

January 4, 2016
7:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Monroe Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Kehoe. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

ATTENDANCE

Phil Kehoe, Chairman
A.W. Castle, III, Vice-Chairman
Carl Kuhl, Supervisor

Michael Pykosh, Solicitor
Greg Rogalski, Zoning Officer
Mark Bruening, Engineer
Karen Lowery, Admin. Assistant

SPEAKERS FROM THE AUDIENCE - None

Rebecca Viehman, 150 Brindle Road, would like to know a brief history of how long the township has known that the PPL project was coming. Mr. Kehoe stated that Mr. Kuhl was most up to speed on this matter. Mr. Kehoe said that the township was notified shortly before our December meeting. Mr. Castle added that many people were not notified.

Mr. Castle read the following statement prepared by the Supervisors:

We the Supervisors are opposed to any more power lines as well as any other utility running through our township. We oppose all routes which run through our township. We plan to fight any utilities on behalf of our residents. We plan to use any and all legal means to stop this type of invasion of our community and homes.

There are state regulations that require no power lines can be built within 100 meters, about 330 feet, of a home. Due to the fact our residential communities are spread out it makes us a target for PP&L and any other utilities to prey on our township. We as a township need to make a stand and draw a line now to stop all utilities from invading our beautiful township.

We will ask our solicitor to investigate every lawful way as well as legislative way by which we can oppose this power line of PP&L and all other utilities who may see and take easement. We will not be a doormat for any utilities to run roughshod over our American dream of home ownership and farming land that is some of the best ground in the state to be assaulted and misused.

Mr. Kuhl stated he got a letter in the mail in a deceptive envelope. He checked and the Supervisors were not aware of this matter. He and Mr. Castle went to a public

officials meeting the morning of the open house. The bottom line is Cumberland County Planning and Ag. Security were not notified. This whole matter hit us quick with no pre-notifications and no ability to respond. We have a series of questions we are working on to ask for response. PP&L has provided a frequently asked questions flyer which don't give you a lot in the way of specifics. There is a case study Mr. Kuhl has looked at regarding PP&L work done near the Poconos. The Supervisors were blindsided by this. And I, like you, are in the same boat. One of the proposed routes is through my back yard.

Mr. Kehoe said they have prepared an exhaustive list of questions that will be sent to PP&L to demand a response. Our goal is to get these questions out this week or early next week. Mr. Kehoe asked what our formal role is in the decision making process and the route going through.

Mr. Pykosh said the questions are important to obtain as much information as possible. We also want to see if the PUC needs to be involved with the amount of kilowatts they are proposing. PP&L's plan is to find the path of least resistance and then contact property owners to work out an easement to install the lines. If residents aren't amiable then there is some type of action PP&L would file with the PUC in order to get land needed. This is land of private land owners, not township land, so if you could be part of this plan you may want to consult an attorney that works with matters like this.

Mr. Rogalski has received questions wanting to know what the next step would be. Once that line route is determined the property owner will likely be approached by a land acquisition company working for PP&L. Property owners will have input in the process to determine the easement. Mr. Rogalski has been asked if the township can stop PP&L. He doesn't think that we can. Mrs. Viehman asked if there was something that could stop it, like a daycare. Mr. Rogalski said that would be considered at the PUC level. Mr. Rogalski was contacted by Upper Allen Township asking what we knew about the project. They were not aware of a substation being built in their township. Mr. Pykosh added that he has been in touch with the solicitor from Upper Allen and will touch base with them after their re-organizational meeting. He will also contact Silver Springs Township since they are also part of the project.

Mrs. Viehman said in Silver Spring Township they have an ordinance that tall structures cannot be installed. Mr. Pykosh said that they might, but there could be some preemption from the PUC if there is a need to cure a public need.

