



Allen Township Board of Supervisors

Meeting Minutes May 10, 2022 7:00 P.M.

A General Meeting of the Allen Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. at the Allen Township Fire Company Building, located at 3530 Howertown Road, Northampton, PA. Mr. Behler led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

2. Announcements and/or Actions to Add New Items to Current Agenda: Ms. Eckhart stated that she needed to make a correction regarding the annual Memorial Day procession that is listed on the agenda. The church is Zion Stone Church and not St. Johns UCC Church.

Ms. Eckhart reported that an email was received from the Northampton Regional Emergency Medical Services (NREMS) Director who was seeking assistance from the Township. Due to equipment failure with their tractor and a substantial price increase with the contractor they had hired, they are requesting Public Works to cut the grass on their property near the fire station. Ms. Eckhart stated this would be roughly two-thirds of an acre just around the building. Mr. Link made a motion to add the request from NREMS to the agenda; seconded by Mr. Frack. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.

3. Public Hearings: No public hearings.

4. Public to be Heard: No public comment from those present. Ms. Eckhart read aloud the public comments received by email.

Nicholas Takacs, 202 Walker Drive, commented the following via email that was received May 9, 2022: *"I am writing concerning the issue of tractor-trailer traffic North of Bullshead Road on Willowbrook Road. Multiple instances of trucks stopping on the shoulder of Willowbrook between Walker Dr. and McNair Dr. causes problems with traffic in both directions. I have personally watched trucks come down W. Bullshead Road and then turn left onto Willowbrook because they are unable to make the right over the Catasauqua Creek bridge on Willowbrook. This has also increased the amount of trucks that use Walker to Grey to McNair as a turnaround, putting tractor trailers in residential streets. The issue has been ongoing and appears to be getting worse with more truck traffic turning on streets and residential intersections not designed to have that kind of traffic. Add in bus stops and kids playing in the afternoon in those residential areas and it is a recipe for a serious accident. With the expansion of warehousing and the number of trucks on Willowbrook coupled with many vehicles speeding through the FedEx/Geodis area and continuing to speed as they come through the residential areas (going 50+ mph in one specific instance) and blowing the Walker/Willowbrook intersection, the risk for property damage or worse, injury or death to a resident from the carelessness is growing."*

Gary Lutz, 62 Arrowhead Lane, commented the following via email that was received May 10, 2022: *"Although we don't like to be affected by having an electric generation plant in our backyard. The reality is that when we flip the light switch and want the light to go on. That electric needs to be generated in someone's backyard. With a little cooperation from everyone involved we can come up with a solution that makes it a little easier for all us to live with."*

One idea that was brought up at the last meeting was to spread the truck traffic over several different routes. Since the cogeneration claims that the electric generated stays local it would be only fair that we all share in any inconvenience created by the truck traffic.

The next item is directed to the representative from the cogeneration plant. From my observation, of the trucks going back and forth on Kreidersville Rd about 80 to 90 percent are operating correctly without excessive noise level and use of the jake brake. The remaining 10 to 20 percent appear to be the problem. They are creating an excessive amount of noise and an excessive use of the jake brake. After consulting several individuals in the trucking industry it would appear from their feedback that the vehicles that are creating the excessive amount of noise do not have a proper working exhaust system. If the truck's exhaust system has a properly working resonator after the turbo, the exhaust noise would be reduced to an acceptable level. As the company contracting these vehicles you should have both a safety standard and an equipment standard for all vehicles that you contract with. From an enforcement standpoint these items could be checked using a checklist by your people upon the trucks entering the plant.

The last item is the continuing restrictions put on the routes available for the trucks to use because of the lack of our lawmakers maintaining our highways. We pay close to the highest road taxes in the country and probably have one of the most poorly maintained highway systems in the country.

