

September 15, 2011
7:00 PM

The regular 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, III, Chairman	Marjorie Metzger, Administrative Assistant
A.W. Castle, III., Supervisor	Jen Hipp, Solicitor
John Dwyer, Sr., Vice-Chairman	Greg Rogalski, Zoning Officer
	Mark Bruening, Engineer

SPEAKERS FROM THE AUDIENCE None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Dwyer, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2011 Regular meeting.

On the motion of Mr. Dwyer, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the August 30, 2011 Regular meeting.

PRESENTATION

The Board presented Greg Rogalski with a Monroe Proud certificate for his service with the Pennsylvania Task Force work in conjunction with the recent flooding.

REPORTS

ROADMASTER'S REPORT

On the motion of Mr. Dwyer, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to accept the Roadmaster's Report.

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

FINANCING

Mr. Dwyer said the Board is working on some refinancing for the southern and northern sewer districts and also some new money for the southern district. Sewer rates will be going up and there is nothing we can do about it.

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE

Mr. Bruening addressed the questions that were submitted by Werner Schmidt. The road crew must use certain size pipe and must follow erosion & sedimentation rules. They are usually repairing something. The ordinance does apply to individual properties.

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Dwyer, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to authorize the advertisement of the proposed Storm Water Management Ordinance.

DOG & SOLICITING ORDINANCES

Mr. Dwyer was not comfortable with where the township is going with the Dog Ordinance. The regulations on noise are too vague. Mr. Rogalski mentioned he has taken some experience from what has been enforced and upheld by the District Justice. Many ordinances in the area are similar. The intent was to update the fines.

On the motion of Mr. Dwyer, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to authorize the advertisement of the proposed Dog Ordinance.

Mr. Dwyer said the existing Soliciting ordinance is good, but needs some strength to the fines. He suggested adding a section under #8, Section 1, B that includes children soliciting for goods and services for educational, athletic and non-profit organizations. The Board asked to see one more draft with the corrections made.

DELINQUENT SEWER ACCOUNTS

The Municipal Authority has approved the policy for upgraded enforcement of delinquent sewer accounts, which process can begin immediately.

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Dwyer, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to approve the updated policy for collection of delinquent sewer accounts. An article will be placed in the next newsletter.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE – SAVE MONROE SCHOOL

Phil Kehoe gave an update on what the committee has been doing, such as attending the school board meetings. There are approximately 30 volunteers signed up. An article is ready for

the newsletter. The committee will attend all school board meetings and speak positively about Monroe Elementary School. We are trying to get the word out. He expects things to heat up after the fall election.

SPEED LIMIT – KUHN ROAD

Mr. Bruening reviewed his latest speed study information dated September 14, 2011, and his recommendation for the speed limit on Kuhn Road to be established at 35 MPH for the entire length of the road. There will be some advisory signs. Mr. Dwyer has sent an email to Michelle Kearns, who will share the information with the White Rock citizens. Ms. Hipp said the traffic ordinance must be amended.

On the motion of Mr. Dwyer, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to authorize the amendment the traffic ordinance to establish a 35 mph speed limit on Kuhn Road.

PENN WASTE – ORDINANCE REVISIONS REQUEST

The Penn Waste representatives have requested to be tabled until the October meeting. Mr. Simmons mentioned if Penn Waste wants changes made to our ordinance they must pay for everything, or wait until the contract comes due the next time. Penn Waste saw the existing ordinance prior to them bidding the contract. The Board agreed.

TRINDLE STATION PHASE 2, SECTION 7 – PROPOSED DEED RESTRICTIONS

There was discussion concerning the history of this matter, the amount that was to originally be escrowed versus the deed restrictions proposed. The set of plans were approved without the sewer running under the sidewalk, and then a second set of plans were proposed that created the situation with the sewer line under the sidewalk. Mr. Tamanini has changed his mind several times through this process.

On the motion of Mr. Dwyer, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to retain the original position taken on the plan, and not change the wording as proposed. The Solicitor was authorized to provide a written response to Mr. Tamanini.

NEW BUSINESS

TRICK OR TREAT NIGHT

On the motion of Mr. Dwyer, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to set trick or treat night for Monday, October 31, 2011 from 6-8 PM.

KUHN ROAD DEDICATION

The deadline is past to add this section to the liquid fuels so the township would have to use its own funds to maintain the road if it were accepted now. A letter was issued by Mr. Bruening on August 26, 2011, and a letter was issued by the township on August 30, 2011 notifying Penn Products that the application is incomplete and the deadline has passed. They can apply again after April 1, 2012.

On the motion of Mr. Dwyer, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to not accept the request for Kuhn Road dedication.

SOUTH MIDDLETON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY – ANTENNA WAIVER REQUEST OF FEE

Mr. Rogalski said they are proposing to erect a 60' antenna and have applied for a building permit. The fee would be approximately \$250-300 and they are requesting a waiver of the fee. The application meets the zoning ordinance requirements.

