

September 11, 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. Mr. Kehoe mentioned thirteen years ago a horrible thing happened, so he asked for a moment of silence to remember in your own way.

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, Secretary

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Kehoe announced that there was an executive session held at 4 PM today for personnel matters; and an executive session held this evening at 6:20 PM for potential litigation.

SPEAKERS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Frank Tamanini, developer of Trindle Station, shared his idea of installing a recreational area in his development. He has contributed recreation funds to the township, which is required to be used on recreational purposes. He would like to know if the Township is interested in the idea of designing and constructing a park instead of extending Monroe Street. A park should be in walking distance for the residents of Trindle Station and Wertz development. A park would encourage people to locate here, which would benefit Monroe Elementary school. The residents of the development have met to discuss the park, and have shared ideas, and are all in agreement with the desire to have a recreational facility located in Trindle Station. He offered his service in a joint private/public partnership with the township and asked what is the simplest way to proceed.

Mr. Kehoe suggested this matter should be an agenda item for future consideration of the frame work and options. Mr. Pykosh agreed. The Recreation Board should also get involved in the process. Mr. Pykosh said a developer can set aside a dedicated park area as part of the development, but in this case the decision has already been made to pay the recreation fees. Would the Home Owners Association own this land? Mr. Tamanini said initially he wanted to dedicate Lot 112. He is back to look at that option. He would like to have a workshop to work out the nuts and bolts, and would like to be flexible and open to ideas. He asked for the Board's ideas before spending a lot of money and time on the design.

Mr. Simmons said he needs time to think about this. There are a lot of things to figure out, such as who is responsible for what. Mr. Bruening said the nuts and bolts need to be worked out with the Board of Supervisors, such as liability, ownership, changing the plan for extending Monroe Street, etc. The Ordinances must be reviewed for compliance.

Mr. Tamanini will take a concept plan to the Recreation Board meeting. Mr. Bruening and Mr. Rogalski will review the ordinances and inform the Board what can be done in accordance with the Ordinances.

Lane Brody, 804 Genevieve Drive, was very happy to hear of the park concept. It would benefit the community, as well as the outside community. He agrees with getting children outside away from all the technology. He hopes the Township takes the idea into consideration.

Eugene Summers, 47 Franklin Drive, thanked the Board for their service. He has six children and is retired from the Marine Corps. It is difficult to get to the Joe Carr park from Trindle Station because of the traffic.

Randy Jackson, 314 Monroe Street, thanked the Board for keeping the delinquent sewer bills active. He feels the oil & chip job in Wertz development was a fine job. People came around with a petition but he did not sign it. He knows the money is not available for paving, but there are no pot holes in the streets.

Bev Cleland, 822 Spring Rock Court, has heard exciting ideas about the park. She has relatives with small children, and she walks. Safety for the community is important.

Robert Graf, 40 Franklin Drive, lives on a cul-de-sac that is not completed in Trindle Station. He sees kids driving around looking for some place to go. That is the idea of the park concept, to give the kids a place to go.

Joan Goodling, 835 Tamanini Way, is in favor of the park. She asked if there will be a new traffic light study done for the intersection of Sinclair and Trindle Roads. It is becoming more of a hazard going that direction. If the traffic light is put in, then people will cut through the development to get off Williams Grove Road. She asked if the contributions being given for traffic improvements is part of the same money that could be used for the recreation facility.

Carol Maciejczyk, 913 Spring Circle, has lived there for 39 years. The roads were paved in 1998 when the public sewer was installed. She mentioned a crack in the pavement by her residence that goes across the road. She asked for it to be examined and action taken if needed. She emailed the township and has not received a response to date. She received different information from different employees. Since the roads have been oil & chipped, she no longer walks because the stones hurt her feet. People don't walk their dogs, and there are no longer any bicycles. She asked if a grant was received for this road work, or was any material free of charge. She understands the oil & chip is cheaper than paving. She was upset with the size of stones that were used. Some are not embedded in the tar yet. She questioned what happens in the winter and how will the township road crew plow with the loose stones. She questioned when the roads will be swept again.

