



Allen Township Supervisors

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Paul Balliet, Chairman
Bruce Frack, Vice Chairman
Dale N. Hassler
Alfred Pierce
Larry Oberly

B. Lincoln Treadwell, Jr., Esq.
Brien Kocher, P.E.
Ilene M. Eckhart, Manager

ALLEN TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES Thursday, May 14, 2015

A General Meeting of the Allen Township Supervisors was held on Thursday, May 14, 2015, at 7:00 P.M. at the Allen Township Municipal Building, 4714 Indian Trail Road, Northampton, Pennsylvania 18067. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Chairman Paul Balliet.

Roll Call: Paul Balliet - Present; Larry Oberly - Present; Alfred Pierce - Present; Dale N. Hassler - Present; Bruce Frack - Present; Brien Kocher, P.E., Hanover Engineering Associates, Inc. - Present; B. Lincoln Treadwell, Jr., Esq. - Present; and Ilene M. Eckhart - Present

Public to be Heard: No comments from the audience.

Public Hearings:

A. **Ordinance #2015-01 – Bicycle Lane and No Parking – Willowbrook and West Bullshead Road:** Mr. Pierce made a motion to open the hearing; seconded by Mr. Oberly. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes. Mr. Treadwell provided a recap of the content of the ordinance which would create the bicycle lane and prohibit parking in the areas of the bicycle lane along areas of Willowbrook and West Bullshead Road. Mr. Hassler made a motion to close the hearing; seconded by Mr. Frack. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes. Mr. Oberly made a motion to adopt ordinance #2015-01; seconded by Mr. Frack. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Frack made a motion to approve the minutes of April 2015 as presented; seconded by Mr. Hassler. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.

Reports

A. **Treasurer:** Mr. Pierce made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and pay the bills; seconded by Mr. Frack. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.

B. **Solicitor:** On file.

i. **Request for executive session:** Mr. Treadwell requested a brief executive session following adjournment to discuss the Willow Ridge litigation, personnel and a potential property acquisition issue.

C. **Engineer:** On file.

i. **GIS System:** Mr. Sam Piel of Hanover Engineering provided a brief presentation of the GIS program compiled by Hanover Engineering and some project they have completed for several municipalities. Following the presentation, Mr. Oberly questioned how difficult it is to access information from the cloud and how are security concerns addressed. Mr. Piel explained the type of language and security encryption types used.

Mr. Gary Krill questioned the mass callout system and how could GIS be utilized in this area.

Ms. Eckhart indicated there would be an additional presentation at the end of the month.

ii. **Residences at Willow Ridge, detention ponds fencing material:** Ms. Eckhart indicated that the owner of the Residences at Willow Ridge has requested the utilized split rail fence with wire mesh around both detention ponds associated with the project. Following some further discussion, the Board accepted by consensus to accept the split rail with the wire mesh application as proposed by the owner of the project (Ambassi/Tri Boro Fence email document). This was the material type called out in the cost estimate.

D. **Zoning Officer:** On file.

E. **Code Enforcement:** On file.

i. **UCC Building Permit Review – Deposit Fee for Approved Third Party Inspection Agencies:** Mr. Oberly made a motion to require a \$100 deposit fee for any UCC permit application payable to the individual Third Party Inspection Agency and collected/forwarded by the Township (with the submission documents); seconded by Mr. Frack. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.

F. **Public Works:** On file.

i. **Public Works Crew Leader, job description & request for executive discussion concerning position:** Ms. Eckhart requested an executive session to further discuss these topics at the conclusion of the meeting.

ii. **Request for part time seasonal to work at Electronics Recycling Event:** Ms. Eckhart requested the hours for this event be offered to the part time seasonal grass mowers. The Board agreed by consensus.

G. **Fire Company:** On file.

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

I. Nazareth COG Report: On file. Mr. Krill commented on the mass call-out system per the Nazareth Borough setup. Mr. Krill indicated an emergency services version was available for free (Nixcell). Mr. Krill indicated he would return with additional information.

