



Allen Township Board of Supervisors

Meeting Minutes

July 24, 2018
7:00 P.M.

A General Meeting of the Allen Township Board of Supervisors, was held on Tuesday, July 24, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. at the Allen Township Municipal Building, 4714 Indian Trail Road, Northampton, PA 18067. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Chairman Larry Oberly.

1. Roll Call: Present: Gary Behler; Bruce Frack; Gerald Montanari; Dale Hassler; Larry Oberly; B. Lincoln Treadwell, Jr., Esq, Robert Cox, PLS, PE, Ilene Eckhart, Manager

2. Public Hearings – No scheduled public hearings.

3. Public to be Heard (Residents shall limit their comments to no more than three minutes): Phil Richardson, 917 Graystone Circle voiced concerns regarding Willowbrook and Race. He voiced concerns for the truck traffic from Race Street as there is not adequate signage to restrict trucks. He indicated signs were removed during construction to restrict the trucks and not replaced by the contractors.

4. Unfinished Business

A. Salt Shed Draft Specifications, Authorization to Advertise: Mr. Cox described the alternates to be included concerning the truck wash and the new electrical service. Mr. Behler questioned the type of truck wash. Mr. Cox indicated the alternatives, especially for the truck wash are expected to be quite expensive. Mr. Behler made a motion to authorize the advertisement for bids for the Salt Shed Project; seconded by Mr. Frack. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.

B. Removal of Excess Topsoil – Salt Shed Project: Ms. Eckhart discussed the remaining soil which is about nine feet for the building pad area for the salt shed. Ms. Eckhart indicated that the removal of the bid can be included as an alternative or the removal could be bid separately. Following some discussion, the Board opted to allow the material to be removed, first come first serve, and that the material would be removed with equipment owned by others.

C. Street Tree Removal – Discussion to allow for options to retain or remove individual trees: Mr. Oberly indicated that two options were reviewed that could be less drastic for the residents of the communities impacted. Mr. Treadwell indicated that the declaration of covenants for the residents who wish to keep the trees would be the necessary legal mechanism. The residents who wish to have the trees in the right of way along their property removed, would need to advise the township within thirty days of the notice to either confirm removal or execute the declaration of covenants concerning the future responsibilities of the existing street trees along their individual frontages. Mr. Behler made a motion to proceed with the mailing of a follow-up letter with the legal document and removal options; seconded by Mr. Frack. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.

D. Lehigh River Properties, Norfolk Southern At-Grade Railroad Crossing Analysis, Strauss Associates Report, June 7, 2018 – Next Steps: Mr. Oberly explained the issues contained with the Strauss Associates analysis. Mr. Oberly paraphrased that part of the study recommendation allows the option for the Township to contact the PUC to request to make the railroad crossing public again. Mr. Hassler made a motion to proceed with the PUC request as advised in the study; seconded by Mr. Behler. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes. Mr. Treadwell stated that he would suggest that the Board identify a law firm which is familiar with PUC work.

E. Allen Township Code Chapter 15 Vehicles and Traffic, Sections 301 – 304 – Willowbrook Road – Discussion regarding established limitations within improved roadway segments: Mr. Oberly provided a summary of the reason to remove the 10-ton weight limit from the Hanover Township, Lehigh County boundary to Radar Road due to the roadway improvements installed as a consequence to the industrial developments. Mr. Hassler made a motion to authorize the amendment to the Code to modify the limit to 20 tons for the segment of Willowbrook Road between the Hanover Township, Lehigh County municipal boundary and Radar Drive and to install signage that would modify this prohibition accordingly; seconded by Frack. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.

F. Zoning Hearing Board Appeal 2018-01, Yost, 88 Becker, Exceptions to Minimum Lot Sizes and Maximum Impervious Coverage – Board of Supervisors Position re: Appeal (?): The Board discussed the appeal petition regarding lot size and stormwater concerns. Mr. Behler made a motion to send a letter to the Zoning Hearing Board that they oppose the grant of the variance and the provisions of the Zoning Ordinance should be enforced; seconded by Mr. Montanari. On the motion, all Supervisors present voted yes.

G. Resolution 2018-012 PA DCNR Grant Closeout – Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan: Mr. Hassler made a motion to adopt Resolution 2018-012 concerning the close-out of the PADCNR Grant; seconded by Mr. Frack. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.

5. New Business

A. PennDOT Paving Contractor (Hanson) Request for Authorization to Enter Township Municipal Building Property during Indian Trail Road Paving, 2nd/3rd week of August 2018 (Equipment Storage/Staging): Mr. Oberly reported the Township has been contacted by the contractor for PennDOT who will be responsible for several paving projects within the County, including Indian Trail Road, and has requested the use of the Municipal Property for the storage of equipment during the work. Mr. Oberly indicated he was not in favor of authorizing a blanket approval with no written details. The Board reviewed their concerns for the use of the property including: Mr. Hassler felt if the proper language and conditions are provided, he felt the Board could consider providing the Township Manager with authorization to grant permission (due to the timeframe proposed for the work). The Board was generally agreeable with the storage of equipment and felt if the equipment was not in the way of the Township operations. Mr. Oberly was concerned about meeting nights and parking close to the garage doors. The gating of the rear property was an issue that would need to be addressed. Mr. Hassler made a motion to authorize the Township Manager to sign on the Township's behalf if the conditions can be met and that the Township would accept no liability; seconded by Mr. Behler. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.

B. LSA Monroe Co./LSA Northampton Co. 2018 Grant Applications: Street Sweeper and Traffic Calming Savage Road; Mr. Hassler made a motion to apply with the Street Sweeper as the priority and the Traffic Calming Savage Road; seconded by Mr. Behler. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.

C. Environmental Advisory Council, Information: Mr. Oberly explained the information which is being taken under advisement.

D. Fed Ex Occupancy and Associated Roadway Improvements: Mr. Cox reported regarding the FedEx Occupancy noting some sanitary sewer issues but the project is getting very close. Ms. Eckhart supplied the Board with communications received this week from PennDOT noting that the improvement and scheduling were sufficient for the projected occupancy.

6. Public to be Heard (Residents shall limit their comments to no more than three minutes): Ms. Eckhart reported on the request of Mr. Montanari that the Rt. 329 project, is on schedule. Mr. Cox indicated that the contractor reported that two days were lost to rain. Mr. Behler questioned Pennsylvania State Police (in attendance) regarding enforcement Truck Restrictions and parking in bike lane along the Catasauqua School frontage.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ilene M. Eckhart