Mr. Kehoe explained the LTAP seminar that took place in Silver Spring Township on the subject of oil & chipping. The instructor went through Wertz Development and said the job was more than adequate. It is an inconvenience, and different than the smooth paved roads. There was no grant received. The Liquid Fuels funds were used, which come from the gas tax. The oil & chip is an approved use for those funds. This method has been used since 1920. It provides an extended life to the road. It also improves the slipperiness. It is a common use. The cost vary between paving and oil & chip is big. We spent \$90,000 to pave one mile on Baish Road,

and that would have covered about 18 miles of oil & chip. Oil & chip costs less than \$8,000 per mile and extends the life of the road by 5-7 years. It is used on low volume roads with a use of 400 Average Daily Trips (ADT). Oil & chip was used on the road he lives on in June. The road crew will be able to plow without a problem. There will be more sweeping of the roads. Mr. Kehoe also confirmed the roads will be swept again before winter.

Mr. Castle said his road has been oil & chipped numerous times. It is a way to preserve the road. Sometimes we need to put up with a little problem to make things better.

Frank Tamanini thanked the Board for hearing their ideas. He will follow up with the Board's suggestions.

Devin Flickinger, West Shore EMS, reported there were 17 emergencies in August and a total of 127 calls so far in 2014. He thanked the Board for their support.

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 August 7, 2014 regular meeting, with several editorial changes.

The minutes of the August 26 workshop with the fire company were tabled.

CAPITAL REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Ann Simonetti was present and gave a presentation as to how the Capital Region COG operates and what services they provide. COG promotes cooperation and communication and joint action to benefit the municipalities. They have been around since 1970, and the east shore has now joined the organization. They offer joint bidding of materials and services, and hold an auction for surplus equipment. They offer drug and alcohol testing, a UCC joint appeals board, provide legislative updates, provide equipment/resource sharing; provide research/surveys on various topics, and networking activities.

Mr. Kehoe mentioned his understanding that the MS4 activities don't require membership. Ms. Simonetti said that was for the advertising portion. Mr. Kehoe said MS4 is a big focus, to look at getting people trained and being compliant. If COG can assist with that, then we should explore that. There should be a cost comparison done with respect to the services provided for the cost of membership. It is in our best interest to evaluate it. He thanked Ms. Simonetti for coming.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

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 Administrative Report.

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 REPORT

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 Emergency Management report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PERSONNEL MANUAL

Mr. Kehoe said the updates are being worked on. Mr. Simmons said he has looked over it. Mr. Castle would like to have a sit down meeting with the employees to get their feelings, questions, and ideas. Mr. Kehoe said that is a good idea, but would like to get another round of it cleaned up and integrated. There are a series of comments and edits to get into a solid working draft. He provided his input to Mr. Pykosh for incorporation.

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 Personnel Manual.

ZONING HEARING BOARD APPOINTMENT

The Board agreed to schedule interviews with Paul Rast, Carl Kuhl, and Kevin McCarthy

FRANCHISE FEES

The Board has agreed to allocate 50% of the franchise fees to a rainy day fund, which will be in the General Fund. One issue that has come up is whether this money can be used for extra ordinary expenses, including sewer districts. At this point, if anything happens in the sewer districts, the township is forced to borrow money. There is no money being set aside for capital projects. Mr. Pykosh suggested getting a formal recommendation from bond council, because there is something that has to do with liquidated debt. The Board agreed to get a formal response from bond council on whether the franchise money, which is being deposited into the General Fund, can be used for the sewer district extraordinary expenses.

Mr. Simmons mentioned the area of MS4 that could require a substantial amount of money. The township has been hit with a lot of things that have to be paid for. People have complained about the cable fee as a nuisance tax. They don't have to have cable, they could get Direct or Dish. The franchise fee was the least painful way to get some extra funds.

On the motion of Mr. Kehoe, and seconded by Mr. Simmons, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to table the franchise fee matter, and to proceed with getting a formal interpretation from bond council.

