



Allen Township Board of Supervisors

Meeting Minutes January 25, 2022 7:00 P.M.

A General Meeting of the Allen Township Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, January 25, 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: Tim Paul; Gary Behler; Paul Link, Dale Hassler; B. Lincoln Treadwell, Jr., Esq., Ilene Eckhart, Manager; Andrea Martin, EIT.
2. **Announcements and/or Actions to Add New Items to Current Agenda:** No additional announcement or actions to add new items to current agenda.
3. **Public to be Heard:** No public comment.
4. **Public Hearings:** No public hearings.
5. **Unfinished Business**
 - A. **Discussion, Nomination & Appointment to Vacancy to Supervisors Position - Seat #4 Term will Expire 01/01/24:** Mr. Hassler reviewed the letters of interest received from Alfred Pierce, Howertown Road and Jason Frack, Snow Hill Road. Mr. Link felt that Jason Frack would be a good addition to the Board. Mr. Link made a motion to appoint Jason Frack to fill seat #4 until 01/01/24; seconded by Tim Paul. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.
 - B. **Act 537 Plan Update:** Ms. Martin provided an update regarding the outreach to Catasauqua Borough and discussed some of the initial documentation under review. She indicated the next big hurdle would be an analysis of the financing for the tie in. She reported on the upcoming meeting with the Borough of Northampton and DEP, with representatives of the Board of Supervisors. She included both options (Catasauqua and Northampton Borough) in the Draft 2021 Allen Township Act 537 Plan, which is reaching completion. She indicated that a cost analysis would be provided for both options, as a next step.

Mr. Behler felt that feedback from Catasauqua is encouraging and he felt that the next step should be to set up a meeting with Catasauqua representatives to discuss the feasibility of this option. Mr. Treadwell added that he did follow up with a discussion with the Catasauqua Solicitor. Ms. Martin indicated that the potential "withdrawal" of EDU's would be about 3/5 of current connection from the Northampton Borough system redirected to Catasauqua. Mr. Behler felt further analysis of the financial aspects should be compiled within the coming weeks.

The estimate includes future connections for approved planning modules and the land use categorization (Zoning).

C. American Rescue Plan Funds - Update and Discussion Regarding Allocation: Ms. Eckhart provided a summary of the updated Treasury Ruling regarding the use parameters of the fund. She explained The Final Rule allows townships to elect to take a “standard allowance” of up to \$10 million (however, no more than their award amount) to spend on general government services over the life of the ARP program. This one-time election eliminates the administrative burden of calculating your township’s revenue loss, allows townships to spend their entire allocation on any general government service (except on the prohibited by Treasury), and streamlines reporting. It does not matter if a township did not actually lose revenue. Mr. Behler felt that the funds could be used for many things including converting the former social quarters building for municipal purposes. Mr. Hassler felt that some charitable organization should be considered for a portion of the funding. Mr. Behler felt it should be explored and that criteria would need to be developed. Mr. Link felt that an application, including businesses, should be developed and considered. Ms. Eckhart will return to the Board with additional information.

6. New Business

A. Dog Park Temporary Seasonal Closure Timeframe: Ms. Eckhart explained the past practice and the benefits of the temporary closure. Following some discussion regarding the benefits of the temporary closure, Mr. Behler made a motion to authorize the Manager should be allowed the flexibility to pick the closure dates and open dates and notify the people in advance (for at least the same amount of time); seconded by Mr. Link. On the motion, by roll call vote, all Supervisors present voted yes.

7. Public to be Heard: No comments from the audience.

8. Adjournment: There being no further comments or business the meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ilene M. Eckhart