



Allen Township Board of Supervisors

Meeting Minutes October 10, 2023 6:00 P.M.

A. General Meeting of the Allen Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 6:00 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: Gary Behler; Jason Frack; Dale Hassler; Tim Paul; B. Lincoln Treadwell, Jr., Esq.; Stan Wojciechowski, PE, CME Engineer (Barry Isett & Associates, Inc.); Ilene Eckhart, Manager; and Tom Gogle, Public Works Crew Leader

Absent: Paul Link, Board Member; Andrea Martin, EIT (Barry Isett & Associates, Inc.)

2. **Announcements and/or Actions to Add New Items to Current Agenda:** Ms. Eckhart announced that for most of the day on October 24th, 2023, the intersection of Millrace Road and Indian Trail Road would be closed due to bridge work. She explained that PennDOT will be setting steel with a very large crane causing that leg of Millrace Road to be inaccessible during the day.

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

4. **Public to be Heard:** Phil Richardson, 917 Graystone Circle, expressed concern regarding a portion of sidewalk that starts from Brick Kiln Court and goes one hundred (100) feet down Horwith Drive. He stated that the sidewalk has never been maintained and is overgrown to the point where it cannot be seen. Mr. Richardson suggested that during Phase III of the Stoneridge Project, that the Township should have the commercial HOA take care of the portion of the sidewalk. Ms. Eckhart stated that there was once a plan where Horwith Lane was not a public road open to the Township. She explained that Horwith Lane was required to be open and be improved when Brick Kiln Court. Ms. Eckhart stated that one of the improvements was a sidewalk to be installed all the way up the east side of Horwith Lane in order to accept dedication. She explained that once the construction started on the sidewalk, the Township decided that they did not want the sidewalk to run all the way up the road. She continued to explain that the Township took a financial contribution of about \$10,000.00 from the property owner to satisfy the sidewalk condition. She stated that at the time the Township stopped sidewalk construction. Ms. Eckhart indicated that the referenced sidewalk is an item that she is preparing a recap for as it relates to the Stoneridge project. She explained that there were some planned notes in the early subdivision plans that will be seen again with the next set of plans. Mr. Hassler indicated that he believed that the sidewalk Mr. Richardson was referring to is the sidewalk put in by Atlas Plant years ago. He explained that the sidewalk was put in when the Atlas Plant was in the Township.

4. Approval of Minutes (General Meetings: August 22nd (revised editions), September 12th, and September 26th, 2023): Mr. Behler made a motion to approve the general meetings minutes of August 22nd revised edition, September 12th, and September 26th, 2023; seconded by Mr. Paul. On the motion, by roll call, all Supervisors present voted yes.

5. Reports – All reports on file with exception of Treasurer’s Report and Paying of the Bills: Mr. Behler made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report and the Paying of the Bills; seconded by Mr. Frack. On the motion, by roll call, all Supervisors present voted yes.

Mr. Treadwell stated that a few meetings ago, someone questioned the litigation that Mr. Zepper and Mr. Clater had filed against Allen Township. He explained that the court dismissed all claims against Allen Township, meaning that the Township is out of the case.

Mr. Hassler indicated the Fire Company reports and the Public Works reports are on file along with the other reports.

Ms. Eckhart stated that the First Regional Compost Authority will begin to accept leaves for cleanup from October 1st till December 17th of 2023. She added that the grass clippings were no longer accepted starting October 1st, 2023. Mr. Behler questioned when the Township’s Yard Waste Site ended Saturday hours. Ms. Eckhart stated that the Saturday hours end on October 28th, 2023. Ms. Eckhart also stated that the leaves and brush can be dropped off till the end of October.

6. Unfinished Business

A. Allen Development Partners – Wawa – Preliminary/Final Land Development Plan, Extension of Time Until October 25, 2023: Mr. Treadwell indicated that the Wawa applicant was tentatively scheduled for the meeting however there was a scheduling conflict. Mr. Treadwell explained that they were granted an extension until the next Board of Supervisors meeting on October 24th 2023, meaning that the extension goes through October 25th, 2023. Mr. Behler made the motion to acknowledge the extension to the 25th of October of 2023; seconded by Mr. Paul. On the motion by roll call, all Supervisors present voted yes apart from Mr. Hassler.

B. 2024 Preliminary Draft Budget, Authorization to Advertise for Public Inspection: Ms. Eckhart explained that the 2024 Preliminary Draft Budget was updated per the direction of the September 19th, 2023 budget meeting and is ready for public inspection. She stated that the millage rate stays the same. Ms. Eckhart indicated that the Preliminary Draft Budget will be scheduled for final approval on November 14th, 2023. Mr. Hassler indicated that for public record he wanted to clarify if it is still five (5) mills. Ms. Eckhart stated that was correct. Mr. Behler made the motion to authorize the advertisement for public inspection of the 2024 Preliminary Draft Budget; seconded by Mr. Frack. On the motion by roll call, all Supervisors present voted yes.

