

**JOINT MEETING OF THE BOARDS OF SUPERVISORS
NEWTOWN AND WRIGHTSTOWN TOWNSHIPS
MINUTES OF MEETING OF THURSDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2003**

The Joint meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Wrightstown Township Chair Chester Pogonowski. In attendance were Wrightstown Board Members Jane Magne and Allen Masenheimer, and Newtown Board Members Scott Harp, Tom Jirele, Raymond Goodnoe, and Ann Goren.

Mr. Harp introduced the following attendees: Wrightstown Township Solicitor Thomas J. Walsh, Jr.; Newtown Township Solicitor David Sander; Newtown Manager Robert Pellegrino; Wrightstown Township Administrator Eileen M. Bradley; Traffic Engineer Mr. Phillip Wursta; Mr. Andrew Warren, Mr. Vito Genoa Mr. Chuck Davies and Mr. Larry Link of PADOT; Dr. Links of Bucks County Community College; Mr. Joseph Szafran from US Congressman James Greenwood's office; Mr. Robert Moore of PA Senator Joseph Conti's office; Mr. James Cawley of PA Senator Robert Tomlinson's office; PA Representative David Steil; PA Representative Scott Petri; Ms. Lynn Bush of Bucks County Planning Commission. Approximately 170 members of the public were also in attendance.

Mr. Pogonowski said that the meeting was being held as a discussion of safety issues related to Swamp Road and to determine the best way to move roadway improvement projects forward in a timely fashion.

Mr. Jirele and Ms. Magne reviewed the 2002 Swamp Road Study, which examined the safety of Swamp Road between the Buckingham Township border and the Newtown Bypass. The Study was completed by Urban Engineers with assistance from the Citizen's Advisory Committee, residents groups and Newtown and Wrightstown Townships.

Urban Engineers recommended eleven foot lanes with four foot shoulders, realignment of horizontal and vertical curves, new signage, improved drainage, and the replacement of two culverts. Mr. Jim Bove of Newtown said that everyone involved with the study had the same goal to solve the safety problems on Swamp Oddslot Road.

Mr. Andrew Warren of PADOT reviewed plans for the Swamp Road corridor. \$1.6 million in safety improvements for the intersection of Swamp Road and Second Street Pike were slated

for the intersection. These improvements were already in the design phase, with work scheduled to begin in September 2005.

Signage at Swamp and Worthington Mill Roads would be upgraded as soon as weather permitted.

The defective culvert south of Worthington Mill Road could possibly collapse soon. It had been inspected in August 2002, and would be re-inspected in August 2003. Replacement was scheduled for April 2004.

The Nob Hill Bridge culvert would also be inspected annually and would be replaced as part of the planned overall improvements to the Swamp Road corridor.

Mr. Warren pointed out that the Swamp Road corridor traversed historic areas and properties, wetlands, state and local parks, and a community college. Permits and Rights-of-Way would have to be obtained, and the improvement construction would not begin for five to ten years. The projects would cost upwards of \$9 million dollars.

Mr. Harp and Mr. Pogonowski presented accident figures indicating that Swamp Road was the least safe highway through the two Townships.

Representatives Petri and Steil, Mr. Cawley, Mr. Szafran, and Mr. Moore voiced their support for efforts to expedite safety improvements.

Public Comment included the following individuals:

Mrs. Grace Godshalk, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Lower Makefield Township;
Mr. David Ryan of the Student Advocacy Group of the Bucks County Community College;
Mr. John Cowley of Lower Makefield Township;
Mr. Bob Gaynor of Newtown Township;
Mrs. Marcy Conti of Wrightstown Township;
Mrs. Victoria Bowe of Newtown Township;
Ms. Sue Herman of Lower Makefield Township;
Mr. Al Celini of Newtown Township;
Ms. Karen Friedman of Lower Makefield Township;
Ms. Pat Fensmacher of Wrightstown Township;
Ms. Irene Idoehler of Lower Makefield Township;
Mr. Bob Arnott of Lower Makefield Township;

Mr. Frank Mendicino of Newtown Township;
Mr. Bill Peterson of Wrightstown Township;
Mr. Richard Tonge of Newtown Township;
Mr. Mark Shablin of Wrightstown Township;
Mr. Pete Stainthorpe for Mr. Scott Fegley of the Lower Makefield Township Board of Supervisors;
Ms. Marcia Shady of Wrightstown Township;
Mr. Allen Fidler of Newtown Township;
Mr. Chris Waslenko of Wrightstown Township;
Mr. Scott Anderson of Wrightstown Township;
Ms. Pam Fitzpatrick of Newtown Township.

Mr. Phil Wursta reported that some safety improvements were already underway. In Wrightstown Township, a traffic light installation contract for the intersection of Swamp Road and Route #232 would be awarded shortly. Coordination of the lights along the Newtown Bypass was underway. Pennoni Associates would work with PADOT engineers to expedite safety improvements along the Swamp Road corridor.

There being no further business or comment, Mr. Pogonowski ended with a request to elected officials to work together to obtain funding and expedite the procedures necessary to institute the much needed safety improvements.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eileen M. Bradley
Township Administrator
Wrightstown Township