

January 7, 2013
7:55 PM

The regular meeting of the Monroe Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Castle.

ATTENDANCE

A.W. Castle, III, Chairman
Phil Kehoe, Vice Chairman
Samuel M. Simmons, III, Supervisor

Michael Pykosh, Solicitor
Mark Bruening, Engineer
Marjorie Metzger, Administrative Assistant
Greg Rogalski, Zoning Officer

SPEAKERS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Brad Robertson, Monroe Fire Company, provided a re-cap of the 2012 incident responses and activities as follows: 90 structure calls; 2 vehicle fires; 17 outside fires; 46 motor vehicle accidents; 81 medical assists; 2 water rescues; 25 automatic alarms; 16 severe weather/trees/wires/flooding; 8 transfers; 6 traffic control; and 1 other. They held basket bingos, company banquet, chicken BBQ, pit beef; fire prevention activities at schools; and Santa visit. This information has been included on the fire company website.

Reza Azizkhan said the guiderail project on Eppley and Sinclair Roads was very successful. Mr. Bruening did a fantastic job. He is very pleased with the job the contractor did. He asked if anything has been heard about doing anything to the turnpike bridge. Mr. Bruening said there are no plans in the foreseeable future. This bridge is higher than other bridges. The guiderail project was paid for with Liquid Fuels funds. Mr. Azizkhan congratulated the Board on their new appointments. He is sure they will continue to do a wonderful job.

Dick Beaty reported the Cumberland County Tax Committee meeting is next Tuesday. He will write a summary and include other information for the February meeting. He mentioned that Centax has gone belly up and some townships are having trouble getting their money from Centax for prior years. It does not affect Monroe Township. Mr. Castle thanked Mr. Beaty for his great work and for keeping the Board informed. His dedication shows and is appreciated.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Kehoe provided written amendments to the December 13, 2012 minutes.

On the motion of Mr. Kehoe, and seconded by Mr. Simmons, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to table the minutes of the December 13, 2012 meeting.

SEWER FINANCE ANALYSIS

Chris Hoffert of PNC Capital Markets provided a preliminary financial analysis for a potential bond transaction related to the Township's portion of the South Middleton wastewater

treatment plant upgrade and related projects. The bond would be for 25 years with a fixed rate. Including the professional fees, the amount needed is roughly \$3 million. The township has approximately \$1 million available.

Mr. Simmons requested that a bank loan be considered. Mr. Paul Lundeen of Rhoads & Sinon will check into that, but banks normally do not provide loans with fixed rates for longer than 7-10 years. Mr. Simmons was concerned with potential change orders and the project taking two years to complete. Mr. Bruening said there was a 5% contingency included in the bid.

The Board agreed to have Chris and Paul begin preparing the credit package for Standard & Poor for the rating, and to work on the preliminary official statement. The bond should be level loaded, not front or back end loaded. The sewer rates will have to be looked at to determine what they will have to be set at to be able to afford the bond payments. Chris and Paul will have something ready to be reviewed at the March meeting.

ROADMASTER REPORT

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SINCLAIR ROAD DEVELOPMENT

Mark Hackenburg was present on behalf of Doug Gelder, who is requesting a waiver from the requirement of the 4% land development improvement escrow. He would like to pay the 3%, with the agreement that he would post the remaining 1% if and when 75% of the posted securities was depleted. Mr. Bruening reviewing the original proposed bond amount, made some adjustments, and has suggested a lower amount by about \$14,000 from the original amount. The total 4% escrow would be \$39,403.10.

The Board held a discussion on the matter, reviewed the issues that could arise such as if the property were sold to a different owner, or the township being put into a position to chase the money, or setting a precedent for future requests. The Board wants to work with the developers, but not put the Township in jeopardy.

On the motion of Mr. Simmons, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to require the 4% land development improvement escrow on the revised amount provided by Mr. Bruening, which is \$28,570.70 for township improvements, and \$10,832.40 for sewer improvements for the Sinclair Road development project.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 2013-01 – AUDITOR

On the motion of Mr. Simmons, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to adopt Resolution 2013-01, which appoints Smith Elliot & Kearns to perform the 2012 audit.

