

July 14, 2016
7:00 PM

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

ATTENDANCE

Phil Kehoe, Chairman
A.W. Castle, III, Vice-Chairman
Carl Kuhl, Supervisor
Catalina Araiza, Manager

Michael Pykosh, Solicitor
Mark Bruening, Engineer
Holly Wood, Admin. Asst.

SPEAKERS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Vincent DiFilippo, Cumberland County Commissioner, was present to thank and recognize with a certificate the Monroe Fire Company for their hard work and assistance to an elderly couple during the Winter Storm Jonas. Mr. DiFilippo said that it is felt that the individuals involved in the particular incident noted went above and beyond the call of duty and are due special recognition for their efforts and assistance.

Suzanne Sunday, 1284 High Street, updated the Board on the progress of the Asset Management program and volunteers. She stated that they are approaching the 300 volunteer hour mark. Ms. Sunday said they are starting to diversify their work, and are currently looking for hidden or missing manholes in the White Rock Acres area. She feels the project is 2/3-3/4 complete, and hopes to have the project fully completed by the end of the year. The progress has slowed down some with summer vacations and such, but they are getting ready to gear up again.

Chairman Kehoe questioned an email received with regard to the budget being reached. Ms. Sunday said that the first 2 parts of the project have reached the spending limit of \$4,400.00 set by the Board of Supervisors. The third portion was estimated at \$6,000.00, but with the diversification and abilities of the volunteers, the third part should come in much lower than planned. The question was raised as to whether to approve more funding now, or wait for a more detailed list of items. It was decided to keep working through what can be worked through by the volunteers and keep a list of items that will require engineering assistance. This list will be addressed and funded at a later date.

Randy Jackson, 314 Monroe Street, questioned where we stand with delinquent sewer accounts. He noted customer account 734's large debt delinquency and the fact that said customer's property was advertised in the newspaper for sheriff's sale. Mr. Jackson would like to know if we are going to get our money with this sale. Mr. Pykosh said we have liens filed and are aware of the sale. If the bank gets paid, we will get paid.

Mr. Pykosh went on to present his sewer action review and stated that 2 more writ of executions have been filed, and that we are up to date with our liens, so if the banks get paid, we get paid.

Mr. Jackson said he will be back next month to continue to follow-up on sewer account delinquency collection

Sue Erdman, Joseph T. Simpson Library, was moved up on the agenda. Ms. Erdman was present to make her annual presentation to the Board of Supervisors. She supplied a few handouts explaining some of the programs available at the library.

Ms. Erdman said that the library is currently involved in the summer reading program and that over 600 people attended the kickoff. She also explained that the library has a few new initiatives this year. One being free basic computer classes for those that desire them and another being the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten initiative that stresses the importance of reading to children at an early age.

Ms. Erdman noted the retirement of Linda Stoner, children's librarian, in September and the municipal breakfast on October 5. She also noted that she attended a Court of Honor for an Eagle Scout that completed his Eagle Scout project at the library, and that this Scout is now a library employee. Ms. Erdman went on to thank the Board for their continued financial support of the library. Mr. Kehoe stated that the Board appreciates all of her hard work with regard to the library.

Chairman Kehoe ended the audience comments section with an invitation to the Monroe Fire Company to meet in August to talk about budget numbers. Mr. Farrell requested that Mr. Heckert and Ms. March be involved in this meeting and that they be given the opportunity to bounce around a few dates that will work for everybody.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kuhl, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors, it was duly RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2016, regular meeting with minor editorial changes.

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and second by Mr. Kuhl, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the June 29, 2016 audit review workshop with minor editorial changes.

ROADMASTER REPORT

On the motion of Mr. Kuhl, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to approve the Roadmaster's report.

Mr. Castle questioned if the Parkview entrance paving was approved at a prior meeting. It was explained that it was indeed approved last year, but the work was unable to be completed before the October deadline for blacktopping. It was then asked if the prices are comparable to last year's pricing or are they higher. No one had last year's approved cost to compare, but the job must get done this year. Chairman Kehoe suggested that if the cost is less than 20% higher than last year's cost, then proceed with lowest estimate. However if it is 20% or more higher, it will need to be reevaluated.

On the motion of Mr. Kuhl, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to approve the lowest estimate presented as long as said estimate does not exceed a 20% increase over approved cost of 2015 for same project.

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT

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

Chairman Kehoe noted that Mr. Rogalski issued 10 zoning permits and 8 building permits in the month of June, totaling over \$900,000.00 in new construction.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

REVIEW SEWER ACTION PLAN

Mr. Pykosh covered this item with Mr. Jackson's Audience Participation discussion at the beginning of the meeting.