ORDINANCE 2014-05 - WATER SHUT OFF

On the motion of Mr. Simmons, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to adopt Ordinance 2014-05, which allows for public water service to be cut off in accordance with state regulation in the event that a sewer rental bill remains delinquent for more than thirty days.

NEW BUSINESS

VERIZON WIRELESS

John Andrews, Andy Miller, and Dave Sheaffer present. Verizon Wireless is interested in leasing land from the township and placing a tower at the firehouse property. This would improve service, coverage, and capacity along Route 174 and Lisburn Road. The area to be leased is 100' x 100' with a 50' x 50' fenced area. There would be a 150' pole, plus 5' lightning rod on top. There would be no employees. A maintenance worker would be on site once or twice a month. There would be a gravel access drive.

Mr. Kehoe said from a financial perspective, it would be good. The perception of the residents and whether they want this in their back yard is another item. Compliance with the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances could be substantial. Safety and security and the ability to communicate needs to be factored in during natural weather events. Power shut downs happen regularly around here. The middle of town and the township office have a weak cell signal.

Mr. Simmons said there is a definite need for it. It must be explored as to what can be done to make it happen. We can use the money. Mr. Castle said there is weakness for cell phones in this area. Communication is key. Mr. Kehoe said this would be similar to the franchise fee, it doesn't come at the expense of the residents.

Mr. Rogalski said there are some hurdles on the zoning end to see if they can be remedied. Mr. Andrews will continue to work with Mr. Rogalski and Mr. Pykosh before making a formal presentation to the Board.

AMUSEMENT TAX

Mr. Pykosh said the box seats at Williams Grove Speedway would fall under the current amusement tax ordinance. He will review this with Ms. Lowery. With regard to gambling at Cold Springs Inn, only the Gaming Commission can tax that. With regard to parking at the

Williams Grove Speedway, as opposed to camping, the township can collect up to a 10% fee on parking, but that would require a separate ordinance to create a parking tax.

The Board tabled the amusement tax matter.

INFRASTRUCTURE ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSULTING SERVICES

Mr. Kehoe said there is no inventory or priority list of issues of what can be done to help work on the infiltration & inflow issues in the southern sewer district. There are no spare funds within the district's budget, we are revenue neutral. We need to define what we have, assess the system, and have some kind of plan to get it under control. There is a lot of raw information. This could be taken by volunteers or staff and dropped into a spreadsheet to start with an asset inventory. Mr. Bruening could provide the direction and the volunteers could provide the work.

The Board agreed to table this matter and have the Municipal Authority review the proposal from Barton & Loguidice and provide a recommendation. What can we start with minimum or no cost? We must have a priority list in case grants come available, we are ready to apply.

PARKING ALONG KUHN ROAD

Mr. Rogalski said the people have not come back. The local kids are not there as much now that school has started. He spoke to state police, who made contact with the individuals who were camping. Things dried up since summer is over. If the township posts no parking signs, the state police will enforce them.

Mr. Kehoe said there is an area along Kuhn Road and Asper Drive that should be posted with no parking signs from dusk to dawn. It is a lower cost alternative to dumping rocks or install guide rail to prevent parking at all. The signs give a tool to the state police to enforce.

Mr. Pykosh said the township can regulate parking, but it must be done through an ordinance. The road crew will be asked if there are any other signs in the township, or if any others are needed so one ordinance can be done for all of them. Mr. Rogalski mentioned the need for regulating parking in cul-de-sacs during winter.

The Road Crew will be asked if they can make the no parking signs, and if not, to provide a cost to purchase them.

MMO – MINIMUM MUNICIPAL OBLIGATION

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 Minimum Municipal Obligation for pension for 2015 in the amount of \$51,206.72.

ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS

Mr. Rogalski said the Planning Commission reviewed the sign requirements of the zoning ordinance and gave a quick recommendation. Now the Board must decide if they want to move along with making changes to the ordinance, or leave it the way it is.

Ms. Nelson was present and read the recommendation of the Planning Commission, which included their agreement with Option 3, with modifications; to include a potential exemption for agricultural signage; revisions to Section 313 described in Option 2 would also be implemented; and a fee for temporary signs, or no fee.

