

March 9, 2023
7:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Monroe Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Vice Chairman Paetzold. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

ATTENDANCE

Phil Kehoe, Chairman (remote)
Phil Paetzold, Vice Chairman
A.W. Castle, III, Supervisor

Mike Pykosh, Solicitor
Darrell Dethlefs, Solicitor
Karen Lowery, Secretary

SPEAKERS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Wilbur Wolf, 1056 Park Place, asking if there is any news or updates on the Party Barn located at 1066 Park Place. Mr. Kehoe said an executive session was held prior to last month's meeting and he wasn't sure if there was an update since Mr. Pykosh is not in attendance. The Board had directed the solicitor to research what legal options are available to the township to start enforcement. Mr. Dethlefs said Mr. Pykosh has been working on this task and will have an update for the next meeting.

Jim Bogar, 106 Brindle Road, mentioned at last month's meeting that the police need to enforce the speed limit on Clouser Road and he wants to know if the request was forwarded. Mr. Kehoe asked if the office staff was instructed to reach out to the State Police and Mr. Paetzold said no. Ms. Lowery will reach out to the State Police.

Charles Mitchell, 201 Meadow Lane, expressed concerns about the Zoning Ordinance revision that was discussed at the Planning Commission meeting regarding restrictions on the rights of farmers and taking uses away. There was also discussion to take away uses for schools, he feels we should support public and private schools. And there were restrictions on the rights of Churches, which seems like a first amendment right. Expressed concern that the process is heading in the wrong direction and requests that the Supervisors oversees the process.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes – February 9, 2023 – Regular Meeting
- February 23, 2023 – Joint Workshop with Fire Company
2. Roadmaster's Report 2/1/23 – 2/28/23
3. Engineer and Zoning Report 2/1/23 – 2/28/23 (No report)
4. Reaffirm Brymesser Plan
5. Release Waardenburg Letter of Credit
6. Accept Resignation of Chad Wagner - DPW
7. Approval of Bills (as prepared)

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Paetzold, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors, it was duly RESOLVED to approve the Consent Agenda items listed, with minor edits to the workshop minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

ZONING ORDINANCE UPDATE

Mr. Rogalski provided written comments stating the Planning Commission reviewed the use table in the Ag Zone at their last meeting. He anticipates delivery of the final draft at their April meeting with a joint Supervisors and Planning Commission workshop to be scheduled in the May-June timeframe.

LOCUST POINT ROAD CORRIDOR

Mr. Rogalski provided written comments explaining that he and Mr. Kehoe met with Senator Rothman to discuss potential funding opportunities for the Locust Point corridor. It appears that the Township would need to invest into a preliminary study to identify potential projects and associated costs in order to leverage grant funding for construction. Mr. Kehoe added that there are 7 intersections within a 5 mile stretch on Locust Point Road that all have existing problems and each intersects with another state road.

RT. 74 BRIDGE DETOUR PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Rogalski provided written comments that PennDOT has performed some of the sight distance improvement work in the area of alternate detour routes.

FLOODPLAIN ORDINANCE REVISION

Mr. Rogalski provided written comments that we anticipate adoption of the new floodplain mapping by FEMA at the end of this month. He asked that the Supervisors continue to review the proposed Floodplain Ordinance for potential action to advertise at the April Board meeting.

Mr. Pykosh said at the April meeting the Board could set a date and advertise for the hearing.

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Paetzold, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors, it was duly RESOLVED to table the Floodplain Ordinance until the April meeting.

CLOUSER ROAD PROJECT PLAN

Mr. Kehoe said the Board needs to determine if they want allow Pennoni to proceed with concept planning by finishing surveying and gathering cost estimates to be able to define options to address the problems and what impacts those options may cause. Mr. Castle said this will not be a cheap project to remove the hill and thinks the one-way idea may be an option. Mr. Paetzold feels it is worthwhile to get information on possible options to make a decision.

Jim Bogar would like clarification if Mr. Rogalski will be providing options or actual designs. He doesn't feel that a lot of money should be spent on designing projects that may not be wanted or happen. Mr. Kehoe said there will be different concept designs showing the major steps involved and the costs. Mr. Pykosh said several good suggestions were provided at last month's meeting and we need to put together the concept ideas, not full-blown designs.

Andy Dum, 210 Clouser Road, said putting lines on the road is a cheaper option, then people would know where to drive.

