



Allen Township Board of Supervisors

Meeting Minutes March 9, 2021 7:00 P.M.

A General Meeting of the Allen Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, at 7:00 P.M. held by teleconference due to the Disaster Emergency (Resolution 2020-10 & Resolution 2020-11, remaining in effect until the Commonwealth lifts Disaster pursuant to Board of Supervisors motion of January 12, 2021) created by the COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Chairman Dale Hassler.

1. Roll Call: Present: Gary Behler; Dale Hassler; Gerald Montanari, Sr.; Carl Edwards; B. Lincoln Treadwell, Jr., Esq.; Stan Wojciechowski, PE, CME.; Ilene Eckhart, Manager. Absent: Bruce Frack (due to technical issues related to Zoom).

2. Public to be Heard: Ms. Eckhart indicated she had no announcements.

Mr. Jason Andrews, 836 Mud Lane, voiced concerns regarding the truck traffic on Mud Lane. He was concerned with dump trucks speeding on Mud Lane. He felt this problem should be brought under control before someone is killed. He felt that the trucks were coming in and out of the Jaindl project on Howertown and Seemsville Road. He felt the trucks were typically filled with dirt. He felt the speeds were ridiculous.

3. Public Hearings: No Public Hearings.

4. Approval of Minutes: Mr. Behler made a motion to approve the minutes of February 9th and 23rd, 2021; seconded by Mr. Montanari. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.

5. Reports – All Reports with exception of the Treasurers Report noted as “on file”.

A. Treasurer: Mr. Behler made a motion to approve the Treasurers Report and Pay the bills; seconded by Mr. Montanari. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.

B. Solicitor: On file.

C. Engineer: On file.

D. Planning/Zoning/Code Enforcement: On file.

E. Road Superintendent/Public Works Leader: On file.

F. Fire Company: On file.

G. Emergency Management Coordinator: No report.

H. Parks: On file.

J. Nazareth Council of Government: No meeting since last report

K. First Regional Compost Authority: No comments.

L. Stormwater: On file.

6. Unfinished Business

A. **Northampton Business Center – Concrete Batch Plant Request:** Presenting on behalf of the applicant; Craig Halverson, Eric Scheler (Jaindl Watson) and Christine Sutjack of Jaindl Company) and Adam Kochanski, Blue Rock Construction and Scott Young and Joe Castillio, who will be responsible for operating the batch plant on-site. Ms. Sutjack, indicated the proposal is to utilize a temporary mobile concrete batch plan for the production and delivery of concrete materials to the first two buildings on site (Buildings 1 & 2). Ms. Sutjack indicated there are several advantages in using this type of material delivery system for the building project. She indicated the advantages would be limiting truck traffic and tracking material to the public roadways. She indicated the proposed location is western/northern edge of building #1 with a second option for the western edge of building #2 (due to soils conditions). Ms. Sutjack indicated that the six to eight mixing trucks would be on-site for each day. The temporary batch plant would cut the days required for pours essentially in half (from 224 days to 112 days).

Mr. Castillio indicated it takes about five days to assemble the plant. PPL will provide temporary power from the lines on site. If PPL is not available, an on-site generator would be temporarily used.

Mr. Kochanski, explained additional reasons for the batch plant. He noted that the Seemsville road work commencing, this will minimize the traffic to Seemsville Road. The placement locations were selected reasonably spaced from the neighboring properties. A sound chart was provided projecting permissible volume ranges to comply with the Township ordinance requirements.

Mr. Castillio indicated the truck plant was a drive through configuration, to avoid unnecessary back up alarms. Additionally, the loading equipment was equipped with a white noise alarm. Dump trucks would be contained within concrete wall areas to mitigate the noise issues. He summarized the batch plant would be in-place for approximately 112 days. He stressed that the plant is only in-place to service the JW project regarding this proposal.

Mr. Behler questioned the hours of operation. Ms. Sutjak confirmed the hours were 7AM – 7 PM. Mr. Kochanski indicated that he would like to have option to work a six day work week. Mr. Kochanski further confirmed the proposed locations would allow for compliance with the Township ordinance sound parameters. Mr. Behler asked if there is a problem with volumes – would mitigations measures be possible. Ms. Sutjak indicated based on the data from the previous application of the plant at a different location, she felt the plant would comply with the Township ordinance requirements. Mr. Behler asked if the Seemsville Road access would be a reasonable condition. Mr. Kochanski felt that this was a reasonable condition for the trucks to be limited to use Seemsville Road only. Mr. Scheler indicated tactics including trailer sound wall could be utilized for mitigation. Mr. Castillio indicated that sand, stone, cement, lime and admixtures as necessary and raw material deliveries would be done during non-peak hours.

Mr. Montanari felt it was a good idea to utilize the batch on-site plant to avoid the school bus traffic, which utilizes Seemsville Road. He indicated he had been to the site and there was not a noise issue currently and these types of plants do not make a great deal of noise.

Mr. Hassler commented he was in favor as long as the plants remain located as shown on the latest plans submitted. He was not in favor of moving the plants northward towards Mud Lane (which would be closer to the residents). Mr. Hassler also indicated that the trucks must adhere to Seemsville Road.

Mr. Behler made a motion to approve the request for a temporary on-site concrete batch plant condition upon the following items: 1.) Batch plant to be located per the plan; 2.) Operation of the batch plant to be limited to 7 AM – 7 PM up to six days per week; and 3.) All truck traffic servicing the plant enter and exits from Seemsville Road to Rt. 329 (no traffic north on Seemsville Road from the project access road); seconded by Mr. Montanari. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.

