

November 8, 2012

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

ATTENDANCE

Samuel M. Simmons, III, Chairman
A.W. Castle, III, Vice Chairman
Phil Kehoe, Supervisor

Michael Pykosh, Solicitor
Mark Bruening, Engineer
Marjorie Metzger, Administrative Assistant

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Simmons announced the Board held an executive session prior to this meeting to discuss legal matters and personnel.

SPEAKERS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Cass Gibson questioned the high bids that came in for the South Middleton sewer project, and Monroe's share. Mr. Simmons said our share would be 10.3 or 10.8 of the entire project. Mr. Kehoe said the budget put before us and the one we are working from that was provided by South Middleton Township Municipal Authority had the project at approximately \$14 million. Forty percent of the \$14 million was for the Chesapeake Bay Initiative compliance. Sixty percent was for capacity expansion. Mr. Bruening said Monroe's percentage is close to 13.33% roughly. Mr. Kehoe said our plan was 13.33% of the \$14 million. The bid came in \$5.6 million over. What was so upsetting was that South Middleton Township Municipal Authority said in The Sentinel that they will just pass on another price increase and not figure out a way to address this. They qualified the bid and will move forward with the project. The entire project was a requirement of the Chesapeake Bay Initiative, which is not the case. Mr. Simmons mentioned the letter that was delivered to the South Middleton Township Board of Supervisors today for their meeting this evening, signed by the three Monroe Supervisors. He read the letter in its entirety. Mr. Simmons said there are specific large savings, such as moving the equalization tank up the hill out of the floodplain. Mr. Kehoe said it turns into an issue of egos, but Remington Vernick & Beach reviewed the plans and identified savings components. Somewhere South Middleton says they are doubling the capacity and RVB says it will be 2.5 times the current capacity. It is more than what they are saying. We continue to be polite with them, but to continue with the project as bid and designed is not right. It cannot proceed like this. Mr. Kehoe said the project is about \$3 million for Monroe Township. We are short of \$2 million now, but with the bid being over that much would mean an additional \$700,000 - \$800,000 for us. Mr. Simmons expressed his frustration, but the SMTMA manager is only worried about financing and to start raising the rates to the customers. The Manager is not worried about the 30% overage. It is unbelievable. We have been trying for over a year to get information from the SMTMA people. Mr. Castle said the several South Middleton Supervisors he has talked to are cooperative. That Board is open and concerned with the overrun. The SMTMA is separate from the Township. In Monroe, the Supervisors control the Municipal Authority.

Mr. Gibson said the sewer bond issue will be over 25 years, about \$180,000 a year in payment. That is about what the township is paying now for health insurance and pension. That bond will be locked in over the life of the 25 years, but the health insurance will triple. It is one of those issues if we don't do something about it, it will snowball. Mr. Simmons said the Board is working on it.

Randy Jackson mentioned with a bond issue, the interest rates fluctuate and you can call a bond and refinance it as a way of getting savings. He has served on the Monroe Municipal Authority and he now serves on the Dillsburg Area Authority. Mr. Jackson thanked Mr. Bruening for coming out to look at the Trindle Station project. The trees are gone. Trindle Station has started working on the swale, which will be over 5' deep, and the flow will go into an underground pipe that is 12' deep. There is barely enough room to plant trees between the property line and the edge of the bank. Mr. Bruening said he will talk with Mr. Tamanini. When Monroe Street goes through, there is actually a 30" pipe under the road to be put in and covered. That will use up that depth that is there now. Because of the gas main, the pipe has to be below that and have things fit in.

Mr. Jackson said with the flood and storm we had, there were no overflows in the Dillsburg Authority area. They had an emergency team set up with pumps and pipe ready and didn't have to use it. The man didn't charge for the use of it either. He is proud to be the Dillsburg Authority chairman.

Elmer Stapf, mentioned the work that was done by Rogele for the Aqua Water Company on Maxele Lane where the lane goes to the tower. The road was dug up and filled with gravel, but it was not paved. Now there is a lip in the road and he is concerned with the snow plows hitting it and breaking. Mr. Bruening will check this matter, as well as Mr. Rogalski. Mr. Kehoe said Mr. Rogalski has had dialogue continually on this project, so he is confident Aqua will take care of it.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2012 meeting, as amended.

ROADMASTER REPORT

Mr. Kehoe read the report from the Roadmaster concerning the work that was performed in connection with the Sandy hurricane.

Mr. Bruening mentioned he received the permit for the bank stabilization work along Creek Road. The work is scheduled to be done this year.

On the motion of Mr. Kehoe, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to approve the Roadmaster's Report.

ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Rogalski did not provide a zoning report, as he was with Task Force One in New York helping people that were affected by Hurricane Sandy.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

COMPUTER SERVER PROPOSAL

Mr. Kehoe will contact Kasual Computing to discuss their quote to replace the computer server. He mentioned the person from Aardvark, who is a township resident, is willing to provide free technical support on this matter. Mr. Kehoe will get this wrapped up by the next meeting.

