



Board of Supervisors

Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

425 Wells Road
Doylestown, PA 18901
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215-348-9915

Tuesday, October 1, 2019

5:00 PM

Community Meeting Room

I. 5:00 PM REGULAR MEETING

Members of the Board of Supervisors in attendance included Chairperson Barbara N. Lyons, Vice Chairman Ken L. Snyder, Supervisors Richard F. Colello, Ryan Manion, and Jennifer V. Herring.

Township Staff in attendance included Township Manager Stephanie J. Mason, Director of Operations Dave Tomko, Township Solicitor Jeffrey P. Garton, Chief of Police A. Dean Logan and Township Engineer Geoffrey J. Attanasio.

A. Pledge to the flag

B. Swearing In of Appointed Township Auditor – Kelly Galardi

Appointed Township Auditor Kelly Galardi was sworn in by Notary Public Jackie Rowand

C. Presentations

1. PennDOT Roundabout - North/South Easton Road

Mike Mastaglio, P.E., Urban Engineers along with Curt Venditti, from PennDOT, along with other members of the team included Andrew Thompson, Andrew Gould, and Vincent Cerbone were here to follow up from the March 20, 2018 Board of Supervisors meeting. They hoped to show their level of commitment and support of the project by bringing in a team of experts for this presentation.

Mr. Venditti indicated that this project would be 100% federally funded through the Highway Safety Improvement Program and take up to one construction season.

Mr. Mastaglio stated the presentation would include: the districtwide roundabout program, crash comparison's, preliminary engineering, and construction staging.

The districtwide roundabout program was established in 2017, comprising of five counties. The project process is currently at the preliminary engineering stage. Mr. Mastaglio moved into review of the timeline provided in the attached presentation. He went on to explain focus intersections that displayed crash data from 2012 through 2018. This included South Easton

Road and New Britain Road displaying 16 angle crashes along with S. Easton Road and Sauerman Road displaying 9 angle crashes.

Andrew Thompson went on to explain the crash comparison of low cost safety improvements. In the March 20, 2018 presentation the analysis period displayed 2013-2017. In 2015, PennDOT installed low cost safety improvements that may have affected previous data. When comparing data before and after the improvements, the original condition displayed multiple left turn lanes. The improvement eliminated left turn lanes. The new comparison analysis period displayed May 2012 through April 2015 and May 2015 through April 2018. This data displayed a reduction of crashes from thirteen to twelve. 100% of the crashes being angle crashes.

Mr. Mastaglio explained the preliminary engineering stage further, stating that roundabout reduce conflict points and the severity of crashes. He explained that the roundabout would have flexibility to incur growth. He reiterated the presented issues and opportunities within the presentation.

Mr. Mastaglio went on to review construction staging, stating that without the Township's endorsement they cannot move onto approval from PennDOT.

Mr. Thompson, moved onto the topic of possible detouring and relayed that Urban Engineers suggests to maintaining access to South Easton Road (both north and south bound) and suggests partial detour for New Britain Road and Sauerman Road, as part of Stage One. Stage Two would include shifting traffic to the newly constructed areas of Southbound South Easton Road, closing New Britain Road (with partial detour). He noted that during construction they are aware of businesses and homes that need to be accessible on South Easton Road. They are currently investigating the best partial detour route. Stage Three shifts traffic onto the completed roundabout area for Southbound South Easton Road. Northbound South Easton Road would shift left, as construction of the Eastern section of the roundabout starts. Sauerman Road would be closed with access to the Doylestown Commerce Center. The final stage puts most of the construction in front of Triangle Park. They believe they could still keep the parking lot to the park open. Partial detours for Sauerman Road would continue.

Mr. Mastaglio went on to review the approximate project schedule. He expects preliminary engineering to take twelve to eighteen months, final design being twelve months, advertise the project to contractors in the late winter of 2021; using twelve months to construct.

Ms. Lyons opened up questions to the Board.

Mr. Snyder inquired if the twelve month schedule included all three stages for construction. Mr. Mastaglio confirmed.

Ms. Herring stated she reviewed the accident data and asked if the Township still qualifies for the program as one of the outstanding years of 2014, which included approximately eight

accidents, was not included in the presented study. Mr. Thompson responded that they could only use three years in the study and the Township would still qualify for the program.