Ray Dadigan, 137 Brindle Road, stated they aren't serviced by PP&L, they have Met Ed. Is this project being shared with Met Ed? Mr. Kuhl said there were initial indications that it was a joint project, but new documentation shows it is just PP&L. Mr. Rogalski said it is a loaded question. Once electric is generated it must be used and is shipped out through lines to different grids and is not just used for PP&L

Chris Denigris, 103 Brindle Road, asked what the precedent was for the last time this happened in Monroe. Mr. Castle said there was transformers installed on Park Place, but the power lines have been here for as long as he can remember. Mr. Castles question

is with the technology we have today, why can't the engineer or experts can't devise new arms on the original towers that are already standing and existing to run the lines. He also added that the power is going to the Carlisle War College, why not built it in that area instead of running all of these power lines. Mr. Denigris asked if these questions have been answered. Mr. Castle said none of our questions were answered. Mr. Kuhl added that he was told they would have to get back to him.

The audience agreed that the open house was not staffed with PP&L staff, it was staffed with subcontractors who weren't very helpful with any questions.

Werner Schmidt, 779 Dogwood Terrace, was not aware of the PP&L project because it's not in his area, but that doesn't mean he is not equally concerned. He mentioned a cell tower issue years ago, but now you see smarter choices. He would strongly encourage those affected or the township to rally the voices of those around you, because PP&L may be swayed by volumes instead of just the handful of people being affected. Also contact the State Representative to make him aware and get his support. Mr. Kuhl stated that Mr. Regan is aware of this issue and a staff member did attend the open house.

Mr. Denigris asked why the township can't be proactive in doing some additional work on the resident's behalf by asking pertinent questions extremely relevant to the project. Mr. Kehoe said that is what we are doing by getting the list of questions prepared. Mr. Denigris asked if we could demand as a township that PP&L hold a meeting with us to seriously address the concerns we have.

Mr. Castle said they are going to go the path of least resistance. There are other townships concerned about this, so if the municipalities would join together we would be much more powerful.

Mr. Kehoe stated that we have given our statement, we are preparing a letter including the list of questions to go out. He thinks the easiest way to share the response received would be to post it on the website. Mr. Kuhl said we will add additional information on the website as well. We could request a meeting with PP&L after we are given a response. Mr. Denigris said that could be too late, the further they move down the path to determine a route the harder it will be to undo. Force PP&L to come to the table now. Mr. Rogalski said that we can ask for a meeting, but the forcing issue is the question. He's not sure that the township has any more power than the homeowner because ultimately they will be the one signing.

Mr. Kehoe asked what leverage do we have besides consolidating all of our voices, we are not setting the law, we are not saying yes or no to the path, and it comes to the private landowners to make a decision.

Mr. Dadigan heard that PP&L was planning on starting this project in the first quarter of 2016. Mr. Denigris asked when they started the feasibility study. An audience member saw surveyors on their property a year ago. Mr. Denigris wants to request the meeting and have it on record if they refuse to meet with us. Mr. Kuhl added that he

would like to copy the PUC on any letter that is sent, so they are aware if they are non-compliant. He would also like to hold a free homeowner rights seminar if PP&L chooses to come through and we can't keep them out.

Mr. Castle added that some people in the affected areas didn't get letters. And he didn't like how PP&L sent the letters so close to the holidays.

Mr. Kehoe said a lot of good points were made and flushed out the short term strategy. We will get the information collected on the website. We will also add this as a regular agenda item to give monthly updates. Mr. Castle added that a petition would be a good thing to share with State and Federal elected officials.

Cass Gibson, 133 Ryegate Road, asked if the mileage rate for the professionals was reduced. Mr. Kehoe said yes, it went to the IRS maximum. Mr. Gibson also asked what the Fire Marshal does. Mr. Kehoe said he enforces burning permits and burning outside of allowable areas.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kuhl, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors, it was duly RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2015 regular meeting with minor editorial changes.

ROADMASTER REPORT

On the motion of Mr. Kuhl, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to approve the Roadmaster's report.

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to approve the Zoning Officer's report.

Mr. Kuhl asked if Mr. Rogalski provided a report with annual numbers. Mr. Rogalski does and will work on this next week.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Mr. Kehoe stated that this had been tabled until Mr. Kuhl was on board. Mr. Kuhl has been given the resumes and is reviewing them. The Board will correlate a short list and set up interviews.

