



## Allen Township Board of Supervisors

### Meeting Minutes August 9, 2022 7:00 P.M.

A General Meeting of the Allen Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, August 9, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. at the Allen Township Fire Company Building, located at 3530 Howertown Road, Northampton, PA. Mr. Hassler led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**1. Roll Call:** Present: Dale Hassler; Gary Behler; Paul Link; Tim Paul; Jason Frack; B. Lincoln Treadwell, Jr., Esq; Ilene Eckhart, Manager; Maurin Ritinski, Admin. Asst.; Andrea Martin, EIT and Stan Wojciechowski, PE, CME.

**2. Announcements and/or Actions to Add New Items to Current Agenda:**

Mr. Behler requested an executive session after tonight's meeting to discuss potential land acquisitions near Howertown Park. There were no objections or comments from any Supervisors present. Mr. Hassler stated that this executive session would follow tonight's meeting.

**3. Public Hearings:** No public hearings.

**4. Public to be Heard:** No public comment.

**5. Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Behler made a motion to approve the minutes of July 12 and 26, 2022; seconded by Mr. Link. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.

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

**A. Treasurer:** Mr. Link made a motion to approve the Treasurers Report and the Paying of the Bills; seconded by Mr. Frack. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.

**B. Solicitor:** On file.

**C. Engineer:** On file. Mr. Wojciechowski reported that W. 27<sup>th</sup> Street is paved in accordance to the submitted plans. He expressed his satisfaction with the work completed thus far. Mr. Wojciechowski explained that the asphalt berm in lieu of the concrete curb will be installed later this week.

**D. Planning/Zoning/Code Enforcement:** On file. Ms. Eckhart explained that she would be following up as necessary regarding the Lappawinzo Fish and Game Protective Association. Ms. Eckhart also reported that several warehouses are in the permitting and construction phases.

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

**F. Fire Company:** On file.

**G. Emergency Management Coordinator:** On file.

**H. Parks:** On file.

**J. Nazareth Council of Government:** On file.

**K. First Regional Compost Authority:** On file. Ms. Eckhart reported that she attended a site meeting at the First Regional Compost Authority (FRCA) yesterday. She stated that the monthly First Regional Compost Authority meeting in August will include a discussion regarding formally asking Barry Isett & Associates, Inc. to take on the roll as the project engineer for a master site improvement plan analysis. Ms. Eckhart also reported that FRCA will be exploring and pursuing possible grant opportunities. Ms. Eckhart expressed her dissatisfaction regarding the work conditions for employees at this facility. She reports that the staff operates their office out of a sea shipping container. Ms. Eckhart further one of the priority goals of the plan is to provide a proper work facility with essential sanitary water and sewer.

**L. Stormwater:** On file. Ms. Eckhart explained that retrofit of the Walker Drive Stormwater Retention Basin has been completed. This is the first project of the three year cycle. Ms. Eckhart stated that Public Works completed this project well and in a timely manner despite the harsh temperature conditions. Mr. Hassler congratulated Mr. Gogle on a job well done.

## **7. Unfinished Business**

**A. Century Commerce – Prologis – Work Hour Request:** Kristine Dwyer, Development Manager for Prologis, addressed the Board and requested an adjustment to their approved work hours. Ms. Dwyer stated that they are currently restricted to the approved work hours from 7am – 7pm Monday through Friday. Due to the extremely hot weather, they are requesting a 1am start time in order to complete their concrete pours at 2500 & 2800 Liberty Drive. This start time would allow the concrete to cure before the hottest part of the day. Ms. Dwyer explained that they are trying to catch up and maintain their schedule due to an issue with the concrete and soils. She explained that they have a concrete batch plant on site. Mr. Behler questioned when the concrete batch plant was approved. Ms. Eckhart reported that the zoning permit application has been submitted. Mr. Hassler clarified that the zoning permit application was submitted after the fact. Mr. Behler expressed concern for the two nearby residents and the disturbance that extended work hours may cause them. He suggested reaching out to these residents to obtain feedback. Ms. Dwyer reported that they have worked 4 nights so far. The only complaints that the Township has received to date are regarding the dust coming from the site. Ms. Dwyer stated that they have four trucks continuously running during the work day to control the dust. Ms. Dwyer offered to measure the sound to ensure they were within ordinance limits. Mr. Hassler expressed concerns regarding the amount lighting of the jobsite at night and compared it to a football field. The Board questioned how often the pours are occurring, how long it takes to complete the work following a pour, and how quickly the pour could cease if a complaint was received. Ms. Dwyer explained that the concrete pours are occurring 2 days per week and every 2-3 days. The work is being done Monday – Friday with a 1am start time for slab pours continuing until the afternoon but not past the hour of 7pm. She expects the 1am start time to be necessary through September. Ms. Dwyer explained that the pour needs to be finished and that they cannot stop the pour once it has begun. Mr. Link had no objections to the request as long as no complaints were received. Mr. Hassler suggested allowing a 16 hour work day with the work hour adjustment being on a temporary basis with the stipulation that if a complaint was received the work would cease. After a brief discussion, Mr. Behler made a motion to authorize Century Commerce – Prologis the ability to operate 24 hours a day 3 days per week Monday through Friday with the stipulation that traffic would be limited and the work will cease if a complaint is received, seconded by Mr. Link. Mr. Link commented that if the extended work hours would need to extend into September another request will need to be made. The Board informed Ms. Dwyer that the last Supervisors meeting in August in August 23<sup>rd</sup>. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.

