and two of his colleagues objected to the “midnight” appointments to Boards and Commissions. He stated instead, they changed this and did it the right way. He stated he feels pushing this Budget through and approving these ball fields without coming up with a sound business plan is “bad business.” He stated two

months ago the Veterans group came before the Board of Supervisors telling them about what they were planning to do, and some of the Board of Supervisors indicated they could not proceed without a business plan; and they came back with a business plan. He stated there is no business plan for building these ball fields. He stated there will be a new Board in January with an elected Supervisor coming on board, and he feels they should re-visit this issue and come up with a business plan; and if it makes sense, they can then do it. He stated he will vote against the Budget as proposed at this time.

Mr. Maloney stated these Plans have been considered for fifteen years, and there are Sketch Plans for each of these fields. He stated engineering dollars have also been spent; and a determination had been made by past Boards to hold off on any further development until there was funding for these projects. He stated for the last three years, they have discussed these Plans in detail at a number of public meeting; and to suggest that this is a last minute decision is not accurate. He stated the Budget Workshops they go through focus on operating costs and operating expenses, and they have never had a capital expenditure discussed as part of the Budget Workshops on this level. He stated this is the same with an open space purchase. He also stated as the person who suggested that they drop the leaf program at the same time they fund the ball fields, he resents the idea that it is a “bait and switch.” He stated there is a difference between operating expenses and capital investment. He stated the focus of “cutting the fat” is to reduce on-going operating expenses. He stated when he made the suggestion, he was doing so in response to the constant request by the public to reduce the operating expenses as a way to reduce the overall tax burden. He stated the leaf program had been deemed as economically non-viable; and if they were going to cut it eventually, they should do it at a time when they were otherwise raising taxes to reduce the overall tax burden on the public. He stated they heard from the public and put back the program.

Mr. Maloney stated the Board reduced the Police Budget in response to the request of Mr. Smith and Mr. Stainthorpe that they continue to reduce the General Fund expenditures. Mr. Smith stated this is a lie. Mr. Maloney stated the meetings were open to the public; and he added Mr. Fedorchak was asked to reduce services to reduce Budgets, and to do this Mr. Fedorchak and the staff came up with a suggestion that they hire the Police Officers mid-year. He stated if you read the public meeting Minutes, you will know that this was the tenor with which that decision was made.

Mr. Maloney stated with regard to the Dalgewicz decision, if that case is found against the Township’s favor, the determination has been made by the current and past Boards that any funding would be done solely through the Golf Course; and the Golf Course would either need to find a way to fund that differential or become insolvent and the Township would wind up operations. He stated there has never been any intention, nor does anyone have the intention to support the Golf Course through Township dollars. He stated if the Golf Course became insolvent because of the settlement, they would have to sell it and liquidate assets.



Mr. Maloney stated they have repaired the ball fields and done what they can with the facilities and invested engineering dollars this year to repair them, but the capacity issues that have lasted for years that were the basis for the decisions being made as far back as the mid-90's to develop Plans for further fields are because the capacity issues are well outside the scope of small drops in enrollment over the past few years. He stated the organizations are in great need and have been for a number of years.

Mr. Maloney stated they are planning on selling Elm Lowne and there are procedures they have to go through. He stated they have had an appraisal and legal documents are in the process of being drafted.

Mr. Simon stated in February, 2007, his colleague thanked the groups for coming forward to make their presentations and indicated it was time for the Board of Supervisors to act and do their best to put things in the Budget which have to be done to make the hard decisions and move forward to address the many needs of the Township and maintain and enhance the quality of life of Lower Makefield Township. Mr. Simon asked when there was an opportunity for any Supervisor along the way to make a Motion to build a Senior Center and put that money into the Budget, where was it. He stated years ago this was brought to a Referendum, and it was voted down because it was positioned as a Community Center. He stated he does not feel there is anyone present this evening who would not want to have a Center built for the Seniors; and there is an opportunity for any Supervisor present this evening, in the past, or in the future to make that Motion and put this into play.

Mr. Simon stated the local services tax is applied to people working in the Township. He stated unfortunately, by law, they also have to tax those residents who are working in the Township. He stated this is a one-time fee of \$52 after an individual has made \$12,000 for the year. He stated this is not a tax against those who are unemployed. He stated they have estimated that there are approximately 3,500 employees in the Township, and this will generate an additional \$170,000 in revenue.

Mr. Simon stated the Board does want to get the Police Officers on the street as soon as possible. He stated decisions are being made because of politics and because they are being asked to make decisions as to where they are going to cut back as opposed to being able to be honest and indicate to the residents that they need a mil to pay for the services that they have in the Township. He stated this is the same discussion that they had on the leaf program. He stated the discussion was the money from the Grants was going away, and they were going to keep the program; but the public should be aware that going forward there will need to be an assessment to keep it operational because the 90% Grant money would no longer be available to pay for the capital expenditures.

Mr. Simon stated the Board has made a decision to move forward because they believe in what they are doing. He stated he has seen the numbers for the registrations for the Leagues, and he sees very negligible changes in registrations from year to year; but basically the Leagues are holding steady. Mr. Simon stated there are 10,000 residents under the age of 19 and 30,000 residents under the age of 64, and many of the residents 64 and over play tennis and use other Township facilities. He stated they are proposing to expand the Park & Rec system. He stated he feels that when they invited the user groups in 2007, the expectation was that at some point the Board would move forward with the Plans; and this is what they are now discussing. He stated he feels it is also important to have a Senior Center. He stated there is now an opportunity to proceed with the Plans that are in place. He showed copies of the Sketch Plans which have been approved. He stated the Snipes Plan was approved in March, 2007. He stated if approved this evening, they will still have to go through the planning process. He stated they are discussing enhancing the lifestyle in the Township. He stated these are not new Plans and have been discussed for some time.

Mr. Stainthorpe stated he feels the Board should wait to hear public comment. He stated while he is against the 1 mill increase to borrow \$6 million, he is not against YMS or PAA; and he does not need to be sold on the value of these organizations adding because the Board believes in these programs, this is why they have Macclesfield and Stoddart. He stated he would like to hear factual numbers indicating the minimum fields they need to get by. He stated he does not feel he is a coward if he votes against this, and feels indicating otherwise sets the wrong tone. He noted there was a recent election, and those who indicated they were fiscal conservatives were the people who won; and this should not be ignored. He stated he also feels that even if these fields are not built now, the Township will still be a great place to live. He stated he feels they can meet the needs of the Leagues and children in the Township, but it needs to be done rationally and logically.

Mr. Simon stated he feels they will hear a lot about numbers this evening and the concerns from the user groups.

Mr. Smith stated he resents Mr. Maloney's comments about hiring the Police Officers adding he was the Board member who had courage and fought for three Police Officers three years ago. He stated Mr. Maloney's comments that he voted against Police Officers is a lie.

Ms. Jane French, 18 West Ferry Road, stated in their neighborhood, leaf collection is a necessity and not just a "want." She stated Mr. Simon indicated there were concerns about Board members getting re-elected, and she feels the Board should make decisions that they feel are right for the Township despite the impact on possible re-election. Ms. French stated her daughter plays for YMS and she is happy that she gets the opportunity to do so and would suggest that there be a compromise with the Township



funding half of the needs, and the athletic Associations funding the other half through fundraisers and increased fees. She also suggested that they do half of the fields now and half in the future. She stated she received e-mails indicating that there was a request for an indoor batting facility; and she does not feel this is a necessity, and they can either do this outdoors or go to indoor facilities that are available elsewhere. Ms. French stated she agrees that sports are important and feels they could make some compromises.

