

April 9, 2015  
7:15 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

Michael Pykosh, Solicitor  
Mark Bruening, Engineer

Samuel M. Simmons, III, Supervisor

Marjorie Metzger, Secretary  
Greg Rogalski, Zoning Officer

STATE POLICE

Corporal Darrin Mortof was present and said Monroe Township is not a hot area. He has been at the Carlisle station since September, and on the job for 18 years. Rhonda Bender mentioned the area in front of the school, and vehicles not slowing down. Joanna Reinhard appreciated Corporal Mortof's eye contact and mentioned how dangerous it is to drive and text. Corporal Mortof said texting and driving is illegal, but using your phone for navigation or as a cell phone is not illegal.

SPEAKERS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Sue Sunday gave an update on the Memorial Day program being planned on May 25 at 10 AM at the Mt. Zion Cemetery. The focus will be on World War II. Michael Zang is the speaker and Mr. Castle is the master of ceremony. This will be added to the website calendar and put on the front sign.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**On the motion of Mr. Kehoe, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors, it was duly RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2015 regular meeting, with several editorial changes.**

**On the motion of Mr. Kehoe, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to approved the minutes of the March 12, 2015 workshop to discuss the request for a part time paid driver for the fire company.**

**On the motion of Mr. Kehoe, and seconded by Mr. Simmons, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2015 conditional use hearing for John Bordelon, as corrected.**

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

**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 Administrative Report.**

ROADMASTER REPORT

**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 Roadmaster's report.**

Mr. Castle acknowledged the great job done by the road crew on the waxing of floors.

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 REPORT

No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SIGN ORDINANCE

Mr. Pykosh said the ordinance has been updated. It has been reviewed by the engineer, roadmaster, and secretary. This ordinance is a combination of several from the past. It is ready to be advertised for adoption at the next meeting. Mr. Kehoe stated the time is coming up for that overnight parking along Kuhn Road will start again. He questioned if the signs could be put up prior to the adoption of the ordinance. Mr. Pykosh said the signs could be erected.

**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 Solicitor to advertise the Sign Ordinance for the next meeting.**

CHARLES SWARTZ FINAL SUBDIVISION PLAN

Eric Diffenbaugh present. This is a subdivision on Simmons Road. Two acres with an existing house will be taken off the residual tract, which will be 6 acres for a new home. The existing home will be taken down and a new one erected. There are a few

engineering comments to be addressed. He is waiting for the PennDOT permit, and approval of the sewage module.

Mr. Bruening removed his engineering comments dated April 7, 2015. There is an existing highway occupancy permit for the existing house. The permit for the replacement home cannot be applied for until the old house is removed because of site distance. The existing driveway is there so we are not creating a lot that is not accessible.

**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 Charles Swartz final subdivision plan, contingent upon satisfying the township engineer's comments dated April 7, 2015.**

#### NEW BUSINESS

#### TRASH / RECYCLING CONTRACT

The Township has the ability to extend the existing trash/recycling contract with Penn Waste for up to two more years, or the contract can be bid. It takes approximately 4-6 months to go through the bidding process. The one year extension would increase the rate by \$3.75 a quarter each year.

Mr. Simmons was in favor of bidding for a new contract. Mr. Castle has had no complaints with Penn Waste. Mr. Kehoe has had no problems with Penn Waste. The decision to extend or bid would be on cost savings, not service.

The Board requested to get information from other townships on their pricing and to find out what the deadline is from Penn Waste to respond on the extension.

**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 trash/recycling decision to bid or extend until the next meeting.**

#### F&M NOTE – DRAW EXTENSION

Mr. Pykosh gave an overview of the F&M Note in place with an interest rate of 2.34%. The initial draw period was 18 months, which expired in March. The sewer project is behind schedule. F&M is willing to extend the draw period through August 31 for a fee of \$2,500 (or possibly 4 payments of \$625 each for May – August). If the entire

amount of the Note had been withdrawn in March, the township would have paid a total of \$17,000 in interest payments on the funds it was not using.

Mr. Kehoe said the major item of the equalization tank #1 is planned to be completed in January 2016. We will be receiving invoices through January at least.