B. Rockefeller Lot #4 – Security Releases Request: Mr. Behler made a motion to grant the security release request in the amount of \$77,075.95; seconded by Mr. Montanari. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.

7. New Business

A. Authorization to Prepare Municipal Waste and Recycling Bid Specifications for Bidding of New Contract (Summer 2021) – to Commence 2022: Ms. Eckhart expressed the last bid contract presented some disagreeable outcomes per feedback from the public and the Supervisors. Ms. Eckhart reported the current terms of the Municipal Waste Collection and Disposal Contract with Advanced Disposal (aka Waste Management due to merger), was accepted as a three year contract with the bilateral option to renew the terms of the contract for three successive one year terms. Pursuant to the provisions of the contract, the Township is required to notify Advanced Disposal (aka Waste Management) of its request to renew the Contract on or before July 1, 2021, and on or before July 1, of the then current year for each successive option year exercised by the Township. She asked for the Boards feedback should the Board wish to proceed with bidding a new contract for services.

Mr. Behler indicated he was not satisfied with the current contract. He felt going from an unlimited collection to three bags was the biggest complaint from residents. He felt the he not heard complaints about the bi-weekly recycling, especially since it was unlimited. Regarding the yard waste, he felt that the complaints stemmed from going to a limited amount of waste at the curb. He felt as a member of FRCA, he the Township should continue to benefit from the satellite site for the Township. He felt the white goods provision as current written was acceptable. Mr. Behler felt that the bulk item format is unacceptable. He felt the new specifications should be one bulk item per week for the sake of simplicity. He did like the idea of an on-line survey to obtain feedback from residents regarding the services they prefer. He felt it was very important that there is a statement in the survey regarding the balance between cost and services.

Mr. Montanari indicated he generally agreed with Mr. Behler. He did not feel comfortable with adding the yard waste. He did not want to see an big cost escalation in the next contract.

Mr. Hassler stated he was also not pleased with the limits in the current contract. Regarding the weekly amount he felt it was a toss up between maybe five bags or unlimited. He felt that the recycling should remain the same. Regarding the bulk item perhaps make this item be consistent with bi-weekly recycling – perhaps that would be easier for residents to remember and save on costs.

Mr. Behler questioned if the Board felt a survey would be advantageous. Ms. Eckhart indicated she would draft a survey and return with the verbiage to the Supervisors. She indicated that she would provide a statement in the draft that the purpose of the survey would be to provide an informed decision. She felt from the feedback – perhaps the Board might also be an early cost estimate (prior to bidding the contract).

B. Road Projects for 2021 – Authorization to Solicit Bids: Ms. Eckhart explained the roads present were discussed in the preparation of the 2021 Budget and include the following candidate roads:

Savage Road (from Buckingham to Northampton Borough Line); East Bullshead Road (from Willowbrook to East Allen Township Line); Atlas Road from Savage Road to Short Lane; Covered Bridge Road (northern segment, from Kreidersville Road to Stone Bridge Road). Additionally, White Circle should be considered to be bid as a substantial rebuild, at some point. She noted that the main list of roads to be bid she would coordinate as best as possible to coordinate with the County on the replacement of the trestle on East Bullshead Road. Mr. Montanari questioned the availability of funds for the project.

Mr. Behler made a motion to authorize the preparation of bid specifications for a new contract term; seconded by Mr. Montanari. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.

C. Public Works Part Time Laborer Positions (Including Summer Help): Ms. Eckhart indicated at the onset of the pandemic, she did not recommend recalling the summer part time laborers. She noted the full time road crew staff handled the mowing etc. otherwise performed by the seasonal laborers. This was in an effort, to monitor any loss of revenue effects of the pandemic. She was also seeking direction regarding filling the sixth full time equipment operator/utility position. Mr. Behler made a motion to hire the three part time summer seasonal laborers (including summer help) for the upcoming mowing season (Michael Jamicky Jr., Jared and Jacob Hunsberger); seconded by Mr. Montanari. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.

Regarding the filling of the sixth full time position, Mr. Behler felt Ms. Eckhart should provide the top three resumes and then proceed with the hiring. Mr. Hassler felt the Board should move ahead with the sixth full time position, to keep a full crew, with vacations, etc. coming back on line. Mr. Hassler felt Ms. Eckhart should provide a recommendation and the Board should move forward. Mr. Behler clarified he would want to see the three resumes and then move forward with Ms. Eckhart's recommendation on an individual. Mr. Montanari questioned how long the crew was without a sixth individual. Ms. Eckhart indicated the crew has been at five full time people since December 2020. He asked how the crew was performing without the sixth person. Ms. Eckhart felt that the work performed with five was acceptable and there was a considerable amount of work accomplished with five. She indicated that there were supplemental part timers to cover. Mr. Montanari asked Ms. Eckhart to pick the top three and the Board should look at them.

D. Return to In-Person Meetings: Mr. Behler recalled that at the last meeting, when MS. Eckhart questioned if the in-person meetings were to include a virtual element. He felt that the Board should provide a livefeed with questions in advance, which would provide anyone who is uneasy with the benefit to see the meeting live and that if for any reason other than the pandemic that individuals can not get to the meeting they could still view the feed. Mr. Montanari felt this could be accomplished. She indicated the livefeed achievable.

8. Public to be Heard: No comments from the public.

There being no further comments or business the meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ilene M. Eckhart