

Union Township Board of Supervisors
Workshop Regular Board Meeting
August 10, 2015

The Board of Supervisors Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Larry Spahr at 7:10 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 Stephen Parish, Larry Spahr, and Charles Trax. Paul Chasko and Edward Frye did not attend due to vacations. Also in attendance, Chris Furman–Solicitor, Judy Taylor–Treasurer, Debra Nigon–Secretary, Harold Ivery–Building Code Official, and Peter Grieb–Code Enforcement Officer.

Public Comment

Pete Guido asked for an update on Tuscany Estates issues. Chris Furman said that no construction schedule has been received and Mr. Danielson has applied for no permits from the Township. Chris Furman stated that the current order from the magistrate is for 60 days from July 15 and, at the end of that time, if he has not done what has been agreed, he will be cited daily.

Taylor DeWitt, 6049 State Route 88, commented that she was working on a school project which required doing something positive for the community. Miss DeWitt explained that she chose a project on the Union Valley flooding situation and has been talking to neighbors who have been affected by flooding along Route 88 and collecting information and pictures. She has also been asking the residents of that area to sign a petition to have something done to alleviate the problem. Ms. Terri DeWitt explained that she recently bought a home in the area and was flooded shortly afterwards, having a few feet of water in her basement. These homes are not in a recognized flood zone per the FIRM rate maps.

The Township engineer, Mr. Carl DeiCas, explained that the Township had submitted several applications to the Local Share for grant funds, and has met with Congressman Murphy here at the Township building to try to locate funding sources to complete the project. Stephen Parish added that a hydrologic study was done in 1999. The resulting project involved widening the channel. Since then, the project has been submitted and turned down for a Local Share Grant at least four different times, even when revised a couple of years ago into a smaller project involving replacing pipes on Jack Street and Jason Drive. Mr. DeiCas explained that the application for the smaller project requested \$125,000 in grant funds with a 50% match from the Township, which is unheard of in the LSA grant meetings, and was still not approved.

Ms. Heather Daerr, also a resident of the Union Valley area who has been affected by flooding, commented about her frustration in relying solely on grant funding which is not awarded while construction costs are increasing with each year. Ms. Daerr inquired as to whether the Board could set aside a portion of funds, perhaps \$50,000 annually, to perform work each year on a section of the project until, over time, the project is completed or grant funds are awarded. She also inquired as to whether some of the surplus in the General Fund could be used to

complete the creek project instead of relying solely on a grant being awarded. Mr. DeiCas advised that the proper way to approach the project was to get the smaller Jason and Jack pipe replacement project done first. Then, afterwards, to start on stream widening project which would be a major project involving the Army Corps of Engineers.

It was also mentioned that there is debris in the creek that needs to be cleaned out. It was explained that although the road crew can do an emergency cleaning if something is stuck in a culvert, without the correct permit they cannot perform other work. In response to a question as to whether residents themselves could do any of the physical work on the stream, the engineer informed them that it is not possible without the appropriate DEP permit. In response to questions about the cleaning of the creek along Linden Street, it was explained that an emergency permit had been obtained and it involved only removal of debris on a much lesser scale than what would be required in Union Valley.

Mr. Parish advised Ms. DeWitt and others to call the County Commissioners. Mr. Parish also advised affected residents to contact members of the committee who decides which Local Share applications are to receive an award and noted that the Mayor of Finleyville Borough, happens to be on that decision making committee. The Board also requested a copy of Miss DeWitt's petition when complete and said that it could be attached to a grant application which could help the Board get funding for the project.

Sergeant Pocsatko provided the Southwest Regional Police statistics for the 56 shifts worked in the Township in the prior month. With a recent focus on traffic, he reported that there were 111 moving vehicle violations and 77 citations were issued. Mr. Trax and other supervisors said they observed traffic violations being especially targeted in the area of Route 88 since the extra details went into effect.

Mr. Tom Mellor provided the written and verbal road report. Many trees were down which required their attention and many signs were replaced with breakaway posts. The crew also completed about 1900 feet of under-drainage on McClelland Road. Mr. Mellor also mentioned that he still needed the drawing to accompany the easement for the Felix property as suggested by the solicitor. Mr. DeiCas said the drawing would be in the range of \$700 and questioned whether the Township still wanted the drawing. Mr. Makel will be requested to review the culvert attachment to see if it is suitable. Mr. Mellor also reported that the issue with the hole near the property of Ms. Linda Nagy, 3476 Frye Avenue, may need further research. Mr. DeiCas did look at the problem and a cross drain goes under the street. The engineer said that he still believes there must have been a ditch there at one time and someone, out of convenience, put a pipe in and covered it over. It has been determined that the hole is on a paper street that was never adopted. Mr. Mellor's opinion was that, although this pipe is no longer on Ms. Nagy's property nor her pipe to worry about or replace, it may be a liability issue for the Township. If the Board does decide to replace the pipe, it will need to go through another property, for which an easement may be necessary, all the way down the hill to the train tracks. Mr. Mellor mentioned that the tractor needs to be repaired due to a bearing and will be going into the shop. Mr. Parish mentioned that there are weeds which need to be cut down. Mr. Mellor also reported that recently one of the workers went into the hospital and other crew members have been taking vacation.