J. Parks: On file.

i. Request to reconsider tournament fee – ECTB tournament baseball organization: Ms. Eckhart indicated she was forwarded a request for the ECTB tournament league from the Allen Township Youth Association to consider lowering the fee which was set at \$150.00 per field per day. Following some discussion, the Board agreed by consensus to leave the fee as most recently set earlier this year. The Allen Township Youth Association actually forwarded the request on behalf of the ECTB. She indicated that the parking issues actually originate from these tournaments as well as the heavy usage issues. Mr. Oberly provided a recap of area fees which are higher in surrounding municipalities (Moore and East Allen).

Unfinished Business

A. NPDES MS-4 Memorandum of Understanding with Northampton County Conservation District – Update: Ms. Eckhart provided an update regarding the Memorandum of Understanding document to be compiled by the Conservation District relative to the responsibilities of the MS-4 NPDES. She noted that the draft Agreement was to be drafted and provided to municipalities last Fall.

B. Ordinance provisions related to firearms, follow-up discussion: Ms. Eckhart indicated that Mr. Pierce provided the Board with sample language from the Nazareth Borough code related to this issue. Mr. Hassler felt that the exception regarding the defense of individuals or property was a good way to handle the issue. Mr. Oberly voiced concern and felt that if the Commonwealth Court ruled that the Township can prohibit discharge then the Board should prohibit discharge. Mr. Pierce felt the Castle Rule applied as well therefore the exception should cover the Township. The Board agreed by consensus to direct the Township Solicitor to provide a draft amendment which would include this exception.

C. PennDOT/Willowbrook Road, follow-up report: Ms. Eckhart updated the Board regarding the response to the correspondence concerning the Willowbrook Road swap, which the Township discussed for Cherryville Road. PennDOT offered to swap Howertown and Weaversville Roads for Willowbrook and Savage Road. PennDOT would only consider a mile for mile swap. Mr. Pierce felt there was considerable merit in not being responsible for anything from Race Street to Route 329, which was what PennDOT was offering. He felt if the Township develops as it was zoned to develop – industrially, then it made sense to have a four lane road and that it would be to the Township’s benefit. Mr. Pierce was concerned that Weaversville would never become the trunk line due to the curves. Ms. Eckhart noted that the Board authorized legislative assistance previously. Mr. Hassler felt that PennDOT has been derelict in their duties regarding the maintenance of most State Roads in the Township. Following a lengthy discussion regarding the swap proposal which included the most deficient State Road in the Township (Weaversville and Howertown Road) in exchange for Willowbrook Road and Savage which is currently in much better condition as well as scheduled for

substantial upgrade, the Board directed Ms. Eckhart to contact the legislators regarding these concerns.

New Business

A. Pennsylvania Department of Human Services – Volunteer and Employees Having Contact with Children – Child Abuse History Clearances and State Police Criminal Background Checks - Procedures: Mr. Treadwell outlined the new law which becomes effective in a few months. Mr. Treadwell felt most of the Township employees fall into the category of employees who may come into contact with children, as well as the volunteer fire fighters which would be covered by the change in the law as well. Mr. Pierce was not in favor of any role of the Township in performing any role because then the Township would be liable. Mr. Treadwell felt that to be on the safe side the checks should be performed. Mr. Pierce reviewed the fees associated with the various checks and was in favor of the employee checks as the Township owns parks. Mr. Hassler noted there is a clause for the volunteers who have resided within the State for at least 10 years – that then the FBI check would not need to be performed. Ms. Eckhart raised the concern of various groups who utilize the Township parks. Mr. Pierce felt the Township had no interest in being involved with the required background checks for the other volunteer groups. Mr. Hassler made a motion to perform and fund the background checks pursuant to the requirements of the Act and to authorize the Township manager to perform the checks for all existing and future Township Employees as well as the Allen Township Volunteer Fire Company based on the information submitted by the Fire Chief; seconded by Mr. Pierce. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes. Mr. Hassler felt strongly that the Board of Supervisors should also obtain the background checks. Mr. Pierce disagreed because the Board of Supervisors are elected individuals and there was a great difference to this status verses the employee status.

B. Copier/Scanner, renewal of lease: Mr. Frack made a motion to authorize the renewal of the lease for the new copier (in comparison model) with the addition of a duplex scanner; seconded by Mr. Hassler. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.

Public to be Heard: No comments from the audience. The Board held a brief executive session to discuss a potential land acquisition and personnel item. There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ilene M. Eckhart