Mr. Cerbone corrected the crash data to a five crash difference opposed to a two crash reduction that was presented in the crash comparison slide. He stated that roundabouts are safer than any other type of intersection and reduces fatality crashes by 90%. He stated the style of the roundabout would only allow vehicles to go approximately twenty five miles per hour, reducing crash impact.

Ms. Herring questioned why two roundabouts were put into the project and if it is common to do so. Mr. Thompson stated that double roundabouts are common in the West and stated that due to no conflicting traffic there would be short ques. Ms. Herring followed up by asking if there was a consideration to do separate roundabouts. Mr. Mastaglio turned the question back by asking what the benefit of only one roundabout would be, explaining the two roundabouts are one big intersection . Ms. Herring had the additional question of how accessible Triangle Park would be. Mr. Thompson explained that there is a left turn or u turn option to access the parking lot. Mr. Mastaglio added that the bike and pedestrian trails would be an advantage as the cars would need to yield due to the roundabout.

Mr. Colello made the statement that the State could improve the intersections without spending additional tax dollars, "it's not for free" he noted. He went on to explain that he could not support this traffic disturbance. He explained that accidents would increase as residents are not familiar with the use of roundabouts.

Chief Logan inquired if there would be an increase in low speed accidents, based off statistics. Mr. Mastaglio responded that using a roundabout would come naturally to residents and he is not aware of any current data to provide.

Mr. Tomko inquired if any traffic signal analysis was conducted at the intersections in lieu of the roundabouts and if there are any recommendations. Mr. Thompson replied that the there was no analysis conducted.

A member of the design team suggested reviewing the YouTube video called "Dog Bone Roundabout".

Ms. Lyons opened up the discussion to public questions.

Matthew Conway, 578 New Britain Road, advocated for the project and requested if there would be a natural barrier to seclude his home from headlights. Mr. Venditti suggested he would work with the resident.

Bernadette Wiley, 566 New Britain Road, stated it is very difficult to get out of her driveway and asked if the speed would change with the roundabout. Mr. Mastaglio anticipates one to two car lengths on the eastbound traffic and that yield control would make the cars naturally slow

down and that the speed limit signs would not reduce but there are advance warning/guide signs would be posted. Mr. Serbone added that the minimum for a warning sign would be 250 feet.

Mr. Snyder inquired how far back construction will take place on New Britain Road. Mr. Mastaglio replied that the limits will be stopped before her driveway. Mr. Tomko stated he would look into her receiving a hidden driveway sign.

Peter Dubro owns a business on Easton Road, asked how they would include business and homeowners in the preliminary design project. Mr. Mastaglio stated a public and stakeholder meeting would occur and they are willing to listen. He noted they need approval of the Township to move forward. Mr. Dubro inquired why the speed limit sign would not be adjusted. Mr. Thompson replied that reducing the speed limit would not reduce residents speeding and the roundabout would reduce severity of the crashes. Mr. Dubro continued to ask what type of line of sight he would have when turning into the roundabout. Mr. Mastaglio provided that there are visual cues when entering the roundabout and the fee angle would assist drives when looking left to merge into the intersection.

Mr. Mastaglio notified the Board that they are looking for a full endorsement from the Township to move forward with the project or that they would move on to a new one.

On MOTION of Ms. Manion to move forward. Ms. Lyons asked for a second. Mr. Snyder asked if a motion was required tonight. Mr. Serbone stated it would need to be by the end of the week.

MOTION died for lack of a second.

Ms. Lyons ended the presentation by stating it was well received and she appreciated the presentation.

2. Bucks County Historical Society – Font Hill Woodland Project

Kyle McKoy, Executive Director and President of the Bucks County Historical Society, along with Laura Biersmith, Vice President of Development were present to make a presentation. The Bucks County Historical Society runs the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle. The Fonthill Castle and Woodlands Project was launched to address historical, ecological, recreational, and cultural benefits. Ms. McKoy stated an assessment of holdings took place to determine how to move forward and progress. She stated there has been many accomplishments/progress for the castle and throughout the grounds. They came tonight to ask the board if they would be granted to be listed as a government entity under Doylestown Township. This would help them receive the Redevelopment Capital Assistance Program state grant, allowing them to renovate and rehabilitate, infrastructure, and construction.