Mr. Jay Dudek stated he feels borrowing \$6 million is too much to be decided on by five individuals, and there should be a Referendum so that all the Township residents can express their opinion. Mr. Dudek stated two years ago there was a proposal to spend approximately \$1.5 to \$2 million on a Senior Center, and this was defeated by a Referendum because it was too expensive, and the voters felt it was not needed. He asked how the Board can now borrow \$6 million for unneeded recreational facilities. He stated he feels the Township should hire a professional consultant to do a study to determine if the need is real as well as how to make better use of the existing facilities. He stated he has discussed this with a number of people including a number of non-supportive YMS members, and they feel the existing facilities are underutilized during the mornings and afternoons. He stated the household budgets are stretched to the limit, and this proposal will stretch it to the breaking point for some families. He stated a study could cost several thousand dollars but would be money well spent to determine needs now and in the future. He stated they could also consider hiring college students for summer jobs running athletic programs to be paid for by the participants that would utilize all the facilities during the mornings and afternoons which would have all the same goals as YMS and PAA. He stated this would not require taxpayer funding, and the taxpayers would have done their part by providing the existing facilities. He stated YMS is pushing building two new full-size football fields, and he stated football is usually only a three-month fall activity; and he questions what activities are planned for the other nine months. He stated since daylight hours are shorter in the fall, he questions if they will also want lighting as well as Astro-turf and asked who would be paying for their liability insurance. He stated they are also proposing adding eight more soccer fields to the existing sixteen fields. He stated they are also proposing adding three more baseball fields to the existing six fields as well as building a new indoor batting cage. He stated there is also a proposal to add twelve more tennis courts to the existing fourteen lighted courts. He stated there is also a proposal to build a new skateboard park and stated that Falls Township built one with business donations. He stated those who want these projects could run fundraisers. Mr. Dudek stated all the new proposed facilities will require additional maintenance equipment, additional maintenance personnel, expanded parking facilities, security, new fencing, lighting, and insurance. Mr. Dudek stated there are currently five softball fields, nine sand volleyball courts, 8 multi-purpose fields, seven playgrounds and tot lots, three lighted basketball courts, four swimming pools, five picnic areas with restrooms, a 30' by 45' covered pavilion at Macclesfield Park, plus various nature trails, walking trails and bike paths as well as an 18 hole golf course and the "money-losing" Elm Lowne facility.

Mr. Maloney stated they have asked that comments be limited to three minutes adding there are numerous people still wishing to speak.

Mr. Dudek stated the existing Plan will increase the facilities by 38%, and he does not feel the population of Lower Makefield has increased by 38% since the last census was taken in the year 2000. He stated during the leaf collection meeting, it was indicated that there are 9,000 to 10,000 homes in the Township but the census showed 11,931 households in 2000 so it seems that there has been a decrease of about 17% to 25% in population. Mr. Simon stated this is tax-paying households.

Mr. Casey Lawrence stated for those voting for the tax increase, he feels this is the worst economy in a generation, and they should not be raising taxes to build baseball fields. He stated he does not feel the majority of residents feel that raising taxes and building ball fields will help raise the property values. He stated Mr. Fedorchak should be thinking up new ways to reduce the tax burden and not raise taxes. Mr. Lawrence stated after listening to Mr. Fritchey's speech, he feels he is out of touch and would have preferred to hear about consultants to be hired to find ways to streamline Lower Makefield Township and ease the tax burdens since people are hurting.

Mr. John Zack stated he has been a taxpayer for fifty years and is proud to be a Lower Makefield resident. He stated he is a senior citizen and feels the senior citizens are who made Lower Makefield what it is today. He thanked the Board of Supervisors, past and present, for having the knowledge and ability to purchase land that is worth millions of dollars which is benefiting everyone. He stated he knows people like athletics as he did, but also feels that if there is a ballot issue it should be shared 50/50 between athletics and a senior center since they have been waiting for a Senior Center for fifteen years.

Ms. Kristin McConikey, 1350 Apple Blossom Drive, stated she is in support of the Police Department. She asked that they re-consider when the three Police Officer can be hired so that public safety can be put as a priority.

Mr. Barbara Bernow, 613 E. Melissa Circle, stated she is present in support of the Police Department and urged the Board of Supervisors to allow for absolutely no delay in hiring the Police Officers so that there is no time when the Police Force is below the existing number of Officers. Ms. Bernow stated she feels the first priority for the Board of Supervisors should be the safety of the residents of the community. She stated for three years she had a problem with a neighbor, and the Police Department was extremely helpful to her. Ms. Bernow stated the Board should consider not only the fact that we are in a recession but also the unemployment numbers of those living in the Township when they are discussing tax increases.



Mr. Ethan Shiller, 367 Lang Court, stated he is Chairman of the Citizens Budget Committee. He stated he is disappointed that Mr. Maloney, as the Board of Supervisors Chairman, did not show the same courtesy of allowing another Lower Makefield Township Chair to speak at an appropriate time prior to public comment. He stated he expects to be given the time necessary to present the Citizens Budget Committee's recommendations or would request that one of the other Supervisors insure that what their Committee has done will be allowed to be presented.

Mr. Shiller stated on Monday, the Citizens Budget Committee met to discuss different aspects of the 2010 Budget and discussed a number of issues including the deer management program, leaf collection, Police services, and Park and Rec. Mr. Shiller stated with regard to the Park and Rec proposed \$1 mill increase to expand the Park & Rec facilities, they would like to present additional information. He stated they were only given a limited time to present their recommendations so their presentation is limited to a general outline that could be updated and modified as requested. He stated the Citizens Budget Committee has compared the operation of how LMT manages other business areas such as the Pools, Golf Course, Garden of Reflection, and sewer system with how Park & Rec is operated. Mr. Shiller stated the common point is that they are funded by fees or there is a request to be funded by endowment which will insure that they are financially self-supporting with the expectation that the revenues they generate will cover their expenditures. He stated this is not the case with Park & Rec, and the taxpayers currently support field recreational sports at a cost of approximately \$500,000.

Mr. Shiller stated they recognize that the Board of Supervisors considers Park & Rec services to be a Township responsibility similar to services such as Police and Fire. He stated the Citizens Budget Committee is not looking for Park & Rec Budget to be funded only by user groups since it is part of the quality of life for all Township residents as well as increasing the property values. Mr. Shiller stated a majority of the Citizens Budget Committee felt that the requests being made by YMS and PAA have merit; however, the expectation is that the financial commitment on the part of the participants be shared. He stated the user fees have not been increased for the last five years, and there should be serious consideration given by the Board of Supervisors to increasing these fees so that some of the financial burden is not placed fully on the taxpayers. He stated the Citizens Budget Committee has agreed that a priority should be placed on having a business plan in place that identifies the specific proposed projects where the funds would be spent.

Mr. Joe Menard, 917 Putnam Drive, stated he is a member of the Citizens Budget Committee. He stated the Board of Supervisors has been provided a six-page document on wants, needs, spending, etc. Mr. Menard noted Exhibit 1 which shows expenditures and fluctuations over the last few years. He stated they have only gone up \$55,000 over the last four years which is a 8% increase total or 2% of a year. He stated they then went through the Budget to see what in the Park & Rec Budget applies to the active field

activities, and Exhibit 2 is an analysis including his assumptions recognizing that he did not have a lot of time to consider this, and he did have to make some assumptions. He stated there is \$102,000 in participant fees that go against the \$560,000 which means \$460,000 is being supported by taxpayer dollars. He stated this does not include debt service on the land that is coming from the previous bond issues. Mr. Menard stated in addition there has been expenditures for equipment, and some of this equipment has been purchased through Operations. Mr. Menard stated Mr. Maloney had discussed Capital and Operation; and in this case, they are spending Capital dollars from both sides of the Budget. Mr. Menard stated there are also Pension costs in terms of salaries; but this was not in the number because it was not readily available. Mr. Menard stated there are also General Fund in-kind services of approximately \$80,000. Mr. Menard stated there is therefore a \$458,000 contribution by the taxpayers minus other things not included in the number and this comes to an approximately \$1 mil increase. Mr. Menard stated they are now asking to add another \$500,000 which will take it up to \$958,000 with 2 mills now going to Park & Recreation. He stated this is a program increase in one year of 109%.

Mr. Menard noted Exhibit #5 with regard to the fiscal responsibility aspect. He stated the following Municipal operations are fully funded by fees or are being requested to be funded by endowments: Pool facilities, Veterans, Garden of Reflection, Makefield Highlands, and sewer services. He stated at the last meeting, Mr. Simon also added leaf collection to this list when he indicated that in order for the leaf collection to go forward, they had to be responsible and make sure that the dollars that are charged equal the costs.

Mr. Menard stated the Pool contributes \$100,000 from its fees to support General Admin Operations, the Sewer contribution is \$200,000, and Park & Rec contributes almost \$100,000.

Mr. Menard stated they do not see in the Plans that were put forth by the athletic clubs and Park & Rec Board the long-range plans for fees and the long-range plans for operating costs. He stated every time they expand fields, there is expansion of operating costs. He stated the Citizens Budget Committee has not seen the two, five, or ten-year plans on the number of participants. He stated they also did not see the commitment from the participating families to commit dollars to support their children's activities.