RESOLUTION 2013-05

On the motion of Mr. Simmons, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to adopt Resolution 2013-05, which is the disposition of specific municipal records.

ALLENBERRY SEWER

Mr. Bruening reported that Allenberry has installed a meter for their sewer use, and their quarterly sewer billings will be done from that reading. It was installed on December 7, and is similar to what is at the Leidigh pump station. Allenberry paid for the project. South Middleton's representative was there during the installation and they will read the meter on a quarterly basis.

The Municipal Authority billed the resident next to Allenberry for one EDU. However, the discharge from that residence goes into the Allenberry sewer line and will be picked up by the sewer meter now, so they should not get a separate bill from the Township. They will owe their sewer fee to Allenberry. There was discussion as to whether an agreement is needed for this, or is it solely between Allenberry and the resident. What happens if there is a change in ownership. Mr. Bruening reported the resident has not been paying their quarterly sewer bill and is on the lien list.

There is also the issue of an outstanding sewer amount that is due from Allenberry to the Township for when they were experiencing water line leaks. Allenberry paid what they felt was an appropriate amount, but the Township paid the entire amount due to South Middleton. South Middleton is to be considering a credit for this, but nothing has been decided to date.

All these outstanding matters will be discussed between the Solicitor and Engineer and an update provided to the Board.

UTILITY AUDIT

James Laidler of Utility Refund Corporation was present to explain a program that is available to the Township for utility audits. There are certain exemptions, fees, and surcharges on electric, gas, sewer, water, fleet fuel, and heating oil that can be reviewed and recovered for the period of the past three years. There is no up front fee, but the company takes 50% of the amount recovered. In addition, the Township would pay 50% of the fee that is being saved for an additional three year time period to this Company. The Township would provide one month of all utility bills, which would be reviewed to determine if there are recoverable funds. There are several documents that must be signed and submitted to start the process. The Company

would actually become the POA, which allows them access to the utility companies. Once the recovery is completed, the authorization expires.

On the motion of Mr. Simmons, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to forward the documents to the Solicitor for review, and to make a decision on a utility audit at the next meeting.

SOUTHERN SEWER PROJECT – CHANGE ORDER & PAYMENT

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to table the change order and payment request.

RESIGNATION

On the motion of Mr. Simmons, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to accept the letter of resignation from Nancy Codner as a member of the Planning Commission due to health concerns.

A letter will be sent to Nancy thanking her for her years of service to the Township.

AGRICULTURE SECURITY

On the motion of Mr. Simmons, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to acknowledge receipt of a request to add 132 acres to the agriculture security area and to authorize the Solicitor to begin the process.

The application will be reviewed by the Monroe Township Planning Commission, Cumberland County Planning Commission, and Monroe Township Agriculture Security Committee.

BILLS

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

STAFF COMMENTS:

Ms. Metzger thanked the Board for her reappointment.

Mr. Bruening thanked the Board of his reappointment.

Mr. Rogalski thanked the Board for his reappointment and for his new task as interim Fire Marshal.

Mr. Pykosh thanked the Board for his reappointment.

Mr. Simmons mentioned the Township received \$3,279 for recycling efforts. He asked the staff to look into the possibility of retro-fitting the trucks for natural gas. There is a grant

available for this. He saw an article in the PSATS newsletter. He wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mr. Kehoe hoped everyone had a good holiday. He is looking forward to a more peaceful 2013.

Mr. Castle thanked Sam for his leadership as Chairman in 2012 and mentioned it was a pleasure working with Phil as the new member. He congratulated Phil on his appointment as Vice-Chairman, and for bringing a different light to the Board. Bill thanked the employees who are a great bunch of people who serve the citizens well. He is very proud of them. He asked for the troops to be remembered and their families. The next meeting is February 14. The office is closed on February 18 for President's Day. There is sewer work being done on Sinclair Road in Upper Allen Township. There are periods of time when the road is closed. God Bless America.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie E. Metzger
Administrative Assistant