

TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING  
MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 11, 2000

A special public meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Lower Makefield was held in the Municipal Building on September 11, 2000. Vice Chairman Fazzalore called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Those present:

Board of Supervisors: Frank Fazzalore, Vice Chairman  
Scott Fegley, Secretary/Treasurer  
Fred Allan, Member  
Grace Godshalk, Member

Others: Terry Fedorchak, Township Manager  
Duke Doherty, Township Engineer  
Joseph Bainbridge, Acting Chief of Police

Absent: Wesley Hackman, Chairman Board of Supervisors

APPOINTMENT OF NEW POLICE CHIEF

Mr. Fazzalore read into the record the Press Release regarding the appointment of the new Police Chief (attached to the Minutes). Mr. Fazzalore noted the Board interviewed the five final candidates with the interviews being conducted by Jersey Professional Management, an executive search firm.

Mr. Fazzalore moved to appoint Kenneth Coluzzi to the position of Lower Makefield Township Chief of Police which said appointment shall be subject to the following conditions:

- 1) Execution of an Employment Agreement setting forth the conditions of employment incorporating the contents of the Township Manager's letter to Mr. Coluzzi dated 9/8/00;
- 2) Successful completion of physical and drug and alcohol tests;
- 3) Confirmation that he will serve a period of probation for one year from the date of his appointment;
- 4) Appointment shall be effective today but he shall begin work on Monday, October 9, 2000.

Mrs. Godshalk seconded.

Mr. Fegley moved to table both items on the Agenda until September 18. Mr. Fegley stated he objected to these proceedings. He noted the Board had previously agreed, with all five members being present, to make this announcement at the September 18, 2000 regularly-scheduled meeting. He noted that without further discussion, the Board was advised Thursday evening that a Special Public Meeting would be held this evening at a

time when Mr. Hackman could not be present. Mr. Fegley stated he feels this is unfair to Mr. Hackman, the Chairman, who has taken the Board through this entire process and done an outstanding job in this regard. He stated he does not feel it is fair to have this meeting when Mr. Hackman is not present and is not being given the opportunity to have his feelings heard or to cast his vote. There was no second to the Motion to table.

Mr. Fazzalore opened the matter up for Public Comment.

Ms. Elizabeth Christopher noted the letter she wrote to the Township expressing her views on this matter. She stated she feels it is the Board's responsibility to work on the public's behalf. She stated she resents the fact that the public was not given the opportunity to comment on this decision. She added that until August, she believed Officer Bainbridge was the Chief of Police. She noted the meeting being held this evening was not announced on the Lower Makefield Township cable channel and she only learned about it through reading the Bucks County Courier Times. She stated she feels Officer Bainbridge has done a wonderful job. He also lives in the Township and has raised his family in the Township. She stated Officer Roche was also a candidate. She did not feel it was necessary to go outside the Lower Makefield Township Police Department to find a candidate for Chief.

Ms. Susan Gagne stated she does not feel the Board should go outside of the community and feels most residents of the Township assumed Officer Bainbridge would continue as Chief of Police.

Ms. Kathy Tracy asked the reason for the rush to make a decision this evening. Mr. Fazzalore stated the Board of Supervisors had not met for one month and there were indications that a large number of items would be coming before them at their next regularly-scheduled meeting to be held on September 18. Three of the Supervisors felt it would be a good idea to consider the two items on the Agenda this evening at this time.

Mr. Fegley stated the Chairman generally sets the Agenda and it should have been up to Mr. Hackman to decide which items should have been taken off a lengthy Agenda.

Mrs. Godshalk stated any Supervisor can put an item on the Agenda and while Mr. Hackman runs the meeting, he has no more power than any other Supervisor. Mrs. Godshalk stated she feels it is in the best interest of everyone involved to bring this matter to fruition and this is why they agreed to hold this meeting this evening.

Mrs. Godshalk noted Officer Roche was not one of the candidates for Chief. Mr. Roche agreed he was not a candidate unless someone put his name in.

Mr. Jones stated he does not feel the atmosphere should be that Officer Bainbridge is being put down. He stated there is a Lieutenant position open. He stated the Board of Supervisors has the responsibility to make such decisions. Mr. Fazzalore noted the Lieutenant position was previously eliminated by Resolution, although this could be changed.

Motion to appoint Kenneth Coluzzi carried with Mr. Fegley opposed.

Mr. Fazzalore read into the record the resume of Mr. Coluzzi as attached to the Minutes. Mr. Fazzalore noted Mr. Coluzzi is being paid \$80,000 per year, will receive three weeks vacation beginning January 1, 2001, \$10,000 toward moving expenses to be reimbursed

upon receiving receipts, use of a Township vehicle, and hospitalization, disability and other benefits as provided to other Township employees. Mr. Fazzalore added that Mr. Coluzzi has been asked to move to Lower Makefield Township within one year.

Mr. Fazzalore introduced Mr. Kenneth Coluzzi who was then introduced to Acting Chief Bainbridge.

Acting Chief Bainbridge thanked the Board of Supervisors for the opportunity to serve as Acting Chief of Police. He stated Lower Makefield Township has a quality, first-class police force and civilian staff of which he is proud. He also thanked Mr. Fedorchak and Mr. Taylor for the help they provided to him during his term as Acting Chief of Police. He thanked the Township residents and his family as well for their support. He stated he looks forward to working with Mr. Coluzzi.

Mrs. Godshalk thanked Acting Chief Bainbridge for his sixteen months of service and stepping to the plate to fill the void that was taking place and she stated she appreciates it personally and professionally for everything he had done. The other Supervisors agreed.

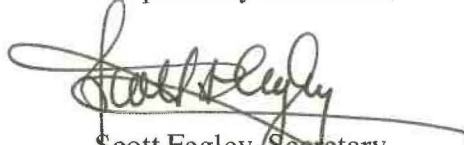
**APPROVE ACQUISITION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY EASEMENT - HACKMAN PROPERTY**

Mr. Fazzalore stated this matter concerns the Hackman property on Lindenhurst Road and includes a payment of \$22,500 to Mr. and Mrs. Hackman in exchange for the easement.

Mr. Fegley moved, Mr. Allan seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve acquisition of right-of-way easement.

There being no further business, Mr. Fegley moved, Mrs. Godshalk seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Scott Fegley, Secretary