Mr. Simon stated at the Pool facility you need a Membership to get in which makes this revenue supported. He asked if they are going to have to put a gate up at Macclesfield. He stated he does not feel you can equate a Pool or Golf Course and the fees associated with them with a public park. Mr. Menard stated he is talking about fiscal responsibility, and is not saying that the fees from the participants have to cover all of the costs. He stated he was present at every Budget Hearing and did not hear any discussion about spending \$6 million over twenty years during any of the Hearings and feels participant fees need to be considered. He stated there is no detailed business plan as to the growth in memberships or how the participants are going to help participate. He stated he is not



against athletics, but they have not put anything fiscally on paper where people can see what it will be. He stated they do not have a projection of operating costs going out ten years and do not have a fiscally-responsible long-term plan. Mr. Menard stated the Citizens Budget Committee is against the \$1 mill, but are in favor of proceeding with a business plan.

Mr. Robert LaBar, Heritage Oak Drive, stated he is a Board member of PAA. He stated he feels Park & Recreation is for all of Lower Makefield Township and it is not youth against the Seniors. He stated Plans for the projects are available and there is a need for fields. He stated the amenities they have in the community should make the Board of Supervisors very proud. He stated Park & Recreation are what make the community, and they increase the property values. He stated there are people using the fields at Macclesfield and walking on the paths, and they pay for this out of their tax dollars. He agreed that these are tough financial times, but feels there will always be tough times. He stated when they purchased the land, it was important to the Township and it still is. He stated he feels Memorial Park should be made for the community and they should install the skate park. He stated \$40 is not much and it will provide activities for youths to keep them away from criminal activities.

Mr. Jack Morrison, 18 Del Rio Drive, thanked Mr. Maloney and Mr. Simon for their support adding they desperately need the fields, and added he is disappointed in Mr. Smith and Mr. Stainthorpe's lack of support. Mr. Morrison thanked Mr. Fritchey for his commitment to the Township and stated no one in the Township has given more time to the Township.

Ms. Maureen Pelehaty, Arborlea Avenue, stated while some have indicated there will always be tough times, she feels this is the worst of times and people are losing their homes and two-income families may be down to one income or none. She stated those in favor may not feel \$40 is a lot based on a \$40,000 assessment. She stated it may not just be \$40. She stated next year they will be paying the loan and the interest, and they will also need money for maintenance as what they are considering now is only to build the facilities. She stated the cost does not end here. She stated this is the wrong time to proceed. She stated people pay Park & Rec taxes whether they use the facilities or not. She stated now is not the time to take on a \$6 million debt that will escalate with interest just because interest rates are low. She stated it appears that Mr. Caiola will be making the final decision as it is obvious where the other four Board members stand. She stated this is not a popularity contest, and it is to respect what is right. She suggested that when the new Supervisor, who will be living through the 2010 Budget, comes in January, he should have input. She stated she would not be in favor of a Senior Citizen facility at this time either since timing is everything, and it is not the right time for any of these projects. She stated the Board must consider all the residents in the Township adding there are people in the Township who cannot afford this, and they live here too.

Mr. George Carroll, 2103 Stackhouse Drive, asked if he could yield his three minutes to Mr. Dudek. Mr. Maloney stated he would recognize this. Mr. Simon objected to this since he does not feel this was the intent of the rule. Mr. Dudek stated he objects to Mr. Simon voting on this issue since he is trying to leave a legacy, and he feels he should recuse himself from voting on this.

Mr. Bill Hinson, Oakhill Lane, stated less than one month ago the Board of Supervisors recommended and approved a reduction of \$1 mill in one part of the Budget and then turned around at the same time and approved a \$1 mill increase for a new agenda. He stated this caused an upheaval and there was a special meeting held on November 30 and the \$1 mill that had been recommended for decrease was reinstated with the understanding that it was going to increase over the next several years and would continue to increase. He stated before the Board now they are suggesting that there be a \$1 mill increase for something new to the agenda, and he feels the process should be set so that they allow further discussion and they know where the money will be spent, what it will be spent on, and how much it will cost in the future. Mr. Hinson stated a lot of people have said that these Plans have been discussed for ten to fifteen years. He stated he was involved in PAA for a number of years. He stated thirty years ago they were talking about PAA and what was needed to improve it and the costs involved, the same as PAA and YMS are doing today. He stated fifteen years from now PAA and YMS will still be discussing what has to be done to make improvements. He asked that the Board have another meeting about this \$6 million.

Mr. Larry Harnmaker, 1220 Landmark Road, stated he is fiscally conservative by nature and against taxes that lead to wasteful spending. He stated he does not feel the taxes being considered this evening are wasteful spending, but a decision made by the community and money that would be raised to go back into the community into the investment of the children. He stated there are also 3,000 travel players who are also using the fields. He stated there are also other groups using the fields including St. John's Lutheran Church, St. John's Catholic Church, and all other groups that also want to use the fields including adult teams. He stated he is aware that residents are going to Morrisville to sign up their children for baseball, and Mr. Harnmaker stated he feels this is a systemic problem. He stated in Morrisville last year, they sent out information advising that if you live north of I-95, you can no longer come to Morrisville as they were seeing their bounds expand incredibly because they have indoor batting facilities and because they invest in their baseball fields, and have the type of fields that they need to have. Mr. Harnmaker stated he feels the athletic programs show how you feel about your community. He stated the constituents of Lower Makefield are asking for this tax increase so that they can invest back into their children.



Mr. Caiola stated he would like to know what ideas the user groups have, recognizing that this is a significant amount of money and that this is a substantial undertaking by the entire community, how the user group could help in supplementing the funding. He stated he would like to have the user groups work with them even more so than they are now. He stated he recognizes that they do pay user fees, but he wants to see that this has the least impact on the average taxpayer so they can defray some of the costs for taxpayers who may not be using these services. He feels all those involved should comment and see what they can do to help.

Mr. Smith stated when he fought against user fees a number of years ago it was because there was no connection made from the user fees to what the Leagues were getting for the fees other than helping the Township balance their Budget. He asked Mr. Harnmaker if he feels there will be a slide in enrollment if they raise the user fees, and Mr. Harnmaker stated he would not have any basis for answering this. Mr. Smith stated he does feel that there will be a drop in enrollment if the user fees are raised. Mr. Smith asked if Mr. Harnmaker feels PAA would be willing to double the fees if there was a connection between the fees and capital expenditures. Mr. Harnmaker stated as a parent and coach, he would be willing to agree to a raise in the fees. Mr. Smith asked if he would agree to a substantial raise in the fees for the non-residents who do not live in the Township and do not pay taxes, and Mr. Harnmaker stated he would absolutely be in favor of this. Mr. Smith asked Mr. Harnmaker if he would be willing to submit this matter of raising taxes for the building of athletic fields to a Referendum. Mr. Harnmaker stated he would ask if the Board of Supervisors would indicate that there were in support of this, and Mr. Smith stated if the people of the Township indicated by Referendum that they were in favor of this expenditure, he feels this would be different from one segment of the population against another. Mr. Harnmaker stated he feels tonight's open meeting is a Referendum.

Mr. Tom Augustin, Edgewood Road, stated he is President of Lower Makefield Football. He stated when he discussed this issue with his Board members, they reminded him of the meeting that took place in February, 2007 when the past President was before the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Augustin stated he read those Minutes and the concerns expressed at that time are still his concerns today which is field space. He stated there are two football fields for 560 players. He stated one of the teams is made up of players from the three Middle Schools so that they have a place to play football if they do not make the School teams. He stated while their numbers may not be as high percentage wise for Township versus non-Township, a lot of the reason non-Township residents come to Lower Makefield to play is because all practices and games are at one facility and there is no traveling involved and everything is at Macclesfield Park. He asked that Board members come to Macclesfield Park any Monday through Saturday from August through November. He stated there are no places to park between football, soccer, and fall baseball. He stated he is shocked that there has not been a serious accident in that parking lot. Mr. Smith stated he agrees that this is a public safety problem which needs

to be considered. Mr. Augustin stated they need more fields. He stated two football fields are insufficient and they are thankful that PAA allows them to use the outfield of Field H for practice. He stated if they do build football fields, they would need to have them lit or they will be of no use.

Mr. Caiola stated the football program is great because everyone has an opportunity to start. He asked if they would do fundraising and other things to help the Township and be more of a partner. He stated those coming in from out of town should understand the Township's situation. Mr. Augustin stated if it means that an increase in fees would improve the facilities they now have, he would be in favor of this. Mr. Smith stated YMS contributed \$125,000 toward the lights that are on Field G at Macclesfield Park. He stated the users also pay a lighting fee to use the lighted fields. Mr. Smith stated YMS also built the turf field. Mr. Augustin stated the football program is not looking for a turf field, and they also pay their own liability.