Randy and Kelly Carlson, 207 Clouser Road, asked what happens after the options are done, the Supervisors will make a decision? Mr. Pykosh said the options will be provided at a meeting and input can be provided and then the Supervisors will make a decision. Mr. Kehoe added that the cost of the concept work is part of the monthly contract we have with Pennoni, so there will not be a substantial bill. We owe it to the residents to better define the possible options. Mrs. Carlson asked what the motivation is for work to be done on Clouser Road, as it took 3 years to get the speed limit lowered to 35 mph and no blind spot signs have been put up. It is not a well-traveled road and this work would also change the appearance with removal to trees. Mr. Kehoe said he feels detached being in attendance remotely and without the engineer being present. He added the recent subdivisions and new building is increasing the traffic. This road has been on the target list for the past 15 years and we now have funds that can be put toward widening the road, improve visibility to work toward eliminating the near misses that have been shared with the township. There was also a safety study done by LTAP in 2022 identifying the issues and recommendations of how to improve the road. Mr. Paetzold added he has done his due diligence by traveling this road with Mr. Hertzler and then several times himself. He noticed blind spots, the narrowness of the road when meeting another vehicle and how difficult it would be to plow snow. Mr. Castle thinks the one-way option is the best. Mr. Carlson agreed this would be the cheapest way, but is also concerned that moving forward with concept means we are heading in that direction of a project. Mr. Paetzold said that Pennoni is not driving what work will be done. They will provide options and the Supervisors will make a decision.

On the motion of Mr. Kehoe, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors, it was duly RESOLVED to authorize Pennoni to prepare concept designs for Clouser Road to comply with safety study that was previously done.

NEW BUSINESS

APPOINT JANICE STRAMARA TO THE RECREATION BOARD

On the motion of Mr. Paetzold, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors, it was duly RESOLVED to appoint Janice Stramara to the Recreation Board with a term that expires on December 31, 2025.

BARTOSH SEWER AGREEMENT

On the motion of Mr. Paetzold, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors, it was duly RESOLVED to approve the Bartosh Sewer Agreement contingent upon the Solicitor's final review.

ERIC SOLLENBERGER – FINAL SUBDIVISION PLAN

Mr. Diffenbaugh was present. He explained the subdivision plans is to transfer one acre of land from the Sollenberger's to the Swartz's. There won't be any improvements on the land as it is along the Yellow Breeches and in the flood zone. There were 3 waivers requested, which are listed in Pennoni's memo dated March 9th. Mr. Diffenbaugh is willing to comply with the items listed in the memo.

On the motion of Mr. Paetzold, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors, it was duly RESOLVED to approve the applicant's three requests for waivers, as outline in paragraph B of Pennoni's memo dated March 9, 2023.

On the motion of Mr. Paetzold, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors, it was duly RESOLVED to approve the final subdivision plan of Eric Sollenberger contingent upon Pennoni's memo with comments dated March 9, 2023 being satisfied.

SCHOOL SIGNAL REPLACEMENT

Mr. Kehoe stated that quotes were received to either replace the clock for \$7,000 or replace the entire signal including signs, flashers and clock for \$12,300. Mr. Castle feels option 2 is the way to go to keep the kids safe and make the vehicles aware. Mr. Paetzold agreed.

On the motion of Mr. Paetzold, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors, it was duly RESOLVED to proceed with a complete replacement of the school signals at a cost of \$12,300.

SCHEDULE 2ND WORKSHOP OR MEETING WITH FIRE COMPANY

The Board needs to determine if this should be advertised as a meeting or workshop with the fire company. Mr. Kehoe asked if we are ready to take action, if we have received any specific details regarding the \$450,000 request of the tax payers. And \$250,000 of that is expected to be paid out within 60 days because the fire company failed to receive a grant. Would scheduling a workshop allow the fire company more time to provide better rationalization behind the funding issues.

Keri Zeigler, Monroe Fire Company, wanted to set the record straight that they have applied for several rounds of grants for the air packs that will cost approximately \$240,000, but have been denied each time. COVID hurt fundraising efforts, costs are rising on everything and there has been no increase in the fire tax budget. They have been trying to think outside of the box for ways to raise funds and not be burdensome on the tax payers. The breathing apparatus is at the end of its life and if they can't get new air packs by July they will pretty much be out of service. The second project is that Cumberland County is revamping the entire radio system and has partnered with Motorola to provide a specific number of radios to each fire company, but it is less that was is needed to equip each person and the apparatus. She understands \$500,000 is a lot

of money but they have been trying to plan ahead and do their due diligence try to get funding by applying for every grant possible. The fire company is like an insurance policy.