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kuhl, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to table the manager position.

REVIEW SEWER ACTION PLAN

Mr. Pykosh provided a list of 5 properties last month that approved to move forward with to file complaints with the District Justice. Hearings are scheduled for February. He provided another list of 5 more properties that he would like the approval to move forward with filing complaints against.

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kuhl, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to approved Mr. Pykosh to move forward with filing complaints against the 5 properties listed in the memo dated December 28, 2015.

SMTMA PLANT UPGRADE

Mr. Bruening stated that the schedule is still the same and the entire project should be done in May.

Mr. Kuhl asked Mr. Bruening is SMTMA was aware of the upcoming Leidigh bridge closure and if not he would like him to inform them. Mr. Bruening will make them aware.

SALT SHED UPDATE

Mr. Bruening stated that the contractor has requested a payment. The amount would be for \$106,756.13. There is \$24,216.08 still outstanding of work to be done and \$11,862 of retainage. He expects to see another payment request soon. There are a few checklist items to be completed and the electrical work.

Mr. Castle asked if there has been any update with the insurance coverage. Mr. Pykosh stated that he was told the entire amount would be covered and the change order. The insurance company would like pictures of the structure and also copies of payment checks to the contractor.

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kuhl, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to approve a payment of \$106,756.13 to McCorkel Construction for the work on the salt shed.

Mr. Kuhl asked when the salt shed could be used. Mr. Bruening said there was an inspection done and a checklist of items to be done. The contractor asked nothing to be put in the salt shed until the checklist items were worked through.

VERIZON TOWER

Mr. Pykosh stated that draft lease looks good. A public workshop has been scheduled for January 14, 2016 at 7 PM. A representative from Verizon will be in attendance. Mr. Pykosh will provide a summary of the agreement.

This matter was tabled.

FIRE COMPANY ALARM SYSTEM

Mr. Kehoe stated the Fire Company went back to Danatech to have the price quote broken down. The fire alarm will cost \$5,025, the Keyscan Access will cost \$7,250 and the Camera system will cost \$3,050. At the last meeting there was talk of doing this project in phases by doing the camera system in a year or so. Mr. Heckert asked the Board to consider moving forward with the entire project due to recent theft of batteries from the school buses that are parked next to the building.

On the motion of Mr. Kuhl, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to approve the installation of the fire alarm system - \$5,025; Keyscan Access - \$7,250; and camera system - \$3,050 for a total of \$15,325.

HUMANE SOCIETY SERVICE AGREEMENT

Mr. Kehoe said that the township verified that most townships don't pay for feral cats to be taken to the Humane Society.

Mr. Pykosh asked Ms. Lowery to contact the Humane Society to see if there was a contact for just dogs, but they have not responded back. His main question would be that if cats are excluded will it decrease the amount due.

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to approve the Humane Society Agreement for 2016, however vouchers for cats will no longer be issued.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 2016-01

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kuhl, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to adopt Resolution 2016-01, which appoints Smith, Elliott, Kearns & Company to replace the elected auditors for the purpose of making an examination of all the accounts of Monroe Township for the 2015 fiscal year.

RESOLUTION 2015-05

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kuhl, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to adopt Resolution 2016-05, which allows for disposition of specific municipal records.

Mr. Kehoe added there was no change in the tax rate.

ED GUIDO/SPERANZA ANIMAL RESCUE – CONDITIONAL USE APPLICATION

Mr. Pykosh stated that the Conditional Use application was received on December 14, 2015. On December 23rd he forwarded this application to the Planning Commission for their January 13th meeting. The Board of Supervisors will hold the Conditional Use hearing on February 9th.

Mr. Rogalski added that Mr. Guido does have a kennel license for this animal rescue. He suggested the large room be used for the hearing.

On the motion of Mr. Kuhl, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to acknowledge receipt of the Speranza Animal Rescue conditional use application and confirm the application was forwarded to the Planning Commission on December 23, 2015.