Mr. Rogalski said any fee changes could be handled through a Resolution. Any changes to the Zoning Ordinance would require an amendment and going through the process of reviews and hearings.

Mr. Kehoe said the fee for temporary signs needs to be taken care of. This township does encourage and support agriculture business, and all businesses within the township. He questioned the need for revisions to the ordinance at this time. Mr. Kehoe questioned if there are any other examples other than Bricker and Route 174 market. Mr. Rogalski mentioned Don Deckman has been in touch with him.

Mr. Paulus questioned who took down the alpaca sign. Mr. Rogalski said he did, and he will continue to enforce the ordinance. He has not heard from the alpaca gentleman.

Ms. Nelson said the ordinance is normally updated every year or so with revisions that come from one or two instances of a need for a change. She was not aware there was a problem with signs. Mr. Rogalski said about 3 or 4 people honed in on the sign topic. A lot of people were upset about real estate signs. Mr. Kehoe said he got a handful of complaints and comments about signs. He has heard from both sides on the real estate sign issue.

Paul Kiesow of The Patriot said the corn signs should be exempt. They are cute and everyone likes to see a poorly lettered sign. This whole thing got started with the real estate signs.

Mr. Kehoe said updates and modifications to an ordinance are a journey. We are only weeks later from making changes. He suggested waiting a year to see what else comes up and then address the items at that time. Address the temporary sign and lower the price now. Mr. Rogalski said it did get started with real estate signs. We increased the provisions for the off-site directional signs.

Mr. Castle said the township has always bragged about being an agriculture community and have been supportive. He is not looking to change the direction of that. In many ways we have paid for that. Mr. Castle loves the farmers and the township. He has no problem with exempting the agriculture business signs.

Mr. Simmons said it disturbs him that someone would think this Board doesn't support farming. One person has raised this ruckus when we have gone through the ordinance process for over a year. There were public meetings before passing the ordinance. Why wasn't it brought up before? The ordinance was just passed so we should wait at least a year, as other things come up. County is a place to look for information on agriculture. Do they have a model ordinance for agriculture signs? There is also the Agriculture Extension Office. It really hurts him that this has taken the idea that this Board doesn't support agriculture. Who has done more for agriculture on this Board but him? That is hard to take. He suggested staying with the ordinance in effect now. Mr. Simmons agrees the fees need to be corrected. There should not be any fees for agriculture signs. That was a mistake.

Mr. Castle said to move forward with getting ideas from other experts and experience in the field. As long as we are striving to make things better, looking for ideas, and exploring different avenues.

On the motion of Mr. Kehoe, and seconded by Mr. Simmons, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to keep the Zoning Ordinance as is and to address through Resolution the elimination of the fee for temporary signs. The Zoning Ordinance can be addressed next year as far as input from the county and Agriculture Extension Officer for off-site directional business signs.

TRICK OR TREAT NIGHT

On the motion of Mr. Simmons, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to set Trick or Treat night for Thursday, August 30, 2014, from 6-8 PM.

Mr. Bruening will check with PennDOT about putting blinkers out on Route 174 through Churchtown.

STORM WATER POLICY

On the motion of Mr. Kehoe, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to table the storm water policy.

SOUTH MIDDLETON SUPPORT FOR GRANT

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 letter of support for South Middleton Township's grant application for the Boiling Springs Sidewalk and Traffic Calming Feasibility Analysis through the Regional Connections Grant program.

BILLS

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

STAFF COMMENTS:

Mr. Castle asked for the troops to be remembered. The Baseball Association and Dr. & Mrs. Reza Azizkhan have donated \$1500 each for the purchase of an AED unit. A letter will be sent that is signed by the Supervisors. Mr. Kehoe said once the unit is received and mounted in a public location, then we will come up with a way to access it for everyone using the township facilities. This will also be promoted in the newsletter. The generosity of the Azizkhan's is exceptional.

Mr. Simmons mentioned Heather Dunn has been appointed as school board member. A letter will be sent to her signed by the Supervisors, as well as putting it in the newsletter. She will fight for Monroe Township.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie E. Metzger
Secretary/Treasurer