

Union Township Board of Supervisors  
Special Meeting  
March 16, 2010

The Board of Supervisors Special Meeting was called to order by Chairman Steve Parish at 7:00 pm. The meeting was held at the Union Township Municipal Building, 3904 Finley-Elrama Road, Finleyville, PA. The pledge of allegiance was recited. Board Members in Attendance by roll call were Steve Parish, Scott Tkach, Larry Spahr, Linda Evans and Andrew Tullai. Also in attendance: Dennis Makel-Solicitor, Judith Taylor-Secretary/Treasurer

**Motion** to go into executive session for personnel reasons and possible litigation at 7:02 p.m.  
Motion by Scott Tkach, Second by Linda Evans  
Roll Call Vote: Parish-yes, Tkach-yes, Spahr-yes, Evans-yes, Tullai-yes. Motion carried.

The Board returned from executive session at 7:15 p.m. Mr. Makel stated the discussion concerned matters of personnel and potential litigation.

Mrs. Pamela Lawrence appeared to inform the Board that she was unable to secure the necessary surety bond for the elected tax collector position. She stated that she had spoken to Barbara Gibbs, Clerk of Courts. She would be willing to record a bond after the March 15, 2010 deadline. Mr. Makel stated that Ms. Gibbs has no authority to extend the deadline.

Mrs. Lawrence requested return of rent paid since the beginning of the year and payment for services rendered.

**Motion** to go into executive session for personnel reasons and possible litigation at 7:25 p.m.  
Motion by Scott Tkach, Second by Larry Spahr  
Roll Call Vote: Parish-yes, Tkach-yes, Spahr-yes, Evans-yes, Tullai-yes. Motion carried.

The Board returned from executive session at 7:32 p.m. Mr. Makel stated the discussion concerned Mrs. Lawrence's request for remuneration for services rendered and return of rent paid. The solicitor was authorized by the Board to research this request.

Mrs. Pamela Lawrence signed a letter of resignation of the office of elected tax collector as of March 16, 2010.

**Motion** to accept the letter of resignation submitted by Pamela Lawrence on March 16, 2010 which provides that she resigns as the elected tax collector for the four-year term beginning January 1, 2010 with the caveat that this resignation is based upon the fact that she was unable to be bonded by March 15, 2010  
Motion by Andrew Tullai, Second by Linda Evans  
Roll Call Vote: Parish-yes, Tkach-yes, Spahr-yes, Evans-yes, Tullai-yes. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Earleen Caton, 291 Pleasantview Road, commented that candidates should plan for being bonded prior to running for a position requiring a surety bond.

John Smida, 5207 Lew Street, commented that it was the will of the people to select Mrs. Lawrence.

Mary Jo Yunkun, 5123 Hill Street, questioned how a successor should be selected, possibly should perhaps be the person receiving the next higher number of votes.

John Smida asked about the specific law in this matter. Mr. Makel read the relevant statutes, Section 406 (b) and Section 407 from the Township Code.

**Motion** in the interest of the taxpayers of Union Township that Bernadette Speer be appointed as successor tax collector for Union Township and Ringgold School District until the first Monday in January, 2012 subject to fulfilling the qualifications of the office in the matter of the surety bond

Motion by Larry Spahr, Second by Linda Evans

The motion was subsequently amended by Mr. Spahr with the concurrence of Ms. Evans to state that she meet the qualifications to take the oath of office and that she be bonded prior to taking the oath of office, and subject to submission to the Township of any and/or all applications for bond within three business days and provide a surety bond no later than March 31, 2010

Roll Call Vote: Parish-yes, Tkach-yes, Spahr-yes, Evans-yes, Tullai-yes. Motion carried.

Ms. Speer will redact any confidential personal information from all applications before submitting to the Secretary/Treasurer.

**Motion** to authorize Cypher & Cypher to audit the accounts of the tax collection office January 5, 2010 through March 16, 2010 prior to the successor tax collector taking office

Motion by Linda Evans, Second by Scott Tkach

Roll Call Vote: Parish-yes, Tkach-yes, Spahr-yes, Evans-yes, Tullai-yes. Motion carried.

**Motion** to authorize the solicitor to work with the Secretary/Treasurer, auditors and Ms. Speer to analyze and develop a plan of action to deal with all malfeasance in the office of tax collector, and to keep an account of costs involved

Motion by Scott Tkach, Second by Andrew Tullai

Roll Call Vote: Parish-yes, Tkach-yes, Spahr-yes, Evans-yes, Tullai-yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Spahr questioned why the clerk signed the letter of authorization for release of the tax duplicate to Mrs. Lawrence. The Secretary/Treasurer accepted responsibility for authorizing collection of the duplicate. She stated that it has always been a routine business item to pick up the tax duplicates when notified by the County Tax Assessment office, and was unaware of any reason why the procedure should not be followed.

A listing of any personal items to be removed from the tax office will be compiled, signed and witnessed.