Mr. Garton noted that this request is not a financial one but strictly for the application itself.

Ms. Biersmith continued that it is only for the state grant form and that the organization would

complete all paperwork. Bucks County Historical Society, as a nonprofit, would raise matching funds.

Ms. Manion MOTIONED to approve, Ms. Herring seconded the motion. MOTION passed 5-0.

C. Visitors/Public Comments

None

II. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. The next meeting of the Doylestown Township Board of Supervisors will be held on Tuesday, October 15, 2018 at 5:00PM.
- B. The Doylestown Township Board of Supervisors along with the Ways and Means Committee will hold a Budget Work Session at 3:00 PM on Tuesday, October 15, 2018. Public is welcomed to attend.
- C. The Doylestown Township Administration Offices will be closed on Monday, October 14, 2019 in observance of Columbus Day.
- D. Leaf and Yard Waste Recycling – the 3rd Saturday of each month from 9AM – 11AM – Drop off site is located at the New Britain Rd. entrance of Central Park. Please visit our website for more information.
- E. Kids Castle is temporarily closed to install lots of new play equipment for children of all abilities - so stay tuned for an anticipated grand opening in mid- October.
- F. VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY / GET INVOLVED: October 19 @ 9 am – 11 am – Invasive Plant ID and Removal Workshop @ Central Park's Native Plant Garden. Free event. Register on Events Page @
- G. QPR Training for Suicide Prevention presented by the Bucks County Suicide Prevention Task Force - Thursday, October 24th, 5:30 to 7:30 PM, Community Meeting Room. Seminar is free but space is limited to 30 people, so please register at
- H. EAC & Heritage Conservancy host Old-Growth Forest Network to dedicate Hart's Woods – Saturday, November 2 @ 1 pm – Parking at the New Britain Road Entrance of Central Park.
- I. Radio City Christmas Spectacular – 11/25 - \$135 per person. Leave from Central Park. Seats are filling up fast. If interested, please contact our Administration Office for registration and details.

III. MINUTES APPROVAL: Regular Meeting - September 17, 2019

Mr. Colello noted the meeting minutes from September 17, 2019 needed to be corrected as page three and eleven noted the MOTION passed 4-1-0. As Ms. Lyons abstained the vote should read as 4-0-1.

Ms. Manion MOTIONED to approve the September 17, 2019 minutes with changes, seconded by Mr. Snyder. Motion carried 5-0.

IV. CORRESPONDENCES: None**V. REPORTS****A. Solicitor**

None

B. Police Chief

Chief Logan introduced Sergeant Jones on a project he has taken on to promote. Sergeant Jones spoke on the issue of first responders and police officers interacting with people with special needs. The campaign assists in proactively identifying those who have special needs in a crisis. Sergeant Jones presented a Special Needs Resident Data and Information Form, available on the Police social media page. He noted that participation is voluntary and is only used to assist officers in an event. In an emergency a premise warning would go to the responding units electronically.

Ms. Lyons inquired if this would be useful to a family with an opioid addict. Sergeant Jones responded that any information would be valuable. A resident agreed that this form would be helpful and asked what could they include on the form. Sergeant Jones that any information that they felt was valuable would assist the department. Ms. Herring asked who could submit this form. Sergeant Jones and Chief Logan explained it would be best submitted by the individual or immediate family member or guardian. Ms. Herring inquired if the individual would be able to review the form if submitted by a relative. Chief Logan explained that the form is privileged information and could not be released.

Ms. Lyons commended the work by Sergeant Jones.

C. Township Engineer

None

D. Dir. of Operations

Mr. Tomko reviewed change order number eleven. The order was partially approved in the August 20, 2019 Board of Supervisors meeting, as there were items in question. Mr. Tomko

would like full approval for this previous change order only. Mr. Snyder stated it was good work and they had previously approved the work. Mr. Snyder MOTIONED to approve. Ms. Manion seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Tomko asked for acknowledgement by the Board of Supervisors for the 2019-2020 sodium chloride road salt contracts. Morton salt was the lowest bidder for Bucks County. The Board acknowledged that they are participating in the program.

E. Manager

Ms. Mason proposed the future calendar of 2020-2021 as a draft to the Board and asked them to review it.

