

March 13, 2014
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
Samuel M. Simmons, III, Supervisor

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

SPEAKERS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Devin Flickinger gave a report for Monroe Fire Company. There were 358 calls for the year. They currently have nine active firefighters and two fire police. Mr. Kehoe was concerned with the low numbers. The entire community benefits from this. What can be done to help?

Devin Flickinger gave a report for West Shore EMS. There were 12 calls in January, 23 in February, and 8 in March.

Traci Cook gave a report from Dillsburg EMS. There have been 7 calls in Monroe Township. She will have the yearend report by next month.

Devin and Traci made an announcement that beginning April 1 at 7 AM there will be an ALS unit running out of Dillsburg, in conjunction with West Shore. They are working with the fire company to make the necessary box changes for responses.

Lee Walters asked about the proposed Curb & Sidewalk Ordinance. Mr. Pykosh explained the requirements will be for new developments, or areas that have existing curbs and sidewalks. The Township has no plans to install new curbs and sidewalks. It is the responsibility of the home owner to take care of the curbs and sidewalks, which includes snow or ice removal. The ordinance provides guidelines for any work and the process to get permits.

Sergeant Corporal Jonathan Mays of the State Police was present to give an update on the troop in Carlisle. They have a total of 65 at the station, including the criminal investigators and dispatchers. They will probably be building something new within the next four years in the same area. In 2012 there were 800 incidents in Monroe Township, and in 2013 there were around 600. There have been a reduction in the number of burglaries, thefts, DUI's, and crashes. The Carlisle State Police cover 13 townships and 3 boroughs part time. The biggest incidents in Monroe Township were the train incident, a fatality crash on Lisburn Road, and a missing lady on Old Stone House Road, where they used the K-9 unit. They are happy to be the police department for Monroe, and will take care of any issues that arise.

Mr. Castle mentioned a big improvement is that the Carlisle barracks is now taking the phone calls again. They are familiar with the area. Mr. Kehoe mentioned the coverage they

provide to the Route 81 corridor, plus providing the community service. They are very much appreciated. He mentioned the adoption process he went through and the Troopers were very helpful with the finger printing and showing the station to them.

Andrew Moyer was acknowledged for his attendance at the meeting. He is a scout in Troop 33 who is working on a merit badge.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Simmons, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2014 regular meeting.

ROADMASTER REPORT

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

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT

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

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Mr. Scott Schminky was present to discuss his request for membership in the National Emergency Management Association and the International Association of Emergency Managers. The assistant, Jonathan Anschutz is not seeking membership as it could be a conflict of interest with his current job with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. Membership for Mr. Schminky would provide opportunities to network with cutting edge information and hear from people who deal with larger scale emergencies in other areas. The information could be used to benefit the residents of the township. Scott does all the local training and has his advanced certification through PEMA. Mr. Castle commended him for his public service.

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Simmons, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to pay the membership fees for Scott Schminky to join both the NEMA and IAEM. This will be evaluated then for next year's budget.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CURB AND SIDEWALK ORDINANCE 2014-01

Mr. Pykosh mentioned this ordinance has been advertised and posted on the website.

On the motion of Mr. Simmons, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to adopt Ordinance 2014-01, which regulates the installation and maintenance of curb and sidewalks within Monroe

Township; and provides for provisions regulating permits; and provides for penalties for violation of the ordinance.

COMCAST FRANCHISE AGREEMENT AND ORDINANCE 2014-02

Mr. Pykosh said the ordinance has been advertised and placed on the website. Mr. Kehoe said he talked with the school about the free basic cable being offered from Comcast. The school was appreciative of the offer, but their IT system is too sophisticated for the basic line. They did ask Comcast for their assistance in offering a program to lower income families for internet service in the home. The basic line is for cable only, and has nothing to do with internet or phone service.

Mr. Castle questioned how much the township will receive. Mr. Pykosh said it would be approximately \$40,000 a year from Comcast, which is the 5% allowed. Mr. Castle asked who pays for the franchise fee, and Mr. Pykosh said the customer would pay. Mr. Castle felt in a sense it would be a tax. A lot of people who would pay this franchise fee have also been hit with the increased sewer rate, so he is concerned. Mr. Castle asked how many other townships have the franchise fee, and Mr. Pykosh said pretty much all of them. Mr. Simmons said we are just doing what everyone else is doing. If you don't have the cable service, you would not pay the franchise fee.