Mr. Terry Weiss, 1209 Shetland Court, stated he is an age-group Director for PAA. He stated he is concerned about the safety of the children at Stoddart as he has witnessed children get hit in the face during batting practice because the fields are sub-par and they do not have a cordoned-off area to have a warm up area for batting. He stated he is also in charge of overturning the fields because the drainage at the fields is so poor. He stated he and twelve other volunteers go out every weekend. He stated they just finished a season where only 50% of the games were played because three days post rain the fields are sub-par and there is knee-high water on the fields. He stated other Townships are coming to Lower Makefield to play on these fields, and they do not understand why games have to be cancelled because the fields are sub-par. He stated they do not want their players to go to Morrisville, and this is what is happening which is dividing the community. He stated when the children grow and go onto the bigger fields, there is a lack of fields. He stated they are unable to make up games which are cancelled due to weather. He stated they do go to the School fields, but they are unsafe and not maintained. He stated this past year they went to Memorial Park because there were no other fields to play on, and the weeds were knee high on the baseball field, there were ticks, and it was embarrassing to bring players and their parents to that field.

Mr. Simon asked about the use of the School District fields and stated he understands there is a point in time in the spring when the School District stops servicing the fields, and Mr. Weiss agreed and at that point it is on PAA. He stated his home backs up to Afton Elementary where there is a baseball field, and they call him so he can take out his tractor and try to get it playable. He stated the benches are all broken down, the grass is knee-high, and you cannot play on the field. Mr. Simon asked if there have been any injury/safety problems with the children as a result, and Mr. Weiss stated they do have these as the School District is not taking care of it at that point in time. He stated PAA is an all-volunteer organization, and there is only so much they can do. Mr. Simon stated the children cannot play baseball during the school day, and asked about their schedule.



Mr. Weiss stated there are three fields at Stoddart and the age group he is involved with involves eleven teams that need to use those fields for practices as well as two to three games per week. He stated there are no lights so there can be only one game per field. He stated Field #3 is so sub-par that even one week post bad weather, it is unusable. Mr. Weiss stated there are eleven teams in his age group on the in-house level and there are others who use the fields at a travel level. There are also eight, nine, and ten year olds using the fields, plus the travel teams, and CYO teams. Mr. Weiss stated they had close to 160 children at his age group and there are approximately that same number for eight year olds and ten year olds. Mr. Simon stated these are 60' fields, and the other three fields the Township owns are not 60' fields, and Mr. Weiss agreed. Mr. Simon stated every 60' game amongst all the age groups has to be played at Stoddart, and Mr. Weiss agreed.

Mr. Dave Shuster, Bluestone Drive, stated he feels there has been a lot of disrespect shown this evening particularly to some of the Seniors, and he hopes that all the sports programs promote sportsmanship and respect as part of their program. Mr. Shuster stated everyone in the Township has some type of issue whether it is sports, deer, sewers, golf, or dollar issues; and he wants to make sure that the Board spends his tax dollars wisely. He stated they heard a lot about wants and needs, and they understand that they need to control the deer, but the Board of Supervisors wanted to spend \$60,000 to do it. He questions if the Board is making the right decision for the tax dollars when they know that his group could have done the deer management program for free. He stated the Township also expanded the program to seven properties, and he feels the costs for this will now also increase. He stated \$60,000 could have been spent more wisely elsewhere such as laptops, soccer, or hiring Police Officers. He stated the Township has a strong history of work being done by volunteers. He stated the Board of Supervisors missed an opportunity with the archery program and could have let the volunteers do it and saved the Township \$60,000. He stated the amount cut from the Budget for community events was \$60,000 for Community Pride Day and the Veterans Day Parade, and because of their desire for a sharp shoot, they cannot have these events. He asked that the Board of Supervisors make a Motion this evening to abandon the sharp shoot and return the \$60,000 to the taxpayers for community events and to honor the Veterans.

Mr. Maloney stated while he did vote against the sharp shoot, they are now in a legal agreement with the Contractor.

Mr. Jack Muldowney, Twig Lane, stated his children participate in YMS and PAA; and he feels their value goes beyond sports. He stated he heard it stated that there were only two meetings on this issue, but he feels this is incorrect as they have been discussing this for ten years. He stated the National recommendation was 330 acres for recreational purposes for a community the size of Lower Makefield, and he feels it is embarrassing that Lower Makefield is only at 136 acres which is less than half of the National recommendation. He stated there has been discussion about the effect this has on the

fields, safety, and other parts of the community. He stated if you go to Macclesfield Park on a spring or fall Saturday, you will know that there is a need for more fields. He stated if you try to schedule a practice during the week for PAA, and you cannot get a field from a School, you know that there is a need for more fields. He stated if you have tried to rake the hard ground at Stoddart to get it ready for play for a Tournament where they are hosting teams from other areas, you know that there is a need for more fields. He stated if a game is rained out because there was rain two days before, you now that there is a need for more fields. He stated the Board has the opportunity to do something right. He stated arguments have been made that \$40 will force people out of their homes, and he feels this is ridiculous. He stated ten years is too long, and they need the fields now.

Mr. Greg Lizaro, 526 Liberty Drive, stated he would not have a problem paying \$40 more a year; and for people in general in this community, he does not feel it is a lot of money. He stated he would prefer not to bag his leaves, but would do so if necessary. He stated he is also in favor of Community Pride Day. He asked the Board if they go ahead with the \$6 million, he would ask that they take out \$150,000 from this and put it toward hiring Police Officers.

Ms. Virginia Torbert, 1700 Yardley-Newtown Road, stated she feels this situation calls for a compromise. She stated she agrees with Mr. Smith and Mr. Stainthorpe about the process, and she was very dismayed about the way this proposal came out. She stated she has in the past spoken about the need for fields, and she does feel there is a desperate need for more fields in the Township; however, given the current economic situation, she feels there should be a compromise. She stated she does not see that it has to be all or nothing. She stated there is a need to know the priorities and there needs to be a plan to phase in the fields. She stated she feels next year could be year one of a three or five year program where next year they borrow \$1 million and ask the groups to come up with a plan as to what fields are needed the most now and in what programs are children being turned away. She stated there could be money put in the Budget to fix Stoddart so that it can be used. She stated this is a difficult decision and everyone should respect the Board for the difficult decision they have to make.

Mr. Smith asked if there is a Motion before the Board, and it was noted there was not. Mr. Smith asked that they entertain a Motion at this time in the spirit of what Ms. Torbert has just indicated. Mr. Truelove stated technically there should be a Motion up for discussion and there could be a Motion and then further discussion. Mr. Maloney stated he feels the only risk of a Motion at this time is that it would narrow the focus of the commentary.

Mr. Greg Morrow, Princess Drive, stated he has numbers for PAA as he has been doing the schedules for the last six to seven years. He stated in 2007 they made a presentation and provided numbers at that time. He stated subsequent to that meeting, they took some of their players off some of the School fields and moved them to Stoddart; and in doing this, they moved to the 70' division which resulted in better baseball for those in the



eleven and twelve-year old age group. He stated as a result they had more children playing on better fields but they then moved some of the 70' division to Quarry Hill which is difficult to use. He stated they have also added travel teams. He stated since the 2007 meeting, the need is even greater as there are now two travel teams at every age group. He stated there was always a pressing need for a 90' field. He stated the last time that baseball fields were built was in 1989. He stated they feel there are adequate fields for the softball program at this time although they could be upgraded so that they drain better. Mr. Morrow stated they do not use the Township fields for anything other than games and all practices are on School District fields, and they can usually get in only one practice a week. He stated neighboring Towns have their teams participating in indoor batting facilities all winter long, and he is aware of someone in another Township whose child has three practices a week before the season starts. He stated he feels those in Lower Makefield deserve better than what they have now, and they should get to the National standards. Mr. Morrow stated the School fields have degraded. He stated they also lose a lot of games to weather, and there is no margin in the schedule. He asked if they do not do this now, he questions when they will do it.

Mr. Caiola asked if they feel those playing in Morrisville now will come back to the Township if they improve the Township facilities, and he asked if this will make the numbers grow even more. Mr. Morrow stated their numbers will grow. He stated they know that the Morrisville programs are being sustained by people who live in Lower Makefield since there are not a lot of children who live in Morrisville. Mr. Caiola stated he knows that the Yardley Morrisville American Legion Teams did not play in Lower Makefield and had to play at the Philadelphia Bible College, and this team is predominantly Lower Makefield residents.