Mr. Castle asked how much the fire company raised last year. Mr. Zeigler said they had the golf outing which raised \$2,000. This is due to COVID shutting down bingo and the township would not allow them to work with Speranza. The recent mailer has brought in about \$1,000. Mr. Zeigler said bingo was the biggest money maker, but people weren't coming out to community events and the volunteers to help run it were fading away. They currently have 12 active members with 4 to 6 responding per call. Mr. Castle said he wouldn't have a problem getting a loan if the fire company could make the payments. Mr. Zeigler said they don't have the money because taxes haven't been raised in how many years. He asked if people even know what they pay toward the fire tax. He said it's pay us know or pay later and this is not a demand, but if the fire company ceases to exist the township is going to have to pay someone else for fire service. And as shared at the first workshop, homeowner's insurance rates would go up if we rely on outside service. This issue has to be faced as we have hit a brick wall and are asking for help.

Mr. Castle asks what is done with the fire tax. Mr. Zeigler said they receive \$260,000 annually and it is used to pay utilities, newest engine payments, operating costs, and it's not enough. The air pack replacement project will cost \$240,000 and the radio project is on to of that. We need help.

Mr. Kehoe asked Mr. Zeigler if they have applied for state or federal grants in the past 4 years. Mr. Zeigler said both and the state grants they have gotten have been minimal, around \$15,000. He added that when applying for a grant you have to be very specific in what it will be used for and it usually needs to be equipment. The 2022 grant was earmarked to replace the boat and trailer. Mr. Kehoe agreed that traditional fundraising methods don't work anymore. He added that we have contacted the bank for loan rates to discuss. Mr. Zeigler said they have pursued another grant for the radios, but have been told that grant will likely be denied because the radios aren't old enough. He added that because we are a small rural township, we really don't have anyone lobbying for us on the political side thing to help get funding.

On the motion of Mr. Paetzold, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors, it was duly RESOLVED to hold a joint workshop with the fire company on Thursday, March 16th at 6 PM at the township building.

AUTHORIZATION TO BID OIL/CHIP AND LINE PAINTING

On the motion of Mr. Paetzold, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors, it was duly RESOLVED to proceed with obtaining bids for the oil/chip and line painting, as listed in Mr. Hertzler's memo dated March 1, 2023.

STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Kehoe thanked everyone for indulging him attending remotely. It's hard when you can't see what is going on or who you're talking to.

Mr. Kehoe noted that trout fishing mentor youth day is March 25th and opening day is April 1st. He asked everyone to be careful when parking and to clean up after themselves.

Mr. Paetzold thanked everyone for putting up with him and said Mr. Kehoe will be back next month.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen M. Lowery, Secretary

TO: Board of Supervisors
 FROM: Greg Hertzler, Road master
 Date: 3-2-23
 SUBJECT: Road master's Report

PROJECTS BEING WORKED ON

PROJECTS	NOTES	ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE
Stone bins at salt shed		3/17/2023
Salt and plow Rds.	If Needed	On going
Wash equipment	After snow if needed	On going
Work on sign inventory		On going
Dirt / low volume roads class		3/16/2023

PROJECTS COMPLETED

PROJECTS	NOTES	COMPLETION DATE
Flagger class		1/30/2023
Camera sewer White Rock		1/30/2023
Patch Rds.		1/31/2023
Replace cutting edge	#17 & #2	2/1/2023
Paint meeting hall		2/2/2023
Met pecks septic	Clean out grease pit for wash bay	2/2/2023
BOS packets		2/2/2023
Cut Brush		Ongoing
Put hand rail back up	Meeting room	2/6/2023
Service loader		2/9/2023
Patch Meyers Rd		2/10/2023
Fix Garage door in shop		2/13/2023
Trim bushes around office		2/13/2023
Bank work Dunkelberger Rd	Sight distance	2/15/2023
Remove stumps Leidigh park		2/16/2023
Sewer bills to post office		2/16/2023
Plans to court house		2/16/2023
Water test		2/17/2023
Replace post Leidigh park		2/17/2023
Fix concession stand counter		2/17/2023
Hauled topsoil		2/21/2023
Take #23 to repair shop		2/21/2023
DEP audit Fire house	Water system	2/22/2023
Camera sewer line sandy		2/23/2023
Start to work on stone bins	Salt shed	2/24/2023