On the motion of Mr. Simmons, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by majority vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to adopt Ordinance 2014-02, which is a Comcast franchise agreement which establishes the contractual provisions to grant Comcast a non-exclusive cable communications franchise to include the grant of authority; the construction and maintenance of cable system; service obligations; fees and charges to customers; customer service standards; oversight and regulation by franchising authority; transfer of cable system or franchise; insurance and indemnity; system description and service; enforcement and revocation proceedings; and competitive equity. Mr. Castle voted no.

SEWER CONCERNS – LISBURN MEADOWS

Charles Brocht was present. He is requesting to wait to hook to the sewer until a line is put down Meadow Lane. He understand the township does not have a time table for that to happen. He is offering to pay the connection fee and 50% of the usage fee, but continue to use his private septic system and have it inspected every three years. His estimate to connect to the sewer, which requires him to re-route his plumbing, would be \$18,500 plus any unusual rock removal to connect to Simmons Road.

Dave Clouser was present. His estimate to hook to sewer is \$18,000. He suggested putting all the sewer districts together and have one price for all. He will have to borrow the money, which will be a loan payment on top of the sewer rate. He is a taxpayer, and has six people living in his home. He is retired and his wife just lost her job. The Veterans Affairs is relooking at their income and he could possibly lose his health insurance coverage. He agreed to pay the tapping fee in lieu of hooking on at this time.

Mr. Kehoe said the Board has asked the township engineer to re-evaluate and consider all options to hook up and ultimately comply with the ten year deferral to put sewer in. What is the most cost effective way we can do it? The more homes we have hooked up for the pool of people, the better it will be in the long run. For the individuals faced with the hook up now, it is difficult, painful and expensive. The engineer is looking at alternate concepts, getting quotes with the borings and types of connections. This matter will continue to be tabled until all cost estimates come in, and the engineer will lay out the best way to do this, which will include creative ways. It won't be an easy answer. It is the Board's objective to make it as palatable as possible. To push it off to the future is not what the Board is prepared for. We will look for the lowest cost possible for everyone.

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Simmons, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to remove the deadline of December 31, 2013 to hook to the sewer for Mr. Clouser and Mr. Brocht. The Board will not have a deadline at this point in time and will remain open until such time until another notice for a 60 day connection requirement is issued sometime in the future after consulting with the engineer.

ACT 57 CALCULATIONS

Mr. Bruening said Act 57 allows for the tapping fees and connection fees to be established for both the northern and southern sewer districts . It can be re-calculated every couple years.

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Simmons, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to table the Act 57 Calculations at this time. The \$4,000 proposal for this work could be put toward the inventory project being worked on for the southern district.

ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS

Mr. Rogalski reviewed a memo dated March 6, 2014 from the Planning Commission, which gave several suggestions of changes to the Zoning Ordinance amendments. Some changes

as suggested were accepted, and some were not. The official comments from the County Planning Commission have not been received yet.

On the motion of Mr. Simmons, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to approve the zoning ordinance amendments, with some suggested changes; to authorize the advertisement of the zoning ordinance amendments; and to set the public hearing for April 10 at 6:00 PM.

NEW BUSINESS

SINCLAIR ROAD – FINAL PLAN (WITHOUT PHASES)

On the motion of Mr. Simmons, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOVLED to approve the request to withdraw the final plan for Sinclair Road without phases.

SINCLAIR ROAD – SANITARY SEWER DEDICATION

Mark Hackenburg from RGS Associates present. The air testing of the main line needs to be completed. There are still some utility work to be done on site because of the winter weather, which should be completed within 2-3 weeks. Then Charter Homes can file for building permits.

Mr. Pykosh said a lien will be released for the portion of property being dedicated.

On the motion of Mr. Simmons, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to approve the dedication of the sanitary sewer for Sinclair Park, conditioned upon both the engineer and solicitor being satisfied with any outstanding conditions (not being limited to the line testing), and entering into a satisfactory deed of dedication. In addition, the piece on Trindle Station property must be taken care of.

SINCLAIR ROAD FINAL PHASE 1 SEWER BOND REDUCTION

On the motion of Mr. Simmons, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to approve the release of \$267,510.00 for the Sinclair Road final plan, phase 1 sewer bond reduction. The remaining portion will be \$30,081.00.