In the last meeting it was brought up that letters have been sent to our lawmakers and that there was an article in the paper. Unfortunately to get our lawmakers motivated it is going to take many of us to continue to write letters to our lawmakers and more media attention if we want to get any results. Thanks Gary Lutz”

- 5. Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Link made a motion to approve the minutes of April 12 and 26, 2022; seconded by Mr. Frack. 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 Pay 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.
 - D. Planning/Zoning/Code Enforcement:** On file.
 - E. Road Superintendent/Public Works Leader:** On file.
 - F. Fire Company:** On file.
 - G. Emergency Management Coordinator:** On file.
 - H. Parks:** On file. Ms. Eckhart reported that she is working on obtaining quotes for the fencing discussed at the last meeting. She stated she is waiting on measurements from Mr. Henahan.
 - J. Nazareth Council of Government:** On file.
 - K. First Regional Compost Authority:** On file. Ms. Eckhart reports that the Authority did receive their second DEP grant in the amount of \$350,000.00. The Authority is considering how they want to use the two

grants, each grant in the amount of \$350,000.00, across a major purchase of a replacement grinder and some containers. The Authority is looking into their purchase options due to the substantial increase in this type of capital equipment. The Authority is looking into smaller grinders. Ms. Eckhart reported on the policy change regarding the acceptance of grass at the facility. The charge is \$1.00 per 32 gallon container. Ms. Eckhart reported that bags, including compostable, are a problem at the site. Ms. Eckhart stated that the compostable bags take time to break down. This is creating a litter problem and therefore no bags are accepted at the site. Ms. Eckhart also stated that a local business owner has provided some ideas for outlets for product along with equipment suggestions.

L. Stormwater: On file.

7. Unfinished Business

A. Allen Township/Northampton Borough Joint Official Sewage Facilities Plan (Act 537) – Resolution 2022-12 and Review of Comments Received (LVPC & Public): Ms. Martin stated the public comment period and Planning Commission comment period expired at the end of last week. Ms. Martin described the letter from the LVPC as a brief comment letter that essentially summarized the plan. She indicated that the letter stated the plan is consistent with the LVPC planning. Ms. Martin will draft a response to the LVPC acknowledging the receipt of the letter and thanking them for the review. Ms. Martin stated that all public and planning commission comments received, any responses from the municipalities, and the final resolution with original signatures and Township seal are required to be included in the final plan. Ms. Martin stated that to her knowledge there have been no public comments received by Allen Township or by Northampton Borough. Ms. Martin stated that the Catasauqua Borough Planning Commission was provided a courtesy copy of the plan. She reported that there were no comments from Allen Township Planning Commission, Northampton Borough Planning Commission or Catasauqua Borough Planning Commission that needed to be addressed. Ms. Martin indicated that the next step is to pass the resolution of adoption. She reported that Northampton Borough would be passing their resolution at their May 19th meeting. Following the passed resolutions of adoptions, she stated that the package will be submitted to DEP on May 20th. Mr. Link made a motion to approve the Act 537 Plan and Resolution 2022-12; seconded by Mr. Paul. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.

Mr. Behler requested an update regarding the Intermunicipal Sewer Service Agreement between Northampton Borough and Allen Township. Ms. Eckhart provided an update on the agreement and reported that the agreement has been executed by both Northampton Borough and Allen Township. Ms. Martin confirmed the agreement will be included with the plan being submitted to DEP. Ms. Eckhart reported that herself and Mr. Treadwell will be providing notification to any plan holders, developers, and those with approvals regarding the availability of public sewer and the timeline per the Intermunicipal Sewer Service Agreement.

B. Howertown Park – Replacement of Batting Tunnel and Net “Cage” – General Recreation Costars Contract 014-071: Ms. Eckhart provided an update on the status of estimates for the new batting tunnel. She provided an overview of the estimates obtained by Bath Allen Youth Club and the comparison to the estimate from a COSTARS vendor (General Recreation, Inc.) that the Township has worked with in the past. The quote from General Recreation, Inc., COSTARS vendor, is in the amount of \$6,624.00 and the quote from Anthem Sports, quote obtained by Bath Allen Youth Club, is in the amount \$6,856.11. Ms. Eckhart reports that she shared the specifications with the Youth Club and reports that this was essentially the same unit they were looking at. She also noted the difference in the size of the unit with the proposed unit measuring 70’x21’ and the existing batting tunnel/net equipment measuring 54’x15’. Ms. Eckhart stated that while there appears to be adequate room for the larger unit at the batting tunnel/net’s current location, there may be a more favorable area for placement of the proposed new unit as the current location is prone to ponding water and flooding. Mr. Paul stated that he liked the current location of the batting tunnel/net and questioned if any landscaping could be done to remedy the flooding in the area. Mr. Link spoke of how he learned firsthand how wet this area is from his