Mr. Tom Romano, Warwick Road, stated he is involved with Lower Bucks Lacrosse, and stated Macclesfield Park and the facilities in Lower Makefield are terrific recognizing that there are some drainage and parking issues. He stated he has had people who have come to Macclesfield Park from out of town and stated they wished they had something like that in their community. He stated Lower Bucks Lacrosse has 500 players adding lacrosse is the fastest growing sport in the Country. He stated currently they do not use any Lower Makefield facilities even though 70% of their players are from Lower Makefield. He stated because of lack of field space, they are forced to play at Middletown Community Park. He stated this results in a loss of revenue to Lower Makefield. He stated Middletown cannot support the size of their organization so their girls are practicing and playing their games on the weekends at the Middle School complex where there are no restroom facilities on the weekends. He stated residents involved in their program are paying taxes, but are not getting the benefit of this since they cannot play in the Township.

Mr. Smith stated he feels one of the main reasons that Lacrosse left the Township was due to costs and they did not want to pay the user fees. Mr. Smith stated Mr. Caiola had asked about a buy-in from the Leagues, but Lower Bucks Lacrosse was not willing to pay the user fees and this is why they left the Township. Mr. Romano stated part of the reason why the League did this was to try to cut costs since they received “push-back” from the parents because of the registration fees. He stated one of the ways to keep the registration fees down was to move the program to another location, and that other location afforded them four fields and they were only getting two fields at Macclesfield and were getting “kicked off” from the soccer organization as they were encroaching on them and ruining their fields.

Mr. Simon stated he understands their program has grown over the years, and asked if field space were available, would his program come back to Lower Makefield and pay the usage fee. Mr. Romano stated although this is a Board decision, he assumes the answer would be yes although they would have to go to the parents and players advising them if they want to come back to Lower Makefield, they would have to pay increased registration fees to offset the additional costs. Mr. Simon stated user fees are currently \$12 for Lower Makefield Township residents and \$24 for non-residents. He stated Lacrosse left the Township because of the usage fees, and since Mr. Romano is speaking out in favor of additional fees, he would like to know is the Lacrosse League is in line with the fact that there are user fees. Mr. Romano stated he does not feel that the user fee was necessarily the issue rather it was because there was a substantial fee for light usage. He stated if there were more fields, they would not have to stack up one after the other and have to practice in the dark and use the lights.

Mr. Romano stated their organization became a 501C3 this year to try to bring sponsors into the program and he knows that some of the Parks allow this while others do not. He stated if there were sponsors who sponsored teams and were allowed to put up signs promoting their business around the fields, they could collect additional money. Mr. Smith stated YMS has done this, and they have committed their funds to the turf field and sponsors have helped alleviate some of the costs of the program. Mr. Romano stated he is suggesting that they do this across the board for all the different sports program. Mr. Smith stated YMS and PAA already do this.

Ms. Nina Murphy, Jenny Drive, stated every three to four years there is some kind of economic disaster, and they are in one now. She stated it will never be a good time. She stated they are here to make a difference and now is their opportunity. She stated she received a full scholarship through her participation in sports. She stated Bristol and Northampton hold State Tournaments for softball and baseball, and she is not sure when Lower Makefield held their last State Tournament. She stated if the Township builds these fields, they will get these State Tournaments. She stated she feels the fields should be built now.



Dr. Drew Rupersberger, Victory Drive, stated he has been involved with YMS since 1979. He stated they have had to turn people away because they do not have the facilities for the in-house program. He stated this has happened over the past year and a half. Mr. Stainthorpe asked how many children are on the waiting list and how many fields does he feel it would take to accommodate them. Dr. Rupersberger stated 16 pee-wees were on the waiting list and a varsity co-ed team had to put people on the wait list. He stated this does vary season to season. He stated he feels they need six more fields for small-sided games and would need at least another 11 v 11 and 8 v 8 field to accommodate what the teams would need to have for the weekends.

Mr. Smith asked what happens when they raise user fees, and Dr. Rupersberger stated they have not had to raise fees for the past five to six years. Mr. Smith asked what he feels would happen if they raised the user fees, and Dr. Rupersberger stated he has other ideas than raising user fees. Mr. Smith stated he feels they should do a business plan. Mr. Simon stated he feels they are making suppositions that because they raise the user fees, which has not been discussed, there will be a huge drop off in participation. Mr. Smith stated he feels there will be a drop off. Dr. Rupersberger stated he does not know this for a fact that if they raise the user fees people will drop out since there are people on the wait list who want to play and will pay the money. Dr. Rupersberger stated the program has grown, and their travel program has grown by over 20%. Mr. Smith asked how many were on the wait list last season, and Dr. Rupersberger stated last season there were over thirty on the waiting list.

Dr. Rupersberger stated YMS pays \$60,000 in user fees and for Tournaments they host they pay \$150 per field per day. He stated he also feels the Tournaments could grow if there was more field space which would bring in more money. He stated the Tournaments are exponentially important to YMS and added they are one of the few user groups in the Township who have debt because they have the turf field to pay off, and Tournaments go to fund this. He stated they do have to go to other Townships for fields. He stated they pay \$6,000 per season for lights and also have to rent portable lights because there are not enough lighted fields. He stated the quality of some of the fields is an issue; and while the Township fields are well maintained, the School fields are not. He stated Edgewood does not get cut if it rains; and this past season, the pee-wees were playing in grass above their knees. He stated having fields that are Township-owned would make a huge difference, and the program would be able to grow even more.

Dr. Rupersberger stated it is incorrect that Snipes will just be for soccer as football and skateboarding will be there as well. He stated he wants to be able to have a place in Lower Makefield for his children to be part of these programs, and asked that the Board move forward with the fields.

Mr. Simon asked Mr. Smith about the fall registration for intramural for YMS, and Mr. Smith stated the number provided to him was 1578 residents which was an increase of 28 players from 2007. There were 314 non-residents. Mr. Simon asked when Macclesfield Park was completed, and Mr. Fritchey stated the front sixty acres were dedicated in 1989, and the back thirty acres were dedicated in 1997. Mr. Simon stated in 1989 there were 800 players in the fall intramural program for YMS, and he feels this was probably built based on projections for the population at that time. Mr. Simon asked Dr. Rupersberger about fall intramural in-house numbers, and Dr. Rupersberger stated it was 1,052.

Mr. Smith stated he feels the entire Board does want to build more facilities, but the question is the timing.

Ms. Sue Herman stated she is in favor of hiring the replacement Police Officers now. She stated she is a resident who has worked for traffic safety in the Township for more than ten years, and she has talked to many of her neighbors about the Park & Rec issues. She stated the majority indicated it is great for the kids to participate, but it is “crazy” at Macclesfield. Ms. Herman stated they should build the fields now so that it can be safe and to provide opportunities for the children to be productively occupied. She stated it is unacceptable that 50% of the nine-year-old baseball games were cancelled because of the sub-par fields. She thanked the Board of Supervisors for voting for the sharp shoot since when they did, they took into consideration the large number of residents who felt a sharp shoot was more humane than an archery hunt. She stated to this day they object to the size of the archery hunt that the Township is conducting and urge the Board to continue to pursue ways to reduce it in the future by working with the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Ms. Sally Lloyd, Liberty Drive, stated she feels they need to hire the additional Police Officers now. She stated she feels they should give consideration to Senior Citizens. She stated her husband is 75 and she is 69 and neither of them can afford to retire at this time and their finances are a serious consideration; and they hope the Board will make a great effort to keep in mind taxation and the impact it has on Senior Citizens.

Mr. Mitch Friedman, Brookfield Road, stated he has been involved with PAA and has volunteered over 500 hours a year on baseball over the last few years. He stated he has traveled to play teams from all over the County and seen how most other teams make our fields look inferior, and it is embarrassing. He stated he has talked to LMT parents who take their children to play in other towns because their facilities are better. He stated he has seen Morrisville successfully advertise their indoor facility to Lower Makefield children every year. He stated he has had to tell Coaches not to hit ground balls during practice for fear of hitting a player in the face because of poor field conditions. He stated the School fields are not the answer since they are unsafe. He stated PAA has outgrown the fields, and they are the biggest baseball program in the District and their fields are



among the worst around. He stated they are embarrassed to host District Tournaments. He stated the Township is not supporting the baseball needs of the community. He stated last year they did raise fees by 15%, and they did not have any drop off. He stated with historically low borrowing rates, it is time to invest in the Township and in the children.