SINCLAIR ROAD FINAL PHASE 1 ROAD BOND REDUCTION

On the motion of Mr. Simmons, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to approve the release of \$513,959.25 for the Sinclair Road final plan, phase 1 road bond reduction. The remaining portion will be \$522,093.35.

Mr. Rogalski mentioned the number of fire hydrants shown on the plan is not what is installed in the field. There is hydrant in the corner missing. Mr. Bruening said the township does not bond for the water company items, but it should be put in with this phase. Mr. Hackenberg will check with the water company on this matter.

ROAD INSPECTION

The Board set road inspection for Saturday, March 22 at 8:00 AM.

ISO RATING

Mr. Rogalski explained the ISO report received, which is a rating from the insurance service for the nation. Homeowner insurance rates are based on the ratings. The Township rating was downgraded, which could cause insurance rates to increase. Monroe Township has two classifications since there are hydrant areas, and non-hydrant areas. Some areas which were reviewed include training, driver training, pre-planning, apparatus, time of responses, personnel, and operational capability. There is no differential for rural versus city fire departments, or between volunteer and paid.

Mr. Simmons was concerned that the township put a fire tax in place because the fire company didn't have time to make the money so they could train, and now they are not. The Township has done its part.

Dr. Azizkhan said the fire tax is more than the township tax. The extra money is given to the fire company to spend on meeting these requirements.

Mr. Simmons said it seems like the fire company is already having trouble getting people involved. The Township may have to think about merging or someone else taking it over.

Mr. Kehoe said the Township cannot mandate requirements, but we can cut off the money stream. The fire company needs to address these deficiencies and come up with a plan. The fire chief will be asked to report back to the Board within three months. He will also be asked to point anything out in the ISO report that may not be correct or any information missing, such as how many fire hydrants are in the township.

Mr. Rogalski will contact ISO to discuss the report. A written response is required within 60 days to ISO, which the Township will report that issues are being reviewed.

BILLS

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Simmons, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to approve the bills as prepared.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Mr. Bruening mentioned the storm water management requirements that were presented for the residents in White Rock in January. Mr. Kehoe will review this information and consider an approach with the White Rock residents.

Mr. Rogalski mentioned the letters that were sent to White Rock residents who are parking their vehicles in the streets, making snow removal difficult.

Mr. Pykosh mentioned the correspondence he had concerning a burning ban in Carroll Township. He referred the matter to Mr. Rogalski. Mr. Rogalski mentioned Carroll Township has composting now and had to agree not to allow open burning.

Mr. Simmons expressed his interest in getting the community garden started this spring. We need to get 5-10 people involved, use rain barrels and have the road crew fill them up with water, put some stone down for some parking area, and consider an area toward the back for someone to dump their leaves and composting. He suggested asking the master gardeners to help, and also getting help from the school agriculture department, county ag extension office, and FFA. Mr. Pykosh mentioned there will be handicap requirements for a certain percentage. Some sort of policy will be needed to outline the project, uses, rules and so on. Karen Lowery was directed to provide a memo to the Board with the project overview, what is needed, and the progress.

On the motion of Mr. Simmons, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to continue the portable toilet service with Walters Portable Toilets.

Mr. Kehoe mentioned the action item list that was prepared by Ms. Metzger from the last meeting on the agenda. He feels it is a good idea, and it takes care of the requests we have received to know the outcome of the meetings prior to the official minutes being posted. A few minor suggestions were incorporated from the Solicitor.

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Simmons, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to begin posting the action item list on the website after each meeting.

Mr. Kehoe mentioned a sewer article that was in Penn Live concerning delinquencies and costs to the community. He asked for an update on where we stand on our collection efforts for the next meeting. Mr. Pykosh agreed. Mr. Kehoe said consideration should be given for the next step for those who choose not to work with us. We need to pursue this.

Mr. Kehoe requested to meet with the Board after the meeting in executive session to discuss personnel matters, and possible litigation on the Allenberry tax appeal.

Mr. Castle asked for the troops to be remembered. The next meeting is April 10 at 7 PM, with the zoning ordinance hearing at 6 PM. The trivia question was as follows: “What element has the chemical symbol of K?” The answer was “Potassium”. God Bless America. Spring is March 20, 7 days away.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie E. Metzger
Administrative Assistant