

**EAST ALLEN TOWNSHIP
Board of Supervisors
Workshop Meeting
March 10, 2010**

****NOTE**** The BOS meetings for February were cancelled due to inclement weather.

CALL TO ORDER

The recorded meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Vice Chairperson, J. Ladonis who led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present were: Vice Chairperson, J. Ladonis; Supervisor, R. Unangst; Supervisor, M. Schwartz; Supervisor, D. Heiney, Township Solicitor, J. Leeson; Township Engineer, J. Birdsall; Township Manager, D. Seiple; Public Works Coordinator, G. Mathesz and Secretary/Treasurer, R. Wedde. Chairperson, C. Colitas was absent.

HEARINGS

Jacksonville Master Site Plan & Trail Connect Feasibility

The hearing was called to order at 7:35PM by Attorney Leeson. Testifying were representatives from Urban Research and Development were Martin Gilchrist and Phil Hunsberger. Sharon Fournier of 6316 Jacksonville Road, Bath was also sworn in. Mr. Gilchrist explained that East Allen Township received a grant to help with the Jacksonville Master Site Plan and Trail Connect Feasibility study. Mr. Hunsberger explained the purpose of the study was to analyze the site, determine the condition and develop a plan for future improvement. A committee was formed and worked with Urban Research and Development to come up with the plan. Mr. Hunsberger showed on a map the existing conditions and the proposed plan. S. Fournier questioned the placement of the basketball court and its close proximity to the pavilion. S. Fournier is concerned about the traffic and speed on Jacksonville Road and questioned if this was taken into consideration. No traffic study was done at this time. However, the committee felt that the parking lot should be moved and there be two access points to Jacksonville Road where the traffic could access Jacksonville Road head on instead of backing out onto the road. The hearing closed at 8:00 PM. Attorney Leeson explained that the Board could vote on this tonight or put it on a future agenda. This will be placed on the March 25, 2010 agenda and Attorney Leeson will draft a resolution for that meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION made by M. Schwartz to approve the January 13, 2010 and January 28, 2010 minutes. Seconded by D. Heiney. VOTE: D. Heiney, yes; M. Schwartz, yes; R. Unangst, yes and J. Ladonis, yes. FOUR IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

ENGINEER REPORT

J. Birdsall gave his monthly report.

Bridge Inspection – Jacksonville Road

The Township received notification from PennDOT that the Jacksonville Road Bridge is due for inspection. J. Birdsall recommends the township allow the state to use their

contractor to do the inspection. D. Seiple will send a letter to PennDOT notifying them to use their contractor for the inspection. J. Birdsall stated that the state will notify the Township if there are any deficiencies and what would need to be done and a timeframe for the work to be completed.

Update on Pennvest Loan Offer/Municipal Authority

The Municipal Authority initially voted to accept the loan offer from Pennvest. R. Wagner, Chairperson of the Municipal Authority, stated at the Municipal Authority meeting on March 10, 2010 they discussed the implications of the loan and moving forward. They decided that with the recent raising of rates it is not a good idea at this time to move ahead with the loan. There was an indication that grants may be available and they would rather look at a grant instead of a loan. J. Birdsall did contact Pennvest to make them aware of the Municipal Authority's decision. The Municipal Authority will also notify Pennvest in writing. D. Seiple questioned if the Authority will notify Senator Browne's office and Allen Township. R. Wagner replied that they will.

Meeting with City of Bethlehem

J. Birdsall reported that the City of Bethlehem is still interested in expanding their service in East Allen Township. They will be sending a letter to the Township indicating their interest and requesting a list of documents they would like to see to determine if an offer can be made.

Victoria Square Detention Pond Side Slope Survey – Municipal Authority

The Municipal Authority has requested the Board of Supervisors to consider the removal of a fence around the Victoria Square Detention Pond that is owned by the Authority. J. Birdsall's opinion is the detention pond meets the ordinance requirements and recommends the Board of Supervisors allow the Municipal Authority to remove the fence. The purpose of the removal of the fence is because part of the fence became damaged and for maintenance purposes. There was discussion about a safety issue. The fence would be removed by the Municipal Authority.

MOTION made R. Unangst to authorize the removal of the fence as long as the property is maintained. Seconded by D. Heiney. VOTE: D. Heiney, yes; M. Schwartz, yes; R. Unangst, yes and J. Ladonis, yes. FOUR IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Introduction of Daniel Miller

J. Birdsall introduced Daniel Miller and offers his services to the township. D. Miller gave a brief history of himself to the Board of Supervisors. He will be working on plan reviews for the township.

