

**ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
JOINT PUBLIC HEARING & BOARD MEETING MINUTES
(EASTERN BERKS JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN –
DISTRICT TOWNSHIP, ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP & TOPTON BOROUGH)**

APRIL 16, 2015

On April 16, 2015, at 6:30 p.m., the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors meeting at the Brandywine Heights Middle School, Tipton, Pennsylvania, was called to order on the motion of Duane Bennetch and seconded by Walter Hafer. Thereafter, a joint public hearing of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors, the District Township Board of Supervisors and the Tipton Borough Council was held. The following Rockland Township board members were present: Chairman Herb Meadway, Vice Chairman Duane Bennetch and Walter Hafer. Also present were Attorney Alfred Crump (Rockland Township Solicitor), Rockland Township Planning Commission member Richard Mazich, and interested citizens.

The hearing was called to order at 6:35PM by Ed Overberger on behalf of District Township, by Chairman Herb Meadway on behalf of Rockland Township, and by Mr. William Gehman on behalf of Tipton Borough. Roll call for Rockland Township, District Township and Tipton Borough determined that each entity had quorums present.

Tipton Borough Solicitor Joan London informed meeting attendees that a proof of publication for advertising of tonight's hearing/meeting on March 26, 2015 and April 2, 2015 was received. The purpose of this hearing/meeting is to receive comments and public input on the draft Eastern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan, and the entities may consider formal adoption of the Plan at tonight's meeting depending on the nature and extent of the comments received.

Tipton Borough Solicitor Joan London advised that review comments were received from the Berks County Planning Commission (letter dated April 10, 2015), Jill Nagy, Longswamp Township Solicitor (letter dated April 15, 2015), Jill Nagy, Maxatawny Township Solicitor (letter dated April 15, 2015), and Hereford Township (letter dated April 14, 2015).

Matthew McGough from the Berks County Planning Commission provided a brief overview of the draft Plan and requested questions and/or concerns from the Township and Borough officials. Mr. Ed Overberger, District Township Supervisor expressed concern as to whether the governing bodies would be in a position to consider the Plan for adoption at tonight's meeting. After a brief discussion among Township and Borough officials, Attorney London requested comments from the public in attendance. There was no public comment. The governing bodies then discussed and addressed each of the written comments received in the letters previously referenced. Each item in the letters received from the Berks County Planning Commission, Longswamp Township, Maxatawny Township and Hereford Township were discussed and addressed individually. As a result of this discussion, Township and Borough officials agreed to several textual modifications and grammatical corrections. At the conclusion of the discussion regarding the written comments received, District Township officials requested a brief recess to consult with their Solicitor. A brief recess followed. The public hearing/meeting reconvened at 7:58PM.

District Township Solicitor Gene Orlando suggested wording to address the written comment received with regard to Chapter X, Page 5. After a brief discussion, all Township and Borough officials were in agreement to the suggested wording changes proposed for Chapter X, Page 5 by Attorney Orlando. There were no additional comments from the governing bodies, and there were no comments from the public in attendance. On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer, the Joint Comprehensive Plan public hearing was adjourned at 8:15PM. Motion carried.

At 8:19PM, the meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Rockland Township was reconvened. Present were Herb Meadway, Duane Bennetch and Walter Hafer.

On a motion by Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer, the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors approved adoption of the Eastern Berks Joint Comprehensive Plan prepared by the Berks County Planning Commission (draft February 2015) with textual modifications and grammatical corrections as discussed at the joint public hearing/meeting held on April 16, 2015. There was no public comment. All were in favor.

On the motion of Duane Bennetch, seconded by Walter Hafer, to adjourn. There was no public comment. All were in favor.

There being no further business, the meeting of the Rockland Township Board of Supervisors was adjourned at 8:26PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Krall
Secretary/Treasurer