recent visit to the park. Ms. Eckhart explained that the floodplain borders that area. Mr. Behler spoke of his ideas of where to place the batting tunnel. He voiced his concerns for netting damage and deterioration if it were to sit in water from flooding. Mr. Behler had mentioned that there are different types of batting cages that are solely chain, solely netting, or a combination of both. He questioned if the Board had considered just replacing the netting on the equipment rather than purchasing a whole new piece of equipment. Mr. Link replied that it would depend on if the batting tunnel would be moved to a different location due to the proposed fencing around the baseball field. Mr. Link questioned if the quotes included the installation and labor. Ms. Eckhart replied that Public Works would put together the batting tunnel.

Mr. Behler suggested looking into possible ways to maintain the ground under the batting tunnel to reduce maintenance required from Public Works. Ms. Eckhart recommended that the ad hoc committee meet to discuss the batting tunnel location and tying it in with the fence project. Mr. Behler and the other present Supervisors were in favor of having the ad hoc committee meet first to discuss it. This matter was tabled until a subsequent meeting in order for the ad hoc committee to meet and discuss the matter.

There was discussion on the formation of the ad hoc committee and when the meeting was going to take place. Ms. Eckhart will coordinate with two Supervisors, a member of Bath Allen Youth, a member of Triboro Soccer Club, and a few residents to schedule a meeting for a day and time that is convenient.

Ms. Eckhart questioned the Board on their preference for the fence bids for when the time comes. She discussed options of plain chain link, black chain link, or the ability to bid it both ways. Ms. Eckhart stated she personally likes the look of the black chain link, which was used at the dog park. Mr. Link stated he does not have a preference in color but would like padding along the top of the fence. After a short discussion, Ms. Eckhart will obtain bids for both plain chain link as well as the black chain link fencing.

8. New Business

A. Allen Township Recreation Board Ordinance Draft – Preference regarding Number of Members 5, 7, or 9?: Ms. Eckhart stated if the Board wishes to create a permanent Recreation Board, the Board would need to decide the number of members on the proposed recreation board before Ms. Eckhart and Mr. Treadwell can draft an ordinance. Ms. Eckhart stated that in 2004 the Second Class Township Code had changed to allow up to 9 persons on the board. Ms. Eckhart also requested the Board's opinion on what the functions should be of the proposed Recreation Board. Ms. Eckhart provided an example from a neighboring community that outlined that their Board had an obligation to provide recommendations as well as to report back to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Behler questioned if a person had to be directly named or if it could be generalized such as "one member from Bath Allen Youth Club". Mr. Treadwell answered that it is supposed to be a named person.

Mr. Link questioned if the ordinance was written with 9 member for the permanent Recreation Board if there could be less members serving on the Board. Mr. Treadwell confirmed that there could be less than 9 members. He provided an example stating that some municipalities have 7 member Planning Commissions but have only had 5 members the past several years due to the inability to fill the remaining seats on the Board.

Mr. Treadwell suggested holding several months of meetings with the ad hoc committee before forming a permanent Recreation Board. This would allow time to see how the committee functions. This would permit time for others to show interest who may desire to be a part of a permanent Recreation Board. Alternatively, this may show any ad hoc committee members who may not show up to meetings or have the ability to commit to a position on a permanent Recreation Board. Mr. Treadwell stated that the ad hoc committee may also provide a better understanding of what the duties and responsibilities of a permanent Recreation Board should be. He stated that the ordinance should clearly line out the duties and responsibilities of the Board without giving too little or too many duties and responsibilities.

Mr. Behler believes that having the ad hoc committee will provide the Board an understanding of the duties and responsibilities of a permanent Recreation Board if one were to be created by ordinance. Mr. Behler suggested forming an ad hoc committee for all of the parks, as a trial run for a possible future permanent Recreation Board, since the current ad hoc committee is focused on only Howertown Park. He suggested inviting Bath Allen Youth Club, Triboro Soccer Club, Friends of Allen Township Dog Park, and Kreidersville Covered Bridge Association.

