

December 21, 2011
6:00 PM

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

ATTENDANCE

Samuel M. Simmons, Supervisor
A.W. Castle, III, Supervisor

Marjorie Metzger, Sec/Treas
Richard Beaty, Vacancy Board

The purpose of the meeting was to conduct interviews for the six candidates to be considered for the Vacant Supervisor position. All were given an opportunity to explain why they want to be considered for the position.

PHIL KEHOE

Phil said he has lived in Monroe Township for 12 years. He likes the rural setting and the community elementary school. It is his time to give back to the community. The township employees have helped him with his adoptions, which was appreciated. This is a unique opportunity to give back. Will he be affective? He has the skill sets to help lead. His actions will tell the rest. He has skills in planning, management, research, budget, communication, and construction. That is summed up as leadership. He has the ability to serve. He is looking toward what has to be done to keep the township healthy and keep unfunded mandates off our backs, and to serve the community that has already done well.

Mr. Simmons asked what Mr. Kehoe likes about the township and what he can do to keep it that way. Phil said he likes the local school. He has a 7 and 8 year old son. Monroe is the smallest school in the district. It has great history and he wants to keep it open. The township has endorsed a special committee to help keep that going, which he is a part of, and he will continue to try to be affective.

Mr. Simmons asked what Mr. Kehoe dislikes about the township. Phil said the sewer situation and the Chesapeake Bay initiative which is affecting the cost of the sewer in the north and south districts. We are making a quarterly car payment. It is not mismanagement. He doesn't know what can be changed. Mr. Simmons has been reaching out to South Middleton, but they have not been receptive. He wants to help with that. He would like to get the politicians involved. We could look at more creative financing, but the township has taken advantage of the low interest rates. He would like to help communicate to the residents why the sewer situation is what it is. We are not setting around hoping for change. He will be proactive to try to control the costs.

Mr. Castle asked if Mr. Kehoe is able to make all the meetings. Phil said yes, the meetings are planned out a year in advance. He knows there will be special occasions, and there is usually a 30 day advance notice. His position with his work allows him to work around the department and be present at meetings and community events.

Mr. Castle asked if Mr. Kehoe is able to fulfill the two year term. Phil said yes, that is why it is unique. Six years is a big commitment. To fill in for two years is an excellent test and evaluation of his ability to fill the role.

CHARLES HEINZE

Mr. Heinze said his grandfather purchased the Allenberry property in 1944. Charles is interested not only because of his family but also the history in Monroe Township. He grew up here and attended Monroe Elementary. He left the area for ten years for employment but then returned as the 4th generation to run Allenberry. He lives on the Allenberry property and operates the facilities. His family and business has been involved with the community. He feels he led a sheltered life as a child and has not been involved in the community. His family is getting older and needs more community involvement. That will come from the 4th generation. He wants to continue to raise his family here and go through Monroe school and the district. His children are 3 & 7 years old. This is a great place to live. There are a lot of things in Monroe that make it unique. It is a pleasure to live here, not only as a resident but as a business owner. He wants to get into real estate and make that another level of Allenberry. It would be very valuable for the residents as well as people that would come to Monroe and enjoy that.

Mr. Castle asked Mr. Heinze if he could make the meetings. Charles said yes, he lives right here. He really doesn't get out of Allenberry, let alone the state. He has a very busy schedule. His children keep him here too.

Mr. Simmons asked Mr. Heinze what he likes about Monroe. Charles said it is not just the farm land and the creek and businesses here. He doesn't think it is any one thing over another. There is not too much agriculture or residential or commercial. Not much has changed, and it is a well balanced township.

Mr. Simmons asked Mr. Heinze what is the biggest problem in the township and how would he change it. Charles said the history tells you there have been issues with the sewer. When White Rock built the plant there were issues. We have all lived through that. He hears stories of it. In time he hopes that will be rectified. We are going in the right direction, but there is no easy answer.

Mr. Simmons asked Mr. Heinze if he is in favor of more development or if the township is okay the way it is. Charles said there should be more development for a number of reasons, such as the school. If there are more residents then businesses could survive more.

Mr. Castle asked if Mr. Heinze could fulfill the two year commitment. Charles said yes, absolutely. Mr. Heinze thanked the Board for the opportunity.

RICH MOORE

Rich said he moved here in 1988. His family selected to live here because of what they saw and what was to come in the future. It has surpassed his expectations. His children were

raised before he got here. Why is he here answering this request? He thought about where the township is going. What are the good things, it is simple, it is the mix of the township. Where else can you live in the community, come down the mountain, and go by the cows. It is a well put together community, and for most part the people are pretty nice. It is a great place to live. It is the unique part of Cumberland County. What are the dislikes. There really aren't any, just the opportunity already mentioned. There are things like the sewer, which must be dealt with. We need development, but it must be controlled and sensible. We don't want to become Hampden Township. For small communities, to deal with the economy is a challenge, but it needs to be done and done properly. You need to take into account the people of the township and where they want to go. He will be here for the two years of the term. He has no desire or plan to run after the two years. He would like to go back on the Zoning Hearing Board, because he really doesn't want to leave that.