Roadside Encroachments

J. Birdsall stated at the township's request he took a look at barriers/stakes that were placed by residents along township roads to mark the edge of the road. Some of the stakes are plastic and some are metal/steel. There is concern with the metal/steel stakes as they can cause damage or injury. A plastic stake will break if hit where a metal one will not. The Board of Supervisors would like the Zoning Officer to send letters to the homeowners with the metal/steel stakes making them aware of the situation. The Zoning Officer can reference J. Birdsall's letter to the Township.

SOLICITOR REPORT

Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments – Memo #10-4

A copy of J. Leeson's memo regarding possible amendments to the Zoning Ordinance was distributed. The Board of Supervisors will review it and decide whether or not they want to take any action.

Imperial Realty – Memo #10-6

J. Leeson had contacted the Solicitor for the School District to see if they would take an active role in the County's handling of the tax appeal for Imperial Realty. The Solicitor for the School District indicated that historically they have taken a passive role in these matters and they do not plan to monitor the County in its handling of these types of cases.

PennPro Builders – Memo #10-7

The developer of PennPro Builders had requested an extension on this project and wanted to issue a bond instead of a letter of credit. The Board of Supervisors denied this request. The developer has hired an attorney who is requesting the Board to reconsider their decision for the denial. Attorney Leeson stated that the law states a township must accept either a bond or a letter of credit. Discussion ensued. The Board is requesting the following information from the applicant: an A rated bond from an A rated insurance company, the status of the PennDOT permit and an updated cost estimate. The Board of Supervisors authorized Attorney Leeson to contact their Solicitor with the Board's request and report back to them at the March 25, 2010 meeting.

Township Line Road – Memo #10-8

Attorney Leeson stated Upper Nazareth would like to enter into a cooperative agreement that would authorize the Upper Nazareth Police Department to enforce East Allen Township Ordinance #2005-01 and the provisions of the Pennsylvania Motor Vehicle Code on both sides of Township Line Road. Discussion ensued on the costs and splitting of fines associated with the enforcement. D. Seiple will set up a meeting with Upper Nazareth to discuss this issue.

MANAGER REPORT

PPL Easement Agreement

PPL is replacing the towers that go through Bicentennial Park with mono pole towers. An agreement was received by the Township with a financial offer. D. Seiple, J. Birdsall and J. Leeson had met with PPL representative and some changes were made to the agreement. The financial offer did not change.

MOTION made by R. Unangst to authorize the Township Manager to sign the revised agreement and send it to PPL. Seconded by M. Schwartz. VOTE: D. Heiney, yes; M. Schwartz, yes; R. Unangst, yes and J. Ladonis, yes. FOUR IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Solid Waste Advisory Committee

D. Seiple stated that she is on this committee as the NAZCOG representative. The first meeting was held on Monday, March 8, 2010.

Tree Vitalize Grant

D. Seiple stated that the final payment request has been submitted and the Township should be receiving funds.

DCNR reply regarding Grant Application for Additional Land at Bicentennial Park

D. Seiple stated that the grant was rejected and that we will not be applying for anything in 2010.

Letter Sent to Northampton County regarding General Purpose Authority Grant Funds for Arcadia Project

D. Seiple stated that there was an article in the paper that the County was asking for unused grant funds back. D. Seiple sent a letter stating that East Allen Township would not be requesting any more of the grant funds and that the remaining funds can go back to the County.

D'Huy Engineering letter regarding Northampton School District

A copy of a letter dated 2/2/10 from D'Huy Engineering was distributed to the Board to make them aware that the school district is in the process of planning for the design and construction of a new middle school and is looking for information for the study.

Solar Energy – Alternative to Electricity

D. Seiple stated that she has received information regarding solar energy. Williams Township is using the solar panels on their new public works garage. The Board of Supervisors would like D. Seiple and J. Birdsall to look into this further and report back to the Board.

Monocacy Creek Watershed – Advisory Committee – Designate Representative

R. Unangst will be the representative for East Allen Township.

2009 Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program– Senator Pat Browne's Office

Senator Pat Browne's staff will be available on March 27, 2010 from 9AM to 1PM at their office located in the East Allen Township Municipal Building to provide assistance to constituents in completing 2009 Property Tax/Rent Rebate applications.