C. East Bullshead Rd/Willowbrook Rd Sketch for “Median Treatment”: Mr. Wojciechowski indicated that the Board asked Barry Isett to try to find a way to make it difficult for trucks to make the turn at the intersection of Willowbrook Road and East Bullshead Road. He referenced sheet PT1 of the proposed plans which shows a median

at the entrance/exit of East Bullshead Road and Willowbrook Road intersection. He suggested that installing flexible delineators on the island median will allow Public Works to know where the median is when they plow. Additionally, he explained that the flexible delineators tend to make people feel cramped and that they could not make the turn or go over the island and hit the delineators. Mr. Wojciechowski referenced other drawings on sheet PT2 and PT3, where it shows a little bit of widening to allow the newest Township fire truck to turn onto the road without any maneuvering problems when turning from the north or south. He also stated that the fire truck would be able to head back to the fire station by going north without an issue. Mr. Wojciechowski stated that there are a couple drawings that show a WP62, which is a fifty-three (53) foot long trailer turning onto East Bullshead Road. He shared that if the truck tries to turn from the north, the truck will run over the median and if the truck tries to turn from the south it would hit the curbs or hit the median. The drawings also show that a tandem truck would have a difficult time making the turn. He stated that some trucks have auto turn that may allow them to make the turn, but the design will hopefully reduce the number of trucks making the turn. Mr. Behler questioned how high the concrete median will be. Mr. Wojciechowski stated that the drawings show eight (8) inches however they could make it twelve (12) inches. Mr. Behler asked if the median will be ninety (90) or forty-five (45) degrees. Mr. Wojciechowski stated that the median will be a vertical face because they do not want the trucks to mount the median. Mr. Fracked questioned the curving turning in from the south side and if the height would be same. Mr. Wojciechowski stated that the height would be the same six (6) or eight (8) inches. Mr. Wojciechowski stated that eight (8) inches would give more for the trucks to run over. Mr. Frack stated that he preferred the eight (8) inches as it would make it more difficult for truck drivers. He expressed concern that if the truck drivers can get their tires over the median then they will continue to go. Mr. Wojciechowski suggested that they could also place a no truck turn or no truck sign in the middle of the median. Ms. Eckhart questioned if there were any utilities that would need to be worried about. Mr. Wojciechowski indicated that he did not look at the utility poles but there are no other utilities that the Township would need to worry about. Mr. Hassler stated that there was a gas line that ran along the road, but he believed it was far back enough. Mr. Wojciechowski indicated that the road will need to be widened to fit the island in, causing the widest spot to be forty-three (43) feet, which is within the fifty (50) foot right-of-way. Mr. Wojciechowski stated that he had a cost estimate of \$50,000.00. Mr. Behler questioned if it would include everything. Mr. Wojciechowski stated that it would, but he would need to check to see if the milling and overlaying East Bullshead Road and Willowbrook Road and back to where the improvements are going in. Mr. Behler suggested that the Township should gather comments from the residents who live on the road regarding the plan. Mr. Wojciechowski noted that residents who are moving will need to utilize a smaller moving truck. Mr. Behler questioned if Barn Swallow Farm had any supplies delivered via tractor trailer. He stated that the Township would need their feedback. Ms. Eckart questioned the usage of farm equipment and the equipment that would be used to take corn off. Mr. Frack questioned what would happen if Barn Swallow Farm needed to have equipment serviced off site. Mr. Wojciechowski stated that Barn Swallow Farm could potentially coordinate with the school district as the school buses leaving the school's driveway

would be able to go straight across the intersection to East Bullshead Road. Mr. Hassler stated that the school is private property, but they could do that. Ms. Eckhart asked Mr. Wojciechowski what the extent of the right-of-way was. Mr. Wojciechowski indicated that it is fifty (50) feet and the widest part of the road improvements would be forty-three (43) feet. Ms. Eckhart stated that the Township would not need to acquire any land to which Mr. Wojciechowski confirmed. Mr. Frack questioned what flexible delineators were. Mr. Wojciechowski stated that flexible delineators are yellow poles that have reflectors on the top and it makes drivers feel like they are up against the wall. Mr. Frack questioned if it the delineators would appear as if they were made out of concrete. Mr. Wojciechowski stated yes and that it would be something that drivers are not going to want to hit because it will scratch the vehicle. Mr. Frack asked if it would be possible to put flexible delineators on the curbing on the southbound traffic turning in at the intersection. He further explained that he believed that if the trucks can get their tires over the curb, then they will continue to drive, however, if there is something taller that looks like it will cause damage may help deter the trucks. Mr. Behler stated that he likes the plan, however he would like to hear feedback from the homeowners or the property owners there. He indicated that once the Township receives feedback then the Board should make a decision. Mr. Behler expressed concern for the sight distance for drivers making a right or left off of East Bullshead Road onto Willowbrook Road. He questioned if maybe the field could be cut back more and if that is something the Township could look into. Ms. Eckhart agreed with Mr. Behler. Mr. Hassler indicated that the Board will not make a motion and the Supervisors will instruct the Township Manager to send letters out to the residents on East Bullshead Road. He explained that after the Board receives the feedback the Board will move forward from there.

7. New Business: No new business items.

8. Public to be Heard: There was no public to be heard.

9. Announcements: Mr. Hassler announced the upcoming meetings. All meetings and events below will be held at the Allen Township Fire Company unless otherwise indicated. These meetings and events are as follows:

- Planning Commission - Monday, October 16, 2023, at 6:00 P.M.
- Board of Supervisors – Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at 6:00 P.M.
- Park and Recreation Board – Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 6:00 P.M.

Ms. Eckart announced October 13, 2023, there be movie night, Hocus Pocus, at the Covered Bridge Park. Ms. Hassler stated that there will be a food truck for the movie night event.

10. Adjournment: There being no further comments or business the meeting adjourned at 6:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ilene M. Eckhart