For Board Approval: August 24, 2015 with revision as noted.

In terms of the 2015 paving project, Mr. DeiCas said that the pre-construction meeting was held earlier today. Also, he could not get a firm price from Robinson Pipe for clearing the drains and suggested a change order for the paving contractor, Morgan Excavating, to do the pipe drainage. Rick Skovensky, our PennDot representative, looked through the file today as well and gave his approval on the project and issued the Township a project number for Liquid Fuels. Ms. Taylor said that she spoke with Rick Skovensky about the drain clearing which was required. He informed her that, since drain clearing is not an item in the contract, it could not be addressed by a change order. The drain clearing will have to be handled separately. Ms. Taylor noted that the quote from Robinson Pipe Cleaning was in the Board's packet for their review.

Mr. DeiCas also noted that Mr. Morgan could not provide a schedule or start date during their meeting today. However, it was learned that he will also be the paving contractor for Peters Township and would like to coordinate our paving project with theirs.

Motion to approve the General Fund bills in the sum of \$38,598.37 as of August 10, 2015, as presented by the Treasurer, subject to being true and correct.

Motion by Steve Parish, Second by Charles Trax

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, abstaining from anything to do with Finleyville Airport, Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-absent, Frye-absent. Motion carried.

In terms of Union Gardens and their request for a storm water consistency letter, Mr. DeiCas said that, since the solicitor is in agreement with Union Gardens about the extension time, he will write the letter.

The secretary informed the Board that Finleyville Soccer was working with Cornerstone Christian Academy and that there were no conflicts in the schedule that they were not able to work around in regard to use of the Brownsfield Park soccer field.

Motion to approve use of the Brownsville Park soccer field by Cornerstone Christian Academy subject to proof of insurance being supplied.

Motion by Charles Trax, Second by Steve Parish

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-absent, Frye-absent. Motion carried.

Cleaning costs for the restrooms will be split between the organizations.

In terms of the Elrama sewage collection issue, Ms. Taylor said that she spoke to Rick Kovach at PCSA. No proposal is ready at this point. If the Board needed to make a decision, PCSA said that they understood the need to proceed with that. If not, Mr. Kovach was willing to come to office and talk to Judy Taylor about a proposal. The WESA sewer billing and lien resolution was held in abeyance since Mr. Makel could not be present.

The Tomko's developer's agreement was discussed. Mr. Furman said that he had been over it with the Board in the past but he offered to take questions from anyone who had questions.

Motion to approve a Developer's Agreement with W.G. Tomko for the construction of an addition to their already-developed premises for continuing use/commercial purposes in accordance with the approved site plan entitled "W.G. Tomko Fabrication Shop Additions and Alterations," prepared by KLH Engineers, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors on July 27, 2015.

Motion by Charles Trax, Second by Steve Parish

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-absent, Frye-absent. Motion carried.

Mr. Mellor noted that the air conditioning system in the garage addition is still not working correctly. DeLattre was at the building today and they informed him, that even though Swede did perform some of the necessary work, they will need to reconfigure a portion of the system.

The secretary mentioned that, in the absence of Paul Chasko during his vacation, no one had approached Sidelines Tree Service for their signature on the agreement regarding acceptance of final payment. Chris Furman said that Makel & Associates would handle obtaining the signature. The Board also agreed to wait for Mr. Chasko to meet with an interested tree cutter for review of the area needing stump grinding and new tree removal.

The ambulance service has indicated that it is dangerous pulling out of the municipal building lot because the curve just before the driveway does not give on-coming traffic significant visibility. The Township will send a letter to Penn Dot to see what kind of signage would be recommended. The engineer cautioned that a solar light could cost upwards of \$20,000.

Motion to adopt a Resolution No 04-2015 congratulating and recognizing the dedication and effort of Jonathan T. Simmons on accomplishing and achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Motion by Steve Parish, Second by Charles Trax

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-absent, Frye-absent. Motion carried.

Motion to adopt a Resolution No 05-2015 congratulating and recognizing the dedication and effort of Lucas A. Baldesberger on accomplishing and achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Motion by Steve Parish, Second by Charles Trax

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-absent, Frye-absent. Motion carried.

Motion to adopt a Resolution No 06-2015 congratulating and recognizing the dedication and effort of Daniel J. Farquhar on accomplishing and achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Motion by Charles Trax, Second by Steve Parish

Roll call vote: Parish-yes, Spahr-yes, Trax-yes, Chasko-absent, Frye-absent. Motion carried.

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Motion to adjourn at 8:22p.m.

Motion by Charles Trax, Second by Steve Parish

Roll call vote: Parish=yes, Spahr=yes, Trax=yes, Chasko-absent, Frye-absent. Motion carried.

Debra A. Nigon, Secretary