

December 13, 2012

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

ATTENDANCE

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

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

SPEAKERS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Devin Flickinger submitted a report for the West Shore EMS calls in November. He also mentioned as of December 31, 2012, he will be resigning his position as Fire Marshall. He has appreciated the opportunity to serve the Township. Mr. Castle thanked him for his service.

Mark Farrell said he will also be stepping down as the Assistant Fire Marshall. It is an investigation and complaint department. He has been asking around the fire company to see if there is any interest. Mr. Kehoe thanked them both for being available during the day, and for stepping up to this position as needed along with their regular jobs. An article will be included in the newsletter and on the website looking for volunteers for the position of Fire Marshall and Assistant.

Cass Gibson commended the Board in getting the South Middleton Township Municipal Authority to rebid the project.

Tracey Warner, Shuman Drive, questioned the increase in the sewer bills, and asked how many people are on the Board that make that decision, and how many are on the sewer. Mr. Simmons said there are three Supervisors who make the decision, and one Supervisor who is connected to the sewer. She asked how many new constructions there are that would be outside the guidelines to hook to the sewer. Mr. Rogalski said he can't think of any in the last 3-4 years. Ms. Warner mentioned the second exemption the residents received in the Lisburn Meadows development from hooking to sewer. Mr. Simmons said the cost of installing the sewer would increase the cost for everyone on the system. The Township would have to borrow money to install the sewer, and that would increase the rates. Ms. Warner is concerned with the prices just continually going up. As it does, more people will not be able to afford to live here, and people won't want to buy here either. Isn't there something we can do to fix the problem. Mr. Simmons said the rates will be going higher because of the upgrade to the sewer plant, which we have to pay 13 % of the bill. We have to borrow the money and pay the bills. Mr. Kehoe said it is very frustrating. We have to fund the upgrade that is being forced on us. We are also trying to fix our own lines to help control the costs. There is no short term fix, which is a real concern.

Rodney Warner said he was forced to hook to sewer 10 years ago to help subsidize the cost. But other people in developments get relieved and that is not right.

Dick Beaty lives in Lisburn Meadows and was forced to hook to the sewer, even though people had already invested in septic systems. The sewer is hodge podge, but about half the development is hooked to the sewer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On the motion of Mr. Kehoe, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2012 meeting, as amended.

ROADMASTER REPORT

On the motion of Mr. Kehoe, 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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

COMPUTER SERVER PROPOSAL

On the motion of Mr. Kehoe, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to approve the proposal of Kasual Computing to replace the server as outlined at a cost of \$12,845.00.

TMYCO SWEEPER BID

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to award the bid for the 1981 Tymco Sweeper to John Stamy III at a price of \$626.00.

NEW BUSINESS

TRINDLE STATION – BOND REDUCTION

On the motion of Mr. Kehoe, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to approve a bond reduction for Trindle Station Phase 2, Section 2, the new amount being established at \$18,885.00.

SINCLAIR ROAD DEVELOPMENT

Mark Hackenburg present. There was discussion concerning the 4% construction surveillance escrow requirement. Mr. Gelder would prefer to pay the invoices as provided as opposed to posting the 4% at one time, which for his project would be approximately \$52,000. They will consider submitting a waiver for this relief.

Mr. Pykosh mentioned Ordinance 99-1 was adopted to establish the 4% escrow so that the Board would not have to negotiate with every developer.

Mr. Bruening said the 4% escrow is to be paid prior to recording the plan. That money can be used for anything that is not covered and any unused portion is returned. The Board agreed to have the Solicitor and Engineer discuss this requirement and make a suggestion. The applicant may also consider submitting a waiver request.

On the motion of Mr. Kehoe, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to grant a 90 day time extension to the Sinclair Road development plan, as requested, to allow additional time to get the plan recorded.

PTO PROPOSAL

Mr. Kehoe mentioned the Monroe Elementary PTO ~~school~~ is interested in purchasing an outdoor movie kit and they would like to know if the township would be interested in either helping to purchase up to a third of the cost of it or being a sponsor by making a contribution. The Township could hold a summer outdoor movie at the Joe Carr complex and allow the various groups such as scouts to run the concessions. Cumberland Valley holds a license to be able to play commercial movies. He suggested the Recreation Board could review the proposal, evaluate how it could work, and if they could take the leadership role to hold the event. We could also help the school by storing the unit. Mr. Simmons suggested renting this from other townships or schools who already have them. Or possibly all the elementary schools could go together and purchase the unit and share it. He liked the idea of the outdoor movie.