**On the motion of Mr. Simmons, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to pay the \$2,500 to F&M to extend the draw period through August, with monthly payments of \$625 for 4 months if possible.**

#### BURNING PERMITS

Mr. Kehoe mentioned that we started the process two years ago to clear all the internal hurdles for a resident to be able to obtain a burn permit electronically. There is now a form and instructions and terminology has been added to cover an electronic signature. In addition to adding an online form, copies of all applications will now be emailed to the fire marshal. The on-line application is being added to the existing burn permit set up. Individuals can still stop at the office and sign the form being used now, if they choose.

**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 burn permit for on-line use.**

#### TRINDLE STATION – PHASE 2, SECTION 2 SEWER DEDICATION

Mr. Bruening said the dedication is ready for acceptance, contingent upon the outstanding comments and agreements. Mr. Pykosh said a release from the bank is needed for this portion of property being dedicated. He has reviewed the deed and legal description.

**On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Simmons, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to accept the dedication of the sewer line for Trindle Station, Phase 2, Section 2.**

#### GARAGE DOOR REPAIR

**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 garage**

**door repair to the rear building in the amount of \$2,136.52 by Eastern Lift Truck Co., Inc.**

BILLS

**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 bills as prepared.**

STAFF COMMENTS:

Mr. Rogalski mentioned a complaint he received concerning an abandoned property. At this time the township does not have any ordinance for this issue. There are different levels to address something like this in the future if the Board is interested in making changes to its Ordinance. However, this is a standalone, isolated issue. The property next door is up for sale. The Township could have a standalone ordinance for abandoned buildings. It could be handled under a property maintenance code situation. The County Redevelopment Authority has a program for blighted property.

Mr. Simmons thanked everyone for coming to the meeting tonight.

Mr. Kehoe announced this Saturday at Founder's Field is the Monroe Township Little League opening day. Volunteers are needed. The opening ceremony is at 10:30 AM, with games starting at 12 Noon. There will be an ice cream truck there, the CV band will be selling French fries and chicken fingers, and the Boy Scouts will be selling hot dogs and sausages.

Mr. Kehoe announced an executive session will be held after the meeting regarding potential litigation and personnel matters.

Mr. Kehoe mentioned the recreation plan provided by Ms. Lowery for playground equipment behind the township building. This is part of the grant application that includes the walking path resurfacing and a new walking path for the new land, along with the playground equipment upgrade. The Board agreed with the proposal.

Mr. Kehoe mentioned the garden plots will be started once the weather gets better and the ground dries out. He suggested not sticking to a number on paper for garden plots if there is that much interest it needs to be expanded.

Mr. Kehoe announce road inspection is scheduled for April 18.

Mr. Kehoe brought up several upcoming items this summer, which include an audit workshop and budget workshop like we had last year. Both of these should be posted on the website and the next newsletter for communication and promotion.

Mr. Kehoe stated the South Middleton sewer project is getting more complicated. It is off schedule and they have been through multiple contractors. Invoicing is becoming complicated and stretched out. Mr. Bruening has been involved and has been the main technical contact with South Middleton.

**On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Simmons, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to appoint Mark Bruening, township engineer, as the point person and to take the lead on the South Middleton sewer project. The secretary will process the checks for payment.**

Mr. Kehoe mentioned the MS4 matter, lending issues, financing for the fire company, and how life is becoming very complicated for Monroe Township. He thinks it is time for Monroe Township to start thinking about a Manager again. We rely on our professionals to solve issues, but it comes at a cost. We need a higher level of oversight and daily leadership. We need another hand in the office to guide and lead. The manager items are falling to the Supervisors. Mr. Castle said he would have to think about it. It has merit because things are more complicated. Mr. Simmons said the township is paying the solicitor and engineer over \$100 an hour. He wants this matter on the next agenda. The Board agreed to get sample job descriptions and salary reviews.

Mr. Castle asked for the troops to be remembered, and their families. May 14 is the next meeting. Primary Election is on May 19. The Memorial Day celebration is May 25 at 10 AM. The trivia question was “What was the first name of Mr. Rogers from the TV show Mr. Rogers’s neighborhood? Answer was Fred. The quote of the day was “Running away from any problem only increases the distance from the solution. The easiest way to escape from the problem is to solve it.” God Bless America.

ADJOURN

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie E. Metzger,  
Secretary/Treasurer