Mr. Roger Deininger, 430 Hidden Oaks Drive, stated he has been an active participant in YMS for the past twenty years, and for the last four years was the President of the Club. He thanked Dave Fritchey for all his efforts with Park & Rec. He also thanked Ms. Liney for all her work. Mr. Deininger stated he was shocked to hear that Lower Makefield is 50% below the National average of where they should be for recreational facilities. He stated he feels this shows that there is a real need for additional fields. He stated one gentleman indicated that there is plenty of field space during the day; but he noted the children are in School during the day. He stated currently they are training six teams on one field so that there are twelve teams training on the two lighted fields in the fall for ninety minute sessions. He stated this does not result in quality training as there are seventy-five to eighty players on one field at a time. Mr. Deininger stated they are already using the Pennsbury fields and they need them. He stated some children are paying a user fee to Lower Makefield and never play on a Lower Makefield Township property. Mr. Deininger stated he has seen the Plans for the proposed fields as far back as 2005. He stated they are still having to justify why they need new fields. He stated they needed the fields six to seven years ago. He stated they approved what was shown for Snipes, and they would welcome football and the skate park at that location. He stated when they made their presentation in 2007 both Mr. Smith and Mr. Stainthorpe indicated they felt this was needed. He stated YMS made a huge investment in the turf field and paid 100% of the costs for the installation, and they appreciate having been given the exclusive Permit for this field. He stated he feels that the Plans were a good idea four years ago; and while the time will never be perfect, they would still like the support of the Board to move forward.

Ms. Maria Wagner, Stackhouse Drive, stated she moved to the Township in August and after living here for two and a half months, she was robbed by someone inside her home with a crowbar. She stated she was very fortunate that when she dialed 911, the Police came to her assistance. She stated she wants to make sure that Police assistance is always available.

Mr. Tom Mahoney, 618 Burgandy Place, stated while they are in a recession, he feels they would be able to competitively bid the job and build the fields at a low cost and costs will go up when we come out of the recession. He stated interest rates are also now at a historic low, and he does not feel the rates will stay low after there are the huge deficits at the Federal level. Mr. Mahoney stated he feels if they are going to build the fields, the fiscally-prudent time to do so would be now. He stated one third of the community residents cannot vote, and those are the ones that will be using these fields. He stated if they do not build the fields now, generations of children will not have

adequate facilities to use. He stated his children are older and will not take advantage of these fields; but as a resident of the community, he wants what is best for the entire community; and would urge the Board to go forward with the facilities.

Mr. Howie Anderson, 278 Cinnabar Lane, stated he works in Camden, New Jersey which is number one in the Country for crime, and he supports hiring the Police Officers immediately. He stated he is the Girls Travel Director for YMS and supports Mr. Fritchey and thanked Ms. Liney for all she does.

Ms. Dawn Fluke, 1199 Waterwheel Drive, thanked PAA since their constant e-mails have brought her to the Township Building this evening. She thanked Mr. Smith and Mr. Stainthorpe for their objectivity. She stated a figure was noted that the Township was below 50% of the National average, and she asked if this is an average or a recommendation; and Mr. Fritchey stated it is a standard recommendation. Ms. Fluke stated she would be interested to know what is the National average and where the Township stands in relation to that. Ms. Fluke stated she is a parent of young children who are involved in the programs and is also a taxpayer. She stated the 500 signatures PAA generated is impressive, but she was not one of those signatures since she was not going to arbitrarily put her name onto a petition; and she wanted to hear the debate and form her own opinion. She stated she did feel that the e-mail campaign was aggressive so she is not surprised that they got 500 signatures, but she asked about the 1500 to 2000 other participants who did not sign. She stated the 500 signatures only represents 25%, and she would like to know where the other 75% stand. She stated there are also residents who are not involved in the athletic organizations including the Seniors. She stated she casually polled three people who were initially against what was proposed in the Budget, and she feels there should be a Referendum. She stated one individual this evening indicated he was willing to pay \$40 additional and others have indicated that \$40 is not much; and she would ask if those people who signed the Petition would be willing to not only pay their \$40 but also the \$40 for each person who is opposed to this or cannot afford it. She stated they should also be willing to do this for the next twenty years. She stated they have also indicated that it will be \$40, but she believes that this is an average; and she asked if her cost will be higher since she has a new home, and Mr. Maloney stated this is correct and it would be higher.

Ms. Fluke stated she knows that YMS hosts Tournaments at Macclesfield which puts a lot of drain on the fields, and she questions if they will see more Tournaments if they build even more fields. She stated if there are more Tournaments it will also put more stress on the roads, there will be a need for more Police Officers, and again more taxes. She asked that the Board be prudent in raising taxes and consider a compromise as was suggested earlier and deal with the tracts that have approved Plans and leave out the Samost at this time so that they can bring the proposed increase down.



Mr. Bo Birkhead, 8 O'Dell Boulevard, stated he is Commission of PAA and he is excited that this will be brought to fruition. He stated with the 90' field they will be able to accommodate the High School from time to time and possibly they could then accommodate the Township athletic organizations with better field prep. Mr. Birkhead thanked all the user groups for coming out tonight and thanked Mr. Fritchey for all the work he has done.

Mr. Mark Sanford, 879 Big Oak Road, stated he has been involved in YMS for ten years; and while he feels they should build new fields, the only issue he has is who should pay for it. He stated he has a problem with constantly burdening the taxpayers when these programs are special interests. He stated there is no reason that YMS cannot help fund a major portion of their own needs. Mr. Caiola stated they are going to be asking them to help; but there are services in the Township that people do not use, but they still pay for them in their taxes. Mr. Sanford stated the special interests do use the fields and people cannot just go down to Macclesfield on a Saturday or Sunday and just take over a field since they are assigned to the athletic organizations. Mr. Simon stated they do apply for a Permit for the use, and anyone could apply for a Permit for use of the fields since they are public fields. He stated the only field that has a permanent Permit is the turf field. Mr. Sanford stated he still feels the special interests can pay for these things and should pay a large portion of it. He stated he questions where they will draw the line since over the years there have been requests for other facilities including an ice hockey rink which was voted down. Mr. Sanford stated his family has been in the Township for over 65 years, and he would like to be able to continue to live here and have his children live here, but he does not feel they can afford it.

Mr. Simon asked who paid for the fields that are already built, and Mr. Sanford stated the residents did. Mr. Stainthorpe stated actually these were paid for by developers. Mr. Sanford stated his concern is the taxes keep going up and his cost will not be \$40 and will probably be \$60 or \$70. He stated he built his own home so that he could save money, and what will push him out of the Township is taxes.

Mr. Smith reminded everyone that the Township part of the tax bill is only 8% to 9% , with the County approximately the same, and the School taxes are approximately 82%. Mr. Sanford stated he recognizes this but everything additional adds to the tax burden.

Mr. Marshall Arnot, 2206 Yardley Road, stated he feels they should hire the additional Police Officers now. He stated he sees a long track record of spending money and purchasing tracts of land that are not maintained and fields that are not maintained now. He stated he is very impressed at the responsible governance from Mr. Smith and Mr. Stainthorpe and excited about the questions they are asking and keeping an open mind in listening for answers to those questions. He stated he feels the question "Is there a need?" is the right question. He stated he understands that Mr. Simon is enthusiastic and looking to leave a legacy; but a Sketch is not a Plan for a \$6 million debt investment.

Mr. Arnot advised Mr. Maloney that a capital expense is still a cost, and Mr. Maloney agreed. Mr. Arnot stated they will be paying for this for over twenty years, and it is an obligation of the community. Mr. Arnot stated he is very encouraged with the moderate position being taken by Mr. Caiola in looking for a happy medium on what needs to be done. He stated some elements are important; and if they look at the data on how many children are on a waiting list and how many fields are not available to be used and what needs to be done, they can determine what the cost will be. He stated there should also be dialogue on what user fees could be raised to help augment this.

Mr. George Baxter, 103 Walnut Road, stated he has been a resident for forty-one years, and admires everyone for their efforts working for the Township. He stated he is in favor of recreation. He asked the number of taxpayers in Lower Makefield, and Mr. Maloney stated there are 10,000 to 11,000. Mr. Baxter stated only a small percentage of those are present this evening, and he would suggest that for something as large as a \$6 million bond issue and the interest attached, this is something that should be a Referendum on the ballot so that every taxpayer in the Township can vote on this issue.

Mr. Maloney stated at various points in time different members of the Board have weighed in on Referenda; and while it is something the State allows them to do for debt issuance, it would be difficult to find anything that costs people money where a majority would be supportive. He stated he feels it is a delegation of responsibility on the part of the Board when they put tough decisions back on the taxpayers. He stated he does not feel that anyone in support of the leaf program would have wanted that put to a vote because of the risk they would run and the same would be true in this case. He stated the Board was elected to make decisions and to take the best interests of the residents to heart; and if they do not feel that is what the Board is doing, there is a Referendum every two years.