Mr. Pykosh added that the applicant also filed a request with the Zoning Hearing Board if they don't meet the kennel requirements. Mr. Guido signed a stipulation allowing for the Zoning Hearing Board application to be put on hold until there is a decision with the Conditional Use Hearing.

SNELBAKER/GIBSON AGRICULTURE SECURITY REQUEST

Mr. Pykosh stated that an agriculture security request was submitted for two properties owned by Carlyn Snelbaker, Alisa Snelbaker and Samuel C. Gibson. Due to the timing Mr. Pykosh forwarded the application to the Planning Commission and Agriculture Security Committee on December 29, 2015. This request has been advertised, the Ag. Security Committee will meet at 6 PM on February 3rd, the Planning

Commission will meet at 7 PM on February 3rd and the Board of Supervisors will meet at 6:30 PM on March 10th. Mr. Bruening and the Cumberland County Planning Department will provide information.

On the motion of Mr. Kuhl, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to acknowledge receipt of the Snelbaker/Gibson Agriculture Security request and confirm the application was forwarded to the Planning Commission and Ag. Security Committee on December 29, 2015.

CARLISLE AIRPORT – LETTER OF SUPPORT

Mary Kuna from CAEDC was present and explained that she has been working on an economic impact study for the past two years and the Carlisle Airport is an asset to Cumberland County. The airport owners are applying for a 2.7 million grant that has a 30%, which the owners will fully fund. The airport is at maximum capacity. With this grant they would build a new corporate hanger, a new medivac hanger and a terminal with a restaurant. The upgrades meet the Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan.

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kuhl, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED approve the letter of support for a grant to upgrade the Carlisle Airport.

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE DRAFT

Mr. Pykosh said that updates have been made in accordance with the Municipal Planning Code. The Planning Commission has reviewed this and recommended forwarding this to the Supervisors.

On the motion of Mr. Kuhl, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to table the Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance draft.

SIMMONS ROAD – SEWER CONNECTION – MISSED DEADLINE

Mr. Kehoe said there are 4 homes that were to connect to the sewer by December 31, 2015 and have not connected. The other issue is that these properties were to be pumped in 2015, 3 of 4 homes have not pumped.

Mr. Pykosh will look to see what the next step is in the connection process. The pumping needs done, but we are not changing our position that the connection also needs to be made. Mr. Pykosh will work on a letter.

BILLS

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kuhl, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to approve the bills as prepared.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Mr. Bruening said the contractor for the Leidigh Pump Station has completed the work. There is a small checklist of items. This matter will go to the Authority Board for final approval.

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to recommend approval of payment to Pumping Solutions Inc. for \$115,303, if also approved by the Municipal Authority Board at their January 20, 2016 meeting.

Mr. Bruening said he has been in touch with Dan Storm at PennDot regarding the Creek Road guiderail that was recently replaced. Mr. Bruening explained that the guiderail doesn't seem to be as long as the old one. PennDot will not install the guiderail turn downs any more. Mr. Storm is going to look into this matter and get back to Mr. Bruening.

Mr. Bruening said that he has been in touch with Suzanne Sunday regarding the asset management program. Task 1 was previously approved, but Ms. Sunday feels that Task 2 is equally important to keep this project moving forward.

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kuhl, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to approve Asset Management Task 2.

Mr. Kehoe asked if there was any update with the McNaughton/Brindle Road issue. Mr. Bruening did send a follow up email, but has not received any response.

Mr. Kehoe said there will be a public workshop on January 14, 2016 regarding the Verizon Cell tower.

Mr. Kehoe wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mr. Castle asked everybody to remember our Troops, Police Officers and their families. The trivia was – How long is the term of a U.S. Supreme Court Justice? Answer – Indefinite. The quote of the day was “No matter how small and unimportant

what we are doing may seem, if we do it well, it may soon become the step that will lead us to better things.” – Channing Pollock. God Bless America.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Lowery,
Administrative Secretary