

Monday, October 29,

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The Bainbridge Township Board of Trustees met in special session at the Auburn Bainbridge Room in Kenston High School on October 29, 2012. Those present were Auburn trustees Mr. P.J. Cavanagh, Mr. Michael Troyan, and Mr. John Eberly and Fiscal Officer Mrs. Susan Plavcan, Bainbridge trustees Mr. Jeffrey S. Markley, Mrs. Lorrie Sass Benza and Fiscal Officer Mrs. Cherianne H. Measures, Kenston Board of Education Members Mrs. Anne Randall, Mr. William Timmons, Mr. Thomas Fussner, Mr. James Jimison, Dr. Beth Krause, Superintendent Dr. Robert Lee, Treasurer Mrs. Linda Hein, Auburn Bainbridge Joint Recreation Board (KCE) Members Mr. Kevin Byrnes, Dr. Scott Shell, Mr. Robert Ford, Mr. David Parker, Mr. Jason Bednar, Mrs. Katie Flynn, Mr. Pat Moore, and Director Ms. Jennifer Holzheimer. Bainbridge Trustee Mr. Christopher Horn, Auburn Bainbridge Joint Recreation Board Members Mr. Dean Teeples and Mrs. Jane Edwards were absent. Mr. Markley presided and called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.

I. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF SUMMIT

Mr. Markley welcomed everyone for attending this first annual KCE Summit. The purpose of tonight's meeting is to review where the organization has been, where it is now, and a projection of where it plans to be in the future. We will hear from each of the four entities individually starting with Kenston Community Education Director Ms. Holzheimer, then thoughts from Auburn Township, Bainbridge Township, Kenston School District and wrapping up with any questions and concluding remarks.

II. INTRODUCTION OF KCE BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Markley introduced Ms. Jennifer Holzheimer, Director of Kenston Community Education.

Ms. Holzheimer thanked those present this evening. She stated that Auburn Township, Bainbridge Township, and the Kenston School District Board of Education came together and formed a joint recreation board on March 15, 1976 for the purpose of providing enrichment and recreational opportunities for the communities of Auburn and Bainbridge.

In the past, Kenston Community Education (KCE) went through some tough financial times after a series of bad management decisions. This caused the organization to downsize and accrue over \$90,000 in debt with less than \$20,000 in the bank. The community had no confidence in KCE and believed that the group was disorganized. But because of a sound governing body and people who understood the value of the organization to the community, good people stepped in to turn the organization around. By 2008, KCE had paid its debts, redesigned its logo and website, adopted new policies about programming and financial reporting, and redefined their mission statement.

KCE now offers enrichment programs for all age groups from preschoolers to seniors and everyone in between. Recreational sports for pre-k through high school as well as travel sports and leagues are also handled by KCE.

KCE is also responsible for processing hundreds of facility use permits within the Kenston Local School buildings, scheduling all outdoor fields and pavilion rentals for Bainbridge Township, and managing public use of Kenston's tennis courts and stadium.

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KCE continues to grow every year, both financially and in participation. The confidence of the community continues to grow as well. Due to the organization's success, it has been able to contribute to the Kenston Trails, Kenston Bomber Stadium, River Road Park, Kenston Tennis Courts, Bomber Games, Auburn Community Park, and the new gym floor in the Kenston Middle School.

All of this has happened with a staff of six part time employees, the director and an advisory board of eight members. The annual salaries for the organization are \$102,000 annually. The fiscal year for KCE is September 1st through August 31st.

Mr. Fussner asked if the organization has been audited. Ms. Holzheimer responded that the organization hires a CPA to produce the required reporting statements, but the organization has not been audited.

Dr. Lee stated that a tremendous amount of coordination occurs between the schools and KCE and the single point of contact is invaluable.

III. THOUGHTS FROM AUBURN TOWNSHIP

Mr. Troyan explained when KCE dipped below \$100,000, the Auburn Trustees reviewed the finances and made recommendations. This may need to be reviewed again to determine if the benchmarks need to be adjusted.

Mr. Cavanagh stated that Auburn Township has 67 acres, of which 28 are active, for the Auburn Community Park. Several site plans have been created and revised. The township has spent \$600,000 for the land, approximately \$100,000 for the driveway, and another \$100,000 for the parking lot. Other possibilities include digging a well and running electricity.

Mr. Eberly commented on how valuable KCE is to the community and how far the organization has come. The group has made tremendous progress in the last few years.

IV. THOUGHTS FROM BAINBRIDGE TOWNSHIP

Mrs. Benza echoed Mr. Eberly's comments and how the first order of business was to correct the financial position of the organization, which was done. Even though it lagged, the next order of business was to correct the reputation of KCE, which is still improving.

Mrs. Benza asked if there was a statutory authority that governs Kenston Community Education.

Mr. Markley thanked the current board for a tremendous job as well as the board that stepped up to the challenge when things were so bad.

Mr. Markley also diffused the idea of a parks levy until he has an understanding of what it costs to operate our parks. The General Fund revenues continue to decline while costs and expenses continue to increase.

Bainbridge is committed to Kenston Community Education and the scheduling of our facilities. Again, he thanked the volunteers for their service.

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V. THOUGHTS FROM KENSTON SCHOOL BOARD

Mr. Jimison stated that he remembers to days of Kenston Athletic Association and how fearful the residents were of losing the personalization when switching to Kenston Community Education, but that never happened.

Mrs. Randall stated there is so much important information that needs to be communicated to the public.

Dr. Lee recognized the challenges of the scheduling and the weekend scheduling with respect to custodial staff. The turf field has been an extreme asset to the community. We are in the last year of the PEP grant, which limits the use of the equipment to the student body to fight childhood obesity.

Mrs. Benza asked if we open up the equipment to fundraising efforts (ie classes) would that inhibit the ability to get future grants.

Mr. Cavanagh commented on how well the agreement has worked with the buyers of the Auburn School property, and what a pleasant place to watch children play ball!

Mr. Henri Preuss, member of the Bainbridge Township Park Board, stated that it has always been about the children, regardless of which township the children live in.

Mr. Eberly commented on the tremendous cooperation over the last ten years between the entities to do what is best for the community.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD

The Auburn Trustees and the Bainbridge Trustees discussed the possibility of rescheduling Trick or Treat due to the pending superstorm. At this time, neither board is inclined to change Trick or Treat.

Purchase Order over \$1,000.00

Mr. Markley made a motion to approve the purchase order request for Pavement Technology Inc. in the amount of \$9,395.56 for the reclaiming of River Road Park parking lot and walking paths, per the recommendation of the Service Director.

Mrs. Benza seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Purchase Order over \$1,000.00

Mr. Markley made a motion to approve the purchase order request for Construction Consulting & Testing in the amount of \$2,182.13 for the pavement investigation of the Town Hall parking lot, per the recommendation of the Service Director.

Mrs. Benza seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

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Since there was no further business to come before this meeting of the Bainbridge Township Board of Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cherianne H. Measures,
Fiscal Officer, Bainbridge Township

Date

Date

Date

Minutes Read: _____

Minutes Approved: _____