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Dwyer, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to waive the building/zoning permit fee for South Middleton Township Municipal Authority for their antenna request.

APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY – WAIVER REQUEST FOR STORM WATER

Mr. Rogalski said additional information is needed from them to be able to consider their request.

On the motion of Mr. Dwyer, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to table the Appalachian Trail Conservancy waiver request from storm water.

WEST SHORE TAX BUREAU / TRI-COUNTY COMMITTEE

Mr. Beaty provided an update on what the committee has been working on. Their proposed budget should be ready for the next meeting. The Board thanked Mr. Beaty for all his work and for keeping the board informed.

MINIMUM MUNICIPAL OBLIGATION – PENSION 2012

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Dwyer, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to approve the minimum municipal obligation for pension for 2012 in the amount of \$47,748.17.

TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION NOMINATION

On the motion of Mr. Dwyer, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote

of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to nominate Phil Kehoe to represent the Cumberland Central Plan Development Section of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR AMERICAN SOLDIERS

Mr. Dwyer read the letter from the Pennsylvania Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, as well as the Statement of Support.

On the motion of Mr. Dwyer, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to adopt the Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve.

BILLS

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

STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Bruening mentioned the Eppley Road guiderail and the request from the turnpike to see a design for the termination of the guiderail at the turnpike bridge. The township has applied for an ARLE grant for this project. If the grant is not received, then Liquid Fuels money will be used.

Mr. Bruening has received several cost proposals for the Cockley Road sewer meter to be replaced. **On the motion of Mr. Dwyer, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to award the Cockley Road sewer meter project to Maleden at a price of \$7,825.00.** Mr. Castle directed the engineer to look into the warranty for this work and meter.

Mr. Dwyer asked what is being done to correct the water issues at George McNeill's property on Kuhn Road. Mr. Bruening said he and the roadmaster met there. There is a lot of flow on Dogwood. The first pipe under Dogwood is small and high and the water runs out on the road, so a new pipe will be installed at that location. The utilities are a problem in that area because they were not originally installed low enough. On the other side of Dogwood when the fire hydrant was installed, the swale was not re-established so that area needs to be re-swaled. Some grading needs to be done to carry the water into the woods before it gets to Mr. McNeill. But once the capacity of the culvert is full, the water goes toward the people. That is the problem of living on the hill; it is not designed for the 100 year floods. We must talk to PUC about having the utilities installing their lines deep enough where they belong. Mr. Dwyer wants PUC called when this first pipe is installed so they can make their utility companies comply with the requirements of burying lines. Mr. Bruening will work with the utility companies first and then go to PUC if necessary.

Mr. Rogalski said the retro-commissioning is still on-going. The issue may be bigger than originally thought.

Mr. Rogalski thanked the Board for the certificate, it was a surprise.

Mr. Simmons mentioned the leaking roof and what can be done about the mold. Mr. Rogalski said a study could be done to determine where it is coming from. The insulation could be saturated. We could try to shock the system. Mr. Kehoe will try to get us names of roofing consultants.

On the motion of Mr. Simmons, and seconded by Mr. Dwyer, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to get three roofing people to provide estimates, and to get two new dehumidifiers to help remove the dampness.

Mr. Simmons attended the South Middleton Township Municipal Authority meeting, which was quite nice. He proposed the idea of meeting with them to help explain the budget, true up costs, and the Chesapeake Bay project. The meeting would include the engineers, solicitors, Authority member, Supervisor, and Mr. Kissinger. Mr. Kissinger will provide some possible dates.

Mr. Dwyer mentioned the sewer rate in the southern district will increase \$20 per quarter beginning in 2012. Mr. Simmons said this is for the refinancing and getting some money at a very low interest rate.

Mr. Castle asked for the troops to be remembered. The next meeting is October 13. He asked the Board to consider updating the current tenant ordinance. He asked the Solicitor to review the ordinance. He mentioned the trees that were removed from the creek, which significantly helped Creek Road from flooding this last time. This was Dennis Nailor's idea and would like a letter to be sent to him, in appreciation for his input.

Mr. Castle mentioned a couple years ago there was some talk about increasing the real estate tax a little over a three year period instead of a big increase all at once. The proposal is to add about \$30,000 each year, which would be about \$5.00 on a \$100,000 home per year for three years. This would help stabilize the general budget. The township has made a number of budget cuts.

Mr. Castle mentioned the southern sewer rate will increase by \$20 per quarter and the northern sewer rate will increase by \$15 per quarter beginning in 2012. This Board doesn't like to raise rates or taxes. We have not a tax increase for about 45 years. The Fire Tax will also be looked at. Dr. Azizkhan said the fire company is having other fundraising events. Mr. Castle said we will at least hold the line. We try to do the best job we can with what we have. The township gets a small portion of the real estate tax, with the larger amount going to the school district. For the services provided, the residents get a big bang for their buck from the township.

Mr. Simmons agreed that taxes need to be increased, especially with the concern with the

roof.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie E. Metzger
Administrative Assistant