

Telecommunications Advisory Board (TAB) via ZOOM  
Meeting Notes: January 13, 2021

**Members Present:** Ed Ebenbach (Chairman), David Laustsen, Jenya Shuportyaka, Art Zapolski

**At large member:** Jean Laustsen

**Board of Supervisors:** Nancy Santacecilia

**Township Manager:** Stephanie Mason

**Special Projects Coordinator:** Aaron Walizer (Special Projects Coordinator)

**Proceedings:**

- Meeting called to order by Mr. Ebenbach at 6:38pm.
- Introduction of Aaron Walizer, Special Projects Coordinator by Mr. Ebenbach - Mr. Walizer has a military background. He's starting to get hands-on experience. He created our Social Media Report.
- **2021 Reorganization** - Elect Chairman, Vice-Chairman
  - Ms. Mason took over for Mr. Ebenbach
  - Mr. Zapolski nominated Mr. Ebenbach to continue as Chair
  - Mr. Ebenbach nominated Mr. Zapolski to continue as Vice Chair
  - Unanimous vote for both
- **TAB Meeting dates** – 1/11, 2/8, 3/8, 4/12, 5/10, 6/14, 7/12, 8/9, 9/13, 10/18, 11/8, 12/13. Mr. Ebenbach asked everyone to check calendars and advise him of any conflicts.
- **Approve TAB meeting notes for 12/14/2020** - Motion to accept minutes made by Mr. Zapolski, seconded by Mr. Laustsen. Ms. Shuportyaka was thanked for taking the minutes.
- **Discussion of Survey Questions regarding Proposed new Community Center:**

The questions were prepared by Ken Ballard of Ballard\*King & Associates who is facilitating a feasibility study regarding this proposed project. He is seeking TAB's consensus response as the project impacts TAB's role with the Township, rather than from a resident's point of view. TAB's response will be conveyed to an interviewer in early February. Due to a possible conflict of interest, Mr. Ebenbach asked Mr. Zapolski to serve as the TAB representative for the interview. Ms. Mason explained that other committees are being asked same questions.

The current plan is that the new Community Center will be located on New Britain Rd. Parks programs are currently utilizing the trailer and other Township rooms, and the new center would replace that. Square footage is currently planned at 12,000 ft<sup>2</sup>, but will be adjusted based on the results of the feasibility study.

1. *How does/can the new community recreation center project intersect with the role/capability of your Board?* - (Response from Mr. Zapolski) Any program of public interest held at the center (such as rained out games, public events, etc.) might be videotaped by TAB for purposes of the community. TAB would want to have the right kind of communications facilities available to record/air the events, similar to what we have in our current Township meeting room. Mr. Ebenbach added that the communications links would need to be sufficiently robust to enable us to broadcast live. Meeting rooms should have record and playback capability. Ms. Santacecilia added that charging stations would be good idea. Mr. Zapolski added we should consider expandability, should we need to update for new technology. The group concluded that once the center's functions are decided, then TAB should be asked to help figure out what would be needed. Discussion of outdoor events: Mr. Ebenbach suggested the possibility of a communications connection to the Township Building, might allow us to record and/or broadcast outdoor concerts, etc.
2. *How would you describe the value Doylestown Township residents place on their part and recreation system.* No opinion

3. *Do you think the parks and recreation system is balanced in terms of the types of parks, facilities/amenities, programs and services?* No opinion.
4. *Presently there is no indoor recreation space for the provision of programs and services (i.e. active, educational gathering, wellness, etc.) - Would the Doylestown Township community benefit from having access to a community recreation center?* YES. The committee feels that the park system is one of township's biggest assets. It's an important consideration for people contemplating moving here, as well as people who now use it extensively. Kids Castle, dog walkers, joggers, etc.
5. *What would be the most important community recreation center elements/spaces that should be included to best serve the community in a balanced and holistic manner?* This is a resident question – no opinion. Again, once the specifications and functionality of the new Center is determined, TAB can then figure out what more we need to operate in the center. We can expand our audience with the new things they bring to community center. We could make ads for events. This venue could provide indoor space for when concerts get rained out. Think about one big room and the uses for it. If it's a gym, you need acoustics to make it work for concerts etc. Streaming events to senior centers etc. would also be a nice service to offer.
6. *What important needs should be served with the new community center?* No opinion.
7. *What do you anticipate as potential revenue opportunities for the facility?* No opinion.
8. *What priority should Township place on community center development.*  
MEDIUM TO HIGH.
9. *Other issues or concerns regarding the project?* Mr. Zapolski stated that we would like to have the same connectivity that we have in Township Bldg. What if a group wants to use the Center for an event and they want to video it. Who do they come to? That has happened twice in the past. They have brought it to TAB.
10. *Other thoughts?* Mr. Ebenbach suggests that the center can use TAB as an advisor on communications. TAB will be happy to help figure out how to cover the communications aspect of the new Center, once it's functionality is defined.

- **Contact Information Form for Township** - Mr. Ebenbach will email that to us and ask us to send back to township

- **Annual Report to Board of Supervisors – due 2/5**

Mr. Ebenbach showed a 3-slide presentation draft to the committee to discuss. He will send everyone the report via email. The group reviewed the draft report and made a few suggestions. Ms Laustsen suggested adding promos we've produced. Ms. Santacecilia asked about the possibility of including a timeline for meeting room acoustics to be added. She also asked that under Tech. Ops that identifying Streaming alternatives should have a higher priority.

Mr Ebenbach explained that the committees' reports to the BOS will be different this year. Each committee will make a short presentation on video. TAB has been asked to string them together as a program to send out to the Supervisors. We may, as well, add it to our YouTube and DTV channels. This plan should help improve the lack of consistency that was evident in the past.

- **Programming Projects** - 2021 Projects – planning/next steps
  - Coronavirus interviews/vignettes: Mr. Zapolski said there is nothing new.
  - Mission/Vision Document – aid for Boards and Commissions: Ms. Shuportyaka is working on it and is pretty far along.
  - Chamber Chat Videos - Mr. Ebenbach has not pursued this yet
  - Municipal Authority Video: Mr. Ebenbach says the first video will be their Annual report. They are working on a script for us to produce, adding photos etc. for early Feb delivery. Mr. Ebenbach will let Ms. Laustsen know when that's ready to work on.
  - Trails video(s) - We'll wait for vaccinations to really get underway before taking this up.
  - School District contact - nothing to report

- Other projects/suggestions for 2021- none suggested
- **Social Media status** - Compliments to Mr. Walizer. The report included valuable comparisons to other townships. The layout was attractive.
- **New Building/System Operations Report** - Due to the late hour, this portion of the meeting was eliminated.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm

Respectfully submitted by Jean and David Laustsen