On the motion of Mr. Kehoe, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to table the computer server proposal.

GUIDERAIL BIDS

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to award the bid to install guiderails on Eppley & Sinclair Roads at the turnpike bridge to Green Acres Contracting at a price of \$31,175.00.

Mr. Castle thanked Mr. Bruening for meeting with the turnpike commission. The way this project was bid is the safer way of doing it.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 2012-08

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to adopt Resolution 2012-08, which is the budget of all funds for 2013.

RESOLUTION 2012-09

On the motion of Mr. Kehoe, and seconded by Mr. Castle, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to adopt Resolution 2012-09, which re-enacts the taxes under the Local Enabling Act for 2013.

RESOLUTION 2012-10

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to adopt Resolution 2012-10, which levies a .221 mill Real Estate tax rate for 2013. This represents no change to the tax rate.

RESOLUTION 2012-11

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to adopt Resolution 2012-11, which sets the Street

Light tax for 2013 as follows: \$.72 per front foot seated and \$.18 per front foot unseated.
This is an increase in the tax rate.

RESOLUTION 2012-12

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to adopt Resolution 2012-12, which sets the Fire Hydrant tax for 2013. This represents no change.

RESOLUTION 2012-13

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to adopt Resolution 2012-14, which sets the Fire Service tax for 2013 at .304 mill. This represents no change.

RESOLUTION 2012-14

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to adopt Resolution 2012-15, which sets the sewer rates for the Northern district for 2013 as follows: Quarterly flat rate at \$235.00; Metered rate at \$11.60 per 1,000 gallons of usage per quarter or fractional part thereof, subject to a minimum charge of \$184.00 per quarter. This represents no change.

RESOLUTION 2012-15

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to adopt Resolution 2012-15, which sets the sewer rates for the Southern district for 2013 as follows: Quarterly flat rate at \$290.00; Metered rate at \$14.32 per 1,000 gallons of usage per quarter or fractional part thereof, subject to a minimum charge of \$220.80 per quarter. This represents a change of \$20 per quarter for flat rate.

2013 MEETINGS DATES

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to set the meeting dates for 2013 for the Board of Supervisors meetings as follows, all at 7:00 PM: January 7, February 14, March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12, October 10, November 7, and December 12.

Mr. Castle mentioned by holding one meeting a month there is savings to the township for professional services.

HUMANE SOCIETY AGREEMENT FOR 2013

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to enter into an agreement with the Humane Society to provide animal services for 2013. A non-refundable fee of \$250 is due immediately, as well as a deposit of \$3,867.

Mr. Kehoe questioned if there is a better way to provide this service and Mr. Castle said no, we have talked about this in the past.

TYMCO SWEEPER

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to advertise for bids for the Tymco Sweeper. If no bids are received, it can be scrapped for metal price.

BILLS

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to approve the bills as prepared.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Mr. Kehoe mentioned at the beginning of the year The Patriot put out a summary of the cost of living throughout this area. Across the board, Monroe Township had one of the lowest cost of living rates for a lot of services, except for the sewer services. We have controlled our taxes and expenses and have even obtained a reduction on the trash rates for 2013. But the sewer continues to be a thorn in everyone's side. That is his frustration. He will continue to work hard to control the costs, especially for the South Middleton plant users. Mr. Castle said the whole Board agrees with that statement. We all have the same concerns. We didn't get federal money years back for the sewer.

Mr. Castle asked for the troops to be remembered. They are still fighting and dying. The next meeting is December 13. Veteran's Day is November 11 and everyone was encouraged to fly their flag. The township office is closed November 12. Be safe on Thanksgiving. The office will be closed on November 22 & 23. God Bless America.

Mr. Simmons is baffled that there has been no in depth reporting done on the South Middleton sewer project. Why hasn't someone jumped in and asked South Middleton what they are doing, and why is it going to cost so much, and what this will do to their residents. The SMTMA has a meeting Monday evening at 6 PM and we should plan to attend and send another letter. There is only so much the South Middleton Board of Supervisors can do. Every time we try to talk, SMTMA doesn't want to hear us. The Board agreed to have Mr. Simmons, Mr. Bruening, and possibly a member of the Monroe Township Municipal Authority attend the SMTMA meeting on Monday and to have Mr. Bruening and Mr. Pykosh prepare a letter to be presented that evening. We need to ask what will be done to lower the costs. If they don't let us talk, we will still have a letter to hand them. We need to request they re-bid the project, ask for an extension from DEP, and suggest value engineering. We do not want to be confrontational, but we will answer questions.

The Sentinel reporter said he would speak to his editor about getting more coverage on the South Middleton sewer matter.

ADJOURN

On the motion of Mr. Castle, and seconded by Mr. Kehoe, and by unanimous vote of the Supervisors it was duly RESOLVED to adjourn at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie E. Metzger
Administrative Assistant