

January 29, 2020  
7:00 PM

The Stormwater Fee Workshop of the Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Castle for the purpose of discussing the Proposed Stormwater Fee.

ATTENDANCE

A.W. Castle, III, Chairman  
Philip F. Kehoe, Vice Chairman  
Carl Kuhl, Supervisor

Chris Gleeson, Solicitor  
Greg Rogalski, Engineer  
Karen Lowery, Recording Secretary  
Nancy Adams, GHD

Mr. Castle stated the stormwater regulations are another unfunded mandate that he is not happy about. He has been on the Board for 28 years and Monroe Township has not raised the property taxes and have maintained a good quality of service for the residents.

Mr. Rogalski explained that several Stormwater Fee Study workshops have been held and that we are at a point that the Supervisors need to make a decision at the February meeting, so that we can proceed with the rest of the process. The township needs to collect \$2.25 million over the next 5 years to reduce pollutants in the MS4 area and improve stormwater concerns throughout the township. GHD provided their final Stormwater Fee Study report on January 3, 2020 providing 4 scenarios. He added that the numbers provided in the scenarios are not final, as there are still some variables that will affect the numbers.

Option 1: Bill farms based on their actual coverage. Owners of single-family dwellings will pay \$29.35 per quarter, but farms, commercial and non-profits will pay more.

Option 2: Bill all farms as single family dwellings. Owners of single-family dwellings and farms will both pay \$34.80 per quarter, but commercial and non-profits will pay 16% to 20% more.

Option 3: Bill farms over 10 acres based on their actual coverage. Owners of single-family dwellings and farms less than 10 acres will pay \$29.60 per quarter, with larger farms paying more, but commercial and non-profits will pay more.

Option 4: Bill farms over 20 acres based on their actual coverage. Owners of single-family dwellings and farms less than 20 acres will pay \$30.40 per quarter, with larger farms paying more, but commercial and non-profits will pay more.

Mr. Rogalski added that 5,500 sq. ft. per unit was the number used to calculate the single-family residence amount. The largest commercial property would be charged \$22,000 per year and the largest farm would be charged \$3,800 per year, for the next 5 years.

Mr. Rogalski added that large farms and commercial properties can apply for credits if they are willing to do some improvements on their properties. The credit details need to be determined, but could be for 30 to 45% of the fee. Ms. Adams, from GHD, estimated 20% of the

farms or commercial properties would apply for a credit to lower their fee.

Several audience members suggested working together with other townships to push back and not comply with the stormwater requirements. They suggested reaching out to state and federal representatives to express our concerns and have them fight against this mandate.

Mr. Kuhl is part of the CapCOG and learned that in Lancaster a township fought and made a deal with DEP regarding the stormwater requirements, but the EPA took the township to court and now the township is paying half a million in fees to fight the requirements. Mr. Kehoe added that just because we are “walking along” doesn’t mean that we aren’t fighting. The township has reached out to our representatives and would be willing to talk to other townships, but this doesn’t help with today’s requirements that we need to address. Ms. Adams, from GHD, added that all of the municipalities they have worked with have moved forward with implementing the fee. She believes East Pennsboro is the only one who didn’t move forward and they received a fine.

John Aigeldinger, 1447 Lutztown Road, said he’s been to 3 meetings and the amount has changed every time from \$800,000 to 1.3 million to 2 million. He also asked how much the non-profits are going to have to pay. Mr. Rogalski said the overall number has not changed. The \$800,000 was just the amount for the Pollutant Reduction Plan capital projects and the final number includes administration fee and operations expenses. He added that the largest commercial property will be charged \$22,000 per year and the largest church will be charged \$16,000 per year. Mr. Kehoe added that the largest farm will be charged \$4,000.

Steve Paulus, 1381 Shuman Drive, stated that \$3,500 is a tremendous amount for farmers to come up with when they are already trying to break even. He gave several examples of how prices for corn, soy beans, milk, and beef cattle have dropped over the years and these prices are set, the farmers don’t get to negotiate their selling prices. He also listed family farms that are no longer in operation and being farmed by one farmer from Lebanon. Mr. Paulus said people don’t understand how farmers struggle without walking in their shoes. He added that farmers bust their butts everyday providing a beautiful setting in this rural community and don’t ask for anything, except to be treated fairly. If the Board went with scenario 2 and increased the single-family residential rate by \$5 per quarter this would help the farmers because they can’t take much more.

Mark Swartz, 1183 York Road, thanked the Supervisors for their service and encouraged residents to contact their local representatives because the Supervisors are doing the best they can. He mentioned a frontpage article in the Lancaster Farmer paper about Silver Spring Township’s Stormwater Fee. He wants to keep the farmers in Monroe Township and not to burden them further, so he feels scenario 2 is the best option. He added that if the farmers were included in the single-family residential it would decrease the number of properties looking for credits.

Nathan Clymer, 123 Ridge Hill Road, gave a history of the Clean Water Act and said that if we didn’t have urbanized area there wouldn’t be an issue. The fee is based around the areas that have been urbanized, so we shouldn’t penalize the farmer. He feels that scenario 2 would save the farmers by charging single-family residences an additional \$5 per quarter. He also feels

that credits should be given for cover crops and no-till process that farmers use.

Sheldon Brymesser, 1463 Leidigh Drive, hopes that the \$2 million worth of stormwater work being discussed is work that actually needs to be done and is properly tracked. Farming is a unique operation along with housing cattle and protecting produce. Farmers are to have a conservation plan and manure management plans in place. The farmers just want to fair shake and \$3,800 per year for any farmer is high.

Mr. Kehoe said that if farms are included in the single-family residence calculations commercial properties and Monroe's non-profit organizations would see an increase of around 16%, which equals an additional \$3,000 or more per year for each of them. Mr. Paulus stated that commercial properties can raise their prices to cover increases, farmers don't have that luxury.

Edwin Horst, 215 Boyer Road, said the variable for the famers is impervious areas, what about land that doesn't have a home or buildings. Mr. Rogalski said that if a parcel has 300 sq. ft. of impervious surface or less, they will not have to pay a fee. The fee is assessed on each individual parcel.

Mr. Paulus added that farmers could subdivide the home and buildings from the farm land to meet the requirements of 10 or 20 acres, if either scenario 3 or 4 is chosen, to pay less.

Mr. Kehoe asked Mr. Rogalski to clarify is gravel is considered an impervious surface. Mr. Rogalski said that DEP clearly defines gravel as an impervious surface, just like a roof or blacktop driveway.

Mr. Kehoe asked Mr. Rogalski about temporary items that may show on an aerial map, such as trailers or campers. Mr. Rogalski said those items would not be included in the impervious surface amount and could be corrected through an administrative appeal.

Mr. Kehoe referred to Mr. Brymesser's comment regarding proper tracking and spending. Mr. Rogalski said that annually the Township must report to DEP the amount of work that was done in accordance with the PRP permit.

Mr. Castle said he appreciates the input from the residents and agriculture community. The Board will need to decide which scenario to use at the February meeting.

## ADJOURN

Mr. Castle adjourned the stormwater fee workshop at 8:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Lowery  
Recording Secretary