F. Supervisors

Ms. Herring stated Kevin Kane was interviewed at the previous Board of Supervisors meeting for Park and Recreation Board and was appointed to Kids Castle. Ms. Herring MOTIONED to appoint Mr. Kane to the Parks and Recreation Board. Ms. Manion seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Herring noted that the EAC hosted a region wide kick off for the Ready for 100 Program. This program assists municipalities to move towards 100% renewable energy by 2050. She acknowledges the committees hard work.

Mr. Colello stated that the Visioning meeting occurred and found a large residence response. He noted Boucher & James for a great job and that they were able to capture great feedback.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Pebble Ridge/Woodridge Area Sewer Project – Continued Low Pressure Discussion

John Butler, COO; from Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority presented and continued the low pressure discussion. It was determined that pre drilling is necessary for portions of Almshouse Road and Militia Hill Road. He offered that a low pressure system was presented and discussed with residents. This system will cost residents within that area, an additional \$3,000.00 for the private work. BCWSA has looked at the cost differential and sent out an email to residents explaining so and included a poll asking if they would like the change. Mr. Butler received zero yes votes. He would like to know if the Supervisors would like to proceed with the low pressure or predrill. Ms. Manion noted the votes provided from the residents. Mr. Colello agreed it was surprising and recommended BCWSA continue as the board had previously approved and designed. He also commented that input was taken into account and thanked everyone for being patient. Mr. Porter, a resident, stated it was clear that the residents want a gravity system.

Jim Rattigan, 80 Militia Hill Road, stated he was not included in any communications and asked what was going on and what a low pressure system is. Mr. Butler explained it is a pump system on the homeowner's property that the septic system drains into, pumping out into the street. There are built in check valves. Mr. Rattigan asked if all homes on Militia Hill Road would be subject to a gravity fed system. Mr. Butler stated no, that it may have to do with an easement that could not be obtained by a resident. Mr. Rattigan stated he spoke with a Gilmore representative and the test boring completed made him believe that the presence of rock would not be a surprise. Mr. Butler stated that it was not a surprise but that the rock is too dense for the equipment to predrill and they could not anticipate it. Mr. Rattigan noted he was confused due to there being 15 homes in the area and all have deep basements, someone installed a gravity fed storm sewer system and he does not know why a gravity fed system would not apply to all homeowners. He stated the alternative is suboptimal and he wondered if any alternatives were considered. Mr. Butler stated BCWSA is a contractor not the designer as completed by the Township and Engineer. Mr. Rattigan asked if there is an existing easement in connection with the storm sewer system. Mr. Butler explained that those systems are only four or five feet deep. Mr. Rattigan as if this project was under consideration. Mr. Butler stated that it was not. Ms. Mason stated it was approved by DEP, PennVEST, and Gilmore designed the system. She explained that this was for a small group of homes reviewed. She recommends to the Board not to go with a redesign.

Christine Reinmiller, 19 Forge Road, stated she is impacted by the private additional cost. Mr. Butler explained her home was already designed as low pressure. Ms. Mason explained that if she has a working septic system, there is no requirement to connect. The private connection is optional. Mr. Butler stated bills for the public portion will not go out till 2020. the public cost can be spread over twenty years with a loan. Ms. Reinmiller, stated she found it discriminatory. Mr. Rattigan asked what would occur if the home was sold if the septic system is functional and they did not connect. Ms. Mason stated no connection is necessary at the time of the sale as long as there is proof that the septic system is functional.

John Prock, 1030 Almshouse Road, inquired if a vote would occur tonight. Ms. Lyons stated they are just proceeding with the plan in place. Mr. Butler confirmed they are sticking with a gravity system.

A resident asked what would occur if they accepted the twenty year loan and sold the home. Ms. Mason explained that the loan would be satisfied at the time of sale.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Zoning Hearing Board Applications -43 Bedford Ave. and 45 Bedford Ave. requests for variances

Ms. Mason recommended leaving both Zoning Hearing Board applications to the Zoning Hearing Board itself. The Board agreed.

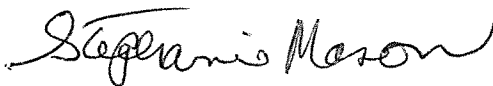
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IX. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Lyons adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by



Stephanie Mason, Secretary