B. Annual Memorial Day Procession Fire Police Authorization Zion Stone Church: Ms. Eckhart informed that in order for the Allen Township Fire Police to be recognized under the Township's insurance requirements for anything other than an emergency or a training event, the proposed event must be approved at a public meeting. She explained the request for fire police authorization at the Annual Memorial Day Procession. Mr. Link made a motion to authorize fire police attendance at the Annual Memorial Day Procession; seconded by Mr. Frack. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.

C. Northampton Regional EMS Request Regarding Grass Cutting: Ms. Eckhart provided information and history on the property, organization, and request. Mr. Behler stated that the Northampton Regional EMS already utilizes fuel from the Township. Mr. Behler believes it would not be a hardship for Public Works to cut the grass on this two-thirds of an acre property especially when Public Works is already maintaining the neighboring property of the Fire Company. Mr. Behler questioned Mr. Gogle on the time it would take to cut the grass at this property. Mr. Gogle confirmed it would take roughly 20 minutes. Mr. Paul made a motion to authorize Public Works to cut the grass at the Northampton Regional EMS property; seconded by Mr. Link. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.

9. Public to be Heard:

Mike Tomsic, 4120 Pine Hurst Drive, spoke of his concerns with the speeding and reckless driving occurring on W. Bullshead Road. He states that it is getting worse and he would like something done about it. He reports that he has seen people passing as well as mounting on the sidewalks from reckless driving. Mr. Tomsic reports that most recently this last occurred Saturday a week ago. He reports this instance of reckless driving resulted in the vehicle failing to maintain its lane, hitting the curb, going up the bank along the trees, and ended up in the west bound lane facing east. He is thankful that no one was walking or riding a bike at this time. Mr. Tomsic states that there is no enforcement in this area, such as a parked police car, to monitor the speeding and reckless driving. Mr. Tomsic requested guidance who he can contact regarding this and if a petition needed to be started. Mr. Behler responded that enforcement would be through the State Police. Mr. Tomsic stated he has spoken with the State Police and states they said they will not to do any enforcement due to there being no safe place to stop a car. Mr. Tomsic requested them just park a car there as a deterrent. Ms. Eckhart stated she will formerly request enforcement from the State Police. Mr. Treadwell responded that without a local police department, that the Township is dependent on the State Police. Ms. Eckhart raised the possibility of a study due to the 40 MPH speed limit on this road. Ms. Martin commented that a traffic study can be looked into as well as other traffic calming measures. Ms. Eckhart will look into obtaining price quotes for the possibility of radar speed signs being installed on W. Bullshead Road. The different types of radar speed signs were discussed along with the benefits and disadvantages of a moveable radar speed sign. Mr. Behler stated that he preferred the permanent post radar speed sign that is solar. Ms. Eckhart and Ms. Martin will look into traffic calming measures and grant possibilities.

Larry Hiestand, 4051 Kreidersville Road, voiced his concerns regarding the heavy truck traffic on Seemsville Road and Kreidersville Road. He states he is seeing more than just tri-axes from the Northampton Generating Company. Mr. Hiestand states he is seeing more 18-wheelers on Kreidersville Road recently. He also reports the spring time speeding that is occurring on the 'drag strip' from the four-way intersection to Millrace Road. His concerns are regarding all types of traffic, with the truck traffic being the most noticeable. Mr. Hiestand stated

the Township does not have enough of a police presence due to not having a local police force. He stated that the topic of a Township police force was shot down years ago and would like the current Board to reconsider creating a Township police force. He offered the suggestion of a joint local police force possibly between Allen Township and Catasauqua or Northampton Borough.

Mr. Hiestand also voiced his concerns regarding the integrity of the steel grate bridge on Kreidersville Road that crosses over the Hokendauqua Creek. He reported that he checked PennDOT's website and learned the bridge was rated to be in fair condition overall. Upon his visual inspection he had learned the bridge was built in 1949. He voiced his concern for the bridge's ability to withstand the increased traffic load. Mr. Hiestand requested the person or entity responsible for evaluating the bridges to take a closer look and evaluate this bridge.

10. Announcements: Mr. Behler announced that the Planning Commission meeting that was scheduled for May 16, 2022 was cancelled.

There being no further comments or business the meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ilene M. Eckhart