

March 8, 2012
7:00 PM

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

ATTENDANCE

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Simmons announced that the Board held an executive session prior to the meeting to discuss potential matters of litigation.

Mr. Simmons thanked Sue Sunday and the Supervisors for attending the meeting of the school board where a decision was made to save Monroe Elementary School for the year. He feels there is still a chance of it being closed in the future. We need to continue our efforts. He is not sure of their motives.

Mr. Castle thanked Mr. Simmons for his involvement with the school issue also. When we first heard of the possibility of Monroe being closed, we formed the committee, which was headed up by Mr. Kehoe and Ms. Sunday. He is pleased for the people holding things together.

PRESENTATION

The Board of Supervisors presented a Monroe Township Proud certificate to Mr. Jonathan Anschutz, for service as emergency Management Coordinator, and for his assistance with the delivery of a baby boy in December 2011 as part of his 911 dispatcher position.

SPEAKERS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Gene Giza – 440 Criswell Drive, shared his situation of being in the floodplain, and the damage he has received from the flooding over the past two years. He has gone through six floods, receiving extensive damage. He shared information about the FEMA program that provides grants for properties in the floodplain to help mitigate the problems. He asked the township to work with FEMA to help reduce the hardship he has experienced. He wanted to be on the record of requesting assistance, or if something can be considered in the future.

Mr. Rogalski provided additional information on the FEMA grant program on Hazardous Mitigation. The township must apply for the funding. The application period closes tomorrow. The application procedure is intense, and can cost up to \$10,000. The federal government pays for 75%, the state pays for 22%, and the township must pay the 3% of the grant amount. If the grant is

awarded, the township must take possession of the property, and it can only be used for open space, there can be no structures. The program is to get rid of the homes in the floodplain.

Jonathan Anschutz also offered some helpful information on the FEMA grant program. It must be a Presidential declaration, and there must be documentation of the properties in an area having problems over a period of time. A single property goes to the bottom of the list. There is no pattern of loss on Criswell Drive. There is an on line web based program for home owners to report damage and submit electronically to keep a record.

Mr. Kehoe questioned if Mr. Giza's idea was to demo the house and move away, or flood proof the house. Mr. Giza said there is no way to elevate the house or put a type of a wall around the property. He was willing to have the township take over the property.

Cass Gibson questioned the health insurance renewal and said there is a lot of information available on various types of insurance coverages, and ways to save money for the township. The trends in the industry include employees contributing toward their coverage, increasing the deductibles, and volunteer benefits. He suggested spouses not being covered or making the employee pay up to 50% of the premium for the spouse; making the contribution of the employee up to 20% of the premium; and increasing deductibles and co-pays. Health insurance is a big part of the budget, and any savings would be a good thing.

Mr. Gibson also suggested pensions should be re-evaluated. Move away from the traditional methods and move toward a defined contribution; and make the employees contribute their own money. The township employees are great, but so are the nurses, EMT's, and people who stock shelves.

Mr. Kehoe said the total compensation for a person must be considered, and what is left as the net in your wallet at the end of the day. With municipal employees there is a balance with what they are bringing home in gross versus what is coming out of their pockets. Mr. Simmons said the employees are contributing 1% now. He is open to hearing Mr. Gibson's suggestions, and appreciates the knowledge.

Sue Sunday thanked the Supervisors for their leadership, time, and effort with the committee activities to save Monroe School. It was a 6-2 vote to re-district some the Silver Spring students to Monroe. Within that vote there were comments made to lead her to believe they are still thinking about closing Monroe down the road. We will continue to monitor their agenda's and attend meetings. She also thanked heather Dunn and Ginny Boynton. This community is awesome, and came together over this issue. The website is moving forward.

Ms. Sunday mentioned the crosswalks in Churchtown are completed. She asked the township to consider the installation of two cross walk ahead signs on Boiling Springs Road.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Kehoe mentioned the proposed change submitted by Mr. Bruening concerned the correct percentages of the sewer project. He also mentioned that with regard to the Fire Tax, everyone is

looking to spend only what is need to be spent. For everyone to understand and make it more transparent, the fire company has offered to provide a monthly report so details can be referenced in the minutes and shared on the website. He has also asked the fire company to date their report on a standard form.

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 minutes of the February 8, 2012 Regular meeting, as amended.

REPORTS

ROADMASTER'S REPORT

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PENN WASTE – ORDINANCE REVISIONS REQUEST

Mr. Pykosh has contacted Penn Waste by telephone and letter, indicating we are still waiting for additional information.

RESOLUTION 2012-06

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to adopt Resolution 2012-06, which establishes a fee schedule for Monroe Township's administration and enforcement of the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code, specifically making changes to the fees for new multi-family dwellings.

SOUTHERN SEWER COSTS

Mr. Bruening said the estimates of flows for the quarterly treatment have been reviewed and discussed and South Middleton has revised the flow estimate for White Rock and Cockley for 2011. This yielded an approximate savings of \$25,000. He said he will review the flows for 2010 and use the same formula and submit a letter to South Middleton for consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

MIDDLE FARM SEWAGE MODULE

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to transmit the Middle Farm sewage module to DEP for review.

RUTTER'S – BOND REDUCTION REQUESTS

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to release \$692.00 from the bond for Rutter's Sanitary Sewer bond, contingent upon receiving a Maintenance bond in the amount of 15% of the construction costs to be held for a period of 18 months; and to release \$32,757.22 from the bond for Rutter's On Site Improvements bond, contingent upon receiving a Maintenance bond in the requisite amount and duration. The bond for the PennDOT Improvements was not recommended for release at this time.

AQUA WATER – ROAD BOND

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 request for release of the road bond for Aqua Water for the White Rock main replacement.

CHURCHTOWN CROSSWALKS

Permission is needed from PennDOT to install two cross walk signs on Boiling Springs Road. We will check into prices for the signs and place this matter on the next agenda.

RESOLUTION 2012-07

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to adopt Resolution 2012-07, which urges the Pennsylvania General Assembly to eliminate or amend the state Prevailing Wage Act (Act 442 of 1961).

HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to renew the health insurance with Highmark Blue Shield, which includes a 2.9% increase in premiums.

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

Greg mentioned that Allenberry is asking permission to have PennDOT erect TOD signs at their property. These are the blue signs for tourism. The Board agreed.

Mike Pykosh requested to be in attendance at any meeting that is held with the turnpike commission concerning the guiderails. He pulled the deed and questions if there are any agreements with the turnpike or any authority they have.

Phil said he learned through the process of saving Monroe is that this community has a valuable thing sitting in its location. When things got tense, the professional manner and politeness was outstanding. It says something about the intellect and conviction here.

Bill asked for the troops to be remembered, and their families. April 12 is the next regular meeting. The Easter Flower sale will be held on April 6 & 7. Everyone did a good job on the school issue. Option 3c was approved. He can't thank everyone enough. He offered his condolences to the Garvin family, on the passing of Ernie Garvin. God Bless America.

Sam suggested the Board send a contribution to the Cancer Society in memory of Ernie. Each Supervisor will contribute. We won this round for the School, but we must keep vigilant. We need people to buy houses in the township who have kids. He suggested getting a list of the names of children who will be coming to Monroe from Silver Spring and sending them a letter. Ms. Sunday said the school is also doing some special activities and will invite them. Mr. Kehoe said they will be invited to the fair and there will be a fellow kid mentoring program. The Supervisors will thank the school board members when they meet face to face on March 31. They can shake their hands and look them in the eye.

ADJOURN

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

Respectfully submitted,
Marjorie E. Metzger, Administrative Assistant