**B. Covered Bridge and Howertown Park – Site Plans – PA DCNR Standard RFP:** Ms. Eckhart reported that she reached out to Sherry Acevedo, the representative from Northampton County Parks, and The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) for guidance regarding the

process for request for proposals (RFP) for a master site plan for Howertown Park and Covered Bridge Park. Ms. Eckhart explained that this RFP is different than the one the one recently completed for the facilities study due to standardized requirements for parks. Lorne Possinger, representative from PA DCNR, shared with Ms. Eckhart the development scope and example guidelines. Ms. Eckhart explained that in order to pursue construction grants in the future the guidelines must be followed. Ms. Eckhart recommends that the Board strongly consider following the stringent guidelines and format for the RFP in order to pursue possible grants in the future. She explained that there is a study committee that is put together which would consist of 5 to 9 individuals. There is a public participation requirement in order to allow for public comment to capture what residents would like to see in the park. Ms. Eckhart explained that those residents who participate in the parks RFP may also be interested in participating in a permanent recreation committee. Mr. Behler made a motion to follow the format and guidelines provided by PA DCNR for the site plan request for proposals for Covered Bridge and Howertown Park, seconded by Mr. Link. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.

**C. East Bullshead Road – Traffic Calming Measures:** Ms. Eckhart stated that she recently received a call from a resident who was considerably angry due to frequent property damage from tractor trailers attempting to turn around on Country Road, a dead-end cul-de-sac. She explained that this a repeat call that is very problematic. Ms. Eckhart explained that too many trucks turn on to E. Bullshead Road despite the current signage stating no trucks. She continued to explain that there is a “point of no return” before the trestle bridge that carries the Nor-Bath Trail over E. Bullshead Road. The current signage shows a height restriction of 12-feet. Ms. Eckhart reports that there are frequent incidents where a tractor trailer hits the bridge and occasionally gets stuck. This results in Public Works and the Allen Township Fire Department being called out to the scene which may take hours of their time. Ms. Eckhart stated that the concerned resident suggested a headache overhead bar. Mr. Link was concerned with this impeding local deliveries, such as furniture deliveries to residents. Mr. Hassler was concerned with the possible repercussions of a headache bar. He explained that if the headache bar is hit by a tractor trailer and if the bar falls down it could hit a vehicle and cause the death of another motorist. He suggested additional large signage with the height restriction on Willowbrook Road that may include flashing lights. Mr. Hassler stated that the height restriction should also be lower on the sign than the actual clearance to catch the eye of truck drivers. Ms. Eckhart explained that any flashing lights must be approved by PennDOT. She suggested a raised center isle in the middle of the lane with signage. Mr. Wojciechowski responded that a 3-foot center isle is a possible solution and will be evaluated. The radii on the edge of the road can also be restricted. Mr. Behler questioned if a roundabout is an appropriate solution. Mr. Wojciechowski explained that due to the proximity of a school that a roundabout at this location would be appropriate and would help with traffic calming. He stated that it could be designed so that a right turn cannot be made. Mr. Wojciechowski will have their traffic department put together a design for consideration. Mr. Hassler and Mr. Paul would like to see immediate results and feel that large signage should be the first step. The signage would be quicker to install than redesigning the intersection would be and it would also be less of an expense. Mr. Frack agreed that it would take time to install a roundabout. Mr. Wojciechowski stated that the additional signage should include both the “no trucks” sign along with the height restriction. He will form a recommendation for signage for the Board to review. Mr. Hassler questioned if a study of the intersection should be completed. Mr. Behler stated that he would be shocked if additional signage would correct the problem but feels signage should be pursued initially while evaluating additional options for the future if needed. Mr. Paul and Mr. Hassler agreed. Mr. Behler made a motion to direct the Township Engineer to provide designs for signage, to install said signage, and begin the design process in order to turn trucks around and discourage them from turning on to E. Bullshead Road, seconded by Mr. Paul. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.