SMTMA PLANT UPGRADE

Mr. Bruening said the plant upgrade is winding down pretty well. He and Ms. Araiza attended the last scheduled progress meeting. He is concerned with the amount of change orders and money spent on the engineering, which exceeds the budget. He added that the plant should be up and running in September and the project should be totally complete by January 2017.

Mr. Bruening is also concerned with additional capital improvement projects that are being planned. He thinks these projects were originally part of the original upgrade, but with the changes that took place he thinks they were pulled out and lined up as separate projects. Mr. Bruening thinks the township should be careful about being involved in these additional

expenses. They will require review and discussion as not all capital improvements are solely for the benefit of the sewer department.

Mr. Kuhl asked when the plant will be tested by the State. Mr. Bruening thinks that will happen in September. Mr. Kuhl asked if there will be additional cost if things do not pass, and Mr. Bruening answered yes. The consensus is that this project will transition from engineers to lawyers in the near future.

Ms. Sunday noted that the Municipal Authority Board is planning to discuss budget information at their meeting next week, and would benefit from having any additional cost information that can be passed along. Chairman Kehoe agreed and encourages the Municipal Authority Board to use caution regarding any major budget changes recommendations until this project is fully complete and paid for.

HELEN BEAMER – FINAL SUBDIVISION PLAN

This item was moved up on the agenda. Mr. Diffenbaugh of C.W. Junkins was present to update the Board on the plan. He stated that the plan was revised based on the Engineer's comments dated May 4, 2016. Mr. Diffenbaugh also noted that the plan has received the Penn DOT permit for road occupancy, and is still waiting on DEP approval of the sewage plan module.

Mr. Diffenbaugh is requesting 3 waivers, which were recommended for approval by the Planning Commission. Those waiver requests being waiver of preliminary plan, stormwater management, and wetlands study.

On the motion of Mr. Kuhl, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to approve the waiver requests as outlined.

Mr. Bruening noted that he was not able to review the revised plan prior to this meeting. Mr. Diffenbaugh assured Mr. Bruening that all revisions were made as requested and required. Mr. Bruening suggested that approval of the plan could be made contingent on his final review of the revised plan submitted.

On the motion of Mr. Kuhl, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to approve the plan contingent on the Engineer's comments dated May 4, 2016 being satisfied on the submitted revised plans, not yet reviewed.

VERIZON TOWER

Mr. Pykosh said the final land lease agreement with Verizon is ready for signatures. They have agreed on a rental fee of \$25,200.00 with an annual 2% increase. There will be an upfront 2 year payment of \$50,400.00.

Mr. Kuhl asked about other companies using the tower. Mr. Pykosh said it is agreed that any additional companies must come to the township and work out additional payment. It was asked about the lease being assigned to a management company or such, and Mr. Pykosh said that we will be notified within a reasonable time period of any such assignment.

Mr. Kuhl asked if there would be any conflict with the local EMS services. Chairman Kehoe said there will be a separate access point for the tower, so there will be no physical interference with the firehouse and fire equipment. Mr. Pykosh also noted that the tower will operate on a separate frequency and will have no interference with EMS radio services.

Mr. Pykosh noted that a memorandum will be filed at the courthouse due to the long term lease agreement and writ of first refusal.

Mr. Kuhl asked how tower abandonment will be handled. Mr. Pykosh said that Verizon must remove the tower and restore the area. Mr. Pykosh ensured that a landscaping plan and such are in place.

On the motion of Mr. Kuhl, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to approve the lease with Verizon pending final legal review.

On the motion of Mr. Kuhl, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to authorize Chairman Kehoe to sign the Verizon lease agreement pending final legal review. Chairman Kehoe abstained from this vote.

BURNING POLICY AMENDMENTS

Mr. Pykosh stated that he received a question from Mark Farrell, Monroe Fire Company President, regarding recreational and ceremonial fires. Mr. Farrell had some concerns with the provision for allowing such fires. Mr. Pykosh explained there was a misunderstanding of the provision and that the next section of the Ordinance explains the requirements for containers that addresses Mr. Farrell's concerns. It was decided that the language in the Ordinance should be adjusted to match the Zoning Ordinance language regarding burns.

This item was tabled for final review by all before advertising.