Mr. Norm Shore, 705 Briarwood Court, thanked Chief Coluzzi for his service and his positive interactions with the Police Force adding he feels they should already have the Police needed in place. He thanked Mr. Fritchey for his service to the Township. Mr. Shore stated with regard to field maintenance he has forty years experience in a commercial recreation family business and he understands field maintenance. He stated when there are 2000 people using the field in a period of six hours and then getting them ready for another group the next day, it is very different than having a backyard soccer game. Mr. Shore stated there was a comment made that the Township should hire a consultant, and he stated he has a Masters Degree in Sport and Recreation Administration and he would be willing to volunteer his time and provide feedback. Mr. Shore stated the coaches and volunteers do an outstanding job in developing and training the children. He stated his son was only able to play four out of twelve scheduled games during fall baseball. Mr. Shore stated he was one of the volunteers who was trying to get the fields in condition to play. He stated with regard to the ten year delay and when these fields are needed, he stated conditions will never be just right; and if they wait for conditions to be just right, they will accomplish nothing.



Mr. Alan Poulter, 5119 Winchester Drive, stated there were a lot of good ideas - some wanting to go ahead and some not wanting to go ahead which leaves him to believe that there is area for compromise. He feels they should not go forward now with a yes or no vote; and he would suggest that the Board take into consideration the ideas presented whether it be phasing in some of the fields not all at the same time, whether they discuss user fees, or other things to try to come up with a business plan that more people can look at and feel comfortable with. He stated he agrees they should proceed with hiring the Police Officers at this time.

Mr. Fred Allan stated he worked with Park & Recreation for years trying to get in girls softball. He stated there is currently a Responsible Contractor Ordinance in effect in the Township, and he feels they need to make a commitment that they will get rid of this so that they can get the most for the money they will spend; and he feels it would be better to put the money into the facilities than to give it to someone because of this Ordinance. Mr. Allan stated he has been involved in organized athletics for eighteen years, and they have great facilities with great people running them; and if they are going to go forward with this, they will be able to use more of their money on the facilities if they get rid of the Responsible Contractor Ordinance.

Mr. Smith stated Mr. Allan was a former Supervisor; and when he was Vice Chair of the Park & Rec Board, Mr. Allan did a significant amount of work to get the girls softball fields started. He thanked Mr. Allan for doing all that he did for the Township.

Mr. Maloney stated the Public Comment portion is closed on this topic, and a Motion would be in order.

Mr. Smith stated he feels there is a consensus to frame a Motion to make their best effort to make sure that in the beginning of 2010 that they immediately hire the replacement Police Officers.

Mr. Stainthorpe stated the first Motion is to add an additional mil to Park & Rec.

Mr. Caiola stated he initially felt fairly strong that he would be more comfortable moving two of the projects forward and not the third one; but now he has been swayed toward the third project as well. He stated they do not have hard and fast numbers, and he asked Mr. Majewski if he feels there are places in the projects where he feels there might be an opportunity to cut. He also asked Mr. Fritchey if there are areas which could be deferred because they might not be utilized in the near future or areas where they could cut back such as the parking lots. He stated he is not comfortable enough with the \$6 million figure not knowing exactly how it is broken out.

Mr. Fritchey stated he feels the venues are all very important and critically needed. He stated he feels they could defer paving parking lots, and they could possibly grade them and just do gravel and then improve them as time went on. He stated he would like to see the fields developed and feels they need the tennis courts. He stated he feels they need to have the community park because of all the opportunities it provides, and as they build the paths and install the park benches and plant the trees in the arboretum, more and more people will use that park. He stated once they build the pavilion, there will be family and corporate picnics held there.

Mr. Majewski stated not doing the paving could save a significant amount of money if they did this for some of the parking spaces although the roads would have to be paved. He stated other areas which could be phased in would be the roller hockey rink and the skate park which is a large expense, and he knows that in other Townships they have gotten private donations to help fund construction of this. Mr. Maloney asked how much of the cost could be saved if they reduced the paving, and Mr. Majewski stated this could save \$200,000 to \$300,000 and maybe more. He stated they would still have to have a certain number of parking spaces paved.

Mr. Caiola asked Mr. Majewski if he feels that the fact that there are contractors “hungry” for work, that this will help reduce the costs and they could do better than the initial costs which were estimated; and Mr. Majewski stated he would agree given the current market conditions, and there would be a significant savings over the estimated amounts. Mr. Smith stated they would have to pay prevailing wage, and Mr. Caiola agreed. Mr. Majewski stated a lot of contractors are anxious for work right now and are reducing their profit margins. He stated the cost of materials has also not gone up over the last two years. Mr. Maloney asked Mr. Majewski if he feels they could save 5% to 10%, and Mr. Majewski agreed. Mr. Maloney asked the cost of the roller hockey rink, and Mr. Majewski stated that facility was estimated to be \$100,000 and the skate park was estimated to be between \$150,000 and \$200,000. He stated there are also some playground areas proposed in the parks, and they could be scaled back and put in over time and each of those were approximately \$100,000 to \$200,000 depending on how elaborate they are made. Mr. Maloney stated he would not be in favor of eliminating these since he feels this provides something for those not involved in the sports leagues.

Mr. Simon stated he feels for Memorial Park, the skate park would be an attraction. Mr. Maloney stated he agrees that this would have real value when you consider the people they are trying to get active and into productive activities, as those participating in skateboarding are probably less likely to be participating in soccer and baseball.

Mr. Simon asked Mr. Majewski about the estimate on paving and asked if this would be the amount saved for all the projects, and Mr. Majewski stated he feels they could save up to \$500,000 for all of the projects.



Mr. Caiola asked the difference in cost to the average household between borrowing \$5 million and \$6 million, and Mr. Fedorchak stated it would be a savings of seven tenths of a mil. Mr. Caiola stated if they could get it down \$1 million and work with the user groups to make up some of the difference, he feels this would be more palatable.

Mr. Stainthorpe stated they should not be making decisions on something this big at midnight. He stated he also does not feel this should go out to a Referendum. He stated he is not against the fields, and he does not feel they will get the fields if it goes out to a Referendum. He stated he does feel the way they structured this is the wrong way since you can only vote up or down tonight. He stated ideas have been brought up for ways to cut costs, and he is also not convinced that the tennis courts should be part of this. He would like to have further discussions with the user groups about additional user fees that would go against debt service. He stated he would also want to discuss the non-residents in the athletic organizations and what their user fees should be. He stated he would also like to consider meaningful cuts that would still satisfy the needs, but not be irresponsible. He stated he would like to have a solid plan and possibly they could do this for a lot less money. He suggested that this be delayed until January.

Mr. Simon stated while he does see some logic in this argument, it has been “bantered around” for decades. He feels they are trying to find ways to consider a lesser bond so that they can put this in a Motion and get the process started. He stated there will continue to be give and take as it goes through the Planning Commission and the Zoning Hearing Board; and if you read the Meeting Minutes from all the discussions over the years on this issue, someone has said something very similar to what Mr. Stainthorpe just stated, and they are still considering this.

Mr. Maloney stated he agrees and stated this will go down as another annotation in a fifteen year process that was read from the 2007 meeting Minutes, in 2005, and all the years that have been cited; and this will be exactly the same thing. He stated if they create the funding source, they can then proceed. He stated he would like to see them scale this back to the extent which they feel is prudent. He stated the difference between going out with a \$5 million bond issue versus a \$6 million bond issue is different than saying they are not going to fund it at all and come up with another plan.

Mr. Simon moved and Mr. Caiola seconded to consider a tax increase of .75 mill for the purpose of constructing additional recreational venues in accordance with the Park & Recreation 2015 Vision presented to the Board of Supervisors on May 20, 2009. Motion carried with Mr. Caiola, Mr. Maloney, and Mr. Simon in favor and Mr. Smith and Mr. Stainthorpe opposed.

Mr. Smith moved that whatever Budget is adopted by the Board of Supervisors that the first thing they do is take steps to hire replacement Police Officers for 2010.

Mr. Stainthorpe stated the .4 mil increase to the General Fund was premised on hiring them mid-year. Mr. Maloney asked how much more in pay is needed to be able to fund a full year hire. Chief Coluzzi stated it would be \$40,000 per Officer so it would be \$80,000. He stated one Officer will be hired in June and two January 1. Mr. Maloney stated since they are considering two of the hires up to January 1, they would need \$40,000 more in the Budget, and Chief Coluzzi agreed. Mr. Maloney stated they would need to raise it another .1 from .4 to .5.