## **8. New Business**

**A. Speed Study Request to PennDOT – Indian Trail Road:** Ms. Eckhart reported that PennDOT recently held their meeting for the Indian Trail Road Bridge replacement project. She was in attendance at the meeting and had heard many residents voice their concerns to PennDOT regarding speed on Indian Trail Road.

PennDOT had informed residents that the municipality may request a speed study to determine if the appropriate speed level is in place. Ms. Eckhart stated that requests have been submitted in the past on various issues such as brake retarders, truck speed reductions, and passing zones. She reports that some requests result in a change and others are found to be appropriate with no change made. The request for a speed study on Indian Trail Road would involve a request letter being sent to PennDOT. Mr. Behler questioned if other state roads within the Township should be study for speed as well. Mr. Hassler agreed and felt that speeds on Kreidersville Road and Howertown Road should also be studied but did not feel that a study of speed on Old Carriage Road was needed. Mr. Behler commented that drivers drive fast on Old Carriage Road as well. Ms. Eckhart commented that the state road in the Township with the highest fatality rate is Cherryville Road. Mr. Behler made a motion to send a letter to PennDOT for a speed study request on all state roads within Allen Township, seconded by Mr. Link. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.

**B. LSA Grant Application Rounds – Monroe and Lehigh/Northampton Counties – Backhoe Replacement – Resolutions 2022-15 & 2022-16:** Ms. Eckhart provided two options for the Board to consider in regards to the applications for these grants. She proposed applying for a grant to replace the backhoe or to purchase a mini excavator. The backhoe will be coming up on the replacement schedule within the next few years. The current backhoe is a 2003 CAT 430D Backhoe with 5,588 machine hours. This older piece of equipment has already had several repairs made to it. The estimate for a new 2023 John Deer 410L is \$159,900. Mr. Gogle explained this price does not include a trade-in as a trade-in price was not obtained with the quote. Mr. Gogle stated that an alternative piece of equipment to consider purchasing is a mini excavator. The John Deer 50G model is estimated to cost \$74,608.76. He explained that the crew would be able to utilize a mini excavator for multiple jobs and that it would allow them to work in tighter spaces, such as working with stormwater in backyards or repairing sinkholes. This equipment has been needed by Public Works on more than one occasion which resulted in renting the equipment in order to complete the job. Mr. Gogle spoke of the benefits of this equipment in terms of its maneuverability. Mr. Gogle noted that the backhoe would still need to be replaced according to the schedule. Mr. Behler stated that he feels the grant should be applied for the piece of equipment that is the most expensive in order to save the Township money and maximize what is received in grants. Mr. Behler stated that additional equipment should be budgeted for. According to Ms. Eckhart, the backhoe would be brought to the Board’s attention for the next budget. Mr. Hassler questioned Mr. Gogle if the mini excavator is needed now. Mr. Gogle responded that Public Works can make do without the equipment for the time being. Mr. Hassler questioned the delivery timeframe. Mr. Gogle reported that he did not look into delivery timeframes. Mr. Behler made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-15 (Local Share Account Monroe County Grant) and Resolution 2022-16 (Local Share Account Lehigh/Northampton County Grant) in regards to the grant applications for a new backhoe, seconded by Mr. Paul. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.

## **9. Public to be Heard:**

Scott Hillegass, 3891 Kreidersville Road, a resident at this property since 1996, stated that he had previously submitted a complaint to the Code Enforcement Officer. He felt that his complaint was not adequately addressed and wished to bring the issue to the Board’s attention. Mr. Hillegass stated that he recently had new neighbors move in at 3903 Kreidersville Road. He stated that a 30-foot camper has now been brought on to the property and has been hooked up to sewer, water and electric. He reports witnessing the pipe being laid for the septic hook up and believes that people are living in the camper on the property. He also voiced concerns regarding automobiles being worked on daily. He explained that he has been unable to get any peace since his new neighbors moved in. Mr. Hillegass stated that he has to keep his windows closed and is unable to go outside and enjoy his fire pit. Mr. Hassler and Ms. Eckhart stated that this complaint will be investigated further with Code Enforcement.

**10. Announcements**

Mr. Hassler announced that the Planning Commission meeting that was scheduled for Monday August 15<sup>th</sup> has been canceled. Mr. Hassler also announced that an executive session will immediately follow tonight's meeting in order to discuss potential land acquisitions near Howertown Park.

There being no further comments or business the meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ilene M. Eckhart