

Union Township Board of Supervisors
Special Meeting
April 8, 2013

The Board of Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Linda Evans-Boren at 6.00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Union Township Municipal Building, 3904 Finleyville-Elrama Road, Finleyville, PA. The pledge of allegiance was recited. Board Members in Attendance by roll call were Steve Parish, , Linda Evans-Boren, Andrew Tullai and Brenda Cushey. Also in attendance, Dennis Makel–Solicitor, Judy Taylor–Treasurer, Debra Nigon–Secretary, Harold Ivery–Building Code Official, Larry Spahr arrived at 6:35 p.m.

Jessica Carpenter of EQT distributed some handout Information. Ms. Carpenter explained that EQT has contracted with Geokinetics, a world-wide company, based in Houston, with 7 crews, who have completed 700-900 square miles of 3D seismic testing in the area and thousands of miles of linear 2D seismic testing data. Seismic testing is the main tool of gas and oil companies in determining where it is best to drill. EQT is trying to assess the value of the minerals they have in this area since they are currently drilling in Forward Township. They have gas and oil rights in this area as does Chesapeake.

Mr. Keith McCay, representing Geokinetics, gave a presentation. The seismic testing will have a dual source:

- most testing will be done on Township roads with a vibroseis truck,
- as an alternative source, in remote areas, testing will be performed with the detonation of dynamite charges placed in “shot holes” which will be dug at specific intervals.

He said that the seismic data will be gathered using an RSR telemetry system which does not need continuous cables. The cables are small and are the size of an extension cord.

There are four stages to the process.

- 1st stage – acquiring individual and municipal permits (Cougar Land Services)
- 2nd stage - map the area
- 3rd stage - survey to find the source and receiver points
- 4th stage - seismic recording (45 days)

Stages 1-3 will take a few months. They are looking at recording in August.

The solicitor asked what procedure is used when an allegation of damage occurs. Mr. McKay said that, at first, they would investigate the situation. Also, he said that the source points are being monitored as they go and that there are measurements which show how much energy the buildings are being exposed to as a preventative measure, but he does not believe there is a written procedure for handling resident allegations. He said that damages have been paid in the past before, but, to put things in perspective, if 4 or 5 gravel trucks or a train pass by during testing, it will wipe out all of their data, so those sources put out more energy than the seismic testing. The vibroseis truck weighs about the same as a garbage truck.

Stephen Parish asked about the dynamite blasts and whether a permit is required. Detonation of the charges does require a permit from the DEP.

Mr. Tullai inquired about the noise level and was informed that it would be minimal, at about approximately 110 db.

Mr. Parish asked if the Township would be notified when the process starts. Mr. McKay said that they would come in with a map and go over everything with us. If there is any road or issue of concern, then they would be sure to respect our concerns.

Mr. Tullai asked for a copy of a blank permit that the residents will be asked to sign. He did not have a blank permit form with him.

The permitting process has not yet begun. All the field workers will wear an orange hat and vest and will be recognizable. The permit requestors will be professional people who will say that they are with Cougar Land Services or Geokinetics.

Mr. Makel said that he recently read that Geokinetics is filing bankruptcy. An EQT representative said that there was information on the web-site which explains what Geokinetics is going through at this time and the bankruptcy is related to their transition from a public to a private company. The parties assured the Board that Geokinetics does not have financial problems. They stated that the public to private transition should be wrapped up and done with in May. Mr. Tullai noted that the shares are currently at .04 a share. The solicitor indicated that this raises concerns in having them post a bond. Ms. Carpenter said that the CEO of Geokinetics is available to discuss any concerns with the Board should they desire to contact him.

Public Comment

Mr. Edward Frye, 34 Ramage Avenue, asked what would happen if a crack should appear in someone's foundation the day following testing even though the measurements from their system showed that the buildings were not exposed to a level of undue energy exposure. Mr. McCay said that every precaution would be taken to make sure that no damage happens and that Geokinetics does not want to spend time and money on lawsuits either. He said they take a lot of time and their equipment is very expensive and they want to get it done and get it done once.

In regard to their insurance, they carry the general liability and we will be a co-insured.

Albert Powell, 96 Gilmore Road, had questions about starting and ending times. According to our Ordinance it is currently permitted from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Weekends 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Mr. Powell said he thought it better to work around the school buses and start later during the week and earlier on weekends.

Mr. Powell also asked about the pattern used for the testing. Mr. McCay explained that, ideally, they like to have a energy source every 165 feet. Each source line is a ¼ mile apart.

Board Approved: April 22, 2013

There is an 800 number that is printed on the permits that the Township can call if there is a problem during this process.

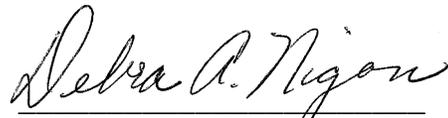
Their local office is on Fayette Street in Washington, PA. There is also an office in Canonsburg.

Motion to adjourn at 6:45 p.m.

Motion by Andrew Tullai, Second by Brenda Cushey

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Evans-Boren-yes, Tullai-yes, Cushey-yes. Motion carried.

An invitation was extended to the Board of Supervisors by Ms. Carpenter of EQT to see the seismic testing program which will be conducted in Elk County around April 28.


Debra A. Nigon, Secretary