

MINUTES
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
MARCH 7, 2017

The Penn Township Public Works Committee convened on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 7:00 pm. Present were Chairman Klunk and Commissioners Brown, Felix, Heilman, and Van de Castle. Also present were Township Manager Rodgers, Engineer Bortner, Highway Foreman Mahan, Interim Zoning Officer Garrett, and Township Secretary Hallett. The following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Commissioner Felix announced there was an executive session to discuss personnel matters held following the Finance Committee meeting on March 6, 2017.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the February 7, 2017 Public Works Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: Jessica and Chad Miller, 680 Beck Mill Road, wanted to follow up on their questions asked at the February 7, 2017 Public Works Committee meeting. They provided a letter from Reginald Baugher stating the fifty foot Right-Of-Way (ROW) in question overlaps into the Columbia Gas ROW. In addition to Mr. Baugher they spoke with a real estate lawyer and to Ruby Bentzel. Ms. Bentzel is not willing to remove the ROW. Mrs. Miller said they intend to apply for a variance and asked the Committee for guidance in how much of a setback to request. Engineer Bortner said the original plan shows a fifty foot setback because there is no public water or sewer on the property. Commissioner Klunk said he doesn't see that a street will ever go in that ROW. Mr. Miller said they'd be happy if it were a utility easement but Ms. Bentzel said no. Engineer Bortner said setbacks are a zoning issue to be decided by the Zoning Hearing Board. Commissioner Brown said the Board can let the Zoning Hearing Board know that the Township doesn't have a problem with a lesser setback. Commissioner Felix said the Board could let the Planning Commission know they have no problem with a lesser setback, but should not go directly to the Zoning Hearing Board. Engineer Bortner said there is a fifty foot ROW for a street on the plan. If the Township recommends a lesser ROW in this instance it could set a precedent allowing others to request the same.

After discussion Commissioner Klunk advised the Millers to follow the legal process and request a variance from the Zoning Hearing Board. If they aren't happy with the decision they have the right to appeal. He advised her that Ruby Bentzel also has the right to appeal the Zoning Hearing Board decision. Mrs. Miller asked if they should go ahead and draw up a plan or wait until after the Zoning Hearing Board decides how much of a setback is required. Manager Rodgers said they can draw up a plan and make any necessary changes after the Zoning Hearing Board makes a decision.

Mike Winkler, 14 Boulder Road, asked the Committee to revisit their previous decision about renting the ball fields at the Community Park. He said he lives in Whispering Run, right next to the park and he can see the fields are underutilized. He coaches a team and said there is a shortage of ball fields in the area. Teams are unable to use the Township fields if they can't make a reservation. He also said the fields are in poor condition; the few times he tried to use them he had to stop because he felt they were dangerous. Manager Rodgers asked if the kids in his ball club are all from Penn Township and he believes about 98% are. Manager Rodgers asked about other ball clubs in the area and Mr. Winkler shared the information he had.

Commissioner Felix said it's a community park and reservations prevent the community from using the fields. It should be open to whoever wants to use it at no charge. Commissioner Brown asked how reservations were handled previously. Manager Rodgers explained there was a deadline and reservation requests had to be in by January. Then the Township had to pick and choose who got it on what day. People got upset and offended when they didn't get their requested dates. Eventually Saturdays became off limits for reservations. It took several days to come up with a schedule each year and then there were complaints. Commissioner Brown said he would not be opposed to renting the fields if there were a fair way to allocate scheduling and remove the burden from the Township. Commissioner Van de Castle doesn't like that the fields are empty all the time but doesn't see a way to alleviate the burden short of making the fee high enough to discourage people from using it too frequently. Manager Rodgers said it's too late to work anything out for the spring season but it may be possible to work something out before the fall season. Commissioner Brown said any fees charged should be high enough to cover the cost of maintaining the fields. Commissioner Klunk will continue to look into possibilities. Mr. Winkler thanked the Committee for listening.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Engineer Bortner reported D&R Bean is requesting to put a canopy in front of their facility on Industrial Drive. He said York County Planning Commission won't be reviewing the plan.

Engineer Bortner is waiting on York County Planning comments for the Lehigh plan, which hasn't been to the Planning Commission yet. He described the proposed changes.

THORNBURY HUNT BOND REDUCTION: Engineer Bortner reported the bond for Thornbury Hunt can be reduced to \$283,917.11. The Committee recommended approving the bond reduction.

ADAPTIVE TRAFFIC SIGNAL AGREEMENT: Engineer Bortner reported the adaptive signal project in Hanover Borough was supposed to happen in 2016 but has moved to 2017. Agreements with MetEd and Century Link need to be signed for the connection of fiber optic cables to the poles. Pennoni and Associates thought we might need to get the agreements for the poles in Penn Township but they did not follow up, so we now think Hanover Borough will take care of it.

INTERSECTION STREET LIGHT: Engineer Bortner reported Charles Sourber, 105 Little Bridge Road, was concerned about the street light being installed at the corner of Little Bridge Road and Pond Ridge Lane. Public Works moved forward with the installation because it was already scheduled. After the light was installed Mr. Sourber called back to say he likes it. After discussion the Committee advised Engineer Bortner to move forward with installing the remaining street lights even if there are complaints.

Engineer Bortner said they are still working on the placement of lights. They selected where the intersection lights should be placed without knowing where all of the utilities are located and they are navigating that process now.

EXTENSION REQUESTS: Manager Rodgers reported there are extension requests from Hanover Storage and Wellspan. The Committee recommended approving the requests.

RAIL TRAIL INSPECTOR: Manger Rodgers reported Mr. Garvick has been doing the monthly inspections on the Rail Trail for the past two years and he would like to continue. After discussion the Committee recommended appointing Mr. Garvick for another term as inspector.

MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE: Manager Rodgers reported there will be a Master Plan Committee public meeting on March 29, 2017 at 6:30 at the Penn Township Municipal Building.

EISENHOWER DRIVE EXTENSION: Manager Rodgers reported she and Engineer Bortner will attend a meeting about the Eisenhower Drive extension on March 22, 2017 at 10:30 am. The meeting is in Conewago Township.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela M. Hallett
Township Secretary