Hanover Township and East Allen Township Boundary Line

The Township has received correspondence dated March 3, 2010 from PennDOT regarding the Township Boundary Line between Hanover and East Allen Townships. PennDOT does not accept official maps of the townships unless they have gone through the Court of Common Pleas. PennDOT has adjusted the Liquid Fuels mileage for the townships and these measurements will remain in effect until the Court of Common Pleas acts on a formal petition and resolves the boundary line dispute. J. Birdsall would like to meet with D. Seiple, J. Finnigan and Attorney Leeson to discuss this issue and recommends discussing this with Senator Browne as well.

TREASURER

R. Wedde presented the February Financial Reports. The total receipts for February were \$112,259.85. The bills for February were \$180,995.41.

MOTION made by M. Schwartz to accept the financial reports and pay the bills in the amount of \$180,995.41. Seconded by R. Unangst. VOTE: D. Heiney, yes; M. Schwartz, yes; R. Unangst, yes and J. Ladonis, yes. FOUR IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Liquid Fuels Funds 2010

R. Wedde reported the 2010 Liquid Fuels Funds in the amount of \$142,001.91 were received.

PARKS & RECREATION

C. Frantz gave his monthly report.

The winter soccer league has ended and summer basketball and ultimate Frisbee will be coming back this year. Baseball and soccer sign ups were held. There was not enough interest in softball to field a team.

A copy of the February 1, 2010 Parks and Recreation minutes was distributed. A copy of the February 13, 2010 Summerfest minutes was distributed.

C. Frantz stated that the Jacksonville Master Site Plan & Feasibility Study Committee along with Phil Hunsberger and Martin Gilchrist did a wonderful job with the study. A letter will be sent to everyone involved thanking them for a job well done.

PUBLIC WORKS

G. Mathesz gave his monthly report.

EATVFD/EATVAC/EMA

J. McDevitt reported there was a problem with the electrical line to the Fire Department. PPL came out and diagnosed the problem and found an underground line that was shorted out. The line was repaired. The Fire Department is looking into putting in a new conduit line from the pole to the Fire Department.

J. McDevitt mentioned there was a fire call the previous evening on a wooded lot on Hanover Street. The property belongs to Connie Glagola. It is a 28 acre wooded lot and appears there is some activity that is going on that the Township may not be aware of. D. Seiple will speak to the Zoning Officer about this and have her check it out.

PLANNING COMMISSION

A copy of the draft February 4, 2010 minutes was distributed.

MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

A copy of the January 12, 2010 and February 9, 2010 minutes were distributed. The Future Business Plan will be on the March 25, 2010 agenda.

ZONING

A Zoning Hearing #2010-01 Phillips & Phillips requesting a variance was held. The variance was granted with conditions.

There was discussion among the board regarding if the Zoning Hearing Board can place conditions on a variance.

MOTION made by R. Unangst to authorize the Township Solicitor to look into the Zoning Hearing Board granting a variance with conditions. Seconded by D. Heiney.

VOTE: D. Heiney, yes; M. Schwartz, yes; R. Unangst, yes and J. Ladonis, yes. **FOUR IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.**

FRCA

Brownfield's Grant Application for Lease Expansion Area

D. Seiple stated the FRCA is working on applying for a grant to get the buildings down on the property. A copy of a letter dated February 22, 2010 from the FRCA to the Board of Supervisors was distributed.

NAZCOG

D. Heiney stated the February meeting was cancelled due to the weather.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sharon Fournier 6316 Jacksonville Road – questioned who determines how often the alley gets done in Jacksonville.

G. Mathesz – stated that public works can only fix potholes when the township has stone available, currently there is no stone available.

S. Fournier – questioned the need of the alley

D. Seiple – stated there is a list of unimproved roads in the township and she would need to go back and look at which ones were first and if they would meet the criteria for a road. The township could look at turning it back to the property owners and it become a private road

G. Mathesz – potholes occur in fall and spring because of the change in temperatures and the public works department will be addressing the potholes in spring

S. Fournier – stated that people living on Willow Street are able to park on Willow Street but the people who live on Jacksonville Road have no where to park other than the alley. She is also concerned about the parking and travel of traffic on Willow Street.

D. Seiple – stated there is a road inspection coming up and this will be added to the list.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION made by R. Unangst to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 PM. Seconded by D. Heiney. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rose Wedde
Recording Secretary