TRINDLE ROAD/SINCLAIR ROAD SIGNAL

Chairman Kehoe, Ms. Araiza, and Mr. Bruening met with Silver Spring to discuss and review the plan for the signal at Tringle and Sinclair Roads. The plan is to put a light in at Sinclair and State Road and keep access to Bare Road from Trindle open, but make exiting Bare Road a right turn only. Silver Spring and Monroe will be meeting with Penn DOT in August, and a draft agreement will be coming to the Township from Silver Spring. Mr. Kuhl expressed support of having a turn lane in all 4 directions at Sinclair, to which Mr. Bruening said he envisions exactly that, but we need to wait on the design plan to know for sure.

TRASH/RECYCLING TIMELINE

Chairman Kehoe asked if we are ready to authorize the request for proposal and preparation of an ordinance. Mr. Pykosh stated that the only question not yet resolved is with regard to bags versus toter language. Chairman Kehoe stated that he thinks we are over-thinking this item. As long as there is a simple minimum set, companies can bid it as they see fit.

On the motion of Mr. Kuhl, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to move forward with the bid process.

PP&L – NEW RISK

Mr. Kuhl stated that Monroe Township is staying on top of this new threat. We do not want the project running through our township. He has talked with senators, and they are on our side.

Mr. Kuhl said we are making a push for burial of the new lines. PP&L has agreed to meet with us, Upper Allen and the County to discuss options. At this point, there is 1 property in Monroe Township that PP&L will need to buy if the project proceeds through Monroe Township. If burial of the lines is not an option, the project will most likely run through Monroe. Mr. Kuhl said less people are affected this time, so there is no media interest.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 2016-01 – SALDO

Due to an advertising error the July 14 hearing was cancelled and this item was tabled until a new hearing can be scheduled and advertised.

334 OLD STONE HOUSE ROAD

This item was tabled due to the owner of the property being unable to attend and present his request.

PP&L PHOTO ID DISCUSSION

Mr. Kuhl stated that he feels independent contractors should have solicitation permits and provide a photo id if they are going door to door for any reason. Mr. Castle said that these contractors are not selling anything, so why require a solicitation permit.

Mr. Pykosh asked who would enforce the requirement. He feels that we can require identification badges but he is not sure about the legality of needing to register with the township. It was agreed that Mr. Pykosh would review the current solicitation ordinance and advise.

Chairman Kehoe suggest that the Township put the PUC guidelines regarding utilities and their use of eminent domain on the township website as guidance for those involved.

CREEK ROAD PARKING AND TREE DISCUSSION

Chairman Kehoe said there are 3 areas of concern with the Creek Road detour route. Those concerns being parking at the intersection of Creek Road and Route 74, police patrols to monitor traffic including cyclists, and tree trimming to prevent traffic on Creek Road from being blocked in the event of foul weather.

Chairman Kehoe would like to see temporary no parking signs placed at the Route 74 intersection as he has seen some tight situations there with the current increase of detour traffic. Mr. Bruening said that under Title 67 the temporary no parking signs can be put up, however he feels that reviewing the regulations is also due. Mr. Castle said if it makes things safer, get the signs up.

Chairman Kehoe would also like to request that PSP make more frequent patrols of the Creek Road area. There are incidents of speeding by motorists, as well as cyclists impeding traffic and not properly following the rules of the road, making a bad situation or accident imminent.

With regard to the trees in question, Mr. Bruening said that any of the trees can be trimmed up the right-of-way line. The larger trees that are causing concern in the event of foul weather are on private property. Mr. Pykosh said he would talk to the property owner's council

about removing or trimming said trees. Mr. Pykosh believes the property owner would be open and willing to doing such in the interest of safety.

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kuhl, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to post temporary no parking signs at the intersection of Creek Road and Route 74 and to have Mr. Bruening review the requirements and make posting recommendations.

BILLS

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kuhl, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to approve the bills as prepared with an additional invoice of \$ 483,049.38 for the 2011 Bond payment .

STAFF COMMENTS:

Chairman Kehoe asked Mr. Bruening to start providing an Engineer's Report to the Board of Supervisors as a way to improve communications and keep everybody informed on current projects and work completed.

Chairman Kehoe also announced that this year's Community Day event was once again a success and thanked all involved for making it such a great day. He also noted that he felt the Community Day fireworks were better than the 4th of July fireworks he saw at the beach.

Mr. Castle asked everybody to remember our Troops, Police Officers and their families. He stated that these are trying times in this country for all and asked that we keep these people in our thoughts and prayers. The trivia question was "Which former CEO of Broadcast.com owns the Dallas Mavericks?" Answer was Mark Cuban. The quote of the day was "In matters of style, swim with the current; in matters of principle stand like a rock." – Thomas Jefferson. God Bless America.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Holly S. Wood,
Administrative Assistant