Mr. Smith stated his Motion is that whatever Budget is adopted the first order would be to hire replacement Officers. Mr. Maloney stated he is not amending the Budget in his Motion, and Mr. Smith agreed that this is not in this Motion. Mr. Maloney stated this would be non-binding because it does not carry any funding.

Mr. Caiola seconded the Motion.

Ms. Barbara Bernow stated she wants to make sure that there are Officers in place so that there is no time lag.

Mr. Stainthorpe asked Chief Coluzzi if he has candidates on hand or is he going to begin interviewing, and Chief Coluzzi stated he has candidates on hand but he will not interview until he is given the “okay” from the Board. He stated they could come on board within the first month or two after January 1. Mr. Stainthorpe asked if they would not have to go to the Academy, and Chief Coluzzi stated this would depend on who they hire. He stated if they hire people who are already trained, they could come on board immediately.

Mr. Maloney stated the Budget being considered now contains the same amount of funding it did earlier this evening, and Mr. Smith is making a Motion to resolve that with the money given to the Chief, which is no more than he had previously, that he hire Police Officers, so this is an unfunded mandate. Mr. Smith asked if they hire three Police Officers, can they make their dates of hire contingent upon when an Officer goes “off-line;” and Chief Coluzzi stated he cannot guarantee to have that Officer in place when the other Officers retire. Mr. Stainthorpe asked the scheduled retirement dates, and Chief Coluzzi stated it is January 1 for two Officers and June for the third Officer so he would need to hire two right away and one June 30. Mr. Maloney stated what they have given the Chief in the proposed Budget is funding for his staff as it exists today with those retirements phasing out and without funding for replacement Officers. Ms. Bernow stated she feels the Budget needs to be changed, and Mr. Maloney agreed.

The Motion carried unanimously.



Mr. Maloney asked for a Motion to amend the Budget.

Mr. Simon moved and Mr. Caiola seconded to amend the Budget from .4 mil to a .5 mil to fund the Police and direct the additional millage into the Police Department's Budget.

Mr. Smith stated after the first of the year he would like to take a closer look at other areas where they could choose not to spend even though they have Budgeted money and they could make up this .1 mil. Mr. Simon stated he feels this is a valid point.

Mr. Zachary Rubin, 1661 Covington Road, asked the Finance Director if they raise another .1 mil in the tax rate how much is this for an average household in Lower Makefield, and Mr. McCloskey stated it would be approximately \$4. Mr. Rubin urged the Board to have a amendment to restore Community Pride Day and the Veterans Parade which would cost between \$4 and \$5 per year for these community events and provide the community an identity. He stated Lower Makefield is the largest Township in the United States that does not have a Post Office so he feels the Township should have a sense of community for \$4 to \$5.

Mr. Dave Shuster stated he agrees that they should reinstate Community Pride Day and the Veterans Parade and stated if they do not have the sharp shoot, they could take that \$60,000 and fund Community Pride Day. Mr. Fedorchak stated this could not happen. He stated they would not save \$60,000 since White Buffalo has already incurred considerable expense as they have been to Lower Makefield a number of times doing surveys and determining where they are going to be baiting; and he feels they already owe White Buffalo approximately \$10,000 to \$15,000. Mr. Caiola stated he has no interest in amending the Budget any further.

Motion carried with Mr. Caiola, Mr. Maloney, and Mr. Simon in favor and Mr. Smith and Mr. Stainthorpe opposed.

#### APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 2191 – ADOPTING THE 2010 BUDGET

Mr. Caiola moved and Mr. Simon seconded to approve Resolution No. 2091 adopting the 2010 Budget as amended this evening. Motion carried with Mr. Caiola, Mr. Maloney, and Mr. Simon in favor and Mr. Smith and Mr. Stainthorpe opposed.

#### APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 2195 – FIXING TAX RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

Mr. Smith asked the amount now being fixed, and Mr. Maloney stated the net increase is 1.25. He stated for the purpose of this Resolution, they would be fixing tax rates as

presently advertised with the exception that the Park & Rec increase would be from 1 down to .75 and the General Fund increase would be from .4 to .5.

Mr. Caiola moved and Mr. Simon seconded to approve Resolution No. 2195 as amended. Motion carried with Mr. Caiola, Mr. Maloney, and Mr. Simon in favor and Mr. Smith and Mr. Stainthorpe opposed.

#### APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 2198 – ESTABLISHING THE 2010 PARK AND RECREATION FEE-IN-LIEU OF FEE

Mr. Simon moved, Mr. Caiola seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 2198.

#### APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 2199 – ESTABLISHING THE 2010 TRAFFIC IMPACT FEE

Mr. Caiola moved, Mr. Stainthorpe seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve Resolution No. 2199.

#### APPROVAL OF SANDRA MIDDLEMISS PRELIMINARY SUBDIVISION PLAN

Mr. Pelke was present on behalf of the Applicant. Mr. Truelove stated this Subdivision is at the northern end of Stackhouse Drive. Mr. Pelke stated they are proposing a three lot Subdivision with one existing home and two new lots proposed. He stated they are proposing a 1.5 acre Conservation Easement on Lot #3 along the Canal and a 20' disturbance restriction along the Cemetery to the west side of Lot #1. He stated they are proposing three underground seepage beds and six rain gardens. He stated they are requesting four Waivers – one for sidewalks which is not a condition in the neighborhood, one for a partial EIA Report, one for core samplings of the road since the road was recently paved in 2006, and the fourth is for the required right-of-way width of 56' and they would like to keep it at 50' wide which is a characteristic of the neighborhood and will also help save trees by moving the setback up by 3'. Mr. Truelove stated this has all been reviewed and recommended by the Planning Commission and Township professionals including the Waivers.

Mr. Stainthorpe moved and Mr. Caiola seconded to approve the Sandra Middlemiss Preliminary Subdivision Plan for Tax Parcel #20-03-122 for the Plans dated 8/27/07, last revised 2/10/09 subject to the following Conditions:



- 1) Applicant shall comply with Lower Makefield Township SALDO and Zoning Ordinances and all applicable local, State and Federal Ordinances, Statutes, and/or Laws;
- 2) Receipt of all Permits, authorizations, and approvals from all agencies with jurisdiction including but not limited to PennDOT and PaDEP;
- 3) Compliance with Lower Makefield Township Planning Commission review letter dated 11/24/09 with all attachments to same;
- 4) Compliance with Remington & Vernick review letter dated 11/12/09;
- 5) Compliance with Bucks County Planning Commission review letter dated 11/18/08;
- 6) Compliance with 10/7/09 review letter from Remington & Vernick Engineers regarding sanitary sewage;
- 7) Compliance with Lower Makefield Township Environmental Advisory Council review letter of 10/18/09;
- 8) Waivers are recommended to be granted per the recommendation of Remington & Vernick Engineers and read by Mr. Truelove.

Mr. Pelke agreed to the Conditions, and the Motion to approve carried unanimously.

#### APPROVAL OF EXTENSIONS

Mr. Caiola moved, Mr. Stainthorpe seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the following Extensions:

Fieldstone at Lower Makefield (Quaker Group) 496-N to 3/27/10  
Jennings Tract (TMP 20-31-4) to 3/31/10  
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection – 4/9/10

#### ZONING HEARING BOARD MATTERS

With regard to the Christopher Heulitt, 700 Ardley Court, Variance requests to permit installation of 1463 square feet of permeable pavers to replace present wood decking and brick patio and 66 square feet of concrete over an infiltration system which will result in greater than permitted impervious surface, it was agreed that the Township would participate.

With regard to the Daniel McDonnell, Variance request for the property located at 1417 River Road to permit removal and replacement of walkway, patio and landscape wall located within the 100 year flood plain, it was agreed to leave the matter to the Zoning Hearing Board.

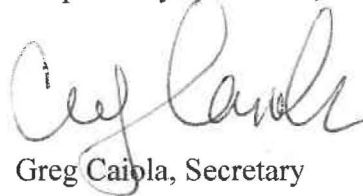
#### SUPERVISORS REPORTS

Mr. Simon thanked the Board of Supervisors for the opportunity to serve since this will be his last official meeting. He stated it has been a great experience and he respects everyone's ability. Mr. Stainthorpe thanked Mr. Simon for his service and his participation and for making a difference.

Mr. Smith wished all the employees and residents a happy holiday season.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Greg Caiola".

Greg Caiola, Secretary