

April 12, 2012  
6:00 PM

The meeting of the Monroe Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Simmons. The purpose of the meeting was to meet with Representative Sheryl Delozier.

ATTENDANCE

Samuel M. Simmons, Supervisor  
A.W. Castle, III, Supervisor  
Phil Kehoe, Supervisors  
Rep. Sheryl Delozier

Marjorie Metzger, Sec/Treas  
Greg Rogalski, Zoning Officer  
Mike Pykosh, Solicitor  
Mark Bruening, Engineer

Representative Delozier gave an overview of the proposed budget. Under the public welfare, more money goes to the seniors than to public assistance and food stamps. With regard to the Mental Health Mental Retardation costs, kids are main streamed in school until they graduate. There is nothing in the budget for post high school. The budget proposes 4% less in spending. There is nothing in the budget for infrastructure and we know there are needs to be addressed.

Mr. Simmons mentioned the states getting hit hard in the future for medical expenses. Representative Delozier said two bills have been introduced to hold this off, but nothing has been done yet.

Mr. Simmons asked about the retirement for school teachers. Representative Delozier said new employees fall under the new regulations. Act 9 was rescinded, which made changes to the retirement system. Five years is now ten years, the number of years to earn was reduced, and you can't take a lump sum from the fund. These are first steps. The schools must come up with the additional funds to cover the pension plans.

Mr. Kehoe asked about the consolidation of school districts, or going to a county level. Representative Delozier said there are now 500 school districts in the state. Cumberland Valley can't get any bigger. Camp Hill is one of the smallest in the state, and East Pennsboro is very small. So many districts cross over county lines. Consolidation is based on transportation, contiguous districts, and size. About 88 school districts had possibilities of meeting these three criteria, but she doesn't see it happening. Schools don't want to give up their school or identity.

Mr. Kehoe asked about the school voucher system. Representative Delozier said there is a pilot program for seven years. We are talking about 10%. South central PA would not benefit. Schools in the 88<sup>th</sup> district would be on the receiving end.

Mr. Kehoe gave a heads up that the township is starting discussions with the Turnpike Commission for work to be done on the turnpike bridge from Eppley to Sinclair. The guide rails need replaced and we are asking for their assistance and financial support. The Township has

been told this bridge may be removed completely, which is not the best interest for the township residents. The bridge must stay open because transportation is critical and is important for life saving, fires, schools, etc. Mr. Castle said a meeting will be set up with Greg Shuey from the Turnpike Commission. We need to explain our ideas.

Mr. Kehoe mentioned the township is also sending another letter to PennDOT in support of getting the bridge on Locust Point Road replaced. There is support from Representative Scott Perry, and the Cumberland County Planning Commission.

Representative Delozier said there have been six bills voted out of Committee pertaining to the prevailing wage. The proposal is to raise the threshold from \$25,000 to \$185,000, but we don't have the votes.

Representative Delozier said there was a loop hole in the Meagans law that did not require out of state offenders to register in Pennsylvania. There is also tort reform, unemployment compensation reform, and laws for teen driving that are being worked on. The small games of chance is being sent through, and the rules for voter ID. In the absence of a driver's license, you can use the last four digits of your social security number. Legislation is also being introduced for property tax reform. House Bill 1950 passed for Marcellus shale, but Cumberland County won't see a significant increase because there is no drilling in this area.

Mr. Simmons asked if there is more money in the budget for state police. Representative Delozier said yes there is money for one class. The barracks are spread out proportionately. Costs need to be cut, but the State Police Commissioner has deflected all questions.

Mr. Simmons mentioned the condition of Harrisburg and what will ultimately happen to that city. Representative Delozier said it is a big problem and she doesn't have the answer. The Mayor keeps losing employees. The contract with police and fire is for four more years.

Mr. Simmons mentioned the current situation with South Middleton Township Municipal Authority and how difficult it is to work with them. They will not meet with us or talk with us about the costs. Mr. Bruening mentioned the design report that was submitted to DEP that we cannot get a copy of. Representative Delozier said it is a public record. Mr. Simmons said the customers are paying almost \$300 a quarter for sewer. South Middleton wants us to buy more capacity to buy our way out of trouble. Monroe needs help with this matter. Representative Delozier mentioned working with the Representative for South Middleton. Mr. Kehoe mentioned it is a \$3 million tab for us with no justification or willingness to have dialogue. Mr. Bruening said the Board has asked for representation on the Authority Board. Representative Delozier said it sounds like the issues experienced by Lemoyne, Camp Hill and Wormleysburg.

ADJOURN

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Marjorie E. Metzger, Administrative Assistant