On the motion of Mr. Kehoe, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to request the Recreation Board to work with the PTO to review and evaluate the outdoor movie package and make a proposal to purchase it, or to review other options such as renting or sponsorship.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Mr. Kehoe asked when the proposed rates for the 2013 health insurance will be available. The secretary said the renewal date is May 2013, so rates would come in a few months. Mr. Simmons would like to get some rates earlier to see if there is something that could become effective sooner in the new year.

ELECTRICAL AUDIT

Mr. Kehoe mentioned the price comparison received from First Energy and no follow up to his comments. The secretary advised Mr. Simmons and Mr. Castle had provided direction to move forward with the First Energy quote.

Mr. Kehoe mentioned a James Laidler, who provides a service of reviewing the electrical invoices and looking for utility costs reductions through billing errors, erroneous meter readings, incorrect application of rates, taxes, fees and surcharges, and applying for refunds for such activity. Mr. Kehoe recommended the Township consider retaining the service of the Utility Refund Corporation. Mr. Laidler could come talk to us about the program. He believes he works off a percentage of money we get back.

Mr. Kehoe asked the Solicitor to review the idea of the Township changing electrical providers to a PUC non-regulated company.

E-WASTE

Mr. Kehoe mentioned that effective January 24, 2013, Penn Waste will no longer be permitted to collect electronic waste such as computers, monitors, keyboards, printers, televisions, etc. He asked for this information to be shared with the residents and posted on our website.

CELL PHONES

Mr. Kehoe mentioned the Township currently uses services of Sprint. He has a local representative from Verizon who can provide some comparison pricing, and provided a file to the Secretary.

LOCUST POINT BRIDGE

Mr. Kehoe mentioned the public hearing being held on December 18 concerning the Locust Point Bridge project. Mr. Simmons said this project is close to happening. There have been numerous meetings with PennDOT. Mr. Castle said this is similar to the turnpike bridge, it all affects our fire and ambulance services. Mr. Bruening will attend the meeting. Mr. Rogalski mentioned the hearings are informal. The Board is invited to attend, along with the public, to provide any input, to look at the designs, and to see what is planned. The Board is not being asked for any official decision or action.

Mr. Kehoe raised the point that the meeting notification that he received from the township office was received much later than the notification letter that was sent in from the state's project engineer, and that the memo to him was lacking information. He respectfully requested that communications improve, specifically the timeliness and details involved. We are moving faster today and need to leverage technology such as scanners, email and telephones. The Locust Point Bridge memo from the township office didn't even say who had written it. We are capable of doing better at communicating. He thanked the Board for hearing him out.

BILLS

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 bills as prepared.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Mr. Bruening said the Eppley guiderail project is proceeding and it can probably be completed in one day.

Mr. Kehoe thanked the fire company for making their rounds with Santa. They had one of their biggest turnouts this year. Mr. Castle suggested sending them a letter.

The Patriot News reporter mentioned he has been writing about the problems in Monroe Township and the items being faced. This Township has extremely high sewer rates. The

township is caught between a rock and a hard place. DEP is very difficult to deal with and then there is the Chesapeake initiative to deal with. This is a small Township. South Middleton is also having their problems.

Mr. Rogalski thanked the Board and staff for their understanding and cooperation while he was away during the Sandy storm. Mr. Castle mentioned the work Mr. Rogalski does with the Task Force and helping others. We are pleased to have an individual with his character. Mr. Rogalski wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr. Pykosh reviewed a printout he provided on the collection of sewer liens. About 14 out of the 25 liens have been paid off or have agreements in place to make payments. About 25% has been collected. The Board agreed to send one more letter to those who do not have mortgages, and if nothing is received then the Solicitor will move forward with foreclosures. It is not fair to the people who are paying.

Mr. Castle asked for the troops to be remembered, and their families. They are still dying. January 7 is the next meeting, which is a Monday. The Locust Point Bridge meeting is December 18 at 5:30 & 6:30 PM. The office is closed December 24 & 25. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and God Bless America.

Mr. Simmons wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He announced the Board will hold an executive session after the meeting to discuss litigation and personnel.

ADJOURN

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to adjourn at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie E. Metzger
Administrative Assistant