STEVE PAULUS

Steve said he grew up in the township on a dairy farm and is the 4th generation. He has served for 15 years on the Planning Commission, as well as 1 year on the Zoning Hearing Board. He is very aware of the issues that have come up in the past 16-20 years in the township. The biggest part of his life has been working in the field of office furniture and granite installation. He was laid off in July. He has been through a lot in downsizing. He has been married since 1988, 23 years. He has two children that grew up here. He has coached softball for five years, which is challenging and fulfilling. Mr. Paulus believes there is a future in the agriculture business in this township. He had to leave the farm to work. Over the past ten years he has seen the farmer go from a slump to crawling out. With the challenges they face, we need to help them.

Mr. Castle asked if Mr. Paulus could fill the two year term. Steve said yes, he is confident he can commit for the two years. It is unique to have two years to see what it is about. He has been through some meetings and knows how difficult it can be. If he is successful then he would like to run for the next term.

Mr. Simmons asked Mr. Paulus what he feels is a township problem and how would he fix it. Steve said the sewer is one, but the biggest challenge to overcome is the budget. You don't know what the tax revenue and expenses will be. He knows the Board has struggled with the sewer for over 15 years. It rears its head and something has to be done.

Mr. Simmons asked Mr. Paulus what his thoughts are about closing the Monroe School. Steve said that is not fair. He wants to know what the other three townships are doing. He went through Monroe School and so did his daughters and they had the same teachers. He just attended the FFA banquet and he knows some of those people don't want to close the school. The FFA membership is thriving and that is good for the rural character of our township. It is the youth giving back and getting them involved in farming. He really thinks there is a future for the kids who want to apply themselves.

PAUL RAST

Mr. Rast said he is unlike most of the others. He has only been in the township for three years. This is the last place he will live. Him and his wife are both physicians, are involved in the community and he is retired from the Navy. He believes in local government and the small community. He has learned a lot about local government and it works best. We all have to live with regulations and work through them. There are certain rights that are good, like water and homes free from a lot of mandates. This is his first step. He lives in White Rock. He has seen the need of management from the township. There are problems with the financing, growth and development. We all have things we must live with. When a door closes behind, there is a new opportunity. He has lived a lot of places and has seen how government works with the tax base. He thinks he is prepared for it. Leadership is one of things he has. He works with many people. This is a great community and he wants to be involved. He will be involved at other levels if not selected for this position. He is a very busy physician. His family is grown. He sees problems with the school system. He likes small schools. This would give him the opportunity to work at that level.

Mr. Simmons asked Mr. Rast what he likes about the township. Mr. Rast said he likes the character, the small community is not too busy. It is peaceful. The people get along. The community is not over developed. He agrees with keeping things small. The key to growth is the economy and development, but it needs to be thought out and must work for all who live here.

MICHAEL MCCARTHY

Mr. McCarthy said he has been a resident for 32 years. He has been in the same home since 1981. He has two daughters who went through the Monroe School. He is recently retired from the defense staff in New Cumberland. He worked at the command level at the headquarters for distribution. Prior to that he was a police officer in Philadelphia for ten years. In 1980 he relocated out of the city. In the federal civil service he was a senior project officer. He has over twenty years of experience working with senior command, management study in all parts of the United States. He has a college degree and is certified in contracting at bureaucratic levels, and long range budget and forecasting. He has overseen anywhere from 60 to 600 people. He has overseen multi-million dollar awarded contracts. His largest assignment was for a defense distribution in Asia. Mike said he moved here 24 years ago because of what the township was. He doesn't rush judgment or decision making. He has a lot of experience to bring to the table. He could not get involved in politics because of his employment. This is something, now that he is retired, that he can have a chance to give back to the community. His experience is government contracting. He has written, reviewed, accepted, and rejected contracts. He has a lot to bring forward to benefit the Board and community.

Mr. Castle asked Mr. McCarthy if he could make the meetings for the two years. Mike said he is retired so his schedule is wide open.

Mr. Simmons asked Mr. McCarthy for his thoughts on development. Mike said he personally likes the township the way it is, but he is open minded to growth, but not arbitrarily.

He doesn't want saturation. It must have merit on the requirements or objectives. There are zoning restrictions, PennDOT, what about sewer and utilities. You must wait to see what someone has when they bring in a proposal to see what is worthy or has merit.

DISCUSSION AND DECISION

Mr. Castle said he was looking for initiative to do things in the township and commitment. There is a lot of experience here. Not everyone will get picked, but there are other positions in the township that they can make themselves available for. They can wetten their appetite for this type of position. He has looked over the resumes about twenty times.

Mr. Simmons said everyone is qualified. It is who we feel comfortable with.

Mr. Castle said he is leaning toward Phil Kehoe. He is in to scouting and coaching. He has stepped up to serve on the committee to help save the school. Mr. Simmons said there is no use having a cat fight, so he will agree with that. He could suggest just about anyone. This is a very tough thing. Mr. Castle said he is not one guy trying to steer the ship. The township has all the boards and commissions working together. We rely heavily on what the boards say and advise.

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Simmons, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to appoint Phil Kehoe to fill the two year Supervisor term vacated by John Dwyer.

Bill and Sam thanked everyone for coming. This was a hard decision. All the candidates are neighbors and friends. It is what is fair for the people, not ourselves.

SOLICITOR

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Simmons, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to appoint Michael Pykosh as Township Solicitor, beginning in 2012. The hourly rate will be set at that time.

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Simmons, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to authorize the advertisement for a Zoning Hearing Board attorney for 2012.